



Scattered Thunderstorms

9 a.m. **62** 3 p.m. **75** | DETAILS: Page 2

FRIDAY ■ May 15, 2015

**‘Mad Max’ Director
Has Been Down This
‘Road’ Before • 12B**



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75¢



INSIDE TODAY



Deal Finalized

B-Y Water Agreement With City In Place

BY ROB NIELSEN
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An agreement between the City of Yankton and B-Y Rural Water, already accepted by the Yankton City Commission, was accepted by B-Y’s board of directors during a meeting Wednesday night.

Yankton city manager Amy Nelson told the *Press & Dakotan* this was a big development.

“Accomplishing the water development agreement with our partners at B-Y Water is a major milestone in promoting growth in our community,” Nelson said. “I’m so pleased that the leadership of both B-Y

Water and the City of Yankton realized that reaching an agreement was essential to our future.”

For years, a stalemate had existed. B-Y Water and the City of Yankton. B-Y Water controls the service option for areas outside of the Yankton city limits, and that was seen as restricting Yankton’s growth potential because it could not expand beyond those limits and provide water service. B-Y filed a federal lawsuit against the city in 2007, according to a *Press & Dakotan* report at the time, “claiming that its jurisdiction to serve water covers all of Yankton County except for the municipal boundaries of the city as they existed on or before the district’s

inception in 1977.”

Nelson said the deal is going to help with the city’s growth in the coming year.

“Going forward, I believe this means we have jumped a hurdle that has hindered growth in the past,” she said. “This is a new era for development opportunities in and around Yankton.”

She added this agreement goes beyond just an agreement about water.

“Reaching this agreement is proof that our leadership is committed to our vision of a thriving and developing community,” she said. “This agreement means we are willing to work with entities to do what it takes to determine our destiny.”

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

Delmont Opens To Volunteers Today

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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DELMONT — Volunteers who want to help Delmont residents clean up from Sunday’s tornado can do so starting today (Friday).

An outpouring of support has come from individuals wanting to volunteer their labor and equipment to help with the clean-up. Until now, authorities have limited access in and out of the community to Delmont residents.

That changes today, as a volunteer reception center opens at 8 a.m. to begin receiving non-residents arriving to help. The center is stationed at the baseball field in the southwest corner of Delmont. Parking will be available adjacent to the ball field. Volunteers will need to walk into the affected area.

Those wanting to volunteer must register and receive a badge before they can help, according to the state Department of Public Safety. The badge will be used for volunteer check in and check out and will also need to be worn while in the city. To assist with the registration process, people are asked to bring their driver’s license or other state-issued ID.

Volunteer efforts will focus on helping residents pick up yard debris. Those who help are asked to wear proper clothing such as jeans, long sleeve shirts, gloves, boots and eye protection. For safety reasons, volunteers should NOT wear open-toed shoes.

The Volunteer Reception Center will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The center is sponsored by Lutheran Social Services.

Directions to the Volunteer Reception Center:

DELMONT | PAGE 2A

Raising Rates



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Brian Bird, chief financial officer and vice president of NorthWestern Energy, explains why his company is seeking a rate increase, during a Public Utilities Commission hearing held Thursday night in Yankton. NorthWestern is requesting its first rate increase since 1981.

NorthWestern States Its Case For Rate Increase

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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NorthWestern Energy made its case Thursday night for seeking a 20 percent electric rate increase, while Yankton audience members questioned both the large increase and receiving it all at once.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) held the public information meeting at the Kelly Inn after receiving a petition with 27 signatures from Yankton customers. A meeting can be called when requested by at least 25 customers.

PUC commissioners Chris Nelson, Kristie Fiegen

and Gary Hanson heard comments from the public. NorthWestern Energy representatives addressed specific questions. No decisions were made Thursday night, as the meeting was just part of the process. A final decision will come at a later date after a final hearing.

NorthWestern CFO Brian Bird told the audience his company has held the line on rates and hasn’t sought an increase since 1981.

“This is our first request to increase our South Dakota electric rates in 34 years,” he said. “Some of

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River City



MNRR Has A Big Economic Impact • 1B

Inside



Spry

Free Park Entrance, Fishing This Weekend

BY JORDYNNE HART
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Summer may not officially begin until June 21, but for South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (GFP), summer will kick off today (Friday) with Free Park Entrance and Fishing Weekend, which allows everyone free entrance to state parks and free fishing through May 15-17.

According to GFP naturalist Nancy Teachout, this weekend is the start to an activity-filled summer at Yankton’s state parks.

“We are just going to kick off some special events that we have planned throughout the whole camping season,” she said. “We try to gear activities for all ages and ability levels.”

Special events start at 7 p.m. tonight with a nature hike on Gavins Point Nature Trail.

“This will be lead by a trained naturalist,” Teachout said. “It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

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Former Post Office Renovation Awaiting Final Approval, Begins Soon

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Plans to turn Yankton’s former downtown post office into residential and commercial space — named The Post — are waiting on one more approval before commencing.

Monte Froehlich, president/managing broker of U.S. Property, told the *Press & Dakotan* this week that his group is within a couple of months of starting.

“We’re waiting for the (National) Park Service to give us final approval,” Froehlich said. “That was submitted, probably, a month ago, so we might be 45-60 out from starting.”

The old post office is a part of the National Register of Historic Places, thus any changes to the property must be approved by the National Park Service.

In the meantime, plans for the building’s architecture have been finalized, Froehlich said.

“We have completed the architectural design component and we’ve completed all the work, on our part, that needs to be done to get the historic approval,” he said.

Froehlich said one major change had to be made to the original plans.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The former Yankton post office location in downtown is set to get new life over the coming months. Plans include 21 apartment units and 3,000 square feet of commercial space.

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