



A 'Pageant'  
To Remember  
Set For Dakota  
Theatre  
RIVER CITY

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



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75¢



## An Overdue Honor

### Local Vets Work On Proposed Code Talker Memorial

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

WAGNER — Dennis Rucker has seen his fellow Native American military veterans often overlooked for recognition.

Now, he's helping honor an elite group whose secret mission wasn't even known to their families.

As Yankton Sioux veteran service officer, Rucker is working with the pro-

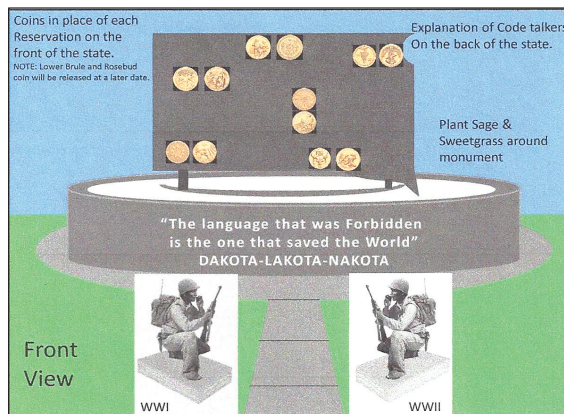
posed Code Talker Memorial in Pierre. The Code Talkers were Native American soldiers who used their traditional language during world wars I and II to transmit messages the enemy couldn't decipher.

Rucker believes the recognition has been long overdue. The Code Talker Memorial will join other monuments on the Capitol grounds recognizing different eras of veterans.

"Native Americans are a small part of the population, but they're the largest percentage of any group for serving in the military," he said.

The Native American soldier often saw combat, said Yankton Sioux veteran Basil Heth.

"The majority of Native American veterans were first-line combat infan-



This is the proposed design for the Code Talker Memorial planned for Pierre to honor the effort of Native American "code talkers" from South Dakota in the two world wars.

CODE | PAGE 12A

### Sports



Two From Bon Homme  
Named To 9AA  
All-State Team/6A



MVFC: Coyotes'  
Van Ginkel Named  
Freshman Of Year/6A

### Happy Holidays



Nov. 27  
28 shopping  
days to Christmas

## Hacecky Is Home At Heartland



REILLY BIEL/P&D

Kerry Hacecky is back as executive director of the Heartland Humane Society. She is shown holding Willow, one of many cats available for adoption. Heartland is looking to expand its facility by next August.

### Executive Director Back To Help Local Group Carry On Its Mission Of Caring For Animals

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the Press & Dakotan's monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.

BY REILLY BIEL

[reilly.biel@yankton.net](mailto:reilly.biel@yankton.net)

Animals without homes in the Yankton/Vermillion community have a good place to go.

The Heartland Humane Society is located at 3400 East Highway 50 in Yankton and has been at that location since April 2014.

Next year will be a big year for Heartland. In addition to celebrating its 15-year anniversary, there will be fundraising events and sales to hopefully help the organization raise the money needed to improve its facility by adding on dog kennels.

"We're no longer a young non-profit," said Heartland executive director Kerry Hacecky. "We've got the experience that tells the community we're here to stay."

"This year and next year is about figuring out what the future means for Heartland, like how we can add quality pet care and life to the community and what programs we can provide that will be beneficial to them," she added.

Hacecky will help accomplish this goal by writing pet columns for the Press & Dakotan starting in January. The column will focus on



On The Job

HEARTLAND | PAGE 12A

## Making The Cut

Wednesday's annual Yankton Community Feast once again drew a huge — and hungry — crowd for the Thanksgiving Eve dinner, and there was an army of volunteers helping to make it happen. Norbert Roth (left) of Yankton and Ross VanDerhule of Sioux Falls were just two of the many workers who prepared food, served meals, bussed tables, washed dishes and more. Also, more than 300 meals were delivered to individuals who could not attend the feast at Calvary Baptist Church. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



## Minneapolis Protesters Gather For Thanksgiving Meal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Protesters and community members dined on pies, macaroni and cheese and traditional Thanksgiving fare Thursday outside a Minneapolis police station that has been the site of ongoing demonstrations since an officer fatally shot a black man earlier this month.

Minneapolis NAACP president Nekima Levy-Pounds said the meal was co-hosted by her organization, Zion Baptist Church and Black Lives Matter. The event was

designed to promote healing after the shooting death of 24-year-old Jamar Clark.

Police say they were responding to an assault call on Nov. 15 in which Clark was a suspect and arrived to find Clark interfering with paramedics who were trying to treat the victim. Police say a scuffle followed and Clark was shot. Some community members have alleged Clark was handcuffed when he was shot, which police have disputed.

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REGION **2A** | OBITUARIES **3A** | VIEWS **4A** | WORLD **5A** | SPORTS **6A** | MIDWEST **8A** | CLASSIFIEDS **10A**

**TOMORROW:** For Local Family, Eagle Scouts Are Tradition

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET