



Cloudy With Rain Showers Likely

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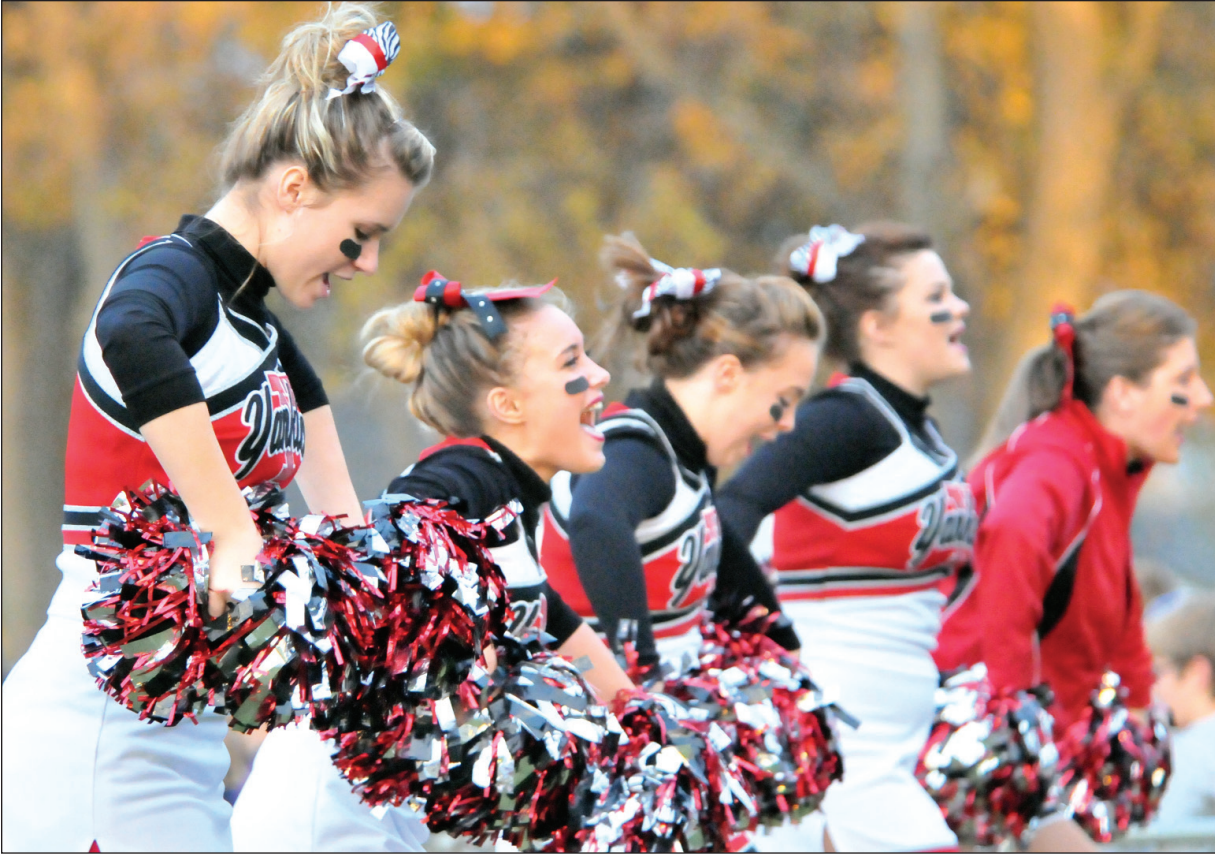
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THE ROAD TO THE DOME



Yankton cheerleaders fire up the crowd during the Bucks' 44-20 win over Aberdeen Central in Tuesday night's opening round of the 2012 SDHSAA Class 11AA football playoffs. For more playoff coverage, see pages 8-10.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Shorter Hours On The Way

USPS: Reduced Hours, Restructuring Ahead For Area Post Offices

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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WAKONDA — Wakonda mayor Bernie Steffen is relieved his town will continue receiving postal service — even with the window hours cut to four hours weekdays. “Just keep something,” he said.

A half-dozen Wakonda residents expressed similar sentiments during Tuesday afternoon's meeting conducted by the United States Postal Service (USPS). The USPS is holding similar meetings around the area this week, reviewing survey results from local residents and gaining additional feedback.

“The meetings are being held at all the post offices that currently don't have postmasters,” said Eunice Roozenboom, manager of post office operations for the 570 and 572 ZIP codes.

Meetings were held Monday in Hudson and Jefferson, and Tuesday at Gayville, Wakonda, Irene and Mission Hill.

The next round of meetings will be held today (Wednesday) at noon in Utica, 1:30 p.m. in Lesterville, 3 p.m. in Tabor and 5 p.m. in Olivet. In addition, postal meetings will be held at noon Oct. 30 in Kaylor and at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at Geddes.

Roozenboom is leading the series of meetings in southeast South Dakota. Sheila Holm, a human resources special-



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Eunice Roozenboom (left) and Sheila Holm, of the Sioux Falls district office, field questions and comments during Tuesday's meeting at the Wakonda post office. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has announced a nationwide reduction in hours for post offices as a budget-cutting measure.

ist from the Sioux Falls postal district, records notes at the meetings.

The USPS is considering reduced hours as a nationwide budget-cutting measure, she said. USPS has seen a drop in revenue and workload because of increased use of email and online business.

“I like to remind people that the Postal Service is not tax-

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MOURNING GEORGE McGOVERN



‘A Great Man’ From Small Beginnings

Avon Residents Remember McGovern

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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AVON — While the rest of the world notes George McGovern's death, Avon residents hold special pride in his birth.

McGovern, who died Sunday, was born nine decades ago in this Bon Homme County community of about 600 residents.

The former U.S. senator and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate was a son of the prairie. The town of his birth contains a memorial to their native son in the park, and the town museum contains memorabilia.

McGovern visited Avon for its centennial in 2000, riding in the parade. Now, the town joins others in recalling McGovern as more than a politician.

Jack Brodeen, publisher of the *Avon Clarion* weekly newspaper, recalled meeting McGovern several times.

“I thought he was a great man,” Brodeen said. “My dad, Clair, was close to him. My sister, Peggy, worked for his campaign out of the Mitchell office when he ran for president.”

McGovern will be remembered as the Dem-

ocratic candidate for the nation's highest office. But Brodeen, now 51 years old, also recalls McGovern at the start of his political career. McGovern literally worked to rebuild the Democratic Party in South Dakota — a hugely Republican state — one vote at a time.

“When I think of the Democratic Party, I do remember going to the Avon Legion Hall when I was 12 or so,” Brodeen said. “I remember meeting George McGovern there and hanging out with the guys, with my dad, and seeing some of the big Democrats. I remember (McGovern) with the big sideburns. He was a big-time deal.”

McGovern's father served as pastor at the Methodist church in Avon, Brodeen said.

“Now, that church is the Avon historical museum,” the newspaper publisher said. “There's a lot of McGovern buttons, posters, old pictures — all kinds of cool stuff.”

This week, Avon students will learn more about the McGovern legacy.

Avon social studies teacher Mel Fathke will

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Board Hopes To Implement \$2 Tax On Overnight Stays By April

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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After struggling to agree on a way forward earlier this year, the board of a proposed Yankton business improvement district (BID) met Tuesday with the intent of implementing a \$2 tax on overnight stays by April 1, 2013.

“Today, we approved bylaws and officers to get the board moving forward,” said newly-elected chairman Rob Stephenson. “Hopefully, we can stay on track to get this funding source in place by April 2013.”

The board began meeting early this year in

an attempt to formalize the BID, but discussions stalled in the spring when a majority of the hotel owners said they were not behind the effort. If a majority of hotel owners within the BID oppose it, the taxing entity cannot be formed or, if already established, can be dissolved.

During the first two meetings of the board, discussions went from using the estimated \$145,000 a year the occupancy tax would generate to purchase Human Services Center

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Decision 2012

Van Osdel Looks To Expand On Service To The Community

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of our series of profiles for candidates running for legislative and county positions in Yankton County. The general election is Nov. 6.

NAME: James L. Van Osdel

FAMILY: Married to Kathy since Sept. 18, 1971; two children, four grandchildren.

EDUCATION/OCCUPATION: Excellent education for eight years at Howard School 30, six miles east of Yankton; Yankton High School graduate; two good semesters at Yankton College; I got a bookkeeping job the summer before my junior year and I worked on their books instead of my college practice set. As the oldest of six children, we were the fifth generation to experience the good life of living on a farm. Our family endured a multitude of weather calamities, beginning with the 1952 Missouri River flood, which caused us to sell the farm in 1962. Using the Palmer method of penmanship learned at Howard School, I ap-



Van Osdel

plied for a position as proof-reader at the Press and Dakotan and was hired three days later. I learned the newspaper business and worked the last seven years at the P&D as city editor, including covering the city and county commission meetings. I left the P&D after 21 years and sold new and used cars and trucks which requires the ability to work well with people in helping them find the vehicle they want but making sure the vehicle would serve them well after the purchase. Some folks only want to spend enough money for a half-ton truck but it will not pull 16,000 pounds - very far.

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VEHICLE SLAMS INTO HOUSE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

No injuries were reported Tuesday when this vehicle smashed into a house at the intersection of 17th and Pearl in Yankton at approximately 1:45 p.m. According to reports, the vehicle was pulling into the driveway when it accelerated and slammed into an addition connecting the house with the garage. The male driver was at first reported to be trapped inside, but he extracted himself and went into the house. However, the accelerator of the vehicle was still down and the wheels were spinning, causing smoke to enter the house. The smoke was subsequently ventilated by fans. There was severe structural damage to the addition. The driver of the vehicle refused treatment.

Judge Denies Stay In Moeller Execution

PIERRE (AP) — A federal judge has denied the motion of a woman with loose family ties to death row inmate Donald Moeller to halt his upcoming execution.

Attorney General Marty Jackley announced Tuesday that District Court Judge Lawrence Piersol denied the motion filed by Donna Nichols to stay the execution of the 60-year-old Moeller.

Moeller was convicted for the 1990 kidnapping, rape and murder of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell. He recently asked a federal judge to dismiss his appeals and let him die. His execution is scheduled for next week.

Nichols, whose mother married Moeller's stepfather, says Moeller wasn't psychologically qualified to dismiss his appeals.

But Piersol found the motion to be without merit and dismissed it.

Jackley says a notice of appeal has been filed with the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.