



Cloudy And Warmer

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75¢



Cuka



Kokesh



R. Schild

A NIGHTMARE
IN BAGHDAD
2005-2015

Legacy Of The Fallen



This display honoring the memories of four Charlie Battery (now Bravo Battery) soldiers who were killed during the unit's 2005-2006 mission to Iraq can be seen in the entry way of the Yankton National Guard Armory. Two of the soldiers — Dan Cuka and Rich Schild — died during a roadside bombing in Baghdad on Dec. 4, 2005. A third, Allen Kokesh Jr., died two months later of injuries sustained in the attack. A fourth, Greg Wagner, was killed the following spring.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

On Dec. 4, 2005, A Roadside Explosion In Baghdad Killed Two Members Of Yankton's Charlie Battery National Guard Unit, And A Third Died Of His Wounds Two Months Later. Ten Years Have Passed, But The Memories Of Those Fallen Soldiers Remain Alive

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

When it came to leadership, then-SSG Brooks Schild refused to delegate one duty during his unit's 2005-06 mission in Iraq. He insisted on escorting home the body of his brother, SFC Richard Schild, killed Dec. 4, 2005, by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Baghdad. They were serving with the

Yankton-based Charlie Battery of the 1/147 Field Artillery with the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG).

A decade later, now-1SG Brooks Schild expressed both pride and sadness when talking about the loss.

"My greatest honor was serving with my brother (on the mission). It was a big honor to escort him home," Brooks said. "There was no way that Rich was coming home without me bringing him home."

The two brothers went on the mission to offer mutual support and to watch each other's back, Brooks said.

"The irony was that I went over there to take care of Rich, and instead he went in the place of where I was supposed to be (on that day's convoy)," Brooks said.

While Brooks Schild lost his brother, he and the other Charlie Battery (now Bravo Battery) members also lost another two National Guard brothers. Besides Rich Schild, the explosion immediately claimed the life of SSG Dan Cuka. The incident would later claim the life of SGT Allen Kokesh Jr. Kokesh died Feb. 7, 2006, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, of complications arising from his injuries.

In addition, SGT Corey Briest suffered traumatic brain injuries, blindness and other medical issues during the Baghdad attack. He continued to receive specialized care upon returning to the United States and didn't arrive back in Yankton for two years. He continues to deal with his injuries.

Charlie Battery members were still grieving those

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Brooks Schild, who served with his brother Rich in Iraq in 2005, recalls when he escorted his brother's body home after a bombing that took place 10 years ago this week.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

3 Killed In Highway 81 Crash North Of Yankton

From P&D Staff Reports

Three people were killed in a head-on collision on Highway 81 approximately 11 miles north of Yankton around 2 p.m. Friday.

According to Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles, two total vehicles were involved in the accident. Makes and models of the vehicles were unavailable, but

Nickles said one was carrying four people while the other was carrying two people.

One patient was flown to Sioux Falls with unknown injuries and two other victims were transported to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital with unknown injuries.

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Wynot Girls Roll To Home Win • 9



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Yankton School District Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle and Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen discuss the details of an incident that occurred Thursday at Yankton High School. Two male suspects entered the premises under suspicious circumstances. Police are still unsure as to the intent of their visit.

Two Arrested After Intrusion Incident At High School

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN

alissa.woockman@yankton.net

Two individuals have been arrested in connection with an incident at Yankton High School Thursday in which intruders were found on the premises.

During a press conference held Friday by Yankton School District Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle and Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen, the two suspects were identified as University of South Dakota students Adam Gerard (19) from Greenfield, Minnesota, and Joseph Vanbuskirk (18) from Rockford, Minnesota.

Sometime during the noon hour Thursday, both males allegedly entered the building. They were found in the English Department hallway at the south end of the main corridor. The initial person who had contact with the intruders was one of YHS's English teachers, Kindle said.

After staff brought the suspects back to a main office, School Resource Officer Dan Thompson questioned the individuals and released them from the building with no formal charges.

"Our initial intention was to get them away from the school building if they truly were a threat," Paulsen said. "At that point, we weren't aware of any information, other than the fact that they were in the building."

Through an investigation, officers concluded that the males had not provided full or consistent information to the staff. A traffic stop was then carried out on E. Highway 50 and, after a search of the vehicle, the two were taken into custody.

The Yankton Police Department found a .22 rifle and a shotgun, along with 200 rounds of .22 ammunition in the trunk of the car. Both weapons were unloaded. At no time were there any weapons brought into the school, Paulsen said. The weapons remained in the vehicle on school property. It wasn't until after the search warrant was issued from Vermillion that Yankton police found the weapons.

"I agree that is it very serious when you have people in your building that shouldn't be in there," Kindle said. "Then to find out that they had weapons in their trunk, is very unsettling for us as a school and I'm sure that it is unsettling for parents."

Paulsen said the two suspects have had previous law enforcement contact for minor offenses, but they had no criminal histories.

"It is an isolated incident," Paulsen said. "We don't have any information of an extensive plan to create any chaos or any harm in our school. But in this day and age, we take everything seriously."

The suspects bonded out of Yankton County Jail Friday morning at approximately 9:30 a.m. on a \$2,000 bond each.

The two USD students were jailed on three misdemeanor charges: trespassing, disruption of school and possession of firearms/dangerous weapons on school property.

"I'm really proud of how it was handled in our school," Kindle said. "That is what we ask of any one of our employees: If there is someone in the building that should not be there, you approach them."

Paulsen said there were several red flags that became apparent about the two suspects. According to Kindle, administrators were given conflicting statements on why Gerard and Vanbuskirk were in Yankton, as well as their intentions within the school.

When questioned by police, both suspects provided

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

A helicopter lifts off as it transports an injured accident victim to Sioux Falls Friday afternoon.