



Partly Cloudy Skies

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WEDNESDAY ■ March 4, 2015



Guarantee
Comes
True For
The Bees
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A Year Later



Local firefighters are shown battling the blaze that destroyed the Colonial Inn in Yankton one year ago today (Wednesday). The case was ultimately ruled an arson, but to date, no arrests have been made. The site of the motel is now a vacant lot.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Colonial Inn Case Still Unsolved

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Little evidence remains of a fire that broke out one year ago today on the site of the former Colonial Inn Motel along Broadway Ave. in Yankton. The debris has been removed and filled in with grass. Only the parking lot and the Colonial Inn's sign remain.

Despite this, authorities continue to seek the culprit in what has been characterized as an intentional act.

Shortly after 1 a.m. March 4, 2014, fire-

fighters were summoned to the motel as flames began overtaking the structure. Departments responding included Yankton, Gayville and Lesterville. It took more than seven hours for 55 firefighters to knock down the blaze completely.

Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles told the Press and Dakotan at the time that the fire resulted in a total loss.

"The fire stayed in the attic in the south wing, but we had to bring in a loader and knock down the roof so we could get to it," Nickles told the Press & Dakotan the day of the fire. "I'd put the motel at a total loss,

even though the east wing is just smoke damage."

Then, four days later, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) announced that the fire had been ruled arson. The ATF released a grainy security camera photo of a male individual who was alleged to have started the fire.

The fire is still an open case being investigated by both the ATF and Yankton Police Department.

FIRE | PAGE 11

Yankton Co. Treasurer Announces Retirement

Marchand To Retire After Nearly 40 Years

BY ROB NIELSEN
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After nearly 40 years working in the Yankton County Treasurer's Office, Treasurer Pam Marchand announced her resignation during Tuesday's Yankton County Commission meeting.

Marchand characterized the resignation — effective July 1 — as a retirement.

"It's just that time for me to retire," Marchand said. "I put in the letter 'resign' which I thought was more official, but really it's retirement."

She added she had one recommendation in mind, and plans to stick around in some capacity to make sure the transition goes smoothly.

"I would highly recommend to the commission to name my first deputy, Patty Vavra, to take my place for the rest of my term," she said. "I would happily help wherever I can. I want the treasurer's office to be run well."

Marchand began working in the treasurer's office in January 1977. She was first elected treasurer in 1997.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said the county is losing an important asset with her resignation.

"I've only worked with Pam a short amount of time in this role, but her wealth of knowledge is phenomenal," Woods said. "Easy to work with and great (with) customer service. She's going to be a loss to the county."

RETIRE | PAGE 11

* * *

Lake Sirens To Get Public Hearing

BY ROB NIELSEN
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A plan to place a number of storm warning sirens near residences in the Lewis & Clark Lake area is set to be brought to the public later this month.

Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt was on hand at Tuesday's meeting of the Yankton County Commission to see if the commissioners still wanted to pursue the project.

With \$100,000 allocated, Scherschligt said that would mean a limited number of sirens for the time being.

"In this bid, we're looking for three sirens and then some software to go along with them, and then we'll see where we're at," Scherschligt said. "If they come in lower, we've got some extra money, we can maybe put in a fourth."

Last fall, the project was put on hold after going out for bid due to concerns about the impact building the sirens would have on the area. Originally, the project called for 10 sirens, mostly placed in the lake area.

Three have been placed, with one at the Boy Scout camp and the others on state park property.

The state pays for the power supply to the sirens on state property, with the county



Scherchligt

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16 DAYS UNTIL
SPRING
#ThinkSpring

Rockne Family Chosen For Sacred Heart Award

BY JORDYNNE HART
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The family that volunteers together, stays together.

Sacred Heart School (SHS) has announced the newest inductees in its Hall of Fame.

This year, Tom and Leann Rockne were chosen for the 22nd annual award.

Though the award was presented to the couple, it was also shared by the entire family.

"It brought tears to my eyes because it wasn't just me or Tom, it was all of us," Leann said.

"It was not something that one of us could ever do by ourselves. It was something that took all of us to accomplish. Though they presented it to just Tom and me, it was also to our family."

The Rocknes, a family with eight children who have graduated from SHS or are current students, have had a much longer history with the Catholic school besides their immediate family.

"Dating back, my grandma went to SHS, my mother went to SHS, my brother and I did and my brother's and my children went to SHS," Tom said. "We have a history there."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Rockne family was Sacred Heart School's newest inductee into their Hall of Fame. Pictured are the Rockne children Melanie, Stephanie, Jacob, Vanessa, Sarah, Luke, Hunter and Christopher.

When Tom and Leann got married, they agreed that they wanted to have God in their children's lives at school, just like they did.

Leann, who came from a large family of 15, also attended a Christian school.

"Sacred Heart was the opportunity we had for that," Tom said. "Yankton is overwhelmed with terrific school systems, with not just SHS, but the public schools as well."

It was the perfect opportunity for my family to go to Catholic school and then move on to public school."

The family was not only chosen for the school's Hall of Fame based on their long-standing history with the school, but also their dedication, service and faith.

"The family has been extremely involved with this

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