

Updates

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Society and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

In addition to praising the preservation of the Meridian Bridge as a recreational trail, he spoke at length about the state's abandoned buildings on the Human Services Center campus. In 2009, many of those buildings were named on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual list of the 11 most endangered historic places in the nation.

"We're really interested in having that campus rehabilitated for modern uses," Vogt said. "We're hoping that your organization can be more involved in thinking of ways it can be used. With the change in administration and the change of leadership at the Human Services Center, we have a new interest in what should be done with the wonderful, historic campus."

The buildings had been scheduled for demolition under Gov. Mike Rounds, but Vogt said the Daugaard administration has agreed to put those plans on hold.

"We've been told by the current administration that will not

happen on their watch, so we've got a little bit of time here," he said.

Currently, an effort is under way to transform one of the structures, the Mead Building, into the new home of the Dakota Territorial Museum. However, there are many more buildings that could be utilized.

"I think the campus has got a lot of potential," Vogt said. "It's a matter of finding the right developer with the right interests to come into Yankton and put it to use. It's not an impossible undertaking, especially if we go one building at a time."

The state is open to any ideas developers with the money to back up their plans might have in mind. Vogt speculated that the buildings could be ideal for housing, retail or office space.

There are precedents for such facilities being put to use in South Dakota, he stated. The Buffalo Ridge Resort and Business Center in Gary, which is the former School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, is an example.

"This is really a huge project to take over, but it does happen," Vogt said.

Vogt also voiced his concern about the future of Yankton's downtown post office, saying he hopes a good private owner can be found for the property.

GOOD YEAR ANTICIPATED FOR YANKTON-AREA PARKS

After a challenging 2011, officials with the state Game, Fish and Parks Department (GF&P) hope that this year will set new records for the parks in the Yankton area.

"It was the year of the flood, and the park system was pretty significantly impacted throughout the state," said Doug Hofer, the director of state parks. "We didn't have the banner year in 2011 that we enjoyed in 2010."

For the first time since 1993, visitors to the Lewis and Clark Lake area were down compared to the previous year in 2011. Having added 41 camping sites to the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area last year, GF&P officials had originally anticipated a record-setting year until flooding along the Missouri River turned many expectations on their head.

"The good news, particularly for the folks in Yankton, is that the damages (to the park areas) are such that any repairs that were needed are taken care of," Hofer said. "We didn't sustain any heavy damage in the Lewis and Clark, Chief White Crane or Pierson Ranch areas."

He went on to predict that, short of another unforeseen weather event like last year, visitor numbers will be back at 2010 levels and beyond in 2012.

"We really didn't get to take full advantage of the new camp sites," Hofer said. "I don't think the occupancy rates were what they will be in a normal year. We're looking forward to that. I think it will grow the numbers down there."

It could very well be the last addition of camp sites that occurs locally, he added.

"Space is an issue," Hofer said. "We have really utilized most of the space we have. It's a balance of trying to maintain that quality park atmosphere. You could always pack more people in, but I think you'd be killing the goose that laid the golden egg. I think our feeling is that we should maintain quality over continually striving for more quantity."

On some other fronts, Hofer said efforts are still under way by the Lewis and Clark Marina operator to find a subcontractor to run the restaurant there. Magilly's has decided not to return in 2012.

"We are obviously interested, as you all are, that we have a quality operator and that we continue to have a good operation," Hofer said.

The addition of a new lodge at the Lewis and Clark Resort this year is also a reason for optimism, he stated. It is a 4,000-square-foot

facility designed to accommodate family reunions, weddings, corporate retreats or family vacations.

"That's going to be a real unique facility," Hofer said. "I think it is going to offer something that probably isn't otherwise available in the community."

PLANNING UNDER WAY FOR FOURTH STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Although it is not scheduled to get under way until 2015, the reconstruction of Fourth Street from Highway 81 to Ferdig Avenue is being planned by the state Department of Transportation (DOT).

It's the only major project scheduled for Yankton right now, according to Tom Week, the region engineer for the DOT. Discussion right now is that it will stretch over two years and be made into four driving lanes with a turning lane in the middle. The first phase would go from Highway 81 to Burleigh Street. The second phase would be Burleigh Street to Ferdig Avenue.

"Since (the project is) out a ways, we're not down to the fine details of how it's going to be done," Week said.

Some traffic analysis has already been completed of the Fourth Street intersections with Walnut Street and Douglas Av-

enue. In both cases, it has been found that the traffic count does not warrant signals.

"We'd like to find out from the city exactly what is taking place with proposed bike routes or anything we're not aware of that may impact the traffic pattern (at those intersections)," Week said. "Once we know that, we can sit down and make a better educated guess."

Week said his current inclination is that the signal may be removed at Walnut Street but retained at Douglas Avenue.

In other business, the Yankton delegation reminded DOT officials that, with major retail development occurring on the north end of the city, it may be time to revisit plans from more than a decade ago for a proposed truck bypass that would circle around from East Highway 50 to Highway 81.

Week also reminded the delegation that plans are under way to update the intersection of Highway 50 and Highway 81 near the Human Services Center and that reconstruction will occur of the westbound lanes of Highway 50 this year from Gayville to the viaduct west of Vermillion. That will necessitate head-to-head traffic on the eastbound lanes along that stretch.

Stocks End Higher, Erasing Early Losses

BY SAMANTHA BOMKAMP
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks resumed their slow but steady climb Tuesday as Greece appeared close to announcing a deal with creditors to cut its debt. The Dow Jones industrial average ended at its highest level since May 2008.

Stock indexes rose after a report that Greece and the investors who bought its government bonds were close to a deal to reduce what Greece owes. Greece's crushing debt has unnerved financial markets around the world for two years.

"Just some kind of optimism overseas is going to be positive, considering many didn't think anything was going to come to fruition," said Stephen J. Carl, head equity trader at The Williams Capital Group.

A report that job openings soared to the highest level in almost three years in December also helped the U.S. market.

The Dow rose 33.07 points,

or 0.3 percent, to close at 12,878.20. It has not closed higher since May 19, 2008, four months before the financial crisis. The Dow is roughly a 10 percent rally away from its all-time high.

The average fell 17 points to start the week. On Tuesday, it was down as much as 62 points in the first half-hour of trading.

McDonald's rose 1.4 percent, best among the 30 stocks in the Dow, to \$100.91, close to its 52-week high. Coca-Cola rose 0.8 percent after it reported better profits than analysts were expecting.

In other trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 gained 2.72 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,347.05. The Nasdaq composite rose 2.09 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,904.08. The Nasdaq is about a point shy of its best close since December 2000.

The jump in U.S. job openings was the latest sign that the job market is improving. The Dow climbed 156 points Friday

after the government reported that the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 8.3 percent in January, the lowest in almost three years.

Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial Group in Westport, Conn., said that while investors are becoming more optimistic about the economy, there are still signs that they're allocating money cautiously.

The utilities sector was the best performer in the S&P 500, indicating that investors are hanging on to stocks they consider to be relatively safe.

In the bond market, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.98 percent from 1.90 percent late Monday. Demand for bonds waned as investors became more confident that Greece would reach a deal. A relatively weak auction of three-year Treasury notes also pushed bond prices lower.

The euro rose to a two-year high against the dollar as wor-

ries eased about Greece's and Europe's debt problems. The euro rose 1.4 cents against the dollar to \$1.33 in afternoon trading.

Among the stocks making big moves in the U.S.:

— Yum Brands, which owns Taco Bell and KFC, jumped 2.6 percent. Its income surged 30 percent in the fourth quarter because of strong growth overseas and a turnaround in its Pizza Hut business in the U.S.

— Emerson Electric Co. lost 2.7 percent after the manufacturing and technology company said its quarterly profit fell 23 percent. It said costs rose and sales took a hit from flooding in Thailand.

— Becton, Dickinson & Co., a medical technology company, fell 3.8 percent. Its profit fell 17 percent in the latest quarter because of higher costs for raw materials and other expenses. The company also cut its 2012 earnings forecast.

County

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equitable way and not be stopped just because he is a large operator," Gunderson said. "Those two necessities have been met with the way we set this up."

Commissioner Allen Sinclair added that he is glad citizens are taking local control of the issue to avoid the necessity of drainage decisions being made remotely in Pierre.

"The reason we're doing this, in my opinion, is to maintain local control, because we should know better than someone out in Pierre what we need to do with a zoning issue here," he stated.

Enacting the drainage ordinance is a prudent move, Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said.

"This way, we can sit down and talk about (a drainage issue) and be civil about it," he stated. "It's a hot issue."

A second reading and public hearing of the ordinance will occur March 6.

Also Tuesday, the commission:

- held a first reading for an amendment to the county's wind energy conversion systems ordi-

nance that clears the way for wind energy generators in residential areas. Sinclair said the amendment is needed to adapt to the new technology available in the field;

- discussed whether a change is needed in the zoning ordinance to account for the number of variances that are granted for farmsteads that don't adhere to the minimum 20-acre rule. Such variances account for 53 percent of the variance requests considered by the commission, something zoning administrator Pat Garrity said is a red flag signaling the need for evaluation;
- accepted \$16,000 into the 2012 budget from the state that will be used to pay for a part-time 24/7 Program administrator; and
- asked Sheriff Jim Vlahakis to speak with a consultant about the possible security measures that should be taken at the new county highway shop north of Yankton.

NEWS AROUND
THE CLOCK
www.yankton.net

A+ Students of the Week



Chesney Nagel
Parents: Blane and Cindy Nagel
Grade: 10th
School: Avon High School
Why nominated? Ranks top of her class academically and is a student athlete.
Favorite Subjects: Geometry and Chemistry
Favorite School Memory(s): Going to Houston, Texas, for I-SWEEP International Science Fair.



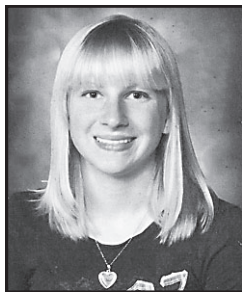
Hannah Reeves
Parents: Tom & Sharon Reeves
Grade: 7th
School: Avon Junior High School
Why nominated? Ranks top of her class academically and is a student athlete.
Favorite Subjects: I like them all.
Favorite School Memory(s): When I met Hanna Powers and we were a lot alike and became good friends.



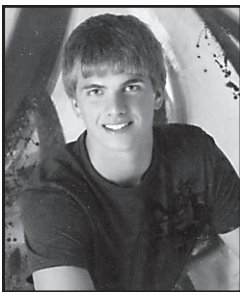
Amanda Reiff
Parents: Richard & Nina Reiff
Grade: 9th
School: Avon High School
Why nominated? Ranks top of her class academically and is a student athlete.
Favorite Subjects: Algebra & History
Favorite School Memory(s): Bus rides to and from games.



Alyson Roth
Parents: Charles & Vicki Roth
Grade: 11th
School: Avon High School
Why nominated? Ranks top of her class academically and is a student athlete.
Favorite Subjects: Algebra II
Favorite School Memory(s): All the bus rides to school events.



Chloe VanGerpen
Parents: Lorney & Barbara VanGerpen
Grade: 8th
School: Avon Junior High School
Why nominated? Ranks top of her class academically and is a student athlete.
Favorite Subjects: Earth Science, Pre-Algebra & English
Favorite School Memory(s): Homecoming dances and Cross Country bus rides



Luke VanGerpen
Parents: Lorney and Barbara VanGerpen
Grade: 12th
School: Avon High School
Why nominated? Ranks top of his class academically and is a student athlete.
Favorite Subjects: Advanced Math
Favorite School Memory(s): Social events with my friends.



Samantha Blake
Parents: Roger & Kathleen Blake
Grade: 12th
School: Centerville High School
Why nominated? 4.0, ranked #1 in class, enrolled in AP and college-level classes, student body president and in National Honor Society.
Favorite Subjects: History
Favorite School Memory(s): Girls State Basketball 2011



Kristina Laska
Parents: Greg & Michelle Laska
Grade: 9th
School: Centerville High School
Why nominated? 4.0, ranked #1 in her class, ambitious and motivated student
Favorite Subjects: Biology
Favorite School Memory(s): Making varsity for volleyball.



Mitchell Peterson
Parents: Todd & Roxann Peterson
Grade: 11th
School: Centerville High School
Why nominated? 4.0, ranked #1 in class, demonstrates a willingness to help others
Favorite Subjects: Anatomy
Favorite School Memory(s): All-State Band in junior high



Clarissa Rahn
Parents: Chris & Deidra Rahn
Grade: 10th
School: Centerville High School
Why nominated? 4.0, ranked #1 in class, secretary/treasurer of class, respectful nature and positive attitude
Favorite Subjects: Biology & History
Favorite School Memory(s): Third grade field trip that happened on my birthday.

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