



Skies Becoming Cloudy

9 a.m.: **46** | 3 p.m.: **51**
 FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2



Inside Today!

THURSDAY ■ September 11, 2014

f t r Volume 140 Number 116

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **12 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



The Restoration



Fish Kill Done At Lake Yankton

The restoration of Lake Yankton took place Wednesday as a work crew (above) braved chilly winds and drizzle to introduce about 700 gallons of the poison Rotenone into the lake, located at the foot of Gavins Point Dam west of Yankton. The restoration project was undertaken because invasive fish species had entered the lake during the 2011 flooding along the Missouri River, and had taken over much of the body. Since the official announcement of the project last month, the manmade lake was drained down approximately four feet, and liberalized fishing regulations were introduced to begin culling the fish population. On Wednesday morning, the joint project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission took place. The poison was introduced on boats and manually along the shoreline. Shortly after the start, numerous fish began floating to the surface. Many of the fish were carp, especially Asian carp. This created a feeding frenzy for gulls (right) and other bird life, which are unaffected by the Rotenone. The poison is expected to take a week to detoxify. The dead fish will be allowed to decompose, thus returning nutrients back to the ecosystem. Lake levels will be returned to normal shortly, and some fish will be restocked this fall, with more restocking set for 2015. To see video of Wednesday's project, visit www.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Degrade And Destroy

Obama Orders First Airstrikes In Syria

BY JULIE PACE
 AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes inside Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of “a steady, relentless effort” to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror. “We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are,” Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. “This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven.”



Obama

Obama announced that he was dispatching nearly 500 more U.S. troops to Iraq to assist that country's besieged security forces, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500. He also urged Congress anew to authorize a program to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Obama's plans amounted to a striking shift for a president who rose to political prominence in part because of his early

opposition to the Iraq war. While in office, he has steadfastly sought to wind down American military campaigns in the Middle East and avoid new wars — particularly in Syria, a country where the chaos of an intractable civil war has given the Islamic State space to thrive and move freely across the border with Iraq.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Obama's plans were also an admission that years of American-led war in the Middle East have not quelled the terror threat emanating from the region.

Obama insisted he was not returning U.S. combat troops to the Middle East. Even so, he acknowledged that “any time we take military action, there are risks involved, especially to the servicemen and women who carry out these missions.”

“But I want the American people to understand how this effort will be different from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not

ISIS | PAGE 12

Norbeck Renovation Project Facing Obstacles

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
 Randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

GEDDES — Hard work has gone into renovating the boyhood home of the late governor and U.S. senator Peter Norbeck.

“The foundation repair, floor stabilization repair, new shingles and all the new storm windows have been completed,” said Geddes resident Sharon Ackley. “It's work that we really wanted to get done this year.”



Charles Mix County

However, some of the heaviest lifting appears yet to come.

The Charles Mix County Historical Restoration Society — of which Ackley is the treasurer — is racing against time to raise needed funds. Society members have estimated \$40,000 is needed to complete the project.

The latest round of work has carried a large price tag, Ackley said. “The cost to date is

\$19,323, of which \$7,503 has been paid,” she said.

Norbeck was born in 1870, near Vermillion in Clay County. His family moved to Charles Mix County when his father, a minister, served the Franks Congregation about seven miles northwest of Geddes.

“When Peter's family got here, there was no home for them,” Ackley said. “Peter's dad was a

HOME | PAGE 11

Worker-Comp Issue Debated

BY BOB MERCER
 State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Legislature might be asked to clarify a worker-compensation insurance issue that recently developed in South Dakota.

A company that sells worker-compensation insurance reportedly has told some general contractors on construction projects they must pay for coverage of subcontractors.

The dispute is whether the subcontractors are independent contractors who don't have to have carry workers' compensation insurance under South Dakota law.

Property owners, taxpayers and consumers generally could ultimately pay higher prices if contractors have to factor higher work-comp insurance expenses into their bids.

A legislator spoke Wednesday about the matter with the state Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

DEBATE | PAGE 3

Territorial First Lady Memorialized

BY ROB NIELSEN
 rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The final resting place of former first lady of the Dakota Territory Amanda Pennington was finally marked at Yankton Cemetery during a ceremony Wednesday afternoon to dedicate a grave stone — 130 years after her death.

Pennington, whose husband John was governor of the Dakota Territory from 1874-1878, may never have had her grave marked had it not been for a project conducted by Gary Conradi.

Conradi said his difficulty in finding the grave of Gov. Pennington led him to discover Amanda's grave had gone unmarked.

“Back in 2011, I started a project of locating and photographing the graves of our 10 Dakota

Territory governors,” Conradi said. “Through history books and Internet searches, I found where nine of them were buried, but I couldn't find John Pennington. The state historical association couldn't help me, Pennington County officials couldn't help me. ... We all knew that when Pennington left the Dakota Territory, he went back to Aniston, Alabama. I hopped on a plane to Aniston, Alabama and found out he was not buried there, but there was a little town next to Aniston and I found his grave.”

It was here Conradi discovered the former governor was buried himself.

“He was alone,” he said. “What happened to Amanda?” All the other governors, their spouses



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

From left: Gary Conradi, John Keyes of Christ Episcopal Church, Episcopal Bishop John Tarrant and Fr. Jim Pearson, also of Christ Episcopal Church, help dedicate a grave marker (left) for the late Amanda Pennington. Pennington, wife of former Dakota Territory governor John Pennington, had been buried in an unmarked grave at Yankton Cemetery for 130 years. The efforts of Conradi helped locate it.

GRAVE | PAGE 11

Avera
Sacred Heart Hospital

It's not just surgery, it's *your* surgery.

AveraSacredHeart.org

WE TREAT PATIENTS WITH Expertise.