

# Federal Prison Camp Honors Its Past

"The Hill" on Douglas Avenue between 9th and 10th Street has been called by various names since 1881, when Dr. Joseph Ward founded Yankton College with "the hill" as its southernmost border. It was known solely as "College Hill" until 1894 when Edward L. Clarke erected a brick observatory at the very top of that hill, dedicated to his father, Joseph B. Clarke. From that time on it was also known as "Observatory Hill".

Each year the horticulture classes at the Federal Prison Camp, present occupants of the old Yankton College campus, create an artistic planting on the west-facing slope of the hill. This year, when Yankton College alumni will gather on a long weekend from July 19 - 22 for the All-Class Reunion, Warden Jordan Hollingsworth has authorized that the planting will symbolize the tradition of YC as well as the collaborative relationship which now exists between the college and the camp. It is only one of the many ways in which the Warden and his staff have preserved the historicity of the college, which closed its doors in 1984.

Not only are the huge letters spelling out "YC" and the embellishments visible as the alumni drive up and down Douglas Avenue (some for the first time in decades), but the Warden has also made available campus tours and has created an opportunity for one



COURTESY PHOTO

alum to have the experience of climbing to the top floor of "Old Middle", also known as "the Conservatory", and ring the College bell. The sound of the bell was a familiar one, heard "at morn, at noon, at twilight dim", and the thought of its being heard once again has created much nostalgia.

Local residents are invited to view the hill and are reminded that Yankton College has a

business office which is located at 1801 Summit Street as a part of the Summit Center. Office hours are weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and the phone number is 665-3661. Many historical items, artifacts and items related to the statehood of South Dakota can be seen there, as well as new collectable souvenirs and books and college clothing.



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## City

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In some cases, the waste can be applied to the land. However, commercial septage cannot be land applied, Harper said.

"The closest options I've been able to come up with for commercial septage is to haul it to Sioux Falls or Mitchell," he stated. "It has to go through some type of treatment facility."

Hauling it that far is not cost efficient, according to Harper.

The City of Yankton does not accept outside septage. It was considered in the 1990s when planning an update of the wastewater treatment plant but was considered too much of a burden.

"We looked into that, but the expense involved with the holding tank and facilities deterred us from going ahead with it at that time," said Kevin Kuhl, the city's

public services director. "There seemed to be other alternatives available to the tank haulers."

Interim City Manager Al Viereck said it can be a risky endeavor to accept material from outside the city's wastewater system.

"You can jeopardize your treatment system by spiking something into it that isn't a normal course of our sewage," he stated.

Commissioner Paul Lowrie wondered aloud if the city could somehow be involved in a solution and take advantage of a new opportunity. The commission agreed that the issue is worth some more discussion.

"I think we should get a study to see what other communities are doing with that waste," said Commissioner David Carda.

In other business, the commission:

- was told that efforts continue to address the surface water intake that continues to be hampered by a newly-formed sandbar in the Missouri River.

"We have now signed a contract with a firm to come in and put in a temporary intake," Viereck said. "We hope that will be accomplished within the next week to two weeks. They have to get some equipment down here and some electrical pre-work done."

The contract is for approximately \$25,000, he said. However, total costs will probably balloon to more than \$40,000, Viereck added.

The solution is meant to last at least through the summer months to avoid the need for water restrictions;

- discussed a possible housing shortage in Yankton.

"I've heard we're having trouble getting people to come work in Yankton because of a housing shortage," Commissioner Charlie Gross said.

He stated that people who work in Yankton are finding apartments in Vermillion.

"One of the concerns I heard was, you run the risk of losing them to Vermillion because Vermillion is also looking for people,"

Gross said. "If we've run out of apartments and housing in a certain price range, that's something we need to ask the Economic Development Council, Yankton Area Progressive Growth or the Planning Commission to take a look at."

Other commissioners said they have heard similar concerns.

The commission agreed that the subject should be put on a future City Commission meeting agenda;

- approved an agreement with the South Dakota Department of Transportation for an Auld-Brokaw Trail railroad underpass north of 15th Street near Pizza Hut. The city will be reimbursed 81.95 percent of eligible project costs not to exceed \$174,268.75; and

- approved conditional-use permits for a new self-storage facility in the 300 block of East Eighth Street and for the expansion of a self-storage facility along West City Limits Road.

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

## Law

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gration status of a person if there is suspicion of someone being an illegal immigrant.

The high court ruling clears the way for the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to decide whether those provisions can stand. The 11th Circuit is also considering Georgia's law, which contains provisions allowing police to check people's immigration status.

For Georgia to avoid having that law overturned based on arguments that such checks amount to racial profiling, officers would have to investigate the immigration status of every person they detain, said Charles Kuck, an Atlanta immigration attorney and former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He said it was a mistake for supporters of the law to interpret the high court's ruling as a victory.

"This is a massive defeat for those who believe states can regulate immigration," Kuck said. "I think it's funny that anybody could read that decision and come to any other conclusion."

The ruling also could clear the way for a federal court to make permanent an injunction that struck down a provision in Indiana's law that went even further than Arizona's law. That provision allowed police to arrest anyone who had been ordered by federal authorities to be detained or deported — even if those people were not suspected of any other crime. Groups including the American Civil Liberties Union had argued that provision gave police unprecedented arrest powers.

"If nothing else, (the high court ruling) just reinforces the unconstitutionality of the Indiana law," said Ken Falk, legal director of the ACLU of Indiana.

In Utah, Attorney General Mark Shurtleff called the Supreme Court ruling a win, saying his state's law differed significantly from Arizona's. Utah's law requires people arrested for serious crimes to prove their citizenship, though police can use their discretion for people arrested for lesser crimes.

Lawsuits over Utah's law are

still pending in federal court, and Shurtleff acknowledged "there's going to be ongoing litigation, civil rights lawsuits, people living in fear."

The Supreme Court left untouched one complaint raised in numerous lawsuits: that immigration crackdown laws encourage police to engage in racial profiling. That leaves open the possibility that, based on those arguments, lower courts could still overturn parts of various laws.

Other states including Mississippi, Nebraska and Oklahoma had previously considered immigration crackdowns that ultimately failed. It's possible the Supreme Court ruling will deter other states from considering their own laws in the future, or at least discourage them from including provisions similar to those struck down.

"I don't think this is a total victory for our side by any stretch of the imagination," said Mary Bauer, legal director of the Montgomery-based Southern Poverty Law Center, which is challenging Alabama's law. "But I think it's a blow to other states that would think about going down this road."

Nebraska state Sen. Charlie Janssen, who sponsored a bill modeled after Arizona's last year, said he was encouraged that the Supreme Court at least upheld the one key provision allowing local authorities to check the immigration status of those suspected of being in the country illegally. But he said he wasn't sure if he would try to resurrect another immigration proposal.

"I certainly wouldn't bring something back that the U.S. Supreme Court just shot down," Janssen said.

In Oklahoma, one state lawmaker vowed to resurrect a proposal cracking down on illegal immigration. Last year, Sen. Ralph Shortey sponsored legislation that would have allowed police to confiscate property belonging to illegal immigrants. The Oklahoma City Republican said he would "absolutely" resurrect that proposal, adding that the Supreme Court ruling — in his view — says states can enforce immigration laws.

"That's all that we've asked, just let us (states) handle the problem on our own," he said.

## SPED

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Kathy Wagner, director of student services and head of the special education program for the YSD, said students with a speech or language impairment could bring the scores and numbers up for the program.

"These students are on IEP's but really have no academic issues," she said.

Wagner added that she is disappointed the schools did not do better in the four-year graduation rate for students on an IEP, which was at about 73 percent — about 12 percent below the state average of 85 percent. However, she said that some students are served until they are 21, which brings the graduation rate down.

One thing that she was happy about was the 100 percent participation rate that Yankton has for students on IEPs.

"It is excellent," she said. "It shows that you can't just exclude kids to bring the numbers up, and schools are not allowed to do

that any more."

She noted the importance of vocational courses being offered at the high school. These classes include skilled labor jobs, including some classes being offered with the Regional Technological Education Center (RTEC).

"We have been working hard to change the mindset that kids must go to a four-year college," Wagner said. "We need to provide classes for kids that just want to go out into the workforce."

One of the ways that special education numbers could improve in coming years is through the new school standards that South Dakota will adopt beginning with the coming school year.

Instead of standards being specific to South Dakota, all schools in the state will move to the Common Core set of standards. The standards have been adopted by 45 states, with the main goal being to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn.

Wagner noted the standards are not dramatically different from the ones that have been in place in the state. However, some topics are expected to be covered and mas-

tered even earlier than they have been previously.

"One thing we'll try to do differently is linking the Common Core Standards to the IEP's for students," she said. "The 8th grade standards might not be what a particular student needs."

She added that students on IEP's have their own plans and goals and these must be linked to the new standards. However, she did note that some families might think that it is more important for their child to learn lifestyle skills and not necessarily what other kids are learning in the classroom.

"IEP's are not just what schools want, they're also what parents and guardians want, too," Wagner said.

"Our goal is to provide the best education that we possibly can for every student that is on an IEP," she added.

New data, which will include numbers for all students in the district, and not just those students on an IEP, are expected to be released in July.

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at www.twitter.com/andrewatwal

## Compton

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behavioral health inpatient unit I was working at, the length of stays was shorter. But it was very similar with the same types of services."

Family history played a role in HSC resonating with Compton during an early visit, he stated.

"My grandfather was the superintendent for the Michigan School for the Deaf in the 1930s," Compton said. "When I got a tour of the Human Services Center, there was something about it that reminded me of the (School for the Deaf)."

His parents were married at the school's superintendent cottage, which is now a historical building.

As he settles into his position at HSC, Compton said he plans to take plenty of time to educate himself about the facility and the people who work there.

"Anybody coming in needs to learn and listen and, from that, say, 'What are some things we can work on?' Compton said. "Any place can get better. In

health care and mental health, you want to work on things that can improve the day-to-day lives of patients."

General areas of focus include the quality of care, accessibility to care and continuing care once a patient has left the facility.

Behavioral health has made significant progress in the last 20 years, according to Compton.

"The challenge that behavioral health will continue to face is to fully integrate itself with primary care," he continued. "What do patients want? They want to get better. What does that mean? They want to get back to their families, jobs and normality. One of the challenges going forward is, how do you go about doing those things? We want people to reach their potential and get the best outcome."

That means working with patients, families and other providers, Compton said.

In addition to continually striving to improve patient care, he also wants to address the concerns of HSC staff.

"I have an open-door policy with staff," Compton said. "I used to work with somebody who said, 'I don't have any magic dust in my pockets. There's nothing I can do about certain things.' But I think people want to be heard, and I do truly believe in empowering staff."

That means finding ways to implement good employee ideas and then evaluating their effectiveness. It's a continuous process, he said.

Compton didn't come to Yankton alone. He is joined by his wife, Deb, who is a native of Lincoln, Neb., as well as his 18-month-old son, Noah.

Together, the family has been exploring Yankton and taking in its recreational offerings.

"It's a neat town," Compton said. "I love the lake and the bike paths."

"I'm looking forward to getting to know Yankton and am excited about working at a such a great facility," he continued. "South Dakotans should be very proud of the services offered at the Human Services Center, and I'm looking forward to working with the people here to figure out ways to improve it and keep it great."

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## OBITUARIES

### Tony Lee Nicholls

A celebration of life for Tony will be held at the NW corner of the Yankton Cemetery on June 30, 2012 at 1 p.m. to inter the cremains. The Rev. Marilyn Stone will officiate. He is the son of Joann Coates Nicholls of Yankton.

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