



Fate-Stricken  
Musician  
To Perform At  
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RIVER  
CITY



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75¢



## 'A Real Asset' To Yankton

Despite Speculation, County To Continue Relationship With PDIII

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Yankton County is not considering the discontinuance of its relationship with Yankton-based Planning and Development District III (PDIII). County officials made that clear this week after a short exchange during a County Commission meeting last week sparked a wildfire of speculation that such a move is a possibility. Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said he was surprised by the blowback he has received. "It got out of hand, and it kind of bothers me. We never said we don't need (PDIII)," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "We were looking at some of the costs. We are talking about things added on to the dues. We're just watching out for taxpayer money. We question bills in a lot of areas. It's not just District III. "District III is a good organization," Jensen added. "They help us with grants and other things. The City of Yankton uses them, too. They are a real asset to us." In a story on last week's County Commission meeting, the *Press & Dakotan* reported



Garrity



Henderson

that the commissioners agreed to have Yankton County Planning and Zoning Administrator Patrick Garrity do an analysis to determine what the county receives for the membership dues it pays annually through the Zoning Office. In 2013, the dues paid will be \$26,115, according to Garrity. Additional fees are paid for some services, Garrity noted. "I believe we have talent and people within our own building that can do a lot of this, like comprehensive planning and other things. ... I think if we're going to become more sufficient, which makes us more sustainable, we need to be able to fund and finance some of our own pieces," Garrity told the commission last week. "I think it could be a wash if we take a good look at it. Maybe we can come up

PDIII | PAGE 13A



## Fall Sports Preview

Inside Today

### Making The Transition



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Blake Bappe serves as South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' new wildlife damage specialist for the southeast region. He will serve all or parts of six counties, part of a GF&P commitment to provide quicker response time for the western part of the region.

## Getting Closer To The Public

Wildlife Specialist Covers New Ground With Realignment

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the *Press & Dakotan's* monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Blake Bappe didn't need to wait long for variety in his new position in the southeast region with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P). "The first day, I got calls about a mountain lion, badger and coyote, and a beaver complaint," he said, chuckling at the wide range of calls. Bappe graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences. He has



ON THE JOB

worked for GF&P as a wildlife damage specialist since 2009.

He was previously based in Webster, serving Day and Marshall counties in the northeast region. He primarily provided Canada goose and deer depredation assistance, but he also aided coyote and beaver control within those two counties.

This month, he moved to Mitchell as part of a realignment of Region 3 personnel. He covers all of Davison, Hanson, Bon Homme and Hutchinson counties along with the portions of Yankton and McCook counties west of U.S. Highway 81. "Up north, I was responsible for covering two big counties. Here, I have six counties that are more spread

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## More Info – But No Answers – On Ring Found In Sewer

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A new bit of information has been gleaned from a woman's wedding ring found in Yankton's sewer system in June. "An expert has examined the ring," said Yankton Police Lt. Todd Brandt. "Based on the expert's opinion, it's believed the ring could have originated from Meredith's Jewelry in Yankton. He couldn't say that with 100 percent certainty, but it's very possible." While the department has received inquiries about the ring since its recovery was made public in mid-July, Brandt said an owner has not yet been found. The ring could have been in the sewer system for years before working its way to the wastewater plant, where it was located in some sludge.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)

### INSIDE



The Joy Of Tailgating  
USA Weekend

## Midwest Hot, Dry Spell Brings Back Drought Worries

BY DAVID PITT  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — A growing season that began unusually wet and cold in the Midwest is finishing hot and dry, renewing worries of drought and its impact on crops. Temperatures soared to records in recent days in parts of the region, reaching nearly 100 degrees in some areas. The heat wave struck many farm states — from the Dakotas to Wisconsin, down through Missouri — that have seen too little rain this growing season.

"It's about the worst case scenario we could have with these high temperatures and the lack of water with soil moisture declining," said Roger Elmore, an agronomy professor at Iowa State University. A wet, cool spring delayed planting and slowed crop growth — but it also replenished soil moisture in many crop producing states, causing some of last year's widespread drought to retreat. The rain stopped in July in many of those states, however, and as the soil dried out, the heat

DROUGHT | PAGE 11A

### Lights Out!



This message board near Fourth Street/Highway 50 and Walnut Street warns motorists of the flashing traffic signal at the intersection. The South Dakota Department of Transportation is doing a traffic study in which it will shut down the traffic signal Sept. 5. It's part of a process leading up to the complete elimination of the signal when Highway 50 is reconstructed beginning in 2015.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

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TOMORROW: School Retreat Offers Lessons In Respect

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET