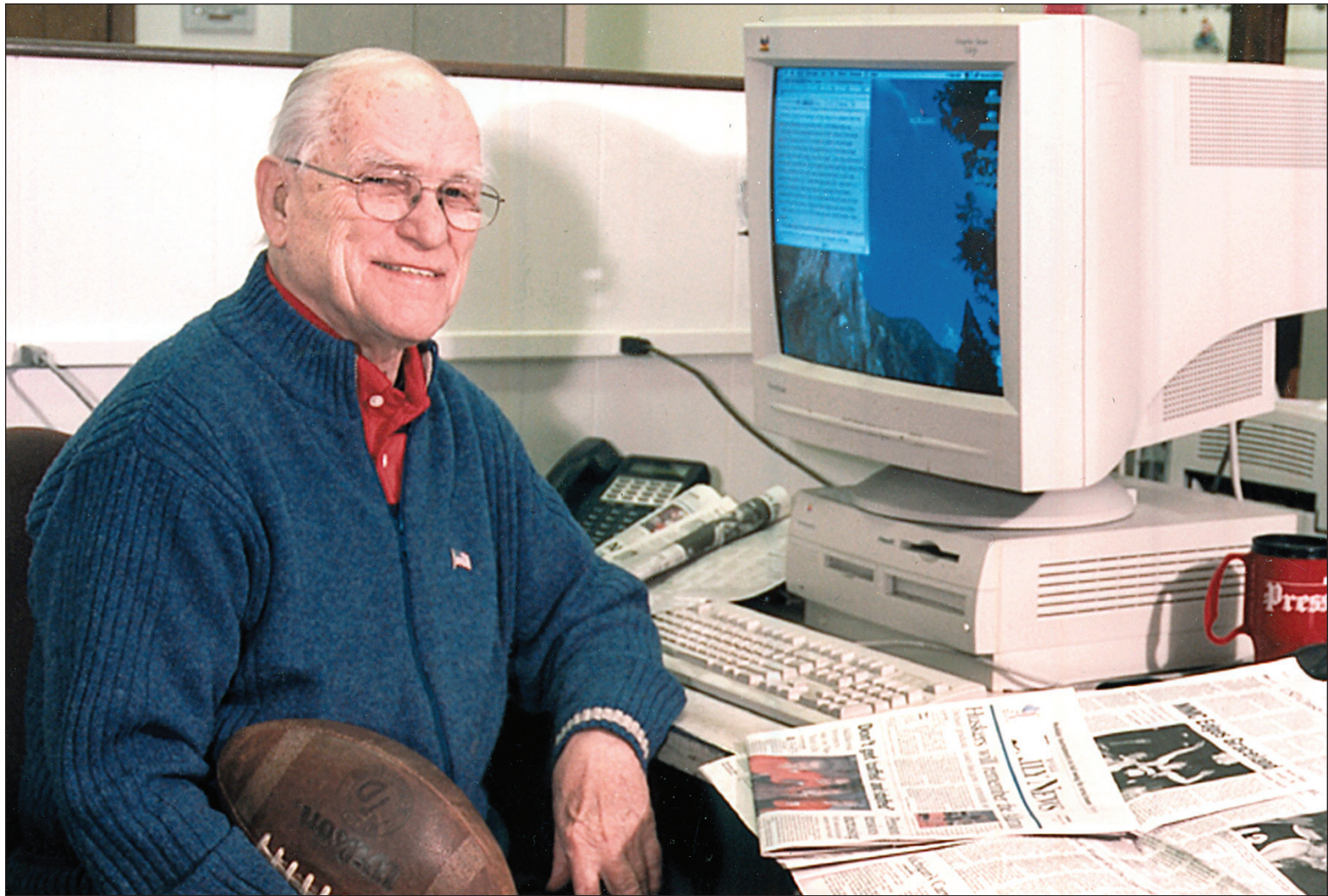




# Remembering Hod



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Howard "Hod" Nielsen, a longtime Yankton newspaper man and radio broadcaster, passed away Wednesday at age 92. He had twice worked as sports editor at the Press & Dakotan (where the above photo was taken a few years ago) and was a sports writer and columnist for decades until his retirement six years ago. Nielsen also had a decorated military career, having served as a pilot during World War II. A few years ago, he went on a Honors Flight trip to Washington, where the photo below was taken.

## Brokaw: 'He Was One Of The Greatest'

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)



oward "Hod" Nielsen wasn't a rich man, but he was a wealthy man. The Yankton man's wealth was measured in the countless lives he touched as a war hero and as a nationally-recognized sports writer and sports-caster. He amassed countless friends and followers, including former NBC News anchor and fellow Yankton native Tom Brokaw.

Nielsen's storied life came to an end Wednesday when he passed away at age 92. Funeral services are set for 10:30 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton.

Brokaw recognized Nielsen in the book "The Greatest Generation" honored the World War II veterans. As one of the first photo reconnaissance pilots, Nielsen provided key images of the French coastline so crucial for planning the 1944 D-Day invasion.

Nielsen was one of only seven pilots in his group of 27 to survive.

Brokaw contacted the Press & Dakotan upon learning of Nielsen's death, paying tribute to the war hero's fearlessness in the face of combat.

"Hod was a P-38 pilot, flying air photo reconnaissance missions over the landing sites during that stormy spring of 1944," Brokaw said.

"He once described to me a German fighter plane chasing his lightly-armed aircraft back out over the English Channel. Laughing, Hod said, 'I knew then I had seen enough of the world; I wanted to get back to South Dakota.'"

Nielsen was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, and a President Unit Citation. He achieved the rank of Captain.

After the war, Nielsen returned to Yankton and lived in the community his entire life except for a brief time in Rapid City. He received numerous state and national accolades for his journalism career in both print and radio. He served as sports editor twice and sports writer at the Press & Dakotan for more than 40 years, and he served as sportscaster for Yankton radio station KYNT-AM.

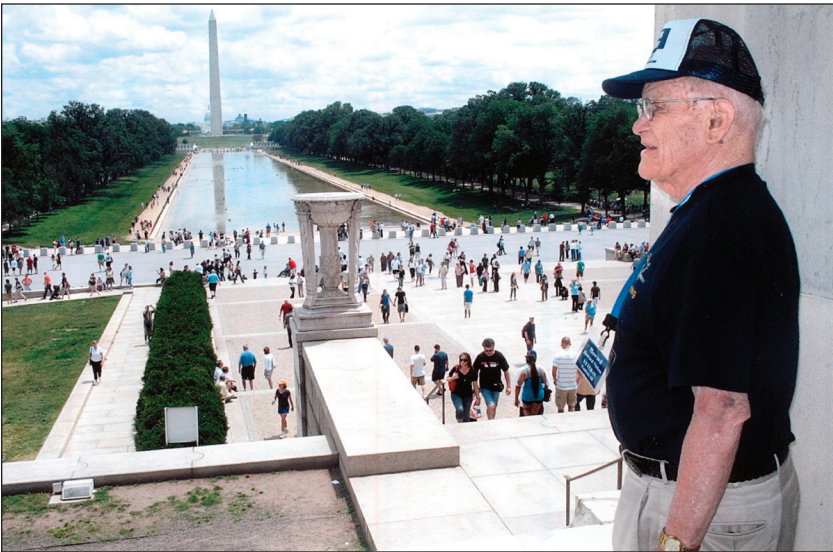
Nielsen was known as the voice of the Yankton Bucks as well as his alma mater, the University of South Dakota, where he played football. He also broadcast many state high school basketball tournaments.

Nielsen remained active in community affairs, including eight years on the Yankton school board. He showed a particular passion for education and the development of youth both in and out of athletics. He was named Yankton's Citizen of the Year in 1993.

Brokaw and his wife, Meredith, paid a visit to Nielsen last fall while in Yankton. Brokaw said this week that Nielsen showed a love for life right up to the end.

"He was a man at peace with his life, as he should

**NIELSEN** | PAGE 15



### Decision 2013

## Woerner: I Bring Balance To City Commission

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of our series of profiles on the seven candidates for the Yankton City Commission. The election is April 9.

**Name:** Brad Woerner  
**Family:** Wife — Jessica, Children — Natalie (5th grade), Nicholas (3rd grade)  
**Education/Occupation:** BS/MS in Agricultural Engineering from Iowa State University; Partner/Project Manager at Eisenbraun & Associates  
If incumbent, years of experience: 3

#### 1. Why do you want to be a city commissioner?

I believe that my previous experience as a city commissioner and my background as an engineer and small busi-



Woerner

ness owner are positive attributes that will continue to bring balance to the commission. The commission has several difficult decisions to make over the next few years. It will take a balanced group to continue moving Yankton forward.

#### 2. The city is investigating the potential for approximately \$28 million in upgrades to its water treatment and water intake facilities. What are

**WOERNER** | PAGE 14

## Residents Reminded To Follow Burning Ordinance

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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With the warmer weather returning to the area, the Yankton Fire Department is reminding county residents to follow controlled burning restrictions.

According to Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles, the de-

partment has been receiving numerous calls from people expressing confusion about current burning restrictions and procedures. He said that even though Yankton County does not have a burn ban in place, controlled burns must still be reported before they are started.

To report a controlled burn, a

call should be made to the dispatch at 605-668-5210.

"This happens every year when the controlled burns start," he said. "We need people to try and follow (Yankton County Public Nuisance) Ordinance 17."

Nickles said calling in a controlled burn also helps prevent false alarms.

"We get so many people driving down the road that don't investigate what they're calling in," he said. "If someone calls in a fire, the dispatcher can call the person who started the fire and ask if it is out of control. If they say no, they

**BURNING** | PAGE 14



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton Community Development Director Dave Mingo shared details of the Highway 50 reconstruction plan Thursday during an open house.

## Highway 50 Slated For Reconstruction

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

With a portion of Highway 50 inside Yankton set for reconstruction in 2015-2016, city officials are calling it the "opportunity of a lifetime" to address the community's east entryway.

Highway 50, or Fourth Street, will be reconstructed from Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street in 2015. The following year, the reconstruction will occur from Marne Creek to Archery Lane. The estimated cost of the project is \$7.8 million.

An open house was hosted by the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) and the City of Yankton Thursday at Yankton Fire Station No. 2 to share details of the Highway 50 reconstruction with the public.

"East Yankton has been a topic for many years as far as an identified area the community wants to see improved," Community Development Director Dave Mingo said after the meeting. "A highway project of this magnitude only comes along every 30 to 40 years. This one has a design life of 50 years or more. You're talking about two generations that are going

**HIGHWAY** | PAGE 3

## Yankton Man Arrested After Friday Shooting

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

A 22-year-old Yankton man was taken into custody early Friday morning after allegedly discharging a gun during a domestic assault, according to the Yankton Police Department.

Curtis Wilson was arrested for attempted second-degree murder, second-degree kidnapping and aggravated assault (domestic).

A report was received at 2:41 a.m. Friday of a shooting in the 900 block of East 15th Street.

Lt. Michael Burgeson stated in a media release that, during the alleged domestic assault, an unidentified female, who police described as Wilson's girlfriend, fled from her residence and went to a neighbor's home.

Wilson is alleged to have followed her and fired a bullet from a long rifle. However, the projectile went through a window in a door and did not hit the neighbor or the girlfriend.

The neighbor was transported to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital by Yankton County EMS for minor injuries from flying debris.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Yankton Police Department.

Wilson is being held in the Yankton County Jail on \$500,000 bond.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)