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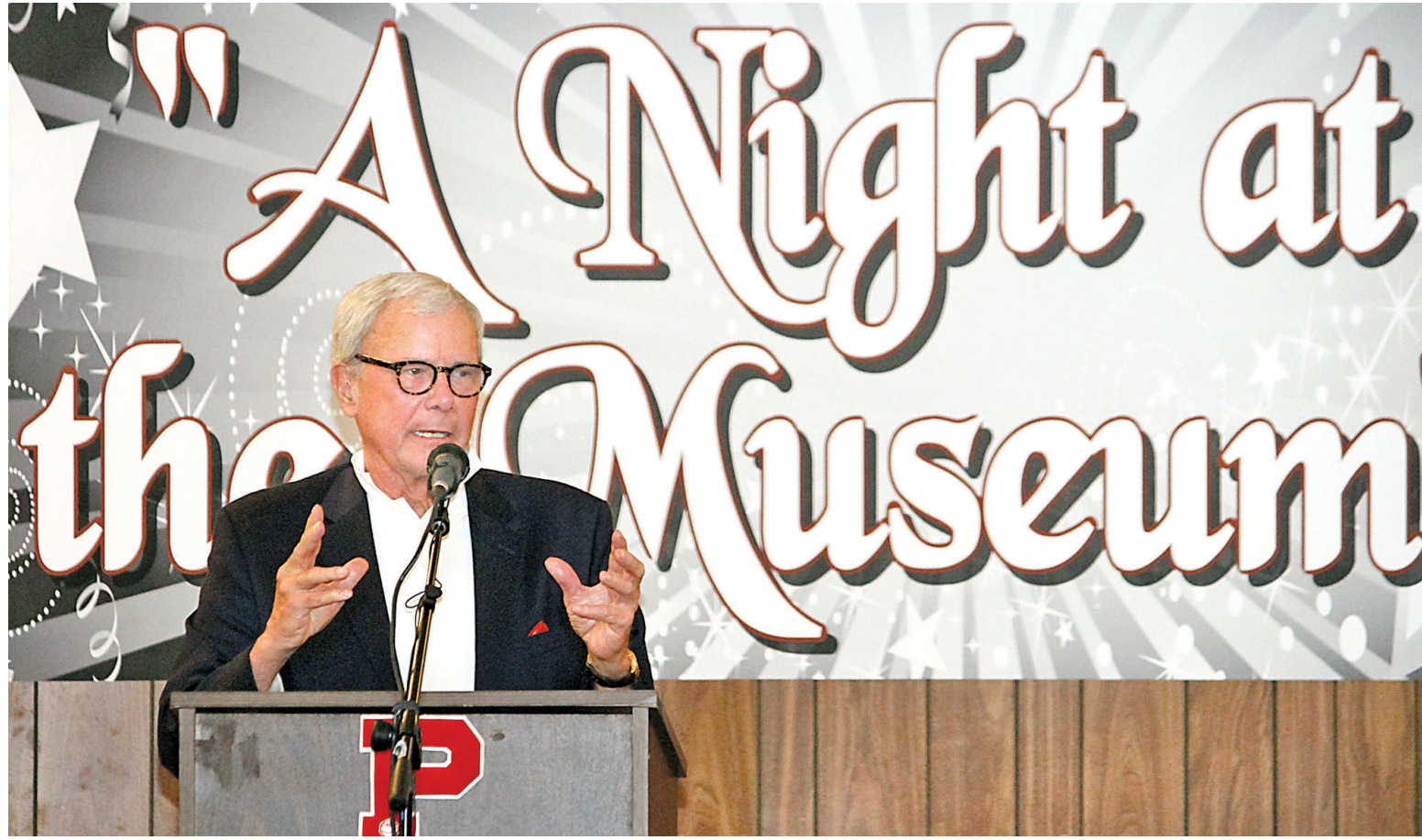
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Honoring A Big Idea



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Former Pickstown resident Tom Brokaw delivered the keynote address Friday during the dedication of the Pickstown and Fort Randall Dam Museum. Approximately 500 people attended the program.

Pickstown Native Brokaw Praises Hometown, Dam

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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PICKSTOWN — For former NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw, this Charles Mix County town means more than his boyhood home. Brokaw delivered the keynote speech during Friday's dedication of the Pickstown and Fort Randall Dam Museum. For the renowned journalist, the dam completed 60 years ago — and the community that arose as a result of the dam — represent America's drive to achieve "the big idea."

"This room is filled with people who knew the ravages of the Missouri River every year," Brokaw told Friday's audience of about 500. "I see this room and the museum. Fort Randall Dam and the life of the town is a statement unto itself."

Fort Randall Dam forms part of the massive Missouri River system of dams and reservoirs created through the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Pick-Sloan Plan. Contracts were awarded for initial construction in 1946, and the groundbreaking ceremony was attended by 6,000 people.

video

See video from Tom Brokaw's speech in Pickstown
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Brigadier General Lewis A. Pick touched off the dynamite explosion marking the first construction on the dam. Construction began on the town, named in Pick's honor.

At its height, Pickstown became a boom town and one of South Dakota's 10 largest communities with 3,000-4,000 residents, according to town historians Guy Rhoades and Arthur Trautman. The first family moved into Pickstown in 1947, and many more families soon followed.

The planned community gained a number of businesses and amenities to serve the booming population. However, the transitory nature of the dam construction was also seen in the swinging population and school enrollment not only from year to year but during the course of a single year.

The dam dedication ceremony was

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

During the official ribbon-cutting for the Pickstown and Fort Randall Museum, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels gets some help from 5-year-old, Rebekah Dehay. She is the granddaughter of Linda (Specht) Stubben-dick, who was the first child born in Pickstown.

Obama: More US Can Do To Help Native Americans

BY NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. — President Barack Obama on Friday became only the third U.S. sitting president in eight decades to set foot in Indian Country, encountering both the wonder of Native American culture and the struggle of tribal life on a breeze-whipped afternoon in the prairie. Amid snapping flags and colorful, befeathered dancers, Obama declared that there was more the U.S. could do to help Native Americans.



Obama

Obama drew attention to inroads his administration has made with tribes even as he promoted the need to help reservations create jobs, strengthen justice, and improve health and education.

"Young people should be able to live, and work, and raise a family right here in the land of your fathers and mothers," Obama told a crowd of about 1,800 during a Flag Day Celebration at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

Citing legendary tribal chief Sitting Bull, Obama said: "Let's put our minds together to build more economic opportunity in Indian country. Because every American, including every Native American deserves a chance to work hard and get ahead."

The president and first lady arrived by helicopter under sunny skies as native songs and dances at the Flag Day Celebration were already underway. The couple first met privately with tribal youth about their challenges growing up on the

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JAMES CIMBUREK/P&D

Gov. Dennis Daugaard meets with students during a visit to RTEC in Yankton Friday. Daugaard spoke about the importance of choosing the right academic path for each individual.

Gov. Speaks At Recognition Ceremony

BY JORDYNNE HART
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Gov. Dennis Daugaard applauded students participating in the 2014 Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) Manufacturing Academy and CNA Institute Friday afternoon.

In the two-week program, 10 students participated in the CNA Institute and 22 took part in the Manufacturing Academy. Daugaard was the featured speaker of the ceremony. In Daugaard's speech he encouraged the students to think practically about their future careers.

"Chose your academic path with deliberation and forethought and you'll be happier," Daugaard said.

video

Watch video from Gov. Daugaard's speech at RTEC Friday.
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Daugaard also commented on how he wished he would have pushed his daughter into attending a program such as this.

"She was almost tearful because she was so stressed about not knowing what she wanted," he said. Well shame on me. I didn't tell her what her options were. Not very well. It's a very good thing to engage high school students before they get to the point in their lives where they have to make choices like this so they know what the

opportunities are."

Daugaard also encouraged the students to find out what kind of education they truly need for their career since many degrees leave students no job, just debt.

"When I was in school — and that was a long time ago — the conventional wisdom was to go to college and you will have a ticket to success," he said. "That is not true anymore. You have to get the right degree today."

Students closed the ceremony with a 'Welcome' sign for the governor that they made during the program. The governor accepted it with a smile.

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