



Showers, T-Storms Likely

9 a.m.: **77** | 3 p.m.: **82**
FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2A

**A Look Back
On The Spring
Season In
Photos • 1B**



FRIDAY ■ June 27, 2014

f t r Volume 140
Number 53

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **TWO SECTIONS** | www.yankton.net

75¢



5-School Study Shifts Its Focus

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Five north-east Nebraska school districts say they are forming committees to tackle several areas of their proposed merger.

However, the committee meetings will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

The *Press & Dakotan* attended last week's curriculum workshop on the Northeast Community College (NECC) campus in Norfolk, Neb. The day-long meeting included administrators and teachers from the Bloomfield, Wausa, Creighton, Osmond and Plainview schools, Nebraska Department of Education officials and NECC vice president John Blaylock.

The five schools met again Wednesday at Bloomfield, Neb., as a committee of three board members from each district. The *Press & Dakotan* attended the meeting but was informed the committee had been holding closed meetings and would continue excluding the public and press for the time being.

In separate comments, Osmond superintendent Dave Hamm said the decision was made so committee members could speak freely, discuss sensitive topics and move faster on the fact-finding process.

"We don't have a quorum of any board, so we don't fall under the

5-SCHOOL | PAGE 11A



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
TransCanada spokesman Rob Latimer stands Thursday amidst a portion of the Keystone pump station near Hartington, Neb. TransCanada officials offered a tour and explanation of the pipeline operation for American Indian tribal members and Cedar County, Neb., officials.

A Look At The Pump

TransCanada Offers
Tribes A Tour Of Area
Pipeline Station

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — As an educational effort, TransCanada officials invited tribal leaders Thursday to view the Keystone pipeline's pump station near Hartington.

"This is part of our outreach," said TransCanada spokesman Mark Johnson, a former Yankton County commissioner. "Some of the tribes have concerns (about pipelines), and we want to answer their questions."

The company had invited tribes, along with other organizations, from a tri-state region, Johnson said. Thursday's tour drew about a half-dozen tribal members and about a half-dozen Cedar County officials.

The American Indians on the tour asked the *Press & Dakotan* not to identify their names or tribes. They cited the controversial nature of TransCanada's Keystone and proposed XL pipelines on some reservations.

However, one tribal member said he found Thursday's tour very educational.

"I came to learn, and it's been very interesting," he said.

TransCanada officials noted they employ tribal liaisons who work with issues such as protecting cultural artifacts. In addition, they said they maintain connections with communities and government entities.

"We're proud of the way we have worked with relationships and how we interact with the local folks," said TransCanada spokesman Jeff Rauh.

TOUR | PAGE 3A

On The Job

Sejnoha Seeks To Expand Reach Of Experience Works

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the *Press & Dakotan's* monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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When Aves Sejnoha began searching for work 2 1/2 years ago, the elderly woman soon realized it was a difficult prospect.

Her husband, Larry, died in January 2012, and Sejnoha decided she needed to get out of the house and interact with people.



Sejnoha

"I put in 25 applications and had two interviews," she said.

Sejnoha, now 73, eventually found work as a Senior Companion, where she transported elderly woman to various appointments.

But when she heard about Experience Works, Sejnoha recalled her earlier difficulties finding employment.

"I was familiar with Experience Works, because I used to work at The Center," she said. "They were doing recruitment there,

so I went down and got recruited."

For the last two months, Sejnoha has worked for Experience Works.

"They needed a participant assistant whose job is to go around, visit with host agencies and speak with the enrolled participants to see how things are going," she said. "I like it."

According to its website, Experience Works is a national, charitable, community-based organization. Originally named Green Thumb, and chartered in 1965 as a small, rural demonstration program,

OTJ | PAGE 11A

Plea Deal Struck For Yankton Man Who Shot At Two People

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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As part of a plea deal announced Thursday, the Yankton County State's Attorney Office dropped an attempted homicide charge that had been filed against a Yankton man in connection with an April 2013 incident.

Curtis Wilson had previously pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree attempted homicide as murder, aggravated assault (domestic), aggravated assault and second-degree kidnapping.

In accordance with the plea agreement laid out Thursday before Circuit Judge Glen Eng, Wilson pleaded guilty to the aggravated assault charges while the remaining ones were dropped.

The matter had been scheduled for a July 14 trial.

Wilson told the court that he had been drinking alcohol in the 900 block of East 15th Street on April 5, 2013, and it had been "a good day." However, he said his antipsychotic medication had been changed in the month prior to that and he wasn't prepared for the result of mixing it with alcohol.

"I blacked out, and I guess I almost shot someone with a rifle," Wilson told the court.

Court-appointed attorney Dan Fox added that the evidence shows that Wilson got into

PLEA | PAGE 3A

Olivet Community Center Shuts Its Doors

BY ROB NIELSEN
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OLIVET — Thursday saw the end of the line for an important piece of Olivet's history. An auction was held at the Olivet Community Center, nearly 90 years after it was built as the town's school.

The fate of the building is now in the hands of Jim and Phyllis Oplinger, who live next door to the old school house.

Jim Oplinger said the property, in its long history, has ultimately done its job.

"All things have served their purposes," he said. "This building's been here serving this community for 90 years — first as a school for 44 years and then as a community center the last 44."

The building was originally erected as a 12-grade school in 1924 and functioned in that capacity through 1969, when students were transferred to nearby Menno. In that time, the school fielded a state champion girl's basketball team in 1927.

After the school's closing,

OLIVET | PAGE 3A



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jim and Phyllis Oplinger stand in front of the former Olivet Community Center. The Oplingers, who own the property, held an auction Thursday to sell off items from the center after costs made the building unfeasible.

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REGION 2A-3A | OBITUARIES 3A | VIEWS 4A | MIDWEST 5A | SPORTS 6A-7A | CLASSIFIEDS 8A-11A | WORLD 12A

TOMORROW: MMC Students Lend Hand To Storm Victims

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET