PAGE 16 PRESS & DAKOTAN ■ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012 City To Look At Costly Water Treatment Options

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The Yankton City Commission will be presented Monday with options for upgrading the municipal water treatment system.

HDR Inc., an architectural, engineering and consulting firm, has been studying Yankton's treatment system and has developed potential solutions.

None of them are cheap, Interim City Manager Al Viereck said during a media briefing Friday.

"There will be sticker shock," he stated. "We've got some huge capital improvements to consider that are hugely expensive.

Consideration will be given to replacing the surface water intake near the Discovery Bridge with collector wells, as well as converting from a lime treatment system to a membrane system.

Expanding the newer of the city's two water plants — which is already more than 40 years old and decommissioning the old one will also be proposed.

"The biggest concern for me as a citizen is that, with the intake, we are so much at the mercy of the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Viereck said. "I don't have a lot of faith and trust that they will always be looking at Yankton's best interests.'

A temporary intake had to be erected last summer because a sandbar covered it and cut its capacity.

A mechanical failure at one of the plants also hindered water treatment capacity for a short period in the summer.

The city received a similar presentation from HDR several years ago but did not pursue the major water treatment expenditures. Viereck said that, while decisions won't have to be made overnight about the future of the infrastructure, they will need to be made in the next year or so.

"I think it's going to be a little more pressing issue because of what we experienced this last summer," he stated. "We've realized how aging our facility is. We were

very close this summer to not having water — at least not in the quantity (we were using). That's a concern. One way or another, we've got to start spending more money on it. It behooves us to look at it and start exploring it and come up with some recommendations. We cannot rely on what we have forever."

Also Monday, the commission will hold an executive session prior to the regular meeting to review approximately a dozen city manager applications. Viereck said that will be narrowed to five or six applicants the commission would like to interview. The desire is to have the candidates visit Yankton for interviews by the end of the month, he stated.

The meeting gets under way at 7 p.m. in the City of Yankton Meeting Room, located at the Technical Education Center, 1200 W. 21st St.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInland-Voyage

Yankton

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it ride for two or three years. You've got to do it now, because you'll pay the price for it in the end.

In 2003, the county received second place for Operation Communication. It was an initiative by Commissioner Allen Sinclair and then-Commissioner Brian Hunhoff to improve the county's communication with the public. Those efforts included having evening meetings, a regular radio show and a regular newspaper column. Most of those initiatives remain in place today.

The county also received first place for the Yankton County Government Center and Courthouse Memorial in 2004, and first place for the Yankton County Courthouse and Safety Center in 2008.

Commissioners Mark Johnson and Sinclair were at the SDACC conference in Sioux Falls last month to accept the most

recent award, along with Hunhoff, who is now the Yankton County Register of Deeds.

"It's really a compliment," Sinclair said. "There are a lot of counties around the state that wish they had (the maintenance shop) — and half paid for like us.

Other submissions this year included the Brookings County City/County Government Center, the Meade County Erskine Building renovation, the Minnehaha County Safe House and the Pennington County pine beetle suppression effort.

A panel of five judges gave the Yankton County project the highest score.

The new 24,000-square-foot Yankton County Highway Maintenance Shop replaces a 73-yearold 10,000-square-foot facility. The shop is a heated, concretefloor space that can house the county's entire fleet of snow removal equipment.

Hunhoff has wrote thorough descriptions for the judges of the various projects that have been awarded through the years.

"I think a key to the success of the latter projects was partly

a result of the communication efforts we started in 2002," he said. "The commission's ability to communicate the 'need' versus the 'want' for those later bricks-and-mortar proposals is one reason a majority of county residents supported them. The Highway Shop did not go to a vote, but the Government Center and Courthouse/Safety Center/Jail projects both received strong support at the polls.'

The result is that the county has come a long way, Hunhoff stated.

"Ten years ago, the buildings that housed Yankton County government operations were among the poorest in the state in terms of serving the public, as well as the cramped — and in some cases, unsafe - work environments for our employees," he said. "Today, I would say our various county buildings are among the best and safest in the state, and they will serve us well for many decades to come."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

She added that the frames

should help students focus, especially with their first grading term just about a week away.

"This is a really wonderful focusing tool," Miner added. "The theory is that they'll place them somewhere and periodically look at them for encouragement and to see the encouraging notes peers wrote for them. If they manage to get the frames home and safe, they will serve as a wonderful inspiration.

Tanner Dykstra, a freshman at YHS, said he is excited about the picture frames. "It makes me really excited to

graduate," he said. "It will keep motivating me throughout high school.

He added that he will place the frame in his bedroom. Heather Olson, another fresh-

man homeroom teacher, said the frames should have a positive impact on students.

"Some students still can't believe that graduation is coming up in a few years," she said. "The stu-

dents will write their goals on the frame and then look at them every so often. It helps when they can visually see a graduation date. Freshman Skylar Elle said he

thinks the frame will really help him throughout high school.

"It's a really good idea and will be a good motivation for students,' he said. "It should help kids in school and will encourage me to keep getting good grades.

Kindle said he hopes the frames help students to keep their goals in mind and keep them on track to graduate in 2016.

We know the four-year journey in high school begins in the student's ninth grade year," he said. When I became principal here six years ago, we had a high number of freshman students failing more than one class and becoming in jeopardy of not graduating with their class in four years. Since that time, we have put our arms around this issue through our Freshman Focus program.

The goal of the program is to help students stay on track to graduate.

'Along with other components, including the improvement of attendance, homework completion, student responsibility and keeping the goal of graduation as a focus, we have made great progress," Kindle added. "We also credit our wonderful teachers for the great things they do for our students at

He noted that the graduation rate has risen to 96 percent this past year, while the state average is at 81.5 percent.

'I wanted something to remind our students of their graduation goal," Kindle said. "I thought a photo frame would serve as an ongoing reminder of this.

Kindle thanked the Yankton Morning Optimist Club and the Yankton Wal-Mart for their contributions to assist in funding the picture frame project.

Students can use their personal comments or goals as a time capsule of sorts, which they can look at when they get to their senior year and place their senior photo in the frame," Kindle said.

Cody Dejong said the picture frames will help him over the next several years.

The frame is going to help to accomplish bigger, better things in high school," he said. "It will really help me a lot to get better grades.'

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at twitter.com/andrewatwal

Brokaw

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terman even showed one of the Christmas cards on his show, Tom added

As marshals, the Brokaws will lead today's 98th annual Dakota Days parade. However, they are also helping to celebrate USD's 150th anniversary. The Brokaws remain strong USD supporters and return to the Yankton area on a fairly regular basis.

"Meredith and I have always felt attached to Yankton, even though we've been gone for a half-century. After all, it's where she was born and where we met," Tom wrote in his email.

"A colleague in New York often asks, after reading about someone's connection to Yankton — (Super Bowl game-winning consequential election, and whoever wins is going to need the help of us all. Time to be united by big ideas instead of being divided by small ones.'

Despite their fame and travel, the Brokaws maintain their Yankton roots and USD ties.

Tom was raised in his early years in Pickstown, then moved with his family to Yankton where he attended high school. He received his broadcasting start while in high school, working at Yankton radio station KYNT. Following his USD graduation, he quickly ascended through the network ranks. He served as NBC News anchor and continues working for the network as an analyst and special correspondent.

Tom has also become an author, known for his New York Times bestsellers "The Greatest Generation" and "Boom!" His newest book, "The Time Of Our Lives," has come out in paperback. His latest work looks at America's challenges in the new millennium and reflects on ways the nation can restore its greatness. Meredith was born and raised in Yankton. She was crowned Miss South Dakota and has established herself as an author and business owner. She founded Penny Whistle Toys in New York City. On the literary scene, she wrote eight Penny Whistle books for children, and she co-authored a cookbook entitled "Big Sky Cooking." In addition, she has served on boards dedicated to protecting the environment and fighting poverty.

During Tom's career, the couple moved from Omaha to Atlanta, Los Angeles, Washington,



to the USD campus to present the Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media to Grand Forks Herald columnist Marilyn Hagerty. The recipient became an Internet sensation last March when her review of the new Olive Garden restaurant in Grand Forks went viral, drawing worldwide comments from both

> supporters and detractors. In his email to the Press & Dakotan, Tom Brokaw praised both Neuharth, age 88, and Hagerty, 86.

> 'Al and Marilyn are testimony to the quality of a USD education and fearless quality of its graduates." Brokaw said. "They've both had an enormous impact on their fields. In a way, USA Today was to print what the Internet is now to journalism — a national newspaper in an easyto-access style loaded with

useful information."

During their last visit home, the Brokaws took the opportunity to give a tour of the USD campus to family members with urban backgrounds.

"When we returned to South Dakota for my mother's funeral last winter, we detoured to Vermillion to show off the campus to our middle daughter (with a degree from California-Berkeley) and her husband (with degrees from Yale and the University of Chicago) and our two New York granddaughters," Tom wrote.

'They were very impressed with the new student union, the refurbished Slagle Auditorium, the energy and diversity of the student body, and the cost. My son-in-law was stunned by the affordable price for a first-rate education.

And what are the Brokaws most anticipating with their return for Dakota Days?

"We're mostly looking to re-

D.C., and New York. They currently own a Montana ranch. Tom Brokaw keeps tabs on another famous South Dakota journalist and USD graduate, USA Today founder Al Neuharth. This week, Neuharth returned

Frames

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place-kicker) Adam Vinatieri, for example — 'What's in the water out there?"

Tom showed his hometown connection by granting the Press & Dakotan's interview request. He not only responded but took time while preparing for last Wednesday's presidential debate in Denver between President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney.

Even before the debate began, Tom alluded to the event's crucial nature.

"The campaign starts anew in Denver Wednesday night," he said at the time. "This is a very

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Hagerty's instant celebrity because of a restaurant review shows the power of cyberspace, Brokaw said. 'The modern form of elec-

tronic journalism is a game changer of epic proportions, and we're just at the beginning," he said. "It does mean readers and viewers now have to be much more vigilant about selecting sources of information and developing long-term tests for reliability.'

connect with old triends, some of whom we have not see in a long time," Tom wrote. "Meredith is also looking to see the Coyotes win. When she was a student, it was the Age of Darkness for Coyote football. She didn't see them win one game."

Ever the optimist and loyal USD alumnus, Tom Brokaw left a parting thought in his email. "Go 'Yotes!"

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

S.D. Commission Sets Mountain Lion Quota At 100

DEADWOOD (AP) -South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Commission announced Friday that it will allow up to 100 mountain lions to be killed during the upcoming hunting season, 30 more than last year.

The season begins Dec. 26 and runs through next March 31 unless either of two quotas is reached — the 100 total lions or 70 females. Last year's quota was 70 lions or 50 females.

The matter has been hotly debated since 2005, when the commission first OK'd hunting mountain lions. Proponents say that mountain lions are devastating deer and elk populations, while opponents argue that too many lions are being shot, putting the state's lion population at risk.

"Definitely not easy decisions," commission chairman Jeff Olson of Rapid City said, according to the Black Hills Pioneer.

The commission has increased the number of lions that may be killed during the hunting season each year since the first year in 2005. That first season closed when the fifth breeding-age female was killed; 13 lions were killed.

Actor Steve Martin Endorses Kerrey In Neb. Senate Race

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Democratic Bob Kerrey has received a wild and crazy endorsement in his campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Comedian and actor Steve Martin appears in an oddly humorous video endorsing Kerrey, who faces Republican Deb Fischer in the Nov. 6 election to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson.

In the video, Martin purports to be a "home crafts expert" demonstrating how to make a paper wad. Throughout the tutorial, a person off-screen holds up messages asking Nebraska residents to back Kerrey because of Kerrey's experience as a one-time Nebraska governor and two-term senator.

"But most of all ... He is sane," the message says as Martin — whose popularized the catch phrase "a wild and crazy guy" his 1970s standup routines - hunkers over a wad of paper in the background. "And his ideas are workable."

The video was posted Friday on YouTube and on Kerrey's campaign website.

A publicist for Martin said he was not available Friday to comment.

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