



# STATEHOOD CELEBRATION!

## TEACHING IN AFGHANISTAN



### Yankton Native Seeks To Make Difference In War-Torn Nation

Says She Overcame Fears To Accept Year-Long Assignment

(By Nathan Johnson/P&D)  
When Katie Watt first read the email about a job opportunity to teach in Afghanistan, she quickly closed her computer.

"Absolutely not," she told herself. "No way."

But then Watt remembered a promise she had made when she began applying for teaching jobs overseas.

"I said I would research any place that had an open door," she told the *Press & Dakotan* via email recently. "I would only turn down jobs for a good reason. And fear, in my mind, was not a good enough reason."

The 2009 Yankton High School graduate is now a couple of months into teaching a class of third graders at the International School of Kabul (ISK), the only fully-accredited, co-educational, international K-12 school in Afghanistan.

"Honestly, I was terrified (of the thought of teaching in Afghanistan) at first," Watt said. "I couldn't imagine what kind of person would even consider a job like this. But once the opportunity presented itself, I could not get the school out of my mind. I contemplated for a few weeks about whether or not I should accept the position. I talked to a friend who had been deployed to Afghanistan. I talked to people I love and trust. I told my parents right away that I was thinking about it, because I didn't want to surprise anyone. I think I knew, however, that I would take this job after I first talked on the phone to the worker from Oasis International Schools."

The woman told Watt that it would not be easy, but that the kids at the ISK love and need schooling. Amid the unrest of Afghanistan, it was a place they could simply be kids, she said.

"After that, everything felt like I was going through the motions," Watt stated. "I knew I would say 'yes,' I just had to convince my parents. I wanted them to be supportive, and I told myself that unless my mom specifically told me she could let me go, then I would have to turn the job down. Inexplicably, she sensed that I needed her to tell me it would be OK, and she did. I never expected that to happen, and that was the final confirmation that I should accept the job."

Although her parents granted their permission, Watt's father, Kevin, said it was not an easy decision for him or his wife, Marcia.

"I wasn't enamored with the idea, because I know that, with everything going on over there, there is danger," he stated. "From a father's perspective, I said, 'No, you shouldn't do it.' But also, as a father giving the best advice I could, I wasn't going to try to talk her out of it. She had to make the decision, but she had to look at the risks and whether she was willing to take them."

He encouraged his daughter to get advice from people who had taught in Afghanistan, friends, her pastor — anyone who might have important insight.

"Once she had done that, we supported her decision," Kevin said. "We didn't like it, but we supported her because she did what she had to do to confirm it in her own mind and heart."

"The worst part of the process so far was when she was traveling over to Afghanistan in August when many travel warnings were out. That was stressful for her mother and me. She was out of communication for 24 hours or so. Once she got there and got comfortable, it was easier. The school has a good security guy who knows what is going on."

(WATT, Continued on Page 14)



# EXTRA!

## STATE COMMENCES 125TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES TODAY IN YANKTON

Everyone is invited to attend the inaugural celebration recognizing the 125th anniversary of South Dakota becoming a state today (Saturday). South Dakota entered statehood Nov. 2, 1889.

Volunteers have been toiling away for weeks to prepare for this grand event, which will offer a peek into Yankton's past. As the Mother City of the Dakotas, the citizens of Yankton have dutifully agreed to show the rest of the state how to set the stage for a year-long celebration of South Dakota's legacy and future.

Let's not make this an idle boast.

It is incumbent upon the gentlemen and gentlewomen of Yankton to make sure our guests from around the state and beyond enjoy the former capital of the Dakota Territory as the crown jewel we know it to be. (Also, remember to be gracious hosts and not give them too much trouble about that business of stealing the capital away from us in the dead of night.)

The Yankton Quasiquennial Committee has planned for a celebration featuring historic re-enactors, respected dignitaries, music and dancing.

The events will begin at 3:30 p.m. with walking tours of Yankton's most historic sites, including visits from a few of the city's most distinguished (and, in some cases, ignoble) residents from the past.

- The historical figures will be at the following locations:
  - Dakota Territorial Replica (Riverside Park) — General William and Ellen Beadle (The replica opens at 3 p.m. and visitors are encouraged to begin their tours there, although it is not necessary.)
  - Base of the Meridian Bridge (2nd Street) — Captain Grant Marsh
  - The Historic Schwenk-Barth Brewery (2nd and Walnut) — Charles Picotte

- Corner of 3rd and Cedar — The Infamous Jack McCall
- Yankton County Courthouse Steps — Mrs. Mary Ash and Mrs. Bridget Stange

- Corner of 3rd and Walnut — President Theodore Roosevelt
- Dakota Theatre — South Dakota Gov. Arthur C. and Margaret Mellette and General George Armstrong and Libby Custer
- Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan — Mr. and Mrs. George W. and Lydia Kingsbury

- Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home — Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and Alice Cramer; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert and Ester Kenyon; Mr. and Mrs. Felix and Anna Vinatieri and Dr. Joseph and Sarah Ward

Re-enactments will take place inside and outside buildings and locations. If there is inclement weather, historical figures will be pulled to indoor locations near the aforementioned sites.

The Yankton Antique Auto Association's members will line their historic automobiles along Third Street during the afternoon.

Third Street from Walnut Street to Douglas Avenue will be closed during the afternoon.

The day will conclude with a Statehood Ball being held at the Riverfront Event Center with music provided by the Gale Pifer Orchestra.

A social hour will be held at the Riverfront Event Center from 6-7 p.m. A special program to kick off the ball will then take place from 7-7:30 p.m. The ball gets under way at 7:30 and concludes at 11 p.m.

Special guests will include South Dakota Gov. Dennis and First Lady Linda Daugaard; and Lt. Gov. Matt and Karen Michels.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in period-appropriate costumes, but it is not required.

This event is appropriate for all ages, and children are encouraged to attend.

Revelers are encouraged to enter the event center through the north entrance along Third Street.

### SACRED HEART PARISH BAZAAR IS SUNDAY

Sacred Heart Parish will hold its annual bazaar this Sunday, Nov. 3, at Sacred Heart Church Parish Center, 509 Capital Street, Yankton.

They will again be serving a homemade dinner of turkey, dressing, real mashed potatoes, cranberries, homemade salads, and home made desserts, along with your choice of drink. The meal will be served from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Family Fun games will be held in Link Auditorium. A variety of games will be available to play through out the day also from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Bingo will be held from 2-4 p.m. There will also be a large bake sale and home grown produce booth, and book nook.

This event is a fundraiser for the parish.

Interest in Yankton history? Purchase a copy of "YANKTON: THE WAY IT WAS!" by Bob Karolevitz, on sale at the *Yankton Press & Dakotan*

### FREE CLINIC SET FOR YANKTON MONDAY

Servant Hearts Clinic, a free, Christ-centered medical clinic will be open on Monday, Nov. 4, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Technical Education Center, 1200 W. 21st St. Yankton.

This is a totally free medical clinic for urgent care conditions. Servant Hearts Clinic provides care for physical, mental health, emotional, and spiritual issues, and may serve as an entry point to other services in the community.

Services not provided by SHC at this time include dental, diagnosis or treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing, prenatal care, treatment for emergency medical conditions, radiology, immunizations and chiropractic care.

The clinic does not prescribe any narcotics.

For further information about this clinic, call (605) 760-2986, or e-mail [servantheartsclinic@gmail.com](mailto:servantheartsclinic@gmail.com).

## EB-5 VISA PROGRAM CRITICIZED

CRITIC SAYS PROGRAM DRAWS ONLY MARGINAL PROSPECTS

(By Dirk Lammers/AP)  
SIOUX FALLS — A longtime critic of a U.S. immigration program that attracts foreign investment in exchange for green card qualifications says it tends to draw marginal business opportunities that would have trouble securing regular financing.

Construction of the idled Northern Beef Packers plant in South Dakota was spurred by funds from the EB-5 program, in which foreign investors can secure permanent residency for as little as \$500,000. Former plant officials say federal investigators have been asking questions about the financial dealings and EB-5.

David North, a fellow with the Center for Immigration Studies, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., that examines immigration policies, said many projects that turn to EB-5 have had trouble getting backing from traditional banks.

"These tend to be sort of second-class investments because they don't make it with the banks or they don't make it with the people who tend to fund these sort of things," North said Friday, noting some of the projects lack sound business plans and simply shouldn't be pursued.

Northern Beef Packers opened its \$109 million state-of-the-art facility on a limited basis in 2012 after years of delays. Its owners filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

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### FALL BACK!

Daylight Saving Time Ends At 2 a.m. Sunday Morning. Don't Forget To Turn Your Clocks **BACK** One Hour Tonight!

## FALLEN HEROES DISPLAY SET FOR YMS

Yankton Middle School is bringing the South Dakota Fallen Heroes of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Banner Display to Yankton.

The mission of the Fallen Heroes Banner Program is to honor, respect and forever memorialize South Dakota's who have sacrificed their lives protecting our freedom while serving in our Armed Forces during the current conflicts. Our desire is to provide citizens an opportunity to visit the banners as an expression of their gratitude and to honor these fallen service members. The banners also serve as a reminder of their sacrifice and the loss felt by the loved ones and fellow warriors they have left behind.

Thirty-five banners will be on display between Nov. 3-8 in the Yankton Middle School Library, 2000 Mulberry, Yankton. There is no cost to the public to view the banner display.

The first showing of the Fallen Heroes Banner Display will begin on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 1-3 p.m. On Sunday, enter the middle school through the south front doors.

The remaining viewings are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 4 — 8 a.m.-7 p.m.;
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 — 8 a.m.-7 p.m.;
- Wednesday, Nov. 6 — 8 a.m.-7 p.m.;
- Thursday, Nov. 7 — 8 a.m.-7 p.m.;
- Friday, Nov. 8 — 8 a.m. until completion of Veteran's Day Program

On Monday through Friday, guests are asked to enter Yankton Middle School through the north main doors and sign in at the office, where directions will be given to the banners.

## ACA, MEDICAID TO BE DISCUSSED

VERMILLION — A forum on "The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and Medicaid Expansion — A South Dakota Decision" will be held Monday, Nov. 4, at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church Street, Vermillion. There will be two sessions, set for 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

How will the Affordable Care Act work in South Dakota? What difference will it make if South Dakota decides to expand Medicaid? Joy Smolinsky, director of the South Dakota Budget & Policy Project, and Lizzy Bolander of the Rural Office of Community Services will be presenting a nonpartisan explanation of health care reform in South Dakota. They will discuss details of buying insurance and look at the option to expand Medicaid and how it would affect health care providers and consumers in the state.

For more information, call the library at 605-677-7060.

## AUCTIONING FOR A CAUSE



GREG RYKEN, AUCTIONEER

## RELIEF SALE HELD FRIDAY

Auction Event Aids West River Ranchers

## HELP IS NEEDED

(By Randy Dockendorf/P&D)  
Garrett Dvoracek is only 18 years old, but he is helping established livestock producers who lost nearly their entire herds.

The Springfield teenager bought one of the three donated black Angus cattle during Friday's benefit auction at Yankton Livestock Auction Market. According to Yankton Livestock manager Tom Kuchta, the auction raised \$40,000-45,000 for West River ranchers who lost thousands of livestock in last month's Atlas blizzard.

At Friday's sale in Yankton, Dvoracek paid \$1,600 for his heifer, while the other two went to high bidders Hunter Hinseth of Irene for \$3,000 and Ludens Family Limousin of Viborg for \$1,400.

Dvoracek said his brother, Derrick, witnessed the devastation while driving truck through West River shortly after the

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