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# PO Sale On Hold

## Shutdown Shuts Down Online Auction Of Facility

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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The downtown Yankton post office won't be sold — at least not during the temporary government shut-down.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) site RealEstateSales.gov, where the Yankton property was listed, is not available because of the ongoing standoff in Washington.

"Auctions will continue after we return back to the office," states William Morgan, a project manager with the GSA, in a voicemail message for callers.

He adds in the message that he is not able to take calls or return messages until the shutdown concludes.

According to the GSA website, auction closing dates will be extended based on the duration of the shut-down.

As of Sept. 17, online bidding for the Yankton post office was to close at 2 p.m. Oct. 9. The *Press & Dakotan* cannot say with certainty whether that date was changed prior to the shutdown.

The downtown Yankton post office was closed in January 2012 and put up for sale. Postal operations were consolidated into the annex at 506 West 25th Street. That facility was built in 2000.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

## Scoping The Green



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Ben Jensen gets a low-angle view of his putt on the No. 17 green during the first round of the South Dakota State Class AA Boys' Golf Tournament, Monday at the Brandon Municipal Golf Course. For more on Monday's action, see page 7.

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National Newspaper Week  
October 6-12, 2013

\* \* \*

## Former USD Assistant Coach Dies

BY DAVID LIAS

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VERMILLION — Mike Freidel, a former assistant head football coach and defensive coordinator for the University of South Dakota Coyotes, passed away Sunday, Oct. 6. He was 57.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion. Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. Oct. 9 at the church, with a prayer service at 6:30 p.m.

Freidel was severely injured while working on a Wyoming ranch in June 2006. While he was inflating a tire on a water truck, the tire exploded. He was struck by the exploding tire and the wheel rim.

The accident occurred on a ranch owned by friends of the Freidel family located approximately 100 miles from Casper, Wyo.

Originally of Armour, Freidel was in his third season as the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator for USD when the accident occurred. He also served as an assistant professor in the university's health, physical education and recreation department.

His collegiate coaching career spanned 21 seasons, including a total of five seasons at USD and 15 years at Augustana College.

He was a 1974 graduate of Armour High School, where he excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He attended Dakota State University in Madison, achieved All-American hon-



Freidel

## A Song Of Understanding



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mike Berkson (left) and Tim Wambach sing "My Girl" during their presentation Monday night in conjunction with the National Alliance on Mental Illness Annual Candlelight Vigil. Berkson, who has cerebral palsy, and his aide Wambach shared stories of their experiences together with the hopes of spreading awareness and inspiring others to do more with their own lives.

## Awareness Hits The Spotlight During Candlelight Vigil

BY DEREK BARTOS

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When Mike Berkson was born with cerebral palsy, doctors told his parents he would never talk.

"Good job, doctors!" Berkson exclaimed to a crowd at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium, which exploded with laughter.

Berkson and Tim Wambach, performers of the show "Handicap This!", spoke Monday as part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness annual Candlelight Vigil held in recognition of Mental Illness Awareness Week. The program

was held in conjunction with Yankton National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month.

During the program, the duo shared stories of their experiences together with the hopes of not only spreading awareness, but also inspir-

**"When you stereotype someone, you pre-judge, and when you pre-judge, you're making a conscious choice not to give someone a choice."**

TIM WAMBACH

Wambach became Berkson's one-on-one aide in school. Even on that very first day, Wambach said he knew he had met a special person.

VIGIL | PAGE 12

## YFD Turns Page On Safety With Calendar

### Project Raises Awareness And Funds During Fire Prevention Week

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Fire prevention should be a daily concern, and the Yankton Fire Department hopes its newest education effort will help area residents keep that in mind.

A new fire prevention calendar will be sent home with Yankton school children, as well as distributed at Fire Station No. 2 and the businesses that sponsored the publication.

"On every page, there are a lot of fire protection messages that can be looked at every day," said Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles. "Every firefighter was responsible for selling an ad so they get out into the community."

The calendar is being released in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week, which runs from Oct. 6-12.

The Yankton Fire Department will hold an open house from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday at Station No. 2. Hot dogs and popcorn, as well as refreshments, will be served. There will also be giveaways.

Nickles said approximately 3,500 of the fire prevention calendars were printed.

The effort doubles as a fundraiser for the volunteer fire department, and Nickles said he expects the calendar to become an annual publication.

"We did away with the annual dance a couple years ago after more than 100 years," he stated. "That was a hard thing for some of us to give up. It was a big tradition. That was our annual fundraiser where we went to the businesses. We're making the same amount of money with the calendar, only now the community is getting a calendar back instead of the dance."

CALENDAR | PAGE 12

## Bloomfield Workers Fired Up For 'Team Jack'

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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COURTESY PHOTO

First National Bank call center employees in Bloomfield, Neb., sport their "Team Jack" T-shirts to support 8-year-old Jack Hoffman, a pediatric brain cancer patient from Atkinson, Neb. The call center staff is raising \$1,000 to support the boy, whose story has gone viral on the Internet and whose cancer has been declared in remission.

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — When it comes to supporting a Nebraska boy whose cancer story has gone viral on the Internet, Jason Tellus is ready to give the shirt off his back.

In fact, he did give up his shirt. And then he burned it.

Tellus serves as the Bloomfield site manager for First National Bank of Omaha. He burned his shirt to help raise \$1,000 for 8-year-old Jack Hoffman of Atkinson, Neb.

The boy's battle with pediatric brain cancer has received worldwide attention, largely through his friendship with the University of Nebraska's

also

■ Father Says Son's Cancer Is Now In Remission.  
**PAGE 14**

Cornhusker football team. The "Team Jack" effort has raised both funds for cancer research and awareness about the disease.

Last week, Andy Hoffman — Jack's father and

a former part-time *Press & Dakotan* sportswriter — announced on the "Team Jack" Facebook page that his son's cancer is in remission.

"While residual tumor remains, it is inactive as (Jack) has been off treat-

JACK | PAGE 12