



Sunny And Mild

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Somsen Named Summit League Baseball Player Of The Year ■ 8

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## A NEW BEGINNING



Trinity Lutheran Church members who are helping guide the move into the new addition include (from left) Pauline Rhoades, the Rev. Dave Wildermuth, Lee Lindquist, Dallas Rising and Wendell Mortensen. The dedication service and open house for the downtown Yankton church are set for Sunday.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

## Dedication Of Trinity Lutheran's New Sanctuary Set For This Weekend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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With the dedication service set for this weekend, workers are pushing forward with finishing touches on Trinity Lutheran Church's addition.

The Rev. Dave Wildermuth pointed out the sanctuary, downstairs education unit and other features during a tour Wednesday. Light streamed through the stained glass windows.

However, bricks and mortar weren't his main focus. Instead, he spoke of all the things made possible for his 1,500-member congregation with the additional 11,000 square feet.

"This isn't just a building. It's what we need for our mission and ministry," he said. "We'll be able to do things that we haven't been able to do."

Wildermuth will literally become much closer to his flock during worship services. The new sanctuary incorporates a number of wide rows, forming a semi-circle, compared to the former straight rows of pews.

"It will be an adjustment for me at the pulpit," he said. "The farthest person will be nine rows back instead of 22."

The \$2.5 million addition marks a major milestone for Trinity Lutheran, said Pauline Rhoades, who serves as past council president.

"We haven't had any major work done since 1963, which is 50 years ago," she said.

Sunday's dedication service begins at 10 a.m. and includes the Rev. David B. Zellmer, bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). An open house will be held from 2-4 p.m. with visitors able to tour the addition.

The public is welcome to attend both the worship service and open house.

"Bishop Zellmer was here for the groundbreaking, and now he is able to be here for the dedication service," Rhoades said. "With his presence at both

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## Water Woes

### Gayville Struggles With Contractor To Get Water Project Completed

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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GAYVILLE — With a water distribution system project almost a year past its contracted finish date, the Gayville Town Board and LRC, Inc., wrestled Wednesday with how to proceed.

LRC embarked on the \$846,000 contract to upgrade the community's water system in July 2011 and were to have it finished by July 2012.

However, work remains to be done, and Vern Arens of Arens Engineering told the board during Wednesday's special meeting that his preliminary final estimate is approximately \$950,000. He was hired as the city's engineer on the project.

The board said that, taking into account change orders they have agreed to, the total cost of the project should be \$895,000. They added that it should be less once LRC is penalized for not finishing the project on time.

Arens suggested shaving off 40 of the 120 penalty days and paying for things like materials that had come in

over budget but had not been pre-approved by the board.

Board members expressed frustration about Arens' recommendations.

"It seems like you're working for them more than you're working for us," Trustee Mike Petersen said. "We're the ones that are paying you the big bucks."

The Yankton County Commission is in a similar situation with LRC regarding its Deer Boulevard recreation trail. Work extended far beyond the contractual deadline, and commissioners are concerned about the quality of what has been done.

Among the complaints voiced by the Gayville Town Board — not for the first time, its members stated — were that LRC had dug trenches that were much larger than those outlined in the project specifications, resulting in the use of approximately double the asphalt and base material that was expected.

Amy Powell, president of LRC, said

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Back row from left: Marcy Moser, Kris Ford, Pauline Akland. Front row from left: Pancreatic cancer survivor Bob Willcockson and Deb Weddingfeld. The group has been planning a benefit for pancreatic cancer, which is set for this weekend.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

## Benefit For Pancreatic Cancer Set

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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Yankton resident Bob Willcockson still remembers the dark day in October 2009 when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

"First, it was disbelief when I found out," he said. "Second is disappointment because it's not a diagnosis that gives you much hope. The minute doctors say 'pancreatic' anything, your fate is pretty much sign, sealed and delivered right there."

Willcockson went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. for treatment from a doctor who was trying something new and different.

"I went for a Phase One trial, which is the first time something has been tried in humans, so it borders on experimental," he said. "Out of 36 people, I was the 17th in the trial. The doctor was using an old, ineffective drug in a brand new

way to try and treat the cancer."

He added that doctors never told him they thought the trial would work, but they thought it could extend his life for several more weeks or months.

"To me, just extending my life wasn't worth participating in the trial," Willcockson said. "When the doctor said that I'll be helping other doctors and other pancreatic cancer patients in the future, I decided to participate."

Of the 36 trial participants, five responded to the treatment, three lived — and Willcockson is the last surviving patient.

He added the trial treatment is part of the reason why he is still living today, despite only being given months to live when he was diagnosed in 2009. Willcockson has also had treatments from Dr. Mike Peterson at the Avera

CANCER | PAGE 7

## YCHS Takes Huge Jumps Forward For Mead Building Restoration Plans

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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The Yankton County Historical Society (YCHS) has taken two significant steps in the effort to renovate the historic Mead Building.

YCHS board members voted last week to engage the services of the Steier Group, a fundraising consultant firm from Omaha, Neb. The firm will assist the YCHS in obtaining the remaining necessary funds to complete the project.

The board also voted to engage the services of AMI, an environmental consulting group, also of Omaha. AMI will guide the YCHS through the process of making the Mead Building an environmentally safe place to work.

"They were huge jumps forward, not even steps," YCHS President Joan Neubauer said about the board's actions.

Neubauer said the YCHS originally had hoped to raise all the funding itself, but as more entities have become involved in the renovations, the costs have continued to rise.

"We estimate it will be well over \$6 million to get all the restoration done so that it meets state and

federal historical standards," she said. "We've been attempting to do that ourselves, but we are volunteers who have other jobs and we don't have the time to devote to it. We came to the realization that we are going to have to bring in someone who does this — a professional group that knows the mistakes not to make, and knows what approaches will work best."

Crystal Nelson, director of the Dakota Territorial Museum and Mead Building committee member, said the committee has been productive in securing donations, but it is now time to seek outside help.

"We are well over \$1.5 million of cash and in-kind contributions to the Mead Building project," she said. "This will just take us to the next level of fundraising."

The Steier Group's first action will be to conduct a feasibility study to analyze the building and the fundraising needs, which could take place as early as mid-June, Neubauer said. During this time, the fundraising goal could change, she said.

"There is architectural work that needs to be

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PHOTO: DAKOTA TERRITORIAL MUSEUM  
This interior shot of a staircase leading to the second floor on the Mead Building also shows some of the paint that is peeling off the walls. Also visible is the stenciling that has been documented as part of the restoration project.



Introducing

Erika Detweiler, MSW, CSW (left)  
and Mary Carole Curran, Ph.D.

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TOMORROW: Kayaking Sails On Yankton Waters

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
**SOUTH**  
OF 15TH STREET