



Scattered Thunderstorms

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WEDNESDAY ■ August 5, 2015



Hillcrest Ladies
Pro-Am Sets Stage
For Busy Week On
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Onward Yankton Unveils The Finalists
For The Community's Next 'Big Idea'
The Final Six

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Onward Yankton planned to announce its five finalists for the next "Big Idea" and the \$10,000 cash prize.

However, Tuesday's announcement at the Rotary Club meeting featured six finalists because of a tie. The six finalists came from the 508 submissions collected during the 100-day campaign that began last spring.

The tie reflected the intense competition and quality of entries, said State Sen. Bernie Hunhoff and an Onward Yankton committee member.

"This came down to six really good ideas," he said. "Now, the community will help us get from six to one."

The six finalists will give a public presentation later this month, with the Onward Yankton committee selecting the winner in early September, Hunhoff said. The committee will take into consideration the public feedback and online discussion, along with input from the businesses or organizations needed to support a particular "big idea."

Larry Ness, CEO of First Dakota National Bank and part of the Onward Yankton Committee, noted many of the entries dealt with improving Yankton's quality of life.

"They're thinking seriously about what we've got to do to make Yankton a better community," he said. "We're a nice little town, but we'll get dust blown in our face if we don't change the way we do things."

Receiving more than 500 entries was overwhelming, Ness said. He hopes community organizations and individuals will pick up many of the ideas that were good but didn't make the finals.

"There are a lot of things we hope happen that aren't even in the top (six)," he said. "We're not saying they're bad ideas — maybe just for another time and place."

Ness hopes the program has stimulated not only thinking and conversation but also action. "If we don't make things happen, we get what we deserve — nothing," he said.

The status quo isn't acceptable, Hunhoff said. "Yankton's doing OK, but OK isn't enough for the future," he said.

In particular, Yankton must attract and retain young people,



Onward Yankton Committee member Tabitha Likness presents one of the six finalists in the "Big Idea" contest that has been running since April. A decision on the winning idea will be made in early September.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Crofton

City Investigation Not
Looking At Criminal Charges

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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CROFTON, Neb. — An investigation into Crofton city finances isn't looking at criminal charges at this time, according to a city official.

A review team was formed following the discovery of alleged irregularities in the reporting of city operations, said City Manager Charlie Gail Hendrix. The investigative team includes persons with law enforcement and legal backgrounds as well as government and accounting knowledge, she said.

However, that doesn't necessarily mean charges will be filed, Hendrix said. "Currently, there is not a criminal investiga-

tion," she said. "We just want to make sure the investigation is handled appropriately."

On Monday night, the Crofton city council passed a number of safeguards in the handling and record keeping of city funds. The policy statements also outlined the separation of responsibilities among various city employees.

The council has made a conscious decision to address policy and not discuss personnel, including former city clerk Nancy Foxhoven who recently retired after 26 years on the job, Hendrix said.

"We decided to focus on policy and not on Nancy or her job performance," Hendrix said.

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ROB NIELSEN/P&D

A firetruck heads toward the Sapa facility Monday afternoon in response to a fire in one of the company's painting lines.

Sapa Official
Says Fire Will
Have Minimal
Impact

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Sapa Extrusions officials are saying a fire that forced a 3 ½-hour evacuation of their Yankton operation Monday afternoon will not have a major impact on operations.

Plant manager Kevin Perakslis told the *Press & Dakotan* said he doesn't have a cost estimate on damage, but that the fire was contained to a small area.

"We have two paint lines," Perakslis said. "The fire only involved one paint line, and in that paint line, there's two paint booths and all the fire was contained to one of the paint booths, which we're very happy about. ... From our first assessment, some of the individuals who have helped have worked through paint line fires before and they're amazed at how limited the destruction was."

Yankton deputy fire chief Larry Nickles told the *Press & Dakotan* a paint gun is the suspected cause of Monday's fire.

"Right now, we're looking at the possibility of static electricity while a paint gun was being flushed out with solvent," Nickles said.

Perakslis said, after employees were let back in Monday evening, elements of the Sapa plant were incrementally brought back online throughout the night. Everything except for the damaged paint line was up and running normally by Tuesday morning.

Perakslis said the fire will not have any significant impacts on output.

"We have a self-paint line which is our newer, high-performance paint line," he said. "One hundred percent of our customers are painted on that paint line — that's the one that's undamaged. The north paint line, we were only running it a few days a week when we had enough customer demand and we had the manpower. It's not one we plan on running every day. It shouldn't be a major impact on our customers at all."

He added that repairs aren't expected to take very long.

"We are still checking the structural damage on the roof and it looks like we might need to do some repairs," he said. "But it's all minimal. We can possibly have the paint line repaired and up by the end of this week."

During the fire, large quantities of firefighting equipment ended up coming into contact with some of the paint used by Sapa.

Nickles said while some pieces are able to be cleaned and salvaged, others will need to be discarded.

"The thing we were fearing was our airpicks that are about \$6,500 a piece," he said. "Turns out we were able to salvage everything on those. We did lose about 10 sets of turnout gear (protective clothing) and gloves and about 400 feet of hose."

He added that the paint is a safety issue on

FIRE | PAGE 11

County Commission

A Lack Of Bodies Forces
Meeting Postponement

BY ROB NIELSEN
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A meeting of the Yankton County Commission was scheduled for Tuesday — but a lack of commissioners prevented the meeting from moving forward at its regularly scheduled time.

Commissioners Todd Woods and Debra Bodenstedt were both absent Tuesday due to pre-arranged vacations. Commissioner Donna Freng fell ill Tuesday and was unable to attend. This left Commissioners Don Kettering and Raymon Epp as the only members present.

Yankton County Auditor Patty Hojem said this isn't legally enough to conduct business.

"There's only two so we can't have any motions," Hojem said. "You have to have three to have a quorum to make motions on any decisions for county issues."

Hojem said this was the first time she'd ever seen a meeting postponed due to a lack of present commissioners.

She added that they'll call a special meeting in order to address Tuesday's agenda.

The commission will meet Monday, Aug. 10 at 4 p.m. in the commission chambers of the Yankton County Government Center. The same agenda will be used.

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

Double-Teaming



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton firefighters were called out to a grass fire near South Yankton, Nebraska, late Tuesday morning. A transformer on a nearby power pole burned up, and the sparks spread into the grass. Workers from the Cedar-Knox Public Power District were also on hand to contain the fire. It was noted that, despite recent rains, some vegetation beneath the green surface is still dry and susceptible to burning. No major damage was reported.

Gov. Seeking
Nominations To
Replace Rep.
Steve Hickey

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office is looking for candidates to fill the state House of Representatives seat being vacated by Rep. Steve Hickey.

The governor's office said Monday that he anticipates naming an appointee in the fall.

Hickey is leaving the Legislature move to Scotland and study Christian ethics in the modern world and the surveillance state.

The Sioux Falls Republican has served since 2011, and his resignation is effective Sept. 1.

Hickey represents District 9, which includes northwestern Minnehaha County. That includes the Hartford, Humboldt, Crooks and Wall Lake areas, as well as part of Sioux Falls.

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TOMORROW: Local Drug Court Celebrates Anniversary

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

NORTH
OF 15TH STREET