

PRESS & DAKOTAN

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Yankton Receives EDA Grant For Infrastructure

WASHINGTON — The City of Yankton has been awarded \$2,069,600 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to invest in the critically important infrastructure improvements needed in Yankton's wastewater collection, transmission and treatment systems, according to a press release from the office of Sen. Tim Johnson.

"When I met with Yankton officials earlier this year they expressed the importance of funding for this project, and I am happy to hear the EDA has granted the city this award," said Johnson. "This is a very important project and these funds will help ensure the necessary investments in Yankton's wastewater infrastructure to more fully recover from the 2011 flooding and better withstand future natural disasters."

Yankton is still recovering from flooding and erosion that occurred in 2011 and the improvements that will now be possible with this funding will assist the City in its recovery. This project is funded through the Fiscal Year 2012 Disaster Relief Opportunity Program and is administered through the EDA.

MMC Vespers To Be Broadcast Christmas Eve

The 2012 Mount Marty College Vespers performance will be broadcast on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, on KYNT 1450 AM at approximately 6 p.m. or online at www.kynt1450.com.

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and the Mount Marty College Music Department presented their annual Vespers performance on Sunday, Dec. 2, in the Bishop Marty Chapel on the Mount Marty College campus.

This year's Vespers performance featured music from Gregorian Chant to contemporary compositions. The performance also featured the choir of Mount Marty College, under the direction of new Director of Choral Activities, Kenneth Tice. The central piece for this year's performance was Z. Randall Stroope's "Hodie! (This Day)," accompanied by a professional brass and percussion ensemble along with the Yankton Children's Choir as featured guest performers.

NFAA Holiday Hours Are Announced

The NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex in Yankton has announced the following holiday hours:

- Dec. 24 — 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Closed Christmas Day
- Dec. 26-28 — 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Dec. 29 — 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Dec. 30 — noon-7 p.m.
- Dec. 31 — 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- New Years Day — noon-7 p.m.

Elks Scholarship Winners Are Announced

The Yankton Elks Lodge 994 has announced the winners of its annual scholarship program that awards a \$300 scholarship to six area high school seniors. Winners have the opportunity to compete at the state and national level for additional scholarships.

This year's winners, chosen on scholarship and leadership abilities as well as financial need are: Males — Henry Goeden, Crofton, Neb., Drew Konopasek, Yankton and Seth Petra, Elk Point-Jefferson. Females — Grace Carhart, Bloomfield, Neb., Shelby Huber, Menno and Kelsey Meadows, Vermillion.

B&G Club to Host Teen Holiday Dance

The Boys and Girls Club of Yankton in partnership with the Coalition for a Drug Free Yankton is hosting its first-ever high school Teen Holiday Dance at Sh-Booms Dance Club (upstairs from Bowling Alley). The dance takes place on Thursday, Dec. 27, running from 6-10 p.m.

"The goal of this event is to give high-school aged youth something to do over the holiday break in a safe, positive, and fun environment," said Devin Warren, Unit Director. "We are grateful to have such a 'cool' space to host our dance such as Sh-Booms with a DJ, raffle giveaways, and concessions. New owner Jim Palmer has graciously opened his doors to us and agreed to make the environment 'youth friendly' for our event."

Pre-sale tickets can be purchased at the Boys and Girls Club Yankton. There will be an admission fee at the door. Concessions provided. All proceeds go to the Boys and Girls Club of Yankton.

The Boys and Girls Club is also extending an invitation to any parent who would like to volunteer for this event. If interested, contact Devin Warren at 605-668-9710 or dwarren@greatfuturessd.org.

Parks and Rec.: Outdoor Ice Skating Available

The City of Yankton's Park and Recreation Department reminds Yankton and area residents that two outdoor ice skating areas are available for their enjoyment if winter weather conditions allow.

Sertoma Park has an ice hockey area, surrounded by wooden boards, available for those who want to be competitive with friends and family.

Tripp Park has an ice area for those who like to relax and skate. The rinks are open daily, ice conditions permitting and dependent on daytime high temperatures. There is no usage fee and the facilities are not staffed.

For further information, call 668-5234.

Mount Marty

Benoit Signs Gun Control Letter

Mount Marty College President Dr. Joseph Benoit was one of more than 170 college presidents nationwide who signed a letter earlier this week asking for better gun safety legislation.

The letter was drafted by Presidents Lawrence Schall of Oglethorpe University and Elizabeth Kiss of Agnes Scott College, Atlanta.

The support was gathered in just a few days and the numbers continue to grow.

Dr. Benoit explains his views and why he signed the letter in support of the gun control.

"The recent incident in Connecticut draws attention to gun related violence that must be addressed in our country. As a college president my responsibilities lie in ensuring a safe and secure living and learning environment," states Benoit. "I realize that solutions will be complex but strongly believe that increasing accessibility to certain types of weapons and arming of teachers is not the answer."

The letter read as follows:

December 19, 2012

On the same day our nation learned in horror that 20 first graders and six educators were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School, young people around the country were learning if they had been accepted to their favored colleges and universities. For



Benoit

many years now, our nation's leaders have engaged in fevered debates on higher education, yet lawmakers shy away from taking action on one issue that prevents thousands of young people from living lives of promise, let alone realizing their college dreams. That issue is gun safety.

Among the world's 23 wealthiest countries, 80 percent of all gun deaths occur in the United States and 87 percent of all children killed with guns are killed here (Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery). In 2010, 2,694 young people were killed by gunfire. 1,773 were victims of homicide; 67 were elementary school-age children. If those children and teens were alive today, they would fill 108 classrooms of 25 each.

We are college and university presidents. We are parents. We are Republicans, Democrats and Independents. We urge both our President and Congress to take action on gun control now. As a group, we do not oppose gun ownership. But, in many of our states, legislation has been introduced or passed that would allow gun possession on college campuses. We oppose such laws. We fully understand that reasonable gun safety legislation will not pre-

vent every future murder. Identification and treatment of the mental health issues that lie beneath so many of the mass murders to which we increasingly bear witness must also be addressed.

As educators and parents, we come together to ask our elected representatives to act collectively on behalf of our children by enacting rational gun safety measures, including:

Ensuring the safety of our communities by opposing legislation allowing guns on our campuses and in our classrooms

Ending the gun show loophole, which allows for the purchase of guns from unlicensed sellers without a criminal background check

Reinstating the ban on military-style semi-automatic assault weapons along with high-capacity ammunition magazines

Requiring consumer safety standards for all guns, such as safety locks, access prevention laws, and regulations to identify, prevent and correct manufacturing defects

The time has long since passed for silence and inaction on the issue of reasonable and rational gun safety legislation. We hereby request that our nation's policy leaders take thoughtful and urgent action to ensure that current and future generations may live and learn in a country free from the threat of gun violence.

HATS OFF!



Webster Elementary School recently held a fundraiser for Hurricane Sandy Relief in conjunction with a Hat Day. If a student wanted to wear a hat in school, he or she needed to bring in one dollar to donate. The school raised a total of \$200 that was donated to the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. Pictured are Christian Thorsted, Tara Renteria, Kyle McDonald and Justen Christensen.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

City

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The reason given for increasing the releases was because colder temperatures and increasing ice would further reduce the flows for water intakes along the Missouri River.

"We have a little bit of flexibility (with the surface water intake)," Viereck said. "When we had our problems in the spring with the intake, we resolved it by pulling it out of the sand and putting it on posts. We do have the ability to go back down again, if needed. It would take diving and money. We're not in a panic even if they go down; we're just keeping our eye on it. Our concern with going down is, is it going to fill over with sand again when the flows are increased? That's why we're not immediately doing it."

The flooding along the river in 2011 changed the channel and caused a sandbar to build up over the intake this year. During the summer, a temporary intake had to be installed.

"Technically, there is enough capacity in Nebraska to totally keep up with our needs. ... In a worst-case scenario, we can do it all from Nebraska, but we don't want to go to that extreme."

AL VIERECK

Commissioner Jake Hoffner asked whether the city's wells on the Nebraska side of the river could handle the water demand this winter if there are intake problems.

"Technically, there is enough capacity in Nebraska to totally keep up with our needs, but it changes the process because of the (different treatment of the water has to undergo)," Viereck stated. "In a worst-case scenario, we can do it all from Nebraska, but we don't want to go to that extreme."

In other business Friday, the commission:

- approved a revised contract for City Attorney David Hosmer that pays him \$3,166 per month, an increase of \$66 per month compared to 2012;
- approved a 2 percent raise for Viereck, who will now receive

\$79,050 annually. He also received a \$5,000 stipend that the commission said was due to his exemplary service as the interim city manager since former manager Doug Russell departed in June; and

- approved a towing contract for private towing services. Most towing is for the removal of vehicles due to violation of the snow emergency ordinance, but some are due to violations of the parking ordinance or the nuisance abatement ordinance, as well as accidents.

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

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St. John's Lutheran Preschool

is currently accepting registrations for the 2013-14 school year

We offer Preschool and Pre-K programs in a Christ-centered environment.

For more information, please visit our website at www.stjpreschool.org or call 665-7337

Registration forms may be downloaded from the website or picked up at the church office at 1009 Jackson St., Yankton

CALL NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!

Anger Management Classes will be held Jan. 9th - Feb. 27th at 7pm

(605) 260-9284

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