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PHOTO: BROOKS SCHILD
Brooks Schild (left) poses with his brother Rich on a curb at one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in downtown Baghdad. Both men were members of Yankton's Charlie Battery when it was deployed to Iraq in 2005. Rich was killed in an IED attack in the Iraq capital. Brooks is currently a teacher at Yankton Middle School.

Yankton Man Recalls Overseas Experiences

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of stories in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War.

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Brooks Schild still remembers the mail calls.

For the Yankton native, getting a letter or package from home while he served two tours of duty overseas with Yankton's Charlie Battery meant the world to him while he was stationed in Iraq and Kuwait.

"It's huge to get something from home," he said. "Getting letters in the mail meant a lot, and I would smell the envelopes and letters to have something nice to smell, since there isn't much that smells good over there."

This week marks the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War, which sent thousands of soldiers, like Schild, to the Middle East.

After growing up in Yankton, Schild taught school in Council Bluffs, Iowa, before returning to teach in Yankton. While teaching in Iowa, Schild joined the Iowa Guard in the 1990s and served there for around a decade. After moving back to Yankton and transferring to the South Dakota National Guard, he was deployed to Baghdad in 2005 for a year tour of duty, and later deployed to Kuwait in 2009 for a nine-month tour.

Life in the far-flung lands was much different, ranging from the culture to the weather.

Schild said the first time he was deployed, he did not have a lot of free time. However, occasionally soldiers would have to go around Baghdad Airport and, while there, they would get steaks for their fellow comrades.

"They sold steaks around the Baghdad airport, and we would give soldiers who went there with around \$50 to pick some up for us," he said. "We would grill up some steaks and it would be one of the best things to happen that month."

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U.S. Housing Starts Rise, Recovery Gains Strength

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. builders started more houses and apartments in February, while requesting permits for future construction at the fastest pace in 4 1/2 years. The increases point to a housing recovery that is gaining strength.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that builders broke ground on homes last month at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 917,000. That's up from 910,000 in January. And it's the second-fastest pace since June 2008, behind December's pace of 982,000.

Single-family home construction increased to an annual rate of 618,000, the most in 4 1/2 years. Apartment construction also ticked up, to 285,000.

The gains are likely to grow even faster in the coming months. Building permits, a sign of future construction, increased 4.6 percent to 946,000. That was also the most since June 2008, just a few months into the Great Recession.

Mourners Celebrate Madison

Services Held For Vermillion Teen Who Died Trying To Save Brother

BY DAVID LIAS
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VERMILLION — Holding back sobs, but with a firm voice, Anna Cable thanked God for the gift of Madison Wallace as she presented the invocation at the Vermillion teen's funeral service Tuesday night.

"Thank you for the many blessings ... and for the honor and privilege of brushing lives with this remarkable young woman," Cable said in her prayer that began the night's services at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Vermillion.

Madison, 16, drowned in the Big Sioux River last Thursday as she attempted to rescue her younger



M. Wallace

brother, Garrett, after he slipped into the icy water during a family outing to Falls Park in Sioux Falls.

A bystander, Lyle Eagletail, 28, of Sioux Falls, also entered the river Thursday evening to help the two siblings, and lost his life in the river.

Crews recovered Madison's body Friday afternoon, and located Eagletail's body in the churning river Saturday.

The crowded church, filled with the young woman's friends, family and fellow community members, learned how she often thought of others rather than herself, and that a

disability made her more determined to work hard and be curious.

Margaret Knaphus, Wallace's grandmother, read a life sketch describing her granddaughter's character and personality. Madison was described as a "gifter."

"She showed her love by sharing her friendship, and with homemade gifts," Knaphus said. "There were eight in the family, so she was always busy."

She loved to crochet, to make hair clips and homemade greeting cards. Madison also mastered origami, Knaphus said, and with her zest for life, loved to go bike riding, rollerblading and rock climbing.

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A CHILLY DIVE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The last day of winter in Yankton arrived with chilly temperatures, but that didn't prevent some souls from taking a dip in the Missouri River Tuesday. In fact, a diving crew was on hand to inspect the intake pipes just below the Discovery Bridge for the Yankton water treatment system. Measurements and photos were taken by the divers, who came in from Pierre and withstood the 36-degree water to get the work done.

City Hopefuls Talk Water

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The seven candidates for the Yankton City Commission agreed during a Tuesday forum that water infrastructure needs present a huge challenge to the community.

The candidates are vying for three open seats on the commission in the April 9 election and presented their views during a question and answer session hosted by 5 Star Communications, Riverfront Broadcasting, L.L.C., WNAX/104.1 The Wolf, the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Yankton County Observer and the Press & Dakotan.

Charlie Gross and Brad Woerner are incumbents. The remaining candidates seeking a three-year term are Thomas Bixler, Brooke Blaaid, Chris Ferdig, Edward Gleich and Michael Schumacher.

During a City Commission meeting earlier this month, HDR, Inc., outlined approximately \$28.7 million in upgrades it believes are needed to Yankton's water treatment system.

The candidates were asked Tuesday how they would look at addressing the problem while keeping costs down.

Ferdig said \$28 million is a lot of money.

"I've gone over some of the contracts and prices," he said. "We definitely need an upgrade in water. I don't know if there is a way to get by spending less money."

"If I had to vote right now to



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The seven candidates for the Yankton City Commission addressed issues during a candidate forum held Tuesday night at the Technical Education Center. Pictured are, from left: Brad Woerner, Chris Ferdig, Michael Schumacher, Thomas Bixler, Edward Gleich, Brooke Blaaid and Charlie Gross. A forum featuring the four Yankton school board candidates was also held. The election is April 9.

School Board Candidates Discuss Qualifications, YSD Morale

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Yankton School District (YSD) school board candidates gathered at the Technical Education Center on Tuesday night to debate more issues pertaining to the district, most notably the districts budget crisis.

There are two openings on the school board, with four people running for the positions. Candidates are incumbent Jim Fitzgerald and newcomers Butch Becker, Wayne Wurth and Sarah Carda.

Questions were asked by audience

members, and the first question brought up dealt with how candidates are prepared for the challenge of being a school board member.

Fitzgerald said this election is not as big a challenge for him as it was the first time he ran. He said he has been prepared for the position by baptism by serving on the board for the past three years.

Wurth said he would be prepared by hiring competent people and by trusting the people from whom he gets the information.

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INSIDE TODAY



American Profile

* * *

County Seeks Input For Highway Project

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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If you have an opinion about the future of the Highway 52 corridor west of Yankton, county officials want your input.

The Yankton County Planning and Zoning Office, with assistance from Planning & Development District III, will conduct public meetings for the proposed Yankton County Highway 52 Corridor project March 21 and April 18.

The corridor in question runs from Yankton's West City Limits Road to the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area Gavins Point entrance.

"I'd like people to tell us their vision and concerns," Zoning Administrator Pat Garrity said. "It could include concerns like, is the speed limit too low or too high along Highway 52? Then you could get into, do you want more or less campgrounds? Do you want more mixed-use areas, which means housing next to businesses? Do you want something to happen with the hole in the ground that now exists where the greenhouse was going to go? Do you as a business owner want to figure out ways to get people to pull off the highway on their way to and from the lake? Should there be a building theme, such as a maritime theme or a Fort Yankton theme?"

These are the types of questions that must be answered in order to create a long-term comprehensive plan for what amounts to Yankton County's second-most populated area. Because of the large population and the mixed land uses along the corridor, it has also been home to a variety of zoning disputes between land owners during the last decade.

"Having a mix of uses is not bad in and of itself, but if it's uncoordinated, that's when you have a lot of problems," said Eric Ambrosion of



Garrity

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