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Same  
Question;  
Different  
Answer?

City Looks To Re-Bid  
Surplus Property

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A second go at selling off surplus property south of Fire Station No. 2 will look exactly like the first attempt.

However, the Yankton City Commission hopes it will have a different end result.

The issue was tabled in July after commissioners failed to come to an agreement about how to proceed.

The commission decided earlier this year to declare the 5.58 acres property on the west side of the 2200 block of Douglas Avenue and south of Fire Station No. 2 as surplus land. The bare property is zoned as R-2 single-family residential, and the commission has attached covenants so that a developer would have to build affordable housing on it. It is projected that 18-21 homes could be built on the land.

City Attorney Dave Hosmer believed that the minimum bid would have to be 90 percent of the then-undisclosed appraised value of the property as determined by three city-appointed freeholders — Jen Petersen, Dennis Breck and Lynn Peterson. They based the value upon the sales of other large tracts of undeveloped land in the city during the past five years, according to Community Development Director Dave Mingo.

It was advertised by the city that the bid would have to meet the 90 percent threshold. However, Hosmer later discovered that state law does not apply to the sealed-bid process.

The appraised value was revealed at the bid-opening to be \$195,300 — 90 percent of which is \$175,770.

Drotzmann Construction submitted the sole bid on the property, and it came in at \$150,101.01.

With only eight commissioners present at the July meeting, motions to re-bid the property or award it as submitted ended in ties, which led to the issue being tabled.

CITY | PAGE 2

‘A Bright Future’  
In Vermillion



LEFT: A crew from Puetz Construction, Mitchell, works quietly in the background as University of South Dakota President James Abbott addresses local citizens who gathered Tuesday to witness a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Eagle Creek building. ABOVE: Ken Behrendt, president of Eagle Creek, addresses the crowd at Vermillion Tuesday during a groundbreaking ceremony for a 32,000-square-foot facility that is expected to bring 200 new jobs into the Vermillion market. (David Lias/Vermillion Plain Talk)

Eagle Creek Breaks Ground On New Facility

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
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VERMILLION — Vermillion took a step into the future Tuesday morning.

That's what multiple city and business officials said during a groundbreaking ceremony for Eagle Creek Software Services, which took place at the southwest corner of Princeton and Bower streets, north of the old Pamida building.

"It's a beautiful day here, and it's going to be a bright future," said Dr. Mel Ustad, director of commercialization at the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Eagle Creek's president, Ken Behrendt agreed.

"We think that this is the way the world's going to go," he said. "We think over the next 10 years there's going to be hundreds of thousands of jobs repatriated to the United States from offshore outsourcing, and we think they're going to go to South Dakota."

"It's our mission, our goal, that we can bring those jobs to South Dakota," he said.

Eagle Creek provides consulting and technical expertise, focusing on customer relationship management, information management and applications development.

The ceremony took place at the site of what eventually will be Eagle Creek's home in Vermillion. Currently, the area is a dug-up corner of an alfalfa field southwest of Wal-

mart. When workers complete their task, Eagle Creek's new home — a 32,000-square-foot building — will be added to Vermillion's skyline.

The company's mission is to help its clients increase quality and efficiencies while managing price and risk in software development, deployment and support.

Berhrendt said he hopes to continue to expand this mission in Vermillion.

"We will compete against everyone in the world," he said. "We will deliver multi-million dollar projects out of here. We will compete against every global technology company

FUTURE | PAGE 11

Answering The Call

Area 911 Dispatch Center Grows  
As Demand For Services Soars

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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CENTER, Neb. — As Knox County 911 coordinator, Connie Janecek has seen the number of emergency calls soar in recent years.

"We (compile) a report at the end of the year, and we have doubled our number of calls," she said. "We are close to 2,000 calls a year for our 911."

The frequency of 911 calls represents a large figure, considering Knox County's total population of about 8,600 residents. Janecek and her staff

face even more challenges with the county's large geographic area, heavier traffic on state highways and the large recreational usage on the Missouri River that forms the county's northern border.

The dispatch center's workload has increased greatly in recent years, according to Knox County Sheriff Don Henery.

"Police calls are forwarded to the sheriff's office, and we have the fire and rescue pagers. We provide 24/7 coverage for 911, fire, rescue, law enforcement and weather," he said.

"We answer all calls for the



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D  
Knox County, Neb., jailer/dispatcher Ronda York handles a call at the sheriff's office in Center, Neb. Knox County has seen a large increase in its 911 usage, reaching about 2,000 calls a year.

fire and rescue units, and the ambulances of Knox County. That includes Creighton, Wausa, Crofton, Bloomfield, Niobrara, Santee, Lindy,

Verdel, Verdigre and Winnetoon."

The Knox County dispatch

911 | PAGE 3

Kayakers To Join  
Riverboat Days

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Fans of kayaking have a new event to look forward to at this weekend's Riverboat Days celebration.

The inaugural Yankton Riverboat Days Kayak Run is the creation of Jarret Bies, a member of the South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association. He created the event to give festival goers a chance to utilize the Missouri River.

"It's an opportunity for people who are coming to Riverboat Days to get on the river," Bies says. "We've had quite a good response. Quite a few people are coming out to do just that: get a little time on the water on a kayak or canoe while they're here for the big festival."

The "fun-run" style race begins at 2 p.m. on Aug. 17 off of Toe Road near Gavins Point Dam and concludes six miles later at Paddle Wheel Point in Yankton, taking participants past Riverside Park. Racers will be transported back to the starting point via shuttles.

Bies says, as of Monday, around a half-dozen

KAYAK | PAGE 11

