

Open

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soon as the closing date is set, people will put bid deposits in and start bidding. That's extremely common."

Various ideas for the property were overheard by the *Press & Dakotan* Wednesday — residential, retail and dining among them.

"It's a landmark building for Yankton," Morgan said. "The hope is that someone will be able to purchase it and do something good with it. It was built in 1904, when buildings were built to last 100-150 years. Here we are, a hundred years later and it still looks good."

Jim Steckelberg, who has done maintenance on the post office since 2001, confirmed that the facility is in good shape for its age.

The description in the bid documents notes that there is some known leaking in the roof of the facility. However, Steckelberg said some patching work in the last year seems to have staunched the leaks for the time being.

The Yankton post office is among many U.S. Postal Service facilities the GSA is working to sell, according to Morgan.

"The Postal Service has a



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
An area of the post office once reserved for employees was open to the public during Wednesday's open house.

push to decrease their inventory of federal properties," he said. "While they replace older buildings with newer facilities, they are obviously getting rid of the older ones."

At a desk in the post office Wednesday were pictures of its construction in 1904, along with other notes about the history of the postal service in Yankton.

Downer T. Bramble became the first postmaster on April 17, 1860. Beginning in October of that year, the community received mail once a week on a route that ran from Sioux City, Iowa, to

Fort Randall.

City delivery service began on Dec. 1, 1892, with two carriers, and rural delivery began Oct. 1, 1901, with three carriers.

An addition to the original 1904 post office was built in the 1950s.

The downtown Yankton post office was closed in January 2012 and put up for sale. Postal operations were consolidated into the annex at 506 West 25th Street. That facility was built in 2000.

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Nevada Petroglyphs The Oldest In North America

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press

PYRAMID LAKE, Nev. — Ancient rock etchings along a dried-up lake bed in Nevada have been confirmed to be the oldest recorded petroglyphs in North America, dating back at least 10,000 years.

The petroglyphs found on limestone boulders near Pyramid Lake in northern Nevada's high desert are similar in design to etchings found at a lake in Oregon that are believed to be at least 7,600 years old. Unlike later drawings that sometimes depict a spear or antelope, the carvings are abstract with tightly clustered geometric designs — some are diamond patterns, others have short parallel lines on top of a longer line.

Scientists can't tell for sure who carved them, but they were found on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's reservation land.

"We initially thought people 12,000 or 10,000 years ago were primitive, but their artistic expressions and technological expertise associated with these paints a much different picture," said Eugene Hattori, the curator of anthropology at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City who co-authored a paper on the findings earlier this month in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

The petroglyphs could be as much as 14,800 years old, said Larry Benson, a geochemist who used radiocarbon testing to date the etchings and co-wrote the paper.

Radiocarbon testing dated the carbonate layer underlying the petroglyphs to roughly 14,800 years ago. Geochemical data and sediment and rock samples from adjacent Pyramid

Lake show they were exposed to air from 13,200 to 14,800 years ago, and again from 10,500 to 11,300 years ago.

"Whether they turn out to be as old as 14,800 years ago or as recent as 10,500 years ago, they are still the oldest petroglyphs that have been dated in North America," said Benson, a former research scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey and current curator of anthropology at the University of Colorado Natural History Museum in Boulder.

Dennis Jenkins, an archaeologist with the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, called it a significant discovery. He led recent excavations of obsidian spear points near Paisley, Ore., that he dated back 13,200 years, and noted that the bigger challenge is identifying who created the petroglyphs.

"When you get back into this time period, if you speak with Native Americans they will tell you they were made (created) there and that is obviously their people and their artwork," Jenkins said. "But approaching it from a scientific point of view — what we can prove — at this point, it is impossible to connect these to any tribal group."

The etchings in Nevada and Oregon have relatively deep, carved lines dominated by linear, curved and circular geometrical designs. Some feature "tree-form designs" with a series of evenly spaced, vertically oriented 'V' shapes bisected by a vertical line.

Researchers have suggested the etchings represent various meteorological symbols, such as clouds and lightning, perhaps the Milky Way.

HSC

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Medical Institute, the Show Barn, the Dairy Barn, the Bull Barn, the Butcher Shop, Lee Cottage, the Herreid Building, the Mellette Building, the Ordway Building and part of the underground tunnel system.

The bid package also included three alternate options.

Alternate 1 was to tear down the fire house.

"We're not going to award that," Hollenbeck said. "We're going to save it. It has full stone construction instead of stone veneer. It's a nice, small building that they have use for in Yankton."

Alternate 2 was for the demolition and removal of the root cellar. That was awarded for an extra \$48,000.

Alternate 3 was for demolition and removal of the smokestack for the old boiler plant. It was awarded for an extra \$100,000.

Hollenbeck said he expects work will proceed in the next 30 days.

"We'll probably meet with (Runge) to have a pre-construction meeting in the next week or two, and he'll tell us his schedule," he stated. "I know he intends to be done next summer."

The contract completion date is fall 2014.

Bowman said the Foutch Brothers, a developer in Kansas City, is interested in rehabilitating Ordway, Mellette and Herreid, possibly for residential use. They are scheduled for demolition in the last of three phases set forth by the governor.

"We have given them until Sept. 1 to come in with a proposal with the financing and everything that goes along with that," Bowman stated. "If a viable proposal is submitted, those three buildings would come off the list. If there is a possibility that someone can save those buildings and turn them into something useful and good for the community, that's great."

As part of the demolition project, Hollenbeck said a landfill, projected to cover three acres, will be created on the northwest portion of the HSC campus.

"We're saving a lot of expense by having a landfill site on the campus," he stated. "We'll bury the debris and cover it over. If we can't recycle the brick, for instance, or the roof, Sheetrock and other building materials, they will go in the landfill."

However, a lot of material, such as concrete and asphalt, will be recycled for other uses.

"There is a lot of concrete," Hollenbeck said.

He hopes to award a contract for the final landscaping, roads and sidewalk construction by the fall.

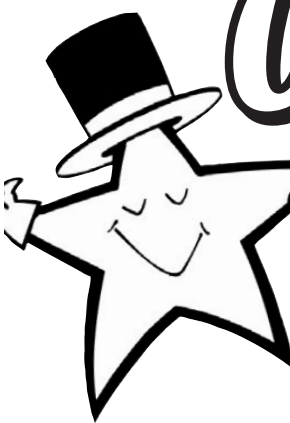
"We're still working on what that campus is ultimately going to look like," Hollenbeck said. "There will be a lot of green space. We want to be 100 percent done (with work on the campus) by the middle of November 2014."

Bowman said demolition plans are proceeding smoothly.

"It's been a long process, and we're glad we're doing the right thing and getting this addressed after all of these years," she stated.

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

Out On The Town



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Friday, Aug. 16
SFUMATO
Saturday, Aug. 17
Hair Trigger
Saturday, Aug 24
Acoustic Vibes

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BULL-A-RAMA
SATURDAY, AUG. 24, 7:00PM
Clay County Park Rodeo Arena
(2 miles west of Vermillion on Timber Road)

TICKET INFORMATION:
ADULTS: \$12 Gate/\$10 Advance
SENIOR CITIZENS: \$10 Gate/Advance
AGES 7-12: \$6 Gate/Advance
AGES 6 & Under: Free!
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
In Vermillion: Hy-Vee, Pump'n Pak, Freedom Value Store
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5 Open Class Bulls
(NO MAIN EVENT RIDERS)
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Call Linda Hawley
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