



Inside Today

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YHS HOMECOMING ROYALTY



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton High School's 2012 homecoming royalty was chosen by seniors last week, with a Pioneer Prince and Princess to be crowned during coronation ceremonies at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 in the YHS/Summit Activities Center main gym. Candidates include, front from left: Kelsey Fitzgerald, Sarah Santos, Frae Binder, Maria Binder, Amber Tacke and Mikala Hora; back row: Dustin Dvorak, James Hisek, Michael Rucker, Kellen Soulek, John Fanta and Jase Likness.

County Seeks Deer Blvd. Trail Bond Forfeiture

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Saying they are "tired" of waiting for work to be completed on the trail along Deer Boulevard, Yankton county commissioners Wednesday voted to seek a forfeiture of the bond with the construction company.

LRC, Inc., of Vermillion was awarded a \$276,000 bid to construct the trail from south of Highway 52 to the Missouri River in August 2010. Work

commenced in 2011, and the trail was substantially completed.

However, the County Commission was not satisfied with the end result. One of the largest concerns is soft spots in the base that will likely lead to asphalt failure.

Last November, LRC officials came before commissioners to acknowledge that work needed to be done on some portions.

"We want the project to be satisfactory to all of you, to the community

and to us," said Amy Powell, president of LRC, at that meeting. "We want it to be useful in the long term."

It was mutually agreed that the firm would return in the spring or summer of 2012 to rectify the problems.

Commissioners said no work had been done this year.

"There is no excuse for this," Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said. "Pull the plug on them. I'm tired of it."

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A Final Formation

Charlie Battery Officially To Become Bravo Battery Sunday

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

It's "Last Call" for Charlie Battery on Sunday, as a nearly half-century of history ends and a new era begins for the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) unit in Yankton.

"This will be the final formation for Charlie Battery, which will officially become Bravo Battery," said SFC Brooks Schild.



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

In a photo taken this summer, the South Dakota National Guard unit at Yankton rolls out for its final annual training mission under the Charlie Battery name. The unit officially becomes Bravo Battery during next Sunday's ceremony at the Yankton armory.

Operation Iraqi Freedom — 2003, 2005 and 2009 — and was deployed during the last two activations, he said.

Sunday's ceremony will honor the Yankton unit's past, according to Maj. Anthony Deiss, the SDNG's state public affairs officer.

"Charlie Battery's service to the Yankton community, the state and the nation exemplifies the best of what the South

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Freeman Academy Expands, Adds Grades 1-4 To Curriculum

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

FREEMAN — At Freeman Academy, the one-room schoolhouse isn't a thing of the past.

The Mennonite-affiliated school added grades 1-4 this fall, complementing its grades 5-12. Not only is the expanded school a bold move, but the Freeman Academy school board chose a one-room school setting using project-based learning.

Welcome to the modern version of the television series "Little House On The Prairie," where the one-room schoolhouse was part of pioneer life in the Midwest.

During a class this week, Freeman Academy teacher Jared Goede moved quickly from student to student as they worked on thank-you letters. The 13 students filled tables in the corner of the room in the Music Hall building.

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"We are sending thank-you letters to all the people who have helped you, and that includes your parents," Goede told the students.

Under project-based learning, students use a number of different skills and lessons in carrying out their work, Goede said. The multi-disciplinary approach differs from a more structured setting with separate class periods for each subject, he said.

"All four grades are in the same classroom, working on the same project, but their assignments are different," he said. "For the first graders, we wanted to keep it simple. The fourth graders worked with it like a college project. They created an initial draft, then edited it and finally sent it."

The project isn't just an exercise, as the students will actually mail their letters, Goede said. In turn,



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Freeman Academy teacher Jared Goede assists a student in the private school's new program for grades 1-4. The 13 students helped boost the Mennonite-affiliated school's enrollment to 75 full-time and two part-time students, according to Superintendent Pam Tieszen.

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150 Years Later, Dakota Cavalry Reunion Set For Sept. 9

BY ANDREW ATWAL
andrew.atwal@yankton.net

One hundred fifty years ago, the Dakota Cavalry played a critical role for settlers' survival in the Dakota Territory.

To honor the men who protected the earliest pioneers, the Dakota Territorial Museum of Yankton will be hosting a reunion for descendants of Companies A & B of the Dakota Cavalry on Sunday, Sept. 9 at the G.A.R. Hall in Yankton.

Crystal Nelson, director and curator

of the Dakota Territorial Museum, said there has not been much information documented about the group. They were first mustered out in 1862, and would eventually become the South Dakota National Guard after South Dakota became a state in 1889.

She added that there was an uprising in Iowa and Minnesota in the 1860s, so settlers in South Dakota needed some sort of protection — a security force that became the Dakota Cavalry.

"People in the area around Yankton

needed to feel protected," Nelson said. "They needed a military group to protect settlers and their lands."

There was a mass killing of settlers that took place in Minnesota in 1862, which worried many settlers in what is present-day South Dakota, that such a thing could happen to them.

"The events that took place in Minnesota were close enough to this area that settlers became concerned," Nelson said. "The events led some people to flee from Minnesota to Sioux City, and

others to Yankton."

In order to protect the people of this area, the Yankton stockade was erected near what is now Broadway and 3rd streets. Most settlers stayed within that immediate area so they could feel protected from any potential problems.

"The Dakota Cavalry was a real good source of protection for settlers in the Dakota Territory," Nelson said.

Even though there has not been a lot

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TransCanada New Pipeline Route Through Neb. Proposed

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The company that wants to build a pipeline to transport crude oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries said Wednesday it has revised its proposed new route through Nebraska to avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

The latest proposed Keystone XL pipeline route is TransCanada's second attempt to satisfy state environmental regulators. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality said in July that the initial revised route crossed land that could erode easily and passed near unconfined aquifers that supply drinking water to residents and livestock.

The new TransCanada proposal tweaks that April plan, making the route veer east shortly after entering the state to avoid more of the sensitive areas in Keya Paha County, east again around the town of Clarks and west around the town of Western to avoid drinking water well fields.

"TransCanada shares the goal of protecting key water and natural resources with Nebraskans," TransCanada CEO Russ Girling said. The proposal also upgrades planned safety

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