

UNION

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initial contract should be effective for two years rather than one. Those two changes were made to the contract that will be voted on April 6.

Yankton City Manager Doug Russell said he is happy to see progress on the issue.

"I was hoping we'd get to the point where both parties would be comfortable moving forward," he said. "I think we're there."

AFSCME Council 59 Executive Director Paul Aylward said the negotiation process has resulted in many compromises on both sides.

"I don't think either side probably got everything they wanted. But it's a start," he said. "It gives the employees something to build on. It gives them the protection of a union con-

tract, and they'll be able to improve it over the years."

Union members will meet at Yankton's Best Western Kelly Inn on the evening of April 6 to discuss the proposed contract. A vote will then be held on whether to accept it. A simple majority of those voting is required for approval.

If the contract is not approved, Aylward said a discussion will be held about why it didn't pass and where union members want to go from there.

The contract will give union members cost-of-living adjustments that were given to non-union city employees in 2009 and 2010.

"I'm sure they'll be happy to get that and use it," Aylward said.

If the 2009-2010 contract is passed, he said work will resume almost immediately to negotiate a contract for at least 2011, and possibly multiple years if that is the course union members wish to pursue.

SPIRIT

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players getting it because you know you have good character people in the program" he said.

One of the reasons Staum excelled both on and off the court is because he takes academics very seriously, Knippling said.

"Ben's very active in his athletics and puts in extra time, but he doesn't let that control his life," he said. "He's got a 4.0 GPA, and it's very difficult in this school to get that. He does an excellent job of taking care of his academics first."

Staum said he works just as hard at academics as he does athletics, and is proud to be a 4.0 student.

"It's always been a goal of mine; I've just always wanted to work hard it, just like athletics," he said. "It's just something that's been important to me, and I have strived to keep it going."

Not only has Staum strived to work hard in his book work, but he has also done what he can to improve the high school for his fellow students.

For the last two years, Staum has served as Elk Point-Jefferson's student council president.

"We have a really good school here, and it's been nice to make decision to make the school better," Staum said. "There's quite a few kids in my class who have been willing to help out, and I am just one of them."

Knippling said being elected president twice shows the kids in the school have a lot of respect for Staum.

"It shows a high character for him to want to do it, and that he has become a leader in the school," he said.

With all of the work Staum does in school, he still finds time to contribute in the community.

Staum contributes to several local projects, including Friend's Feast, which is held every month at the local churches.

Because of all his work Staum did in his community, this isn't the first time Staum has been honored.

As a junior, he was selected to the National Honor Society.

"It's as prestigious as you can get in our school," said Staum

about being a part of NHS the last two years. "You have to be well rounded, show leadership, do well academically and work hard in the community. To get in, you know you have done a lot, not just in the school."

And Staum still found a way to average 12 points per game for his team, but it's not the stats that have stuck out the most to his coach.

"He's definitely outstanding at

the things you see, but he does all the little things as well," Knippling said. "Not only is he a leader in the classroom, but also on the court — and he is one of our best defenders."

Staum's next step will be to work on deciding where he wants to continue his education. He has narrowed down his choices to the University of South Dakota and Augustana College.

Staum is thinking about get-

ting into the medical field and was leaning towards maybe having a sports medicine major because it mixes two of his favorite interests.

But where ever he goes, Knippling knows Staum will do well.

"I know he will be successful with whatever he chooses," he said. "This award is a good culmination of everything he has done."

Neb. Voters Have Chance To Drop Treasurer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers put the state treasurer's office on the chopping block Friday, giving voters the chance to eliminate the 155-year-old office in November.

Current State Treasurer Shane Osborn, who is not running for re-election, has called it a bad idea that could cost the state more money in the long run and dissolve an important link between citizens and the office that oversees the state's financial books. A strong majority of lawmakers disagree, however, saying constituents are clamoring for smaller government and axing the office is a good start.

"Today is a good day for people who want smaller, smarter state government," said Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha. "We will save money getting rid of top-level, high-paid managers in the office."

Just eight of the Legislature's 49 senators voted against putting the office-abolition measure on the ballot. One of them, longtime Sen. Arnie Stuthman of Platte Center, said the vote could partly be due to term limits that have ushered in a new crop of senators trying to quickly fulfill promises of government-cutting.

Proposals to eliminate the office surfaced in the 1990s, but never even advanced from legislative committees to be debated by the full Legislature.

"A lot of senators feel like we have to cut something, so just get rid of it," Stuthman said. He predicted voters will do so, but that the move won't save any money.

"We're going to force unemployment in one agency, which will require employment in another, so where's the savings?" he said.

The senator who introduced the proposal has said he doesn't know exactly how much money abolishing the office might save.

At the least, the salary and benefits of the officeholder — about \$117,000 — would be taken off the state's financial books, according to Sen. Dennis Utter of Hastings. And Utter says an unknown amount of savings will likely be realized because state agencies are already equipped to handle many of the duties of the office.

"Frankly, agencies in other areas have experience," with some of the treasurer's duties, Utter said after the measure was passed. "The Department of Revenue takes in state funds, and the Department of Administrative Services disburses them."

Besides acting as the state's banker, receiving and disbursing state revenue, the office does the same with child-support payments. It is widely credited with improving the system.

BARRY

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sociology from Briar Cliff College in Sioux City in 1971.

He also obtained his doctor of education in adult continuing education and a master of science in education in adult continuing education in 1992 at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill.

During Barry's tenure with Mount Marty, he also served on board of the South Dakota Foundation of Independent Colleges and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities.

In addition, he has served as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce and Yankton Area Progressive Growth.

Barry is also a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

For two years prior to his appointment as president of Mount Marty, Barry was vice president of development at People to People International in Kansas City, Mo.

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