

Film

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upset because he tries to cut in.”

Approximately 75 percent of the movie has already been filmed.

“This is the one piece that is missing,” Coffey stated. “That is why we postponed it and tried to find the right location, because it is a very important part of the film.”

Coffey said his love of storytelling began at a young age. “I had all these ideas that I thought, in my head, were great. I always thought that, if I could share them with my friends and family, that would be cool,” he stated. “That’s where it started. The ideas were probably horrible, but that grew into a passion for storytelling and wanting to share those stories with other people.”

The motion picture became Coffey’s medium of choice, and he is a self-taught filmmaker. He cites the Coen brothers, Jeff Nichols, Ron Howard and Alexander Payne as influences.

“I don’t make films for myself,” Coffey said. “My Dad, who is a musician, always used to say, ‘You’ll never make a living playing music for other musicians.’ I’ve adapted that philosophy into my filmmaking. I don’t make it for me. I make it for an audience. If I can’t please an audience, I’m doing something wrong.”

He thinks South Dakota is a good place to be a filmmaker.

“It has its challenges,” Coffey stated. “It’s not a hugely recognized art form around here, but we’re trying to change that. It’s getting better.”

He wants to create more awareness of the filmmaking talent in the region.

“I’m taking where I am and the resources I have and embracing that,” Coffey said. “It’s a long road ahead. It’s a process, and you need to enjoy that.”

He does commercial work on the side to pay bills.

“But the brunt of my work has been narrative storytelling,” Coffey said. “I’m very fortunate to be able to do that 75-80 percent of the time.”

Coffey hopes to finish up “Straight, No Chaser” by mid-to late August and submit it to some film festivals. It will also be released online.

Next year, he plans to embark upon a feature film effort, which he will also write and direct.

“It’s time to make the plunge (into a feature length project),” Coffey said. “(My team and I are) excited for what’s down the road.”

To keep up with Coffey’s efforts, visit daltoncoffey.com or his production company site crufilco.com.

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

Sentry

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The rules will not take effect until after the next school year begins, so the first training class is likely to be held next summer, when teachers and others have time for the two-week course.

“We haven’t received information from any school district that they are yet considering appointing a school sentinel,” Gortmaker said.

Wade Pogany, executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, said he supports the new version of proposed rules, but he noted his association is among the education groups that opposed the measure approved by the Legislature. Those groups argued armed teachers or volunteers could increase the danger of accidental shootings or create problems if students find a sentinel’s gun.

Pogany, the only person to testify at Thursday’s commission hearing, said he is worried that the program could expose school districts to legal liability if something goes wrong.

“Our concern is about what happens when a civilian is armed and the danger just bringing that weapon into a school causes,” he told the commission.

The law passed by the Legislature leaves it up to each school district to decide whether to arm teachers and others. Supporters argue the program might be needed in rural areas where law enforcement agencies are located miles from schools, saying a would-be attacker could be deterred by just the knowledge that an armed volunteer might be in a school.

Water

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Currently, Yankton’s water system has a capacity of about 8 million gallons per day (mgd). The maximum-day demand is expected to reach 8.2 mgd by 2015, 9.1 mgd by 2025 and 10 mgd by 2035.

“We’re right around the corner from meeting our peak,” Goodmanson said. “We want to be in position to meet our needs in the future.”

The upgrades would include replacing the current surface water intake pipe near the Discovery Bridge, which has become unreliable due to the 2011 flood and other environmental concerns, with a collector well. Water Treatment Plant No. 1 (built in 1929) would need to be replaced, and improvements are needed to Water Treatment Plant No. 2 (already in progress).

A tentative completion date for the project is summer 2015.

“The train has been coming down the track for a long time, and this has been a need in the community for a

long time,” Nelson said.

When asked to compare Yankton’s rates to similar cities, City Finance Officer Al Viereck said that the comparisons are mostly “apples to oranges.”

“Our rates will be one of the highest in the state when we’re done — but we’ll have one of the newest treatment facilities,” he said. “So sooner or later, some of these other communities are going to run into the same thing.”

Viereck said Aberdeen and Sioux Falls also are considering large increases to water rates.

Goodmanson added that both the types of improvements planned by Yankton and their costs are similar to those being made by other cities trying to prepare for future growth.

Thursday’s audience also voiced concerns about the validity of the prediction of Yankton’s future needs, given that the city’s population has only increased by about 3,000 people since 1972.

“It won’t grow in leaps and bounds, but we will have growth, just like we have,” Viereck said.

Nelson added that al-

though the population hasn’t grown considerably, water use by both individuals and businesses has. She said it is also important to have higher capacity to encourage Yankton’s growth.

“I want to be able to tell new people or new businesses that want to come into town, ‘Yes, we can provide you with additional water. Yes, our water is reliable. We have plenty of water to grow in the future,’” she said.

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