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Hernandez Pitches A Perfect Game ■ 8

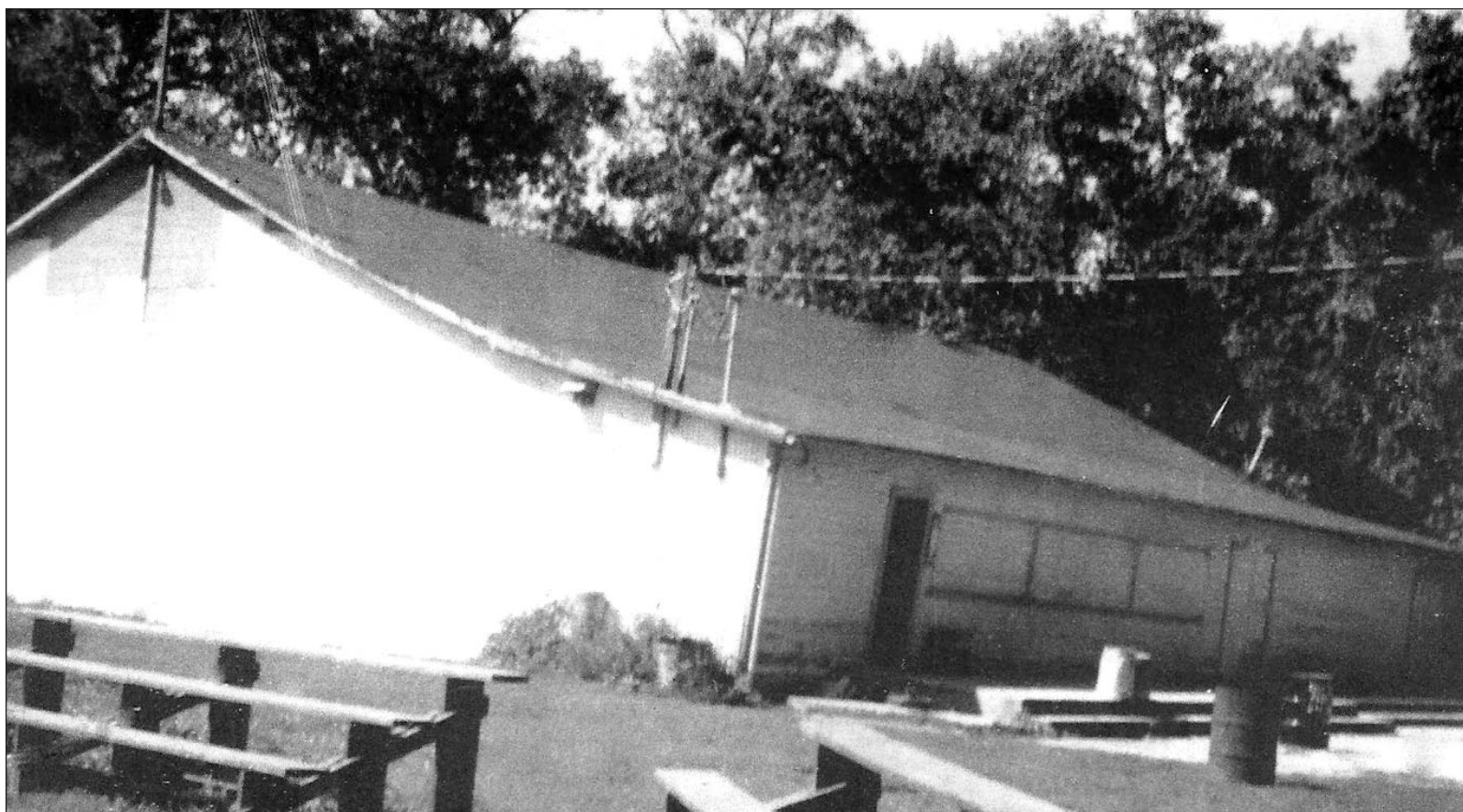


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Milltown's Island Park Back From The Dead



The restoration effort for Island Park at Milltown has drawn together a mixture of history, nostalgia and building for the future. The former Island Park Pavilion provided the setting for many social events, including dances that featured some of the nation's best bands.

Restoration Effort Bringing Back The Beauty Of Park

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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MILLTOWN — For Kay Adkins Brown, growing up near the Island Park ballroom at Milltown meant dances featuring some of area's — and even nation's — best bands.

The dance pavilion gained a regional reputation for drawing hundreds of people to dances from the 1940s through the early 1980s.

"It holds a lot of memories for people," she said. "It was even inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame earlier this year."

However, an era ended when the devastating 1984 James River flooding caused such damage to the site that the pavilion was closed and eventually razed in 1995. Flooding in recent years has continued to damage the park.

Now, thanks to Brown and other supporters, the site that created a flood of memories — and was later damaged by a flood of water — has gained new life.

They formed the Milltown Island Park Association in May. In just a few short weeks, the park has received a dramatic transformation thanks for donations and hundreds of hours of volunteer labor.

"We're not rebuilding the pavilion, but we're returning the beauty of the island," she said. "If you had seen the park before (the work), and then seen it again now, it's absolutely amazing."

Brown now lives in the Twin Cities but holds ties to Milltown. The town of about a dozen residents lies 10 miles east of Parkston, along the James River in northern Hutchinson County.

"I grew up in Parkston, but both my paternal and maternal side are old Island Park Milltown people," she said. "They settled there in the late 1800s, and my great-grandparents' wedding anniversary in the 1920s was held on Island Park."



The volunteer group of (from left) Mary Maxwell, Parker Hanselman, Flora Hanselman, Kim Juhnke, Gary Heisinger and Harvey Hanselman are shown manning a stand as a fundraiser for Island Park.

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City Manager Search Slower Than Expected

Job Description Being Finalized Before Nationwide Advertising To Begin

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The search for a new city manager is proceeding slower than expected, according to Yankton Mayor Nancy Wenande.

The City Commission agreed during its first meeting in June to finalize a contract with the Atlanta-based Mercer Group to assist with the process.

Former City Manager Doug Russell announced his resignation in April and left in mid-June.

"Unfortunately, this beginning process has been a little bit slower than we expected," Wenande said recently. "Am I concerned at this point? No. Is (Interim City Manager Al Viereck) concerned? Not yet."

So far, a consultant has visited Yankton to interview the commission and community leaders about what traits they would like to see in a city manager.

"He did a lot of community interviews, and he was compiling that data to put a profile together," Wenande said. "We have not received that completed profile."

Once the profile is received, the commission will review it.

"I don't know what the community leaders may have said during the interviews," Wenande said. "I only know that when the commission has had discussions about it, we're on the same page. So the profile may come back with something a little different than what the commission has looked at, depending on the input of other people and city staff. We want to make sure it's exactly what we need it to be."

At that point, the position could be advertised. The commission has expressed interest in casting a wide net to capture a variety of candidates.

According to information provided to the City Commission as part of the contract, Mercer typically aims to have a manager working for the city within 110 days of beginning the search process.

Advertising and recruitment will last about 45 days. Finalists will be recommended to the commission within approximately 60 days. The commission will select a handful of finalists and arrange interviews with them in the next three to four weeks. Once a candidate is hired, city managers then usually give a notice of 30-40 days to their employers.

The cost of Mercer's recruitment services are not to exceed \$19,500.

Wenande said the commission is not concerned about adhering to the 110-day timeline.

"As a commission, we are prepared to make this process as long as it needs to be to find another person," she stated.



Wenande

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage



COURTESY PHOTOS
Rebecca Meyer, seen here in 2011 running a half marathon in Tucson (Right), will be running in MMC's Yankton Riverboat Days 5k run on Saturday. Meyer lost nearly half of her body weight while on the show "The Biggest Loser" and back at her home in Des Moines.

'Biggest Loser' Contestant Brings Her Message To Yankton For MMC Riverboat Days Race

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Growing up in Des Moines, Rebecca Meyer seemingly had a normal childhood. She was happy and healthy up until about second grade. It was at that time when her mother decided to transition from being a full-time, stay-at-home mom, to working a full-time job outside of the home.

It was right at that point when her life began to change.

She is not sure why the change hit her so hard, because people around her all seemed to take to it well. The change was the beginning of her weight gain.

Running in a race like Saturday's Mount Marty College Riverboat Days 5K race was the furthest thing from her mind at one point.

"I used to be over 300 pounds and rel-

atively inactive," Meyer said in a phone interview with the Press & Dakotan. "I enjoy being able to show and tell people to stay active, stay moving and stay competing in life."

She began to gain weight, although not a lot of weight at first, and she was still an active child who played softball and basketball through middle school. But as time went on, her friends and family began to notice the changes in appearance — and she did, too.

As Meyer entered high school — typically, years that are already difficult for teenagers — she continued to try to stay active, as she was a member of her schools JROTC. However, the pounds continued to add on and she felt helpless to try and change it.

After she graduated high school, she was in Iowa City one evening and broke her ankle. She returned home to Des

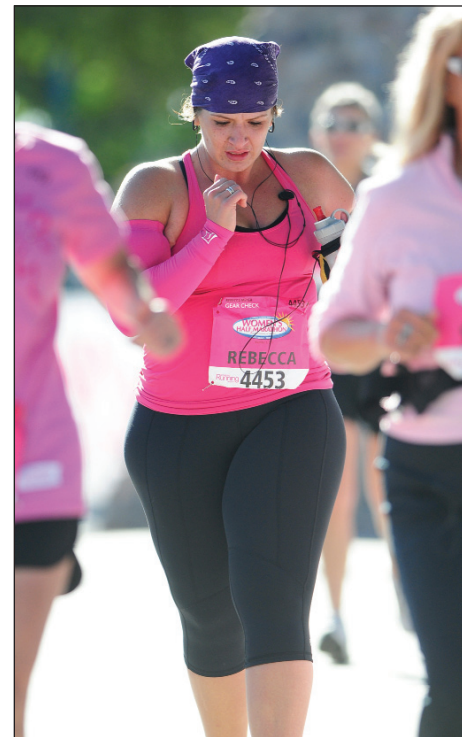
Moines and became a nanny for a few families in the area. The pounds continued to pile on.

However, the broken ankle was the beginning of her making drastic changes in her life.

Meyer applied to be on season eight of NBC's show "The Biggest Loser" and was called four times by the production crew before finally getting a spot on the show. She would go on to lose 73 pounds in 10 weeks on "The Biggest Loser's" ranch, and would continue her transformation back home in Des Moines, where she lost an additional 68 pounds.

Ultimately, she was the at-home winner on the show, winning \$100,000 and losing nearly half of her body weight.

She said the show changed her life permanently.



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