



Shows Likely

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FRIDAY ■ October 23, 2015



**YHS Explores
The Many Faces
Of Love In
'Almost, Maine'**
RIVER CITY



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New Ground Broken

Officials Celebrate Westbrook Apartment Project



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

An official groundbreaking was held Thursday for the Westbrook Apartments, part of the Westbrook Estates project on West City Limits Road in Yankton. Pictured turning ceremonial shovels of dirt are, from left: Yankton City Commissioner Jake Hoffner, Steve Moody of Eagle Construction, Jeff Jones of Yankton Area Progressive Growth, Yankton County Commissioner Deb Bodenstedt, Keith DeJong of Eisenbraun and Associates and Joe Morrow of the City of Yankton.

BY REILLY BIEL
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The cool, cloudy Thursday morning didn't put off the hopeful attitude of those gathered at the groundbreaking for Westbrook Apartments.

Members of Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) and those who stood to benefit from the housing development were in attendance to show their support of Yankton's latest effort to draw families into the district.

"In the past, we've seen a lot of projects come and go, but this is fast," said city commissioner Jake Hoffner. "As far as the timing, I don't know if it could have gone any smoother."

Westbrook Apartments is a sister project to Westbrook Estates, which began construction in July at West City Limits Road. The 70-unit apartment complex will be located directly next to the estates, and is part of a project to offer affordable housing to families.

The apartment, which will have one-, two- and three-bedroom units, is being built by Eagle Construction, Inc., from Sioux Falls.

Head contractor Steve Moody compared the prices of apartments in Sioux Falls to what they will be at Westbrook.

"One-bedroom apartments like these in Sioux Falls would be about \$780 a month," he said. "In Aberdeen it would be about \$740. We have the exact same floor plan for this apartment in Mitchell and that is \$685. Here, one-bedroom apartments will be \$595."

The project wouldn't have been possible without the city's cooperation with YAPG, according to Keith DeJong of Eisenbraun and Associates.

"From the beginning, it was an avalanche coming down the hill because of the time constraint," he said. "Normally, you have to

Menno

Oktoberfest Works Towards Food, Fun And Preserving German-Russian Culture

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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MENNO — For Gary Jerke, Oktoberfest means so much more than a meal and music.

"We're working to preserve the German-Russian culture," said the former state legislator from rural Tripp.

Jerke serves as president of the Sodak Stamm chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS), which sponsors the annual Oktoberfest. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday at the Menno city-school gymnasium.

The meal starts at 6 p.m., followed by the 7:15 p.m. program featuring the Down Home Family from Nashville. The proceeds support the GRHS museum in Kaylor and the chapter's activities.

"We're serving the traditional German meal with things like sausage, potato salad and kuchen," Jerke said. "Then

we have the Down Home Family, who put on a Branson-style show. It's an exceptional show for many reasons."

The evening doesn't end there, as Harvey Wormsbecher will play for the audience's listening and dancing pleasure.

"We just pull the tables to the side of the room and start dancing," Jerke said with a chuckle.

The evening will feature food and fun. However, it will also stress the importance of culture and patriotism by the early German-Russians and their descendants.

"Patriotism runs deep in the German-Russian culture," Jerke said. "We have many German-Russians who are VFW members in Scotland, Tripp and Freeman."

As one example, Jerke noted that World War I veteran Emil Gall had five sons who were World War II or Korean War veterans.

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A Tradition That Surpassed The Odds

Ponca Tribe Celebrates The Past 25 Years

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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NORFOLK, Neb. — Despite a complex past, Nebraska's Ponca tribe has spent the last 25 years building its success and solidifying its contributions to the community.

In celebration of their achievements, the tribe is set to host a day of remembrance and tradition Saturday (Oct. 24) in Norfolk, Nebraska.

In 1876, the tribe was forced to move from its native home in Nebraska to Oklahoma. The move caused many members to succumb to small pox. Some were also arrested for leaving the reservation. By 1962, the tribe was terminated and its land sold. After years of legal battles, the Ponca Restoration Committee achieved its goal when President George H.W. Bush signed the Ponca Restoration Act on Oct. 31, 1990.

"When I was born, the tribe didn't exist," said tribal council chairman Larry Wright Jr. "The first time I ever voted on any level was to ratify the constitution that the tribe is under. To know how that generational impact has affected everybody — that we are still here, thriving and working toward the benefit of our people — it is something to really celebrate."

This anniversary highlights the dedication of tribal members to continue the significant growth to the community since 1990.

"When the tribe was restored finally and they opened up the office in Niobrara, they had a card table, four folding chairs and a borrowed coffee pot," Wright said. "That was the office equivalent they started with. Now we've got probably \$15 million - \$20 million in tribal property."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Ponca tribal member Tonya Heck is crowned the Osni Ponca Heduska Society Princess at the 2014 restoration powwow.

Campground Owner Pledges \$1M, Land For Controversial Bypass

SPEARFISH (AP) — The owner of the Buffalo Chip Campground has pledged up to \$1 million to help pay for a proposed highway bypass to reroute drivers around the motorcycle mecca of Sturgis.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Rod Woodruff told Meade County commissioners he also will donate 10 acres of land, provided the proposed Fort Meade Way is usable by next year's rally.

Bypass proponents say it could spur growth east of the city and ease traffic during the annual motorcycle rally that draws hundreds of thousands of people. Supporters are raising money to help Woodruff.

Opponents worry about the effect of a bypass on local businesses. Voters in March overwhelmingly rejected setting up a tax increment financing district to pay for it.

Commissioners voted Wednesday to call for bids.

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TOMORROW: Halloween Harvest Takes Over 3rd Street

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET