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HSC Bid Awarded

Demolition Expected To Begin In Next 30 Days

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A contract was awarded Wednesday for demolition of many of the buildings on the historic South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC) campus.

However, several of the structures could eventually be taken off the chopping block if a Kansas City developer studying the situa-

tion comes forward with a viable plan by Sept. 1, according to Deb Bowman, who is Gov. Dennis Daugaard's senior advisor.

The State Building Committee in Pierre awarded the demolition contract to Runge Enterprises of Sioux Falls Wednesday afternoon.

"They are a reputable contractor, and they are familiar with state work," Gordon Hollenbeck, a building engineer with the Office of the State Engineer, told the *Press & Dakotan*.

During a bid opening Friday, Runge submitted a base bid of \$1.87 million.

Five other bidders, including Slowey Construction of Yankton, were also in the running. The high bid was \$4.14 million from Northern Plains Construction in Winner.

The base bid includes the demolition of the Edmunds Building, the Haas Building, the

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S.D.'s 125th Anniversary May Not Feature Big Bash

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota's celebration of its 125th anniversary of statehood next year may not feature a big bash, at least not on the scale of the closing events held for the state's centennial in 1989.

Members of a commission appointed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to plan the celebration said Wednesday they aren't ready to decide on any major events for the anniversary year, but they said the year will feature educational programs in schools, local celebrations in many communities and other events tied to history.

Some commission members suggested the state should establish lasting legacy projects such as scholarships or a renewal of a more than two-decade-old effort to promote reconciliation between American Indians and non-Indians.

The commission met for the first time Wednesday and will meet again Sept. 18 to make final plans for next year's celebration.

The centennial celebration in 1889 ended with two days of ceremonies,

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Commission Seeks Ideas For Celebration

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Rep. Bernie Hunhoff and his fellow members on the state's 125th anniversary commission hope the public will assist in planning next year's festivities.

"The first job will be to reach out and look for ideas," Hunhoff said. "I don't think the commission just wants to come up with a plan on our own. We definitely want it to be something the people want."

The commission was appointed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to prepare South Dakota to honor the 125th anniversary of its statehood. The group includes legislators and business leaders from across the state. The first meeting was held Wednesday and the board plans to convene monthly. The next meeting has been scheduled for Sept. 18.



Hunhoff

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Downtown Post Office Holds Open House

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Hoping to create more awareness of the auction under way for the former post office in downtown Yankton, an open house was held at the facility Wednesday.

Dozens of people took advantage of the opportunity to wander through the maze of rooms contained in the more than 21,000-square-foot facility.

Online bidding for the property opened July 11 through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) site RealEstateSales.gov.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Boxes that once held mail for patrons daily now stand mostly empty. The post office was constructed in 1904, and use of it was discontinued in January 2012.

"What we're doing now is marketing and getting the word out," said William Morgan, a project manager with the GSA. "Our sales normally last between 45-60 days. Once we feel like we've had enough exposure, we set a closing date. I expect to do that in the next few weeks. That all depends on the interest I get here today."

The starting bid is listed at \$75,000, and a registration deposit of \$25,000 is required. The bid increment is \$5,000.

So far, no one has bid on the property.

Morgan said that is typical at this point in the process.

"There is a \$25,000 bid deposit required, and people don't like to hold up their money without knowing how long the auction is going," he stated. "What you'll likely see happen is, as

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Dozens of visitors took advantage of an open house at the former downtown Yankton post office Wednesday to inspect the facility. The structure is being sold off by the U.S. Postal Service via an online bidding process.

Officials Gear Up Mosquito-Fighting Efforts For RBD

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Despite a cool, rainy summer, local officials aren't reporting problems with mosquitoes. However, that doesn't mean they aren't concerned about insect control and the West Nile virus (WNV).

Yankton officials are gearing up their mosquito-fighting efforts for this weekend's Riverboat Days, according to Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson. Riverboat Days traditionally averages 100,000 visitors during its three-day run.

"We as a city don't spray. The county does the spraying for us, because they have the

equipment and personnel," Larson said.

"We ask for spraying at large events such as the 150th anniversary concert at Memorial Park or the Fourth of July celebration and Riverboat Days at Riverside Park."

The timing is good for taking on more mosquito-control measures, according to state epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger. He urges the use of repellent and other precautions.

"We are now in August, the historical peak month for WNV illness in South Dakota," he said.

This year, South Dakota has seen a rise in human West Nile virus cases, Kightlinger said.

"South Dakota has the highest number of

human West Nile cases in the nation as well as the highest number of the more serious neuroinvasive cases," he said.

"Neuroinvasive disease can be particularly serious for the elderly and those with health conditions such as cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure or a history of alcohol abuse."

As of Aug. 6, South Dakota had reported 21 human West Nile cases, followed by California with 18. Ten of South Dakota's cases were neuroinvasive, while the next highest were Minnesota and Mississippi with eight cases each.

South Dakota has also reported 172

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