

Better care

New programs will help / 2A

Outdoor activities

Burnside fourth-graders take a two-day trip / 4B

Yucca Mountain from the inside

Red Wing delegation
on 4-hour tour today

BY MIKE LONGAECKER

Staff Writer

Members of Red Wing City Council and the Prairie Island Indian Community today will tour the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada as part of a state-led fact finding mission.



Castner

During its annual retreat, the City Council named support for the ongoing federal project one of its top fiscal priorities for the year. According to its priority list, council's goal is for Yucca Mountain to begin accepting nuclear waste prior to relicensure at Prairie Island nuclear plant — set to occur in either 2013 or 2014.

"We want it out of here," Council President Stephen Castner said Tuesday. "It's too close to the Mississippi River and too close to the tribe."

Tribal leaders strongly oppose the presence of 19 above-ground dry cask storage units, which lie about 600 yards from the Prairie Island Community. According to a statement, the tribe wants the federal government "to make good on its

commitment" to move nuclear waste to a safe facility.

The Yucca Mountain project has remained on hold since President Bush signed legislation in 2002 approving the Department of Energy to take the next step in establishing a safe repository for nuclear waste. The DOE is in the process of preparing an application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the repository, according to the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

Currently, nuclear waste is stored at 126 sites around the country, including the plant at Prairie Island. If Yucca Mountain begins accepting nuclear waste, local leaders will push to have Prairie Island's spent fuel shipped there.

The plan is for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to be buried deep underground at the site.

Questions remain, however, as to the mountain project's solvency, the safety of the project and how transportation of nuclear waste will be handled.

Many groups, including the Sierra Club, oppose creation of the repository amid concerns that the remote site is unstable and that it could harbor conditions enabling contamination of

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Get your 'Grumpy' on

This Wabasha festival

Crash kills one

MAZEPPA — A 23-year-

Officials said that the dri-

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day: Nancy Holte, Falls, speeding (69-roy Ohmann, Denni-eding (75-55).

NORTH POLICE

Attack

P. Andrews reported he saw a coyote with a small dog on Walnut at 10 p.m. Feb. 17. Two animals fought and the coyote fled.

RICE COUNTY

SHERIFF

Olson, Prescott, Feb. 6 that a Win-tle was stolen from a truck parked on 190th south of Highway 72 & Elm Township. He said he was in the hunting and noticed a missing when he k. Loss: \$150.

Johnson, River reported Feb. 9 that were taken from his truck while he was a delivery to Elsa Bay City. Loss

Marthaler, Maid-reported Feb. 14 12-year-old son's e was stolen from y Middle School. e was in the boy's

Lounge, Hager City. The owner of the Border Lounge asked Bergman to leave the premises. No suspects listed.

MARKETS

Wednesday's closing prices on several locally widely held stocks provided by John Kern and Steven Beech of Edward Jones & Co.

Assoc. Banc. CT	34.61 +.65
Torjot Corp.	54.60 +.94
Wal-Mart Stores	45.48 -.26
Medtronic	54.30 -1.27
USG Corp.	86.11 -.64
McDonald's	35.95 -.79
ADM	31.07 -.17
Qwest	6.29 +.02
Homef. Co.	34.71 +.09
3M	72.98 +.24
Xcel	19.17 +.20
Dover	47.56 -.79
Wells Fargo	64.59 +.88
AT&T	28.25 +.10

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 68.11 at 11,127.17. Utilities closed at 154 and the NASDAQ Composite index was up 20.23 at 7,293.17. Trading volume was approximately 1.615,400,458.

ZIMMEROTA Wednesday, 326 feed cattle

Steers, choice steers 84-96	
Packages up to	97.50
Mixed grading steers 80-83	
Heifers	
Choice heifers 83-87	97.70
Packages up to	
Kind grading heifers 79-82	
Heifers	
Choice Heifers steers	97-94
Individuals up to 85-85	
Sludge fed heavy weight lightweight 74-80	
Merch cows mostly 48-53-56	
Thin, shelly cows mostly 20-40	
Merch cows mostly 55-61-50	
Morhei built mostly 43-44	
228-272 Mke hogs mostly 44-25-45	
Top quality market hogs 43-25-45	
Mixed weight & quality hogs 41-43	
Market sows under 500 32-34-50	
Market sows over 500 33-35	
Borns over 300 18	
Borns under 300 23	
Feeder pigs 139	
30-40 pigs not includable	
40-50 pigs 36-45	
50-60 pigs 45	
Pigs over 60 66-74	

Utah nuclear storage facility licensed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission formally granted a license to Private Fuel Storage, allowing the group of utilities to begin marketing their proposed storage site in the Utah desert for spent nuclear fuel from commercial reactors.

The license issued Tuesday, a week after the commission approved a draft, includes small changes made at the state of Utah's suggestion. It would allow the consortium to receive and store up to 44,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel on the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation about 50 miles from Salt Lake City, but only if certain conditions are met.

"It's a very significant step. It's what we've been working toward for the last 8 1/2, nine years," said Sue Martin, a spokeswoman for PFS.

In the past year, several of the utilities that make up PFS have retreated from the project. But Martin said the 20-year license allows PFS to make the case for the above-ground storage site to other prospective members.

"We always knew we would have to market the facility in order to go for-

ward ... and be viable," she said. "You can't do that until you have a license in hand. Now we have that."

The NRC authorized the license for the storage facility in September despite loud objections by the state of Utah and its congressional delegation.

Utah officials fear the site is a safety and security hazard and have vowed to continue fighting. In order to begin construction, Private Fuel Storage must prove to the NRC that it has enough money to build the facility. It also is still seeking approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a right of way from the Bureau of Land Management and a permit from the Surface Transportation Board.

The state lobbied successfully for a small change to the terms of the license after an initial draft. The original environmental documents allowed PFS to receive just 44,000 tons of fuel, but the language opened the possibility that the companies could move some fuel and receive more. The term was changed on the final document to specify that PFS could not receive more than 44,000 tons over the life of the facility.

Prairie Island's position

MIKE LONGAECKER

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LAS VEGAS — According to documents obtained by the Republican Eagle, Xcel Energy has backed off its financial support to PFS. Excel was one of eight members forming the consortium of groups making up PFS. Xcel's Prairie Island Nuclear facility stores its spent fuel in dry casks about 600 yards away from the Prairie Island Indian Community.

News of PFS's licensure was met by tribal leaders with caution, a spokesman for the Tribal Council said.

"A lot still needs to happen," tribal spokesman Jake Reint said Wednesday in Las Vegas. "It doesn't allow for cause for celebration."

Reint noted that significant transportation barriers impeding the path of repository-bound waste first must be overcome before the tribe looks to PFS as a viable solution. Tribal and state officials will depart today from Las Vegas to the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada as part of a fact-finding mission.

YUCCA

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Ground water.

The project also faces staunch opposition from many Nevada leaders, who contend that the proposed repository could lead to health risks for residents. Las Vegas is about 100 miles from the site.

Though he expressed pessimism over the prospect, Castner said he and other council members will attempt to lobby Nevada officials to favor the project.

"We're going to try to sell it to the people," he said.

Council members Dean Hove, Mike Hall and Gary Nordmark and Castner will accompany members of the Legislative Electrical Energy Task Force and Xcel Energy officials. Attendees to be joined by a Republican Eagle reporter, will

tour the Yucca project from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. today. The delegation will return Saturday after touring the Hoover Dam on Friday.

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