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Some Plains Dealing

Yankton Co. Enters Into Non-Binding Agreement With Dakota Plains

BY **ROB NIELSEN**
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Yankton County took yet another step towards a partnership with Dakota Plains that nearly a year ago seemed implausible. The Yankton County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to enter into a memorandum of understanding on a potential grain sorting facility.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said this was one of many steps to be taken.

"It's the next step in regards to Dakota Plains and working on the development (at Napa Junction)," Woods said. "It's a non-binding agreement with Dakota Plains but gives a blueprint of what's going to be the next steps."

Toby Morris of Dougherty and Company



Morris

told the commission the decision to go with a memorandum for the time being instead of a developer's agreement immediately came down to how projects evolve as they're developed. "One of the issues we had is, there's still moving parts," Morris said. "Whenever you have a development, you're going to have moving parts, you're going to have bumps in the road. I said, 'Well maybe what we should do is look at, instead of having a contract — which a developer's agreement is — look at it as a memorandum of understanding.' It's essentially a non-legal binding document but really states

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'You All Have A Blessing Here'

Archer Reflects On Yankton Visit

BY **JEREMY HOECK**
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During a recent telephone call to her father back home, 3,000 miles away, Neela Cezair couldn't help but rave about her temporary home.

"I think I was born in the wrong city," she told him. Cezair, a 22-year-old archer from the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago, continued those compliments of Yankton, where she is living with a host family and training at the Easton Yankton Archery Complex for five weeks this summer.

"You all have a blessing here," she said during an interview this week. Her country's top female compound archer, Cezair arrived in Yankton in late June and will stay through the first week of August. It's all part of the Yankton center's efforts to attract international archers to the complex, which features state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor ranges.

As a competitive archer, Cezair frequently travels: She has previously flown to Mexico, Barbados and Colombia, but never to the United States.

In short: Everything she has experienced so far in Yankton is new.

"This is beyond what I ever expected," Cezair said. "Because of how small it is back home, you tend to think there's not much more you can do."

"This has really opened my eyes." Cezair lives in San Juan (located



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Neela Cezair, a 22-year-old archer from Trinidad and Tobago, is living and training in Yankton for five weeks this summer. She is staying with a host family and spending a couple days each week at the Easton Yankton Archery Complex.

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Wausa School District Pulls Out Of Merger Talks

BY **RANDY DOCKENDORF**
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With Wausa withdrawing this week from the discussion, the remaining three districts in a multi-school study have cancelled tonight's (Wednesday's) meeting.

The proposal started with five northeast Nebraska schools — Bloomfield, Wausa, Creighton, Osmond and Plainview — discussing joint efforts and a possible consolidation. Based on current enrollments, there would have been approximately 100 students per grade in the combined school district.

However, the Plainview school board withdrew last month from the talks after reviewing the results of a survey sent to school district patrons. Then, the Wausa school board voted Monday night to discontinue participation in the four-school study.

At that point, the remaining three districts decided it didn't make sense to meet tonight at Bloomfield as scheduled, said Osmond superintendent Dave Hamm.

The three remaining districts will need to decide how or whether to proceed. Bloomfield, Creighton and Osmond are the furthest apart from each other of the original five schools.

"I think the geography of the three remaining schools would make it difficult to continue," Hamm said. "I believe the three remaining schools will make it 'official' at their August board meetings."

Hamm expects further dialogue among the original five schools regardless of how the current talks proceed.

"I do know that all five schools would like to continue to have joint board meetings either annually or semi-annually," he said.

In that respect, the five-school discussion has developed stronger relationships among the districts, Hamm said.

"One of the major benefits that has been realized by going through this process is the lines of communication that have been established by the board members," he said.

The past months of talks have laid the ground-

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PUC Sets Final Processes For TransCanada Hearing

BY **BOB MERCER**
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday rejected most of the limits that TransCanada wanted on opponents for the permit hearing next week on the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Bill Taylor, a Sioux Falls lawyer representing TransCanada, asked to require opening statements in writing and to specify who could

cross-examine. "Seven days of hearing, 53 witnesses, what can we do to streamline the process?" Taylor asked.

The various organizations, individuals and tribal governments that are seeking to deny the permit argued against TransCanada's requests.

Travis Clark, a lawyer representing the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, said each opponent should

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2015 Arts Advocate

Longtime Yankton High School educator Pam Kallis (left) was honored Tuesday night as the Arts Advocate of the Year for 2015 by Yankton Area Arts (YAA). Besides her classroom duties, Kallis has worked with numerous theatrical productions through the years as a costumer. She was presented a plaque and a Dakota Aerials print prior to Tuesday night's summer pops concert at the Riverside Park amphitheater by YAA president Lori Rothenberger. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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TOMORROW: Bon Homme Teacher Headed To Washington, D.C.

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NORTH
OF 15TH STREET