

Mill

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perfect time to re-introduce the building to the public.
 "It is a nice old building, but it has some creepiness to it that will work out well for a Halloween party," Hatlie said.
 The mill will have multiple lounge areas, a game room and a DJ playing music. Costume contests will be held at 10 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., with prizes to be awarded for each.
 "We're going to have peanuts, and you can throw the shells on the floor," said Paul Lowrie, the managing member of the Gurney Redevelopment Group. "It will be a very casual environment."
 The redevelopment group began the process of renovating the mill last year. It was built in 1872, and more than 200, 100-pound sacks of flour were being produced there daily by 1873. Much of what was produced there was shipped up the Missouri River to military posts, Black Hills miners and Native American agencies. The structure was purchased by Gurney's Seed & Nursery in 1923 and was obtained by the Gurney Redevelopment Group several years ago with the rest of the Gurney property on the block.
 Despite its long history, the mill largely remains an enigma to Yankton residents.
 "One of the things about that building that is crazy is, I can talk to people about the 'old mill on the Gurney property' or the 'Excelsior Mill,' but it doesn't matter how I describe it — people don't know that building exists," Lowrie said.
 An architectural assessment has been done and work has commenced to repair the exterior of the building. There is no strict time line for completing the process.
 "We've laid out what we can do with it and how it can be utilized," Lowrie stated. "The key is to get the building cleaned up and sealed up."
 Future plans could include lofts, retail space and an area for a Saturday market similar to that of Portland, Ore., where vendors sell a variety of arts, crafts and food.
 In the meantime, "our plan is to do something every once in a while over there," Lowrie said.

During the sentencing, Robert was at first stone-faced, but his demeanor began to shift as the judge described in detail how he had been a good student, a diligent worker and a dedicated son to his mother.
 His obsessive personality had worked well in those endeavors, Zell said, but ultimately destroyed him.
 Robert's face turned red and he clenched his jaw as he appeared to cry as the judge de-

Inmate

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scribed him as a man whose life was ruined by his anger and "obsessive compulsive controlling behavior" that "ultimately destroyed any meaningful relationships he had."
 Robert, who most recently was head of a city's water treatment department and had previously been a chemist with the Environmental Protection Agency, had more than \$200,000 in assets and no debt when he was arrested on kidnapping charges in 2005. Robert contends he was drunk and trying to rob the 18-year-old girl of \$200, not sexually assault her. He was sentenced to 80 years in prison and would not have been eligible for parole until he was 83.

Zell said Robert then began focusing obsessively on trying to reduce his sentence, and that an "internal war" began to rage after his sentence reduction was denied in 2009.
 "He was depressed by the fact that he would probably die in prison. He was depressed by the fact that he would never have the opportunity to spend the rest of his life with the most important person in his life, his mother. He was depressed by the fact that his request to be transferred to a facility closer to where his mother lived in Wisconsin was denied," Zell said.
 While Robert's rage is in check at the moment, it is a future danger to society, Zell said.

Two other inmates are also charged in the killing. Rodney Berget, 49, who has pleaded not guilty to the slaying, also faces the death penalty. His trial is scheduled to start Jan. 30. A third inmate, Michael J. Nordman, 47, was charged with supplying some of the items used in the killing. Prosecutors have not said whether they will seek the death penalty for Nordman.
 Jackley said the Robert sentencing will not affect the other two cases.
 Lynette Johnson, Ronald Johnson's widow, called Robert "evil" during her testimony Wednesday asking for the death penalty. She said she has a hard

time responding when one of her six grandchildren ask about their papa.
 "He decided to take him away from me," she said as she looked directly at Robert. "You are a coward."
 Other than when they have been called to testify, Johnson's family members have not commented about the case.
 Officials say they have implemented several changes at the prison since the killing, including adding officers to three areas and installing additional security cameras.

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House Speaker Says No More Defense Cuts

WASHINGTON — Top congressional Republicans, Democrats and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta are united in a single message to the special bipartisan committee looking for ways to cut the deficit: Leave military spending alone.
 House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, told reporters Thursday that the Pentagon budget was cut more than enough in the debt accord this past summer by President Barack Obama and Republicans.
 That deal calls for cuts of \$350 billion in projected spending over 10 years. The Pentagon is planning on reductions of about \$450 billion.
 "I would argue that they've taken more than their fair share of the hits," Boehner said.
 His comments echo the argument made by others lawmakers as well as Panetta, who in recent speeches and congressional testimony insisted that the Pentagon be spared further cuts.
 Rising deficits and deep debt have forced the federal government to slash spending, even at the Pentagon.
 The Department of Defense's budget has nearly doubled to \$700 billion in the 10 years since the Sept. 11 attacks. Those numbers do not include the trillion-plus spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 The 12-member supercommittee has a mandate to come up with at least \$1.2 trillion in overall spending cuts over 10 years. If it fails to do so by Nov. 23 or if Congress rejects its plan, then automatic, across-the-board cuts of \$1.2 trillion kick in, with half coming from defense.
 Panetta has called that the "doomsday mechanism" and lawmakers have warned of the dire consequences of such reductions that would mean about \$1 trillion over 10 years.
 In a speech Thursday, Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said simply insisting on no more cuts is insufficient. He said lawmakers not only need to offer alternatives to the supercommittee, including raising revenue, but also be open to other options.
 Otherwise, "defense is going to be crucified," he said.
 Speaking to the American Enterprise Institute, Smith said, "If we don't step up and confront the problem with either revenue or spending outside the defense budget, give the supercommittee somewhere to go, give people who want to control the deficit, including our bond raters, somewhere to go, inevitably defense is going to be crushed."

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