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Weighing Options

Meeting Explores Possibilities For Crane, Williams Fields

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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A public meeting was held on Tuesday night at the Yankton High School Theater to collect input on the Crane-Youngworth/Williams Field project.

Members of the Building and Grounds Committee made a formal presentation outlining the details of the project to the public. The public was then allowed to ask questions and give input about the decision to either rehabilitate/replace Crane's grandstand structure or to renovate Williams field.

More than 60 community members were present to give their opinions about the project. Most of the feelings seemed to be centered on the nostalgia of the Crane Youngworth stadium. Some audience members have kids that play on that field and most have played on that field themselves. It holds sentimental as well as historical value.

"Tradition never graduates," said Brady Muth, assistant football coach at Yankton High School. "When our athletes play on that field, they know that there were a lot of Bucks that came before them and they have to live up to that standard of a Yankton Buck and Crane Youngworth helps us do that."

Other community members felt the historic value is important as well.

"I don't see the advantage of moving out to Williams," said community resident Jim Robinson. "Let's stay at Crane field and make it the best football field in the state."

"I am in favor of replacing the grandstand in Crane field and keeping the real grass," said Pat Lynch, 1973 YHS grad. "This would be good access for the home team spirit and the tradition of Crane field, and opposing teams are very aware of that."

"If we were to leave Crane and go to Williams, we would have to do something with Crane; it can't just stay there," said Superintendent Wayne



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton High School assistant football coach Brady Muth (left) discusses the merits of Crane Youngworth Field while Yankton School District activities director Ryan Mors looks on during a public meeting held Tuesday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theater. The meeting was held to gather public input on options concerning the potential renovations to Crane Youngworth Field and Williams Field.

USDA Prepares For Bird Flu Return

BY DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Two top veterinary officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and farmers affected by the bird flu outbreak said Tuesday it will take increased surveillance, improved farm security and more money to fight off a possible fall return of the disease that devastated chicken and turkey flocks.

The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee held a livestreamed hearing to discuss the response to the outbreak that has killed 48 million birds since early March in 15 states,

including hardest-hit Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska.

With no new outbreaks in three weeks, it appears the virus has been eradicated for now, said Dr. David Swayne, director of a USDA poultry research laboratory in Georgia.

He joined John Clifford, the deputy administrator of veterinary services for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at USDA, in discussing the outbreak and how the government is prepared to handle a possible recurrence.

The government believes waterfowl carry the virus and dropped it over Midwestern farms during the spring migration north. Hotter,

drier weather kills the virus, but scientists worry it could return with cooler fall weather and the southward migration.

The USDA has prepared for an unlikely worst-case scenario, Clifford said, developing a plan robust enough to handle cases at up to 500 farms in all 20 states with major poultry flocks.

The government has increased surveillance of wild birds to see where the virus is present and is working with industry groups to establish improved biosecurity,

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Sports



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Canadian Smoke Hits SD Eyes

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Thanks to Canadian forest fires, the Yankton area had some of the worst air quality in the nation this week.

How bad was it?

Monday's air in eastern South

Dakota was more polluted than the skies over Los Angeles or Hong Kong, reported KEO-TV of Sioux Falls. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rated the air in Sioux Falls as unhealthy for anyone to breathe, the station said.

Smoke from forest fires in northern Saskatchewan had blanketed much of the eastern Dakotas and Minnesota since last week. The smoke traveled as far away as Tennessee.

The air conditions improved greatly Tuesday, but the smoke may be around for several weeks, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Phil Schumacher of Sioux Falls.

"We can expect it to be a problem over the next month or two. Once the large forest fires get started, the fire season typically goes through the summer and early fall," he said. "That doesn't



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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton County Register of Deeds Brian Hunhoff displays some of the ideas for a possible county seal that were created by a group with which he is a member. The ideas were presented to the Yankton County Commission Tuesday.

Roads And Seals

County Commission Discusses Potential Levies And Seals During Busy Session

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The Yankton County Commission spent a busy Tuesday meeting discussing the county's future — both infrastructure-wise and identity-wise.

One of the main discussions centered on a proposed county levy to help fund improvements to roads and bridges in Yankton County.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said the budget situation is growing critical for roads, the needs are outgrowing available resources.

"We've got a lot of work to do on roads and just not enough money to get it done," Woods

said. "(The Highway Department) has put in a request to do seven miles of overlay, which costs about \$1.5 million and right now that money is just not available in the budget."

Woods said a levy, established by the passage of Senate Bill 1 during the 2015 legislative session, may be an option for the county.

"(SB1) gives us the option to help fund our roads and bridges," he said. "Senate Bill 1 (allows) money to be levied on the taxes to go specifically for roads and bridges. Looking at some of the shortfall we have in the budget to take care

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