



Mostly Cloudy And Chilly

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City Gives Its OK To Archery Donation

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton City Commission agreed Monday to contribute land, equipment and cash to the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) in order to address some of Yankton's interests as the non-profit organization seeks to expand its facilities.

The NFAA wants to expand the number of archery ranges and the amount of parking space at its headquarters on the east side of Yankton.

NFAA President Bruce Cull said the land will be part of more than \$1 million worth

of improvements made to the archery complex this summer.

The work will be done by the National Guard as part of an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) project. Such projects enhance unit training and readiness while filling a community need.

"There is no way we could do this (without the National Guard)," Cull said.

The first portion of the agreement gives the NFAA 12 acres of property formerly used for the city's landfill. It is now utilized for storage space. However, if the archery organization decides it no longer wants the property in the future, ownership would revert back to the city.

A couple commissioners questioned why city staff believes it is appropriate to give the NFAA the property.

"This property is essentially valueless to anybody but the city or the NFAA," Community Development Director Dave Mingo said. "Because of its past use as a landfill, it wouldn't be eligible for any type of development. You couldn't, without extensive cleanup, make any improvements like footings, trenches for footings or things like that."

A similar request couldn't be made of the city by other non-profit organizations, he added.

"There really isn't another 12 acres around that the city owns that is essentially negative in value, in my opinion," Mingo said.

City Attorney Dave Hosmer said the only reason the city is able to donate the land is because it is essentially abandoned.

"Based upon conversation with staff, I think this qualifies as property that has been abandoned for public use," he stated.

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A Scholarly Legacy



P&D ARCHIVE PHOTO: KELLIE SMEDSRUD
University of South Dakota graduate and *USA Today* founder Al Neuharth stands in front of the Al Neuharth Media Center on the Vermillion campus during the facility's dedication in 2003. Neuharth passed away Friday at age 89.

Neuharth Scholars Weigh In On The Death Of USD Alum, Newspaper Legend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VERMILLION — For many people, *USA Today* founder Al Neuharth — who died Friday at age 89 — built a media empire and dealt with the rich and powerful.

But his real legacy may be found in the young lives he touched at his alma mater, the University of South Dakota, and the campus newspaper, the *Volante*. His Neuharth Scholars — which included a long line of students from Yankton and surrounding communities — received not only financial assistance but met with him numerous times.

Those students found in Neuharth a South Dakota success story who never forgot his roots. They also learned important lessons from him about diversity, fairness and the First Amendment.

For Yankton native Emily Niebrugge, those lessons were probably never tested more thoroughly than in the moments following Neuharth's death.

As the *Volante*'s current managing editor, Niebrugge found herself shocked and grieving at the media mogul's passing.

"It was really unexpected. When one of my other Neuharth Scholars called and told me, I couldn't believe it," she said. "We started reading official news stories. It was just really sad."

But, in the spirit of Neuharth, she also quickly rounded up her staff and started pounding out online coverage on his death — and they held a unique perspective.

"We found out (about Neuharth's death), and within 10 minutes we started working on stories for our online version," she said. "We searched our archives for photos while we were working on something bigger. All of us — 10 of us were in there — working on different aspects."

Niebrugge experienced bittersweet feelings as she tackled the task at hand, which continues with this week's print edition on Wednesday.

"It was really weird. Part of you was really sad, learning that somebody you know had passed away. But you had a job to do," she said. "For the handful of us to have the scholarship in his name, the whole goal is to strive for excellence. I hope Al would think we are doing some justice putting together these stories on him. I think he would be proud of us."

A number of Neuharth Scholars from the Yankton area offered their thoughts to the *Press & Dakotan*.

PATRICK MORRISON

Wakonda native Patrick Morrison served as *Volante* managing editor during fall of his junior year, graduating from USD in 2011. He is completing his second year of law school at the University of Kentucky and will serve an internship this summer at Raven Industries in Sioux Falls.

Neuharth showed a passion for life not often found in someone nearly 90 years of age, Morrison said.

"I guess, my first reaction (upon learning of Neuharth's death): he really wasn't gone," Morrison said. "We always joked that he would live forever, that he would outlive us all. He

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Soldier, Kids Enjoy A Happy Homecoming

BY DEREK BARTOS
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During his nine-month deployment overseas, SPC Tyler Kasuske often dreamed of the day he would return home.

"I kept imagining how it would be," said Kasuske, a 2011 Gayville-Volin graduate.

That dream became a reality this past weekend when he and other members of the S.D. Army National Guard 927th Engineer survey and design team returned to South Dakota after serving in Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Kasuske was reunited with his parents, Todd and Rhonda, and his sister, Samantha, Saturday night. A ceremony also took place Sunday in Sioux Falls to celebrate the soldiers' safe return.

"It's great to be back," Kasuske said. "A lot of things are the same, but a lot of things are different. It's fun to see how far my family has come on projects they've been working on."

Kasuske's immediate family were not the only ones excited to see him home.

On Monday, the soldier surprised his cousins, whom he considers his siblings, during a visit to their schools in Yankton. Kasuske met with Rylee Berndt at the Yankton Middle



COURTESY PHOTO
SPC Tyler Kasuske reunites with his cousins Rylee (left) and Logan (right) Berndt during a surprise appearance at Yankton Middle School following a nine-month deployment overseas.

School and his sister Caitlin at Beadle Elementary School.

"We went and hid in the office, and the principal brought them down. They both thought they were in trouble," Kasuske said with a laugh. "They came in and their eyes lit up. It was pretty cool."

The children's mother, Jo Berndt, was also present for the reunions,

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ASH Hospital Officials Happy With National Recognition

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Avera Sacred Heart Hospital (ASHH) in Yankton was recently recognized as one of just 86 hospitals in the nation to rank in the top 10 percent in the country for excellence in patient safety and experience, according to a Healthgrades study.

The patient safety award places ASHH in the top 10 percent of all hospitals in terms of its performance in keeping patients safe from complications during their hospital stays. The patient experience award also places ASHH in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for the delivery of a positive experience for patients during their stay at the hospital.

This marks the sixth year in a row that ASHH has ranked in the top 10 percent among hospitals in the nation.

"Many hospitals may claim to have the best quality, experience and safety for their



Rezac

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Yankton's Drinking Problem

City's Water Plant Future Is Studied

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part three in a series that examines the City of Yankton's plans to upgrade its drinking water system.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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As the City of Yankton considers various upgrades to its water system, it is the treatment portion that carries the heaviest price tag.

Planning is already under way for an estimated \$675,000 in improvements to Water Treatment Plant No. 2, which was built in 1972.

But a proposed new plant that would have the capability of treating 5 million gallons per day (MGD) comes with an estimated cost of more than \$12 million. It would be constructed adjacent to the east side of Plant No. 2.

"The new plant would put us in a position to meet our peaks in the future and give us some redundancy in our system to meet our critical needs if something goes wrong," said Yankton Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson.

The City of Yankton knows all too well the importance of having redundancy in its system.



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D
Yankton Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson describes how technology in the city's water treatment plants is outdated. Yankton officials will be upgrading Water Treatment Plant No. 2 and are looking at plans to build a new plant adjacent to it.

In the midst of last year's drought, Plant No. 2, which can treat 5 MGD, lost about half of its treatment capacity.

A basin used to mix chemicals and process them into the water broke down in early August.

Voluntary water restrictions were put in place. Water customers had been consuming approximately 6 MGD, and the city suddenly found itself with the capacity to treat only 5 1/2 MGD.

Complicating matters was the fact that the company that manufactured the basin had been out of business for 20 years. However, a part was found in Phoenix and the treatment plant was operating at full capacity within days.

In the meantime, the city had to rely much more than usual upon Water Treatment Plant No. 1, which was built in 1929.

"Right now, there are several pieces of equipment at the 1972 plant that, if they would break, the plant would not be able to function," Goodmanson said. "We would be completely relying on the 1929 plant to produce all of our water. Its capacity is 3 MGD. During the summer, our critical needs for commercial, industrial and home users is more than 3 million gallons per day. If we would lose Plant No. 2 to a breakdown, we would have to do restrictions

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WILL WINTER STOP?



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Another round of winter moved through the region Monday, dumping rain and approximately 3.5 inches of snow (unofficially, a record for April 22) on Yankton. Visibility was reduced greatly by mid-afternoon as the snow intensified. However, forecasters are saying spring will return with a vengeance later this week, with weekend highs possibly flirting with 70 degrees, hopefully making scenes like this a distant memory. For weather details, see page 2.