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Yankton Scores Big

City Wins Bid To Host Grand National Cribbage Tournament In 2015

BY DEREK BARTOS

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They're smart, calculating and perceptive — with a little luck on their side.

They're the best cribbage players in the nation, and in 2015, they'll have their eyes set on Yankton, as the city was recently chosen as the site for the 34th annual American Cribbage Congress (ACC) Grand National Tournament.

"It's very exciting to bring the event to Yankton," said Scott Kooistra of Yankton, who submitted the bid to host the tournament and will serve as its director.

"We've had regional tournaments here, but this is the grand national championship."

The ACC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making the game of cribbage fun and fair for people of all ages, according to the group's website. It sponsors more than 150 sanctioned tournaments each year throughout North America, and its Grand National Tournament draws more than 300 players from more than 30 states.

While the tournament is typically held in much larger cities (the tournament will be in Atlanta in 2013 and in Phoenix in 2014), Kooistra said he felt confident that Yankton would be a good fit.

"I think there's just something about the friendliness and the charm of a smaller community," he said.

Kooistra, a cribbage enthusiast who has directed several cribbage tournaments in the past including the Grand National, worked with the Yankton Convention and Visitor's Bureau to submit the bid.

"We know that one of the things that can be hard when trying to get a national event for Yankton is we don't have a major airport," said the bureau's director Lisa Scheve. "Since there is going to be a little bit more expense to an attendee, we wanted to make sure if we were going to get this tournament, it would be cost-effective, so we put together some incentives."

In their submitted bid, Kooistra and Scheve also pointed out the success of tournaments held in Yankton in the past, such as previous national and inter-

national archery tournaments and regional cribbage tournaments.

Kooistra said he believed the city's track record with such events, along with his own experience, is what ultimately put Yankton over the top to receive the tournament.

"When this was being decided, a lot of people spoke up about both myself as a tournament director, as well as about Yankton and the facilities we have as being very friendly and low-cost," Kooistra said.

The 2015 ACC Grand National Tournament will be held Sept. 17-20, 2015, at the Best Western Kelly Inn.

Along with the Grand National, the event will feature seven additional side tournaments, as well as an awards banquet and board of directors functions.

Kooistra called the tournament a "unique, yet competitive atmosphere" for its participants.

"I've played in smaller chess tournaments, and there isn't a lot of laughing and joking," he said. "The one neat thing about cribbage is you can play the game and have fun, too."

While Yankton's selection as the tournament host is exciting for cribbage players, Scheve said the event should also give Yankton's economy a healthy boost during that weekend.

"Things like this benefit the entire community," she said. "When you bring in over 300 people, they have to stay somewhere, and they have to use the services in the community."

Although the tournament won't arrive in Yankton until 2015, Kooistra said preparation will begin soon, and he hopes to get help from a local cribbage club he plans on forming next year. Those who are interested in assisting with the tournament or joining the new club can contact Kooistra by email at sports@kynt1450.com.

Kooistra said with support from the community, he is sure the Grand National tournament will be a success.

"The facilities are great, and the town is great," he said. "I told them at the meeting, 'We can't build an airport in three years, but we can do just about everything else.'"

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Scott Kooistra recently submitted a bid for Yankton to host the 2015 American Cribbage Congress Grand National Tournament, and the city got the bid. Kooistra, who is news director at KYNT-AM, has organized several cribbage tournaments and feels Yankton will be up to the task to host this major event.

Chili Blues Cook-Off Adds Heat To USD Dakota Days

VERMILLION — Musicians Mike and Jay, Vermillion artist Virginia Johnson, and a dozen area chefs are cooking up a tasty celebration of food and music at Vermillion Area Arts Council's 22nd annual Chili Blues Cook-Off on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Spicy, mild, vegetarian, and Texas-style, the cooks will have a chili to suit all. The event, starts at 6 p.m. at the home of the Vermillion Area Arts Council, the Washington Street Arts Center, 202 Washington Street, Vermillion. The annual event coincides with the University of South Dakota's Dakota Days homecoming celebration.

Chili Blues guests will cast votes for their favorite chili to win the "People's Choice" award. Three judges from the community will also weigh in to award the "Judge's Choice" to their favorite chili concoction. In addition to chili selections, the cook-off will feature a variety of cornbreads, side dishes, and desserts. Pop, beer and wine will be available for an additional purchase.

Mike Hilson and Jay Gilbertson will entertain the hungry guests throughout the evening. The Yankton,

South Dakota duo got together in 1987 when Mike returned from studying jazz performance at North Texas State University.

There he was "bit by the blues bug" in the music of Stevie Ray Vaughn. Jay brought his Neil Young-like voice and guitar playing to the duo. Mike and Jay's guitars and voices are a perfect blend. Audiences sing along as they perform songs by Bob Dylan, the Beatles, Eric Clapton, John Prine and other favorites.

Virginia Johnson's stunning acrylic paintings will surround the gallery with colorful landscapes and flowers. After 36 years on the Faculty of the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Dr. Johnson retired as Professor Emeritus. Since 2009, she has devoted herself to painting. She says, "It all makes sense. Assets in visual spatial relationship, pattern recognition and visual memory are critical to surgery, chromosome analysis and syndrome identification. Medicine is an art ... The avocation of painting has become a lifeline in my retirement years."

Children under the age of 10 and are admitted to the event for free.

Children's Entertainer Phil Baker Set For Yankton Show

Children's entertainer Phil Baker will be performing at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium in Yankton at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3.

Baker is going on the road for Children's Care this winter with a show called "Snow Day!" It will be a super-fun musical performance for children as a benefit for Children's Care Hospital & School. Performances will be held across the state from November through January.

Baker is well-known to families in the region, and has also performed worldwide, including appearances at the White House Easter Egg Roll, Disney World, and military bases across Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. He is an award-winning songwriter and producer, and is currently writing and recording music for Project Fit, a collaboration between Disney, Sesame Street,

WebMD and Sanford Health. Through his work with Character Counts and the National Endowment for the Arts/South Dakota Arts Council Touring Program, he has visited more than 10,000 classrooms in the last 25 years.

While in each community, Baker will have an "informance" — a combination workshop and performance — in the schools, working with local children to participate in the Saturday show. "Snow Day!" will feature all-new music about winter fun in the snow.

Children's Care Hospital & School is a private, nonprofit organization serving nearly 2,000 individuals with special needs each year from centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Services are delivered through residential, inpatient, school, outpatient, and outreach programs.

Welcome to the World

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in September 2012:

ANYSTON	CLOIE	ELLEIGH	JAKE	MARIAHNNNA	PRESTYN
AUTUMN	CONOR	ELLIOT	JAMES	MARY	RAINA
AVELYN	COOPER	E'MARIYON	JANELLE	MAXWELL	ROBERT
BAILEY	CYLUS	EZEKIAL	JAYLEE	MAYA	SEELY
BAPTISTE	DAEMON	FRANCES	JE'CIENNA	MILLER	SEVI
BENTLEY	DAVID	GILBER	JOHANNA	MYA	TYNLEE
BRODY	DEVONNA	GRACELYN	JOSLYN	NIAYA	WYATT
CALEB	DOUGLAS	HADLEY	KIARA	NICHOLAS	
CARLI	EASTON	IRAH	LAYLA	NOAH	
CARMEN	ECHO	JACKSON	LEVI	OSIRIS	
CHARLOTTE	ELI	JAHVEL	LIAM	PRESLEY	

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

www.AveraSacredHeart.com