



Mostly Sunny And Warm

9 a.m.: 74 | 3 p.m.: 87 | DETAILS: PAGE 2

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Yankton Junior Legion Splits Home Doubleheader SPORTS/7

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Location For Water Plant Set

Proposal To Look At Alternatives Defeated

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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An effort by members of the Yankton City Commission to have additional study into the potential location of a new water treatment plant was defeated Monday.

After approximately 90 minutes of debate that included passionate pleas in favor of and against the investigation, the measure was de-

feated in a tie vote. Commissioner Charlie Gross was absent, leaving an even eight members on the commission.

"I believe it's a mistake to put the water plant in the middle of the most prime real estate in the community," said Commissioner David Knoff, who asked to have the discussion



Knoff

resurrected. "I know some people want to put this to bed and move on, but I couldn't live with myself if I allowed that without, at least, some discussion. My concerns haven't changed."

No vote was taken after a presentation of location options in March, so by default the City Commission's direction to staff was to continue with plans to add on a 5-million-gallon per day water treatment facility to Water

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Afghan War: An End In Sight?

Obama Charts Course For Drawdown By 2016

BY JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Charting an end to America's longest war, President Barack Obama announced plans Tuesday for keeping nearly 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after this year but then withdrawing virtually all by the close of 2016 and the conclusion of his presidency.

The drawdown would allow Obama to bring America's military engagement in Afghanistan to an end while seeking to protect the gains made in a war in which he significantly intensified U.S. involvement.

"We have to recognize that Afghanistan will not be a perfect place, and it is not America's responsibility to make it one," Obama declared during an appearance in the White House Rose Garden.



Obama

He credited American forces, which were first deployed by President George W. Bush within a month of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, with striking significant blows against al-Qaida's leadership, eliminating Osama bin Laden and preventing Afghanistan from being used as a base for strikes against the U.S. He said: "Now we're finishing the job we've started."

The drawdown blueprint is contingent on Afghanistan's government signing a stalled bilateral security agreement. While current Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign the accord, U.S. officials say they're confident that either of the candidates running to replace him will finalize the deal.

In fact, both candidates who are on the ballot in next month's runoff — former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and ex-Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai — welcomed Obama's announcement Tuesday.

The size and scope of the residual U.S. force largely mirrors what Pentagon officials had sought, which appeared to give Obama cover with some Republicans, including House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. But some of president's harshest critics on foreign policy — Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire — called the decision short-sighted and warned that it would embolden enemies.

"The president's decision to set an arbitrary date for the full withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan is a monumental mistake and a triumph of politics over strategy," the three Republicans said in a joint statement.

U.S. forces had already been on track to stop combat operations in Afghanistan by the end of 2014, more than 13 years after the American-led invasion. But Obama wants to keep some troops there to train Afghan security forces, launch coun-

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Breaking new ground for the \$2 million addition at St. Michael's Hospital/Avera in Tyndall include (left to right) hospital board member Don Irish; Dr. Mel Wallinga, chief of staff; Kevin Schulz of Welfl Construction of Yankton; hospital board members Steve Johnson and Joe Kostel; Avera architect Jacob Bunde of Sioux Falls; and the Rev. Joe Forcelle, hospital board member. The addition is slated for completion in January.

Tyndall

Hospital Project Offers Region A Healthy Future

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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When it came to upgrading patient rooms, St. Michael's Hospital/Avera in Tyndall went a different direction.

Rather than renovate the second-story rooms, hospital officials chose a \$2 million expansion at ground level. Tuesday's ground-breaking ceremony signaled the latest chapter in the Catholic hospital's history.

Welfl Construction of Yankton is building the addition. The 7,000-square-foot project will include 12 patient rooms, one room for infusion therapy for outpatients, a nurse's station, pharmacy and chapel.

"One of the patient rooms is larger and has been designated as a family support and hospice room," explained St. Michael's CEO Carol Deurmier.

Last year's community survey by Sherwood Consultants showed the patient rooms needed renovation or expansion, she said.

The patient rooms are located in a wing built in the mid-1960s as well as in the original 1950 building.

"The current outpatient rooms were built 50 years ago, and they have remained pretty much unchanged. They are primarily semi-private rooms, with a shared bathroom between every two rooms," the administrator said.

"We needed to update the rooms. But we believe the new patient wing will make it better for patients than remodeling the current rooms."

Today's patient — whether in-patient, swing bed or outpatient — prefers a private room with a private bathroom, Deurmier said.

"Quite frankly, a private room is no longer considered a luxury," she said. "It is today's standard and is important for high quality care, privacy, infection control, patient comfort and patient satisfaction."

St. Michael's operates under the sponsorship of the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. St. Michael's holds a management agreement with Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

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INSIDE American Profile

TODAY Chat With The P&D Sports Staff From 3:30-4:30 p.m.

www.yankton.net

'American Pickers' Seeks SD Submissions

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The popular reality television show "American Pickers" is coming to eastern South Dakota next month and is looking for collections to pick.

Producer Tom Giglio said where they go in the state will depend on the response.

"We're actually scouring the entire state, mostly the eastern half of the state because we'll also be going to Iowa," Giglio said. "We're calling all the counties in South Dakota and we're going to see which areas garner the best collections."

Shooting is tentatively scheduled to take place towards the end of the second week of June. The show is looking to narrow it down to six lo-

cations within the same general region. The show is seeking out private collections, which are not open to the public (no stores, estate sales or yard sales) that contain antiques and memorabilia.

Giglio added they're also looking for collections that are a bit cluttered rather than displayed and itemized.

"We like for it to be messy and dirty so we can actually go in and pick through the clutter," he said. "We don't want anything that's museum-like or gallery-like where things are neat and itemized. We like to be able to 'pick' — per the name of the show — and go through things and dig through stuff."

Giglio said they already have

PICKERS | PAGE 2



KELLY HERTZ/P&D Following an analysis by the South Dakota Department of Transportation, officials have announced this traffic signal at Fourth Street and Walnut will be removed.

Study Complete

Signal At 4th And Walnut To Be Removed

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The traffic signal at the Highway 50/Fourth Street and Walnut Street intersection in Yankton will be removed, according to the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT).

The decision comes after an analysis of traffic signal warrants based on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, traffic volumes, crash history, intersection level of service and pedestrian movements.

"I think it was pretty self-evident once all the facts were in that it was not needed any longer," said Ron Peterson, the Yankton-area engineer for the SDDOT.

Some concerns have been heard from the public about the safety of pedestrians at the intersection, he acknowledged. The Meridian Bridge is two blocks to the south, and in the block north of Highway 50 is the Yankton County Courthouse and Safety Center, as well as City Hall.

"Currently, there are signals at Douglas Avenue and Broadway Avenue that create significant gaps for those pedestrians to make maneuvers (at Walnut Street along Highway 50)," Peterson said. "Unless something changes, such as pedestrian volumes increasing, the pedestrian

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TOMORROW: Scotland Vet Receives Overdue Honor



OF 15TH STREET