



Tanagers Rush To Victory

PAGE 8



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Construction work continues on a new outdoor track complex at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. The facility, which will be ready for the 2016 outdoor season, features a nine-lane, 400-meter track that coaches are already calling one of the finest in the Midwest.

# Racing To The Finish

## USD Track and Field Complex Nearing Completion

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION – At the University of South Dakota, there was the DakotaDome for indoor track. But no on-campus options for outdoor track.

That was the scenario facing Dave Gottsleben when he was hired as men's track coach at USD in the fall of 1984.

His only option was to haul his athletes across town to practice at the Vermillion High School track. And that remained Gottsleben's – and his team's – only option for the next 31 years.

"We've had a good collaboration all these years," Gottsleben said.

While it was far from an ideal situation, there was nothing USD could do. The Coyotes didn't have an outdoor track complex of their own. No place to call their own. No home meets in the spring.

That is all about to change.

Work has quickly progressed on USD's new \$5.5 million outdoor track facility, which will boast a nine-lane, 400-meter, NCAA-certified track and field events inside the complex which will be ready for action after the new year. The unofficial christening of the complex will come in May 2016 when USD hosts the Summit League outdoor track meet.

And considering what USD's track programs have already accomplished – thanks in large part to the DakotaDome – without their own outdoor facility, the impact of the new complex can understandably be hard to fathom, according to

# City Council Approves 2016 Budget

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

A very short City Council meeting on Monday capped off countless hours of work by the city staff and Council members when the Council approved the 2016 budget.

"It does seem like we didn't visit about this much, but in reality, it was hours upon hours of work by everyone involved," said city manager John Prescott. "The Council held two work nights where both nights we spent many hours going over the details and working out the budget. It required our staff to put in a lot of hours getting their individual departments needs in order and it required the Council to be diligent in approving the

funds of the city for next year."

The City Council reviewed the proposed budget during special meetings held on August 11 and 13, 2015. The City Council made revisions from the budget meetings they have been incorporated into the appropriation ordinance, Prescott said.

The general fund appropriation from reserve remained the same at \$1,258,914 which includes \$1,000,000 for the pool, \$31,325 for Norbeck Street special assessment interest, \$10,000 for entrance signage and \$217,589 to meet General Fund obligations.

The 2016 budget included property tax revenues of \$2,190,500 that includes using an increase of 1 percent plus growth over 2015 where the state statute allows 1.5

percent plus growth. The budget includes a 2.5 percent cost of living adjustment for employee wages. The general fund has \$80,000 for street maintenance work such as asphalt patching, traffic paint and sealant material. While the overall amount to be spent on streets will increase in 2016, the amount from general fund decreased as chip sealing costs has been moved to second penny sales tax fund.

Rate increases have been included for electric, water, wastewater, curbside recycling and golf course to offset increased operating costs.

"If people are looking at what we have budgeted for street repair, for example, it may not look like we have budgeted as much this year," Prescott said. "But in

COUNCIL | PAGE 6

## DAKOTA DAYS 2015

# Celebrating The Next Century

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

While last year's University of South Dakota's Dakota Days were all about celebrating the past, this year it is about focusing on the future.

The 101st annual Dakota Days homecoming celebrations begin on Sunday and Doug Wagner, advisor to the Dakota Days executive board said the team of students working to plan the week-long event have planned several events that the community is invited to attend.

"After discussion, it was decided that for the 101st Dakota Days, that the Coyotes should look toward the future and all that is to come in the next century of the Dakota Days tradition," Wagner said. "That is why we chose 'Celebrating the Next Century' as our theme."

Wagner said he is excited for all of the events, but hopes that Wednesday's Verm Town Bash helps get the spirit flowing for the weekend.

"It is a two part event," he said. "We are going to have a carnival type atmosphere from 5-8 p.m. with games set up by several different campus organizations, inflatables and more. This will be held down on Main Street. Then at 8 p.m. we are going to close up the carnival and get ready for the DJ and street dance that will begin at 9 p.m."

Wagner said in the past they have held a battle of the bands event, but he believes, based on the response on Facebook, the community and the campus community is embracing the change.

"With a battle of the band you have the logistics of several stages, judges and whatnot," he

DDAYS | PAGE 3

# WELCOME HOME AIRMEN

## 175th EFS TSP Bolsters Wolf Pack Mission

*EDITORS NOTE: Members of the 175th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron based out of the 114th fighter wing of the South Dakota National Guard based in Sioux Falls, including several Vermillion residents were welcomed home from Korea on Friday. The following is a story about the duties they filed.*

BY STAFF SGT. NICK WILSON

8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 250 Air National Guard Airmen deployed to Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea from Joe Foss Field, Sioux Falls, May 15, in support of a Theater Security Package to the Republic of Korea and returned last Friday, Sept 18.

As a TSP, guardsmen from the 175th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron integrated with Airmen from the 8th Fighter Wing for four months as part of a rotation to enable the U.S. to maintain a significant presence



MELISSA PETERSON/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

175th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron based out of the 114th fighter wing of the South Dakota National Guard based in Sioux Falls, including several Vermillion residents were welcomed home from Korea on Friday.

within the Pacific Theater. Rotational forces at deployed locations reduce the distance and response time for contingency operations.

"It's also a total force concept," said Lt. Col. Todd M. Sheridan, 175th EFS commander. "We really showed a robust team of full-time guardsmen, part-time guardsmen and full-time active duty members. The ANG is all

about being there to support the mission and being accessible."

The deployment provided training opportunities for pilots from the 175th EFS to integrate with pilots from other fighter squadrons to conduct large force exercises. It also demonstrated the U.S. military's contribution to the

HOME | PAGE 7



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
VS. YOUNGSTOWN ST.**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 - 2 P.M.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

**FEAR**

605-677-5959

GOYOTES.COM