



Partly Cloudy And Warmer

9 a.m. **55** 3 p.m. **74** | DETAILS: Page 2

TUESDAY ■ October 6, 2015



**Gazelles Swept
By Brookings
In Volleyball**

PAGE 9



Volume 141
Number 138

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **16 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



4 Injured After Helicopter Crashes Near Parkston

PARKSTON (AP) — Four people have been hospitalized after the helicopter they were in crashed in the property of a South Dakota fertilizer plant.

AgLand Co-op Fertilizer general manager Bill Pape tells the *Argus Leader* the helicopter took off from the Parkston plant, but never made it off the property before it crashed and came to rest against the building.

Authorities say the incident happened around 11:30 a.m. Monday. The three passengers and pilot were airlifted to hospitals.

Avera Health spokeswoman Lindsey Meyers says two of the victims were taken to Avera St. Benedict in Parkston and are in "good condition."

The conditions of the two other victims were not immediately clear.

Pape says the three passengers were AgLand employees.

The Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the crash but declined to comment further.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Work is scheduled to begin next Monday at Burleigh St. south of Fourth St. (Highway 50) as the delayed Highway 50 reconstruction project finally gets under way.

Highway 50 Work To Begin

Project Set To Commence Oct. 12

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Drivers in Yankton are set to get their first taste of the Highway 50 reconstruction project starting next week.

In a press release Monday, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) announced that Burleigh St. south of Fourth St., as well as the outermost eastbound lane of Fourth St. between Burleigh St. and Marne Creek, will be closed to help facilitate installation of a drain pipe.

SDDOT project engineer Greg Rothschadl told the *Press & Dakotan* this is one of the items that can be worked on before winter sets in.

"The storm sewer is going to run the whole length of the job, but the outlet goes under the south side of Burleigh and dumps into Marne Creek," Rothschadl said. "The one thing the contractor can do this year is run the pipe from Marne Creek under Burleigh and once

HIGHWAY | PAGE 15

Crofton To Face Audit By State

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

CROFTON, Neb. — State officials will audit Crofton city finances after a former city clerk admitted to misappropriating funds.

Nancy Foxhoven, who served as city clerk for 26 years, retired immediately in July after questioning by city officials about irregularities in city financial reports. During the following month, Foxhoven admitted to the misappropriation of funds in a letter to the *Crofton Journal* weekly newspaper.

Mayor Wendell Strom provided the audit report update at Monday's regular council meeting. The City Council acknowledged and approved the audit report during the meeting.

Crofton city manager Charlie Gail Hendrix received a letter last week informing the city of the upcoming state audit. The letter came from Mary Avery, special audits and finance manager with the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts in Lincoln.

"Several issues have been brought to our office, including alleged fraud occurring in the City's office and several other accounting issues," Avery wrote. "As a result, we feel it is necessary for our office to complete the (fiscal year 2015) audit."

Avery estimated the state audit fees won't exceed \$20,000. The figure is based on approximately 350 hours of work at \$67 per hour for managers, \$31 per hour for audit staff plus actual travel costs for lodging, mileage and meals.

"We will submit a billing, including the itemized services performed and expenses incurred, when the work is completed. The City will

CROFTON | PAGE 8



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Yankton's Webster Elementary School has a new set of playground equipment. Members of the Webster teachers association, Winners of Webster (WOW), have been working on a fundraising campaign for the past three years to earn the money. They recruited some help from Yankton Federal Prison Camp inmates and volunteers to help cut down on the cost of construction.

With A Little Help, School Gets New Playground

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
alissa.woockman@yankton.net

There is a new social hot spot for kids and parents in Yankton. And it's behind Wester Elementary School.

When the kids returned to classes for the fall, they found a surprise waiting for them: A new playground set.

It was able to be installed with the help of some new and unlikely friends.

Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle contacted Yankton's Federal Prison Camp (FPC) and requested the assistance of approved Commu-

nity Service Project (CSP) inmate volunteers. Seven inmates from the prison took part in assembling the different slides, swings and other aspects of the set.

Members of Webster's parent association, Winners of Webster (WOW), have been working on a fundraising project to purchase new play equipment for their kids. The group has been fundraising for the past three years.

"We knew it was in sight for the last few years," said Webster principal Melanie Ryken. "But the trouble with a school this size, about 285 kids, it naturally takes us longer to raise money."

WOW was able to raise \$42,000, covering the cost of the new equipment, with the help of individual donations, local grants and other friends of Webster. But they ran into a snag when it came time to put together the parts.

It would cost an additional \$12,000 for the company to send a team to assemble the equipment for them.

"Right from the beginning, we knew we wouldn't have been able to afford that," Ryken said. "It would have taken us another year to

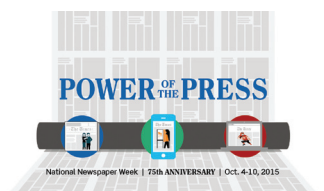
WEBSTER | PAGE 8

Midwest



**Pierre Memorial
Service Honors
Walter Dale Miller**
PAGE 7

NNW



Homeless Shelter Teams With FNB For New Facility

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story, which first appeared in Monday's Press & Dakotan, listed the incorrect bank involved with the homeless shelter project. First National bank was the institution involved. We apologize for the error and reprint the story today.

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
alissa.woockman@yankton.net

Yankton's homeless shelter is preparing to claim the Star Brite Inn on E. Highway 50 as its new facility.

The shelter board and current owner of both the Star Brite Inn and the StarLite Inn motels, Dennis Berkland, are working on Oct. 16 as a closing date for the contract.

The shelter's representatives are hoping to move into the motel sometime in November. Although the Star Brite Inn is the smaller of the two motels, this will still be a huge improvement from the shelter's current facilities.

The current homeless shelter location has two rooms. Upstairs, there are three beds for facilitating individual males. The room downstairs is an apartment style complex that can house a family.

This new location has 14 rooms for the homeless shelter to utilize.

"We have been using motels quite a bit because our shelter has been full all through August and September," said homeless shelter executive director Eric Miller. "We should be able to hold five families at the new shelter and quite a few individuals or pairs to meet the need in Yankton."

Plans are still in motion as to how the shelter will lay out its new space. The adaptation process will require some changes in daily operations and how clients are set up.

"We can function right off the bat, but it will take more planning on how to maximize our space in the long term," Miller said.

Shelter representatives are hoping for a seamless transition in the coming months.

"We are developing a plan so we can move our clients without sacrificing any of our current services," he said. "That way, our clients aren't falling through the cracks in that process."

Expansion plans have been in the works since April. Members of the Homeless Shelter Board began talking to Berkland, who they said has been a great help in housing people when the current facilities often reached capacity.

SHELTER | PAGE 15



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Star Brite Inn Motel will soon become the new location for Yankton's homeless shelter. The shelter plans to move into the new facility in November while, at the same time, starting a fundraising campaign to help with the expenses of the purchase and daily operations.

