

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

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New ABS Building Sustains Smoke Damage

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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A fire at an Ability Building Services (ABS) residential structure Friday afternoon left extensive smoke damage, according to Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles.

The building along Third Street between Linn and Locust streets is under construction and was weeks away from completion.

Nickles said firefighters found that a microwave had been placed on a stove in the structure. One of the stove burners was on

and caused the microwave to catch fire. The fire was discovered by landscapers outside the building.

The sprinkler system was activated during the incident, Nickles stated. However, the only water in it was residue from an earlier test. It had since been disconnected from the water supply.

The fire itself did little damage, but the smoke damage will likely necessitate the replacement of much of the structure's ceiling, Nickles said.

He added that an investigation is under

way to find out who is responsible for the fire.

ABS announced earlier this year that it had received a Recovery Act grant of \$795,000 to build a fully accessible assisted-living residence with eight apartments.

ABS is a community agency that provides residential services, pre-vocational and vocational training, alternative services, nursing services, service coordination, supported employment, community inclusions and many other services needed by individuals with developmental disabilities.

LAKERS

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al Friday from the race.

"The Nebraska Democratic Party will seek to find an appropriate candidate to contest the governor's race as allowed by Nebraska laws," Covalt said in a statement.

State law allows the party to nominate a new candidate, either at its state convention or through its central committee. But Lakers must first submit a signed and notarized statement withdrawing from the race to the Nebraska Secretary of State's office, or to the county election commissioner's office where he lives — in Lakers' case, Douglas County.

That statement must reach the state secretary of state's office by Sept. 1 for Lakers to be removed from the November ballot. Likewise, the state Democratic Party must also have a signed and notarized statement of a new nominee to the office by Sept. 1 to have a new candidate placed on the ballot.

Neither the offices of secretary of state nor the Douglas County Election Commissioner had received such a statement from Lakers by late Friday afternoon.

Lakers' withdrawal is the latest swipe to a tattered party that only two years ago was riding high on the wave of popularity surrounding then-Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

In November 2008, Democrats provided Obama a rare electoral vote from Nebraska, making him the first Democrat to win any electoral votes in the state since 1964. Six months later, a Gallup poll showed that more Nebraskans identified themselves as Democrats or leaning Democrat than as Republicans or leaning that way.

But the party still had trouble drumming up candidates for statewide races.

The party has no candidates challenging Republican Attorney General Jon Bruning or Republican State Auditor Mike Foley. And while Democrats have a challenger in each of the other state races, including governor, state treasurer and secretary of state, none have ever held public office before.

AFGHAN

From Page 1A

here is winning the hearts of the people, and the people here are positive about what we are doing."

MAKING A CONNECTION

One of the mission's first orders of business was to establish a personal connection with local leaders, said Capt. Anthony Deiss, a SDNG public affairs officer who joined the Press & Dakotan interview.

"Within the first week we got here, there was a key (meeting) with seven local village leaders, so right away we set the tone with the people here," he said. "Our message was, 'We want to work with you and help you,' and they were very positive."

However, Afghanistan has experienced a long history with foreigners on their land, dating back centuries to the Mongols and Alexander the Great, Deiss said.

"The difference is, we don't want to stay here. We want to help them build their country for themselves," he said. "The literacy rate in this country is only 20 percent. And Afghanistan has also been at war for decades and does not have good infrastructure."

The majority of the 190 soldiers in the 196th are stationed at Camp Phoenix, although others

are stationed at different bases in Kabul. They are part of Task Force Rushmore, carrying South Dakota's nickname.

Some soldiers, like DeJong, bring previous combat experience. He served in Iraq during 2004 with the 153rd Engineer Battalion. "This is a totally different mission, but it definitely helps. There are a lot of differences, but I know what to expect," he said.

DeJong's experience acts as an extra set of eyes in any situation, Glawe said. "He knows things we don't necessarily see," he said.

Gunderson appreciates having someone with war experience by his side.

"It's good to have someone who has seen combat," he said. "Kevin and people like that who have been in combat are a resource. They have been a source of information and are really helpful."

THINKING OF HOME

While settling into their routines, the three local soldiers said they do miss things from back home.

Of course, family is at the top of the list. For DeJong, it's wife Tonia and sons Justin, Nick and Cody. For Glawe, it's wife Shondra and children Hayley and Matthew. And for Gunderson, it's wife Connie and children Kristen and Jonathan.

Then there are the simple pleasures.

"I miss being able to go fishing on the Missouri River," Glawe said.

For Gunderson, it's supreme pizza from Charlie's pizza parlor in Yankton. "We have pizza over here, but it's not Charlie's or those other American kinds," he said with a chuckle.

Gunderson also misses his parishioners, although he stays in touch by e-mail. "I told my church that I would do a newsletter (about my mission) for them, and I am sending pictures for their website," he said.

For DeJong, it's summertime activities and knowing he will miss his son's senior year at Yankton High School. "My son plays football, so I will miss that, but I should be home for his graduation," he said.

The three local soldiers said they appreciate the support from back home. They encourage citizens to contact the South Dakota Family Readiness Office at (800) 658-3930 to learn ways to support the troops.

The 196th — including DeJong, Gunderson and Glawe — are carrying on a crucial role in the war on terror, Deiss said.

"We answer the call," he said. "We do this because we want to bring a peaceful end and freedom, not only for our people in the United States but all the other nations."

OBITUARIES

Kayleigh Ptak

Kayleigh AnnMarie Ptak, 16 months, of Yankton South Dakota, passed away in her sleep on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at her home in Yankton, South Dakota.



Ptak

Funeral Services will be 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 3, 2010, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend Jason Larson officiating.

Visitation will be on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Pallbearers are Jason Sampson, Eric Heltzel, Kelly Ptak, and Rory Hamilton.

Kayleigh was born February 19, 2009, to Nick Ptak and Andrea Brown in Yankton, South Dakota. She was a wonderful little girl who was always able to light up the room. She loved anything that was too big for her to ride and anything with wheels. She also loved her big bouncy balls, telephones, flushing the toilet and blowing kisses to anyone she met.

She will be greatly missed by her parents, Nick Ptak and Andrea Brown of Yankton; her brother on the way, Oakleigh; paternal grandfather, Kevin Ptak of South Sioux City, Nebraska; great grandparents, Gerard and Lois Hehn of Scotland, South Dakota, Francine and Leslie Ptak of South Sioux City, Eleanor Juttelstad of Yankton, and Deanna King of Duncanville, Texas; four aunts, Jennifer (Eric) Heltzel of Philip, South Dakota, Angela Brown of Yankton, Liz (Corey) Kramer of Constance, Nebraska, and Tosha (Rory) Hamilton of Yankton; two uncles, Jason Sampson of Philip, South Dakota and Kelly Ptak of Yankton.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandmother, Tamara Luke; paternal grandmother, Tammi Ewing; great grandpa King; great grandma and grandpa Stevenson; great grandma Hehn; and uncle, Nicholas Brown.

To send an online sympathy card, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.

Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Michael Schultz

Michael Alan Schultz, age 60, of Yankton, SD, passed away on June 27, 2010, at MeritCare Palliative Unit in Fargo, ND, after a short battle with cancer.

Mike was born on August 12, 1949, the son of A.G. "Dutch" and Ruth B. (Anderson) Schultz in Fargo, ND. He grew up in Carrington, ND, and graduated from CHS in 1967. Mike attended Valley City State College for a short time after graduation. In 1968, he joined the Army and served in Thailand during the Viet Nam War. Mike lived the last 20 years in Yankton, SD, where he had many friends, especially his special friends from IMPACT.

He loved his family. Mike was known in Yankton for his kind and gentle spirit. He was very generous, donating to many different charities. He enjoyed hunting for "deals" at thrift stores and rummage sales. In his youth, Mike was a talented musician. He collected musical instruments and many different types of music throughout his life. He loved animals of all kinds.

Mike is survived by his father, Dutch, Carrington, ND; a brother, Jim (Gail) Schultz, Jamestown, ND; two sisters, Karen (Joel) Rindy, Carrington, ND, and Patty Wolff, Casselton, ND; a sister-in-law, Linda Schultz, Carrington, ND; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and a brother, Gary.

On-line condolences may be sent at www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com

There will be a private family

funeral service, with interment in Carrington Cemetery. Casket Bearers will be all Michael's nieces and nephews. Honorary Casket Bearers will be his friends from IMPACT of Yankton, SD. Military Honors will be by the John Raymond O'Hara American Legion Post #25, McCreary-Bonderud VFW Post # 3524 and ND National Guard.

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Pamela Hosmer

LARGO, Fla. — Pamela Rae Hosmer, 53, of Largo, Fla., and formerly of Yankton, died at her residence in Largo.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at First United Methodist Church, Yankton, with Bob Cappel officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitations are 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, and then one hour prior to the service at the church.

Amanda Guthmiller

MENNO — Amanda Guthmiller, 92, of Menno died Thursday (July 1, 2010) at Avera Heart Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Peace Christian Reformed Church. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery.

Visitations is 3-9 p.m. Monday at Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, with the family present at 7 p.m., and then one hour prior to the service at the church.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Kayleigh AnnMarie Ptak 2:00 PM, Saturday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	Melvin Herrboldt 10:30 AM, Tuesday Trinity Lutheran Church Yankton
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WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC. Harrington, Colorado, Crofton 402-254-6517

Unforgotten.

They were there for us and for our country. Some couldn't wait to come home to the families they loved...others gave the ultimate sacrifice. Today, as every day, they remain unforgotten.

Kevin P Opsahl
Funeral Director

Tami Keller
Funeral Director

Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

PSAHL-KOSTEL

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