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9 a.m. **73** 3 p.m. **87** | DETAILS: Page 2A

FRIDAY ■ July 31, 2015



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75¢



Hudson Sentenced For 2014 Killing

BY ROB NIELSEN

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Joshua Hudson has been sentenced to 150 years in the South Dakota State Penitentiary with 100 years suspended and restitution Thursday morning at the Yankton County Courthouse for the death of his uncle, Todd Hudson, in March 2014.

Earlier this month, Joshua pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree homicide as manslaughter. He had originally been charged with homicide in the second-degree, aggravated assault and grand theft. His original plea was not guilty by reason of insanity.

Thursday morning, the defense called Dr. Melissa Spangaard of Avera Behavioral Health to the stand. Spangaard conducted two evaluations on Hudson on behalf of the defense — a competency evaluation two months after the killing and a forensic psychiatric evaluation.

Spangaard said the first evaluation determined that Hudson was suffering delusions and hallucinations and was not competent to stand trial. She testified that, while Hudson's state of mind had improved with treatment by the follow-up evaluation, she still determined that he was suffering from schizophrenia fueled by the recent death of his brother at the time he killed his uncle. Spangaard further testified that the family had been encouraging him to seek psychiatric help beforehand.

The prosecution called no witnesses during the sentence hearing.

Deputy State's Attorney Erich Johnke had originally asked for a cap of 40 years on the sentence as part of the plea deal made earlier this month.

Before the sentence was read, Hudson addressed the courtroom by apologizing to friends and family for the events that had transpired.

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A Climate Of Change

El Nino Weather System May Affect Missouri River Levels

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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A strong El Nino weather system should mean a warmer and drier winter, which can impact Missouri River levels, a state official said Thursday.

The federal government has put out an El Nino advisory, as the weather pattern appears a certainty for the Central Plains, said South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today.



Today

"We can nearly guarantee an El Nino at some time and level during the winter," he said during a conference call. "It's not 'if,' it's how strong the El Nino is going to be."

Based on data, the Central Plains stands a 70 percent chance of seeing a strong El Nino system, Today said. The overwhelming figure compares to 15 percent

chances each for a moderate or weak system, he said.

"There is the potential for wetter conditions in the plains area in the fall, but then there is a strong likelihood of drier conditions come wintertime," he said.

Dry weather is also quite likely this winter in Montana and parts of Wyoming, with less snow accumulation in the mountains, Today said.

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Breaking New Ground



JAMES CIMBUREK/P&D

Members of the Yankton Area Progressive Growth Inc. shovel up progress at the site for the new housing development Westbrook Estates, located on West City Limits Road, which will include a 70-unit apartment complex. Construction will begin laying the foundation late August. These new apartments will support YAPG's mission to advance and develop the City of Yankton and by offering assistance to industries and business that contribute to Yankton's prosperity through primary job development, private investment and wealth generation.

Housing Development Moves Forward

BY REILLY BIEL

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Progress was shown Thursday morning when several Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) members involved in creating Westbrook Estates alongside Yankton's West City Limits Road pushed golden-tipped shovels into the dusty dirt.

"It's really come about relatively quickly for how housing developments can work," said

YAPG chairman Rob Stephenson. "Our lack of affordable housing in the area needs to improve."

This is what the YAPG hopes to accomplish with the creation of Westbrook Estates, which will include a 70-unit apartment complex, single family homes, twin homes and a fourplex.

"We are shooting to have some housing foundation started by the middle or end of August depending on rain delays," said Kelly Nielson, owner of Nielson Construction in

Harrisburg. "The plan is to put six to seven single family homes, a twin home and a fourplex in right away so all those projects will go into the ground right away."

Construction trucks were at work Thursday morning putting in underground utilities. It was a promising sound.

According to Stephenson, all the work leading up to that day can be traced directly to YAPG housing task force director Dan Specht.

"Dan's been heavily involved in organizing us, thinking about property and what's available and negotiating with builders," said Stephenson. "Dan knew what he was getting into when he said yes, and he's been fantastic."

Specht acknowledges that while Westbrook Estates is a step in the right direction, there's still a long ways to go to reach Yankton's

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Yankton Area Arts Board pose with Pam Kallis at G.A.R. Hall to celebrate her award for Arts Advocate of the Year. (From Left to Right): Julie Amsberry (Executive Director), Paul Maynell (board member), Pam Kallis, Denise Wubben (board member), Paul Harens (board member), Andrea Wright (board member)

2015 YAA Advocate of the Year Strives For Arts Appreciation

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN

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Yankton Area Arts (YAA) has named its Arts Advocate of the Year. Yankton resident Pam Kallis has been recognized for her contributions to the arts programs within the community.

"There is always an art presence in Yankton," Kallis said. "You cannot enter Yankton and not feel it."

Kallis was presented the award Tuesday, July 21, at the YAA's summer pops concert. "It's just a way for us to say 'thank you for what you do'; a way to recognize people who do a lot to support our mission, even if they don't know it," said YAA Executive Director Julie Amsberry.

Kallis graduated from Wayne State College

in 1984 where she obtained a Bachelors of Arts degree in education with majors in Spanish and Math and a minor in theatre. She has taught at Yankton High School for the past 20 years and will continue in the fall, teaching Spanish and algebra.

"When I moved here in 1995, I started costuming with Lewis & Clark Theatre," Kallis said. "I've always been doing so many of the community arts; it just made sense to be with YAA."

The Arts Advocate Award is given to honor a person who contributes to the arts and advocates for the arts in their life, Amsberry said.

For more than 30 years, the YAA board of directors has chosen a person who lives

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TOMORROW: 4-H Adjusts To The Ban On Poultry Events

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