



Mostly Sunny

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# Harvesting Fun



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Second Street had a festive atmosphere on Saturday as Yankton residents gathered for Harvest Halloween's second annual celebration. Spectators enjoyed pig races and ghost train rides in addition to the various events set for the fright filled holiday.

## Old Brewery Building Sets Stage For Battling Bands Concert At Harvest Halloween Festival

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN

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Yankton's second annual Harvest Halloween Festival wrapped up with a smash Saturday night when two bands, the Rude Band and the Lugnuts, performed during the costume dance party in the Old Brewery building on the intersection of Second St. and Walnut.

Volunteers were decorating until almost midnight Friday to make the setting perfect for the Halloween bash, which included a spooky fireplace, a photo opportunity for guests and plenty of ghosts and ghouls.

"(The amount of work) is so much," said Cathy Clatworthy, one of the organizers for

Harvest Halloween event. "You can't look at the whole list of it all because it is too overwhelming. It's like a race, you just start and you just go and you don't stop. You can't take a moment to look or you'll just freeze."

This was the first time a concert of this magnitude was hosted at the brewery building. Owners Curt and Melcena Bernard obtained the structure five years ago and have only started hosting events last year.

"Everyone has music with their events, but nothing of the scale or size in terms of the bands for this year's festival," Curt Bernard said.

The building was originally the location for the first brewery in the Dakota Territory

in 1866. After several name and ownership changes, it became the Schwenk-Barth Brewing Company in 1917. But after the Great Depression following Prohibition, the facility went out of business.

"It's our building, but all we did was turn back the clock," Bernard said. "We just sort of under-modeled for the last several years and brought it back to what it was."

The brewery has been the site of Chamber of Commerce events and large receptions for anniversaries and weddings. The building even hosted an orchestra from Sioux City this past

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## Tabor Native Receives Educator Of The Year Award In Wyoming

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN

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As a biologist, Katie Brunson never pictured herself as a teacher. But her excitement and inspiration to encourage kids to love science led her down a career path she didn't expect – but it's a passion all the same.

That unexpected decision was solidified when Brunson, a native of Tabor who now teaches in Wyoming, received Peabody Energy's Educator of the Year award last month.

Peabody Energy is the world's largest private-sector coal company. Through the school year, the company gives out this award in several states where Peabody has operations, including Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Wyoming. Each year, the company hosts a dinner honoring 20 educators while awarding one Educator of the Year honor with a \$5,000 prize.

The award's program director, Maureen Moore, said the company created the award



ED GLAZAR/GILLETTE NEWS RECORD

Tabor native Katie Brunson reacts with her husband, Sterling, as she was awarded Peabody Energy's Educator of the Year last month. Katie Brunson has been teaching eighth grade science at Twin Spruce Junior High School in Gillette, Wyoming, for the past five years.

nearly seven years ago to recognize educators who motivate students to get excited about education.

"You just don't know where that inspiration is going to come from that engages and entices a child to want to go to school," Moore said. "We

wanted to create something that was about all educators who can show that they can inspire a student to succeed." Brunson has been teaching in Gillette, Wyoming, for the

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D



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TOP: The Lugnuts and the Rude Band performed at the Old Brewery Saturday night – and sometimes, members of two groups teamed up to crank out tunes to the large crowd on hand. MIDDLE: Kids bury their friend in United Way's corn pit as a part of Saturday's Harvest Halloween Festival festivities. BOTTOM: Scott Luken demonstrates his carving skills on his Darth Vader pumpkin for the public during Yankton's second annual Harvest Halloween Festival Saturday afternoon.

## Rail Funding Expected To Fuel Job Growth

BY JAMES NORD

Associated Press

PIERRE — Tens of millions of dollars in rail upgrades across the state are supporting business growth and creating significant development along rail lines in South Dakota, according to officials and agricultural businesses.

Recently announced public and private funding for about \$12.4 million in additional upgrades near Philip and around Huron are expected to significantly boost transit times and train speeds and could help spread growth elsewhere. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who announced more than \$50 million in public and private money for rail upgrades last year, said rail upgrades are imperative because of the rapidly growing grain production that South Dakota is experiencing.

The upgrades announced last week will allow trains to pass each other near Philip and will make improvements to about 10 miles of tracks near Huron that will allow travel speeds to increase dramatically.

"This kind of investment reassures existing businesses that they can invest in expansion projects because the rail is going to be not only there, but better for them as their demand increases for shipping," Daugaard said. "This siding alone will allow up to 100 more trains a year to make that trip just because of the ability to pass."

About 42 miles of mostly derelict tracks from Chamberlain to Presho are under restoration with the help of a roughly \$12 million federal grant the state received in 2014. Rehabbing that stretch of railway will open up grain-shipping opportunities for farmers in south-central South Dakota who currently must use trucks to transport their grain to faraway railways.

The roughly \$28 million project comes as the region sees significantly increasing crop yields. The rail redevelopment has also attracted a roughly \$40 million Wheat Growers grain facility on the line.

Steve Briggs, senior vice president of agronomy and corporate marketing for Wheat Growers, said the facility is partially operational. He said the track upgrades were key for the investment to move forward.

"It's an awesome thing when you drive by Kennebec and you look up on the hill and see that huge facility," said Steve Halverson, a farmer south of Kennebec who helped in securing the 2014 grant.

Without nearby rail service, producers

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