



LCTC Serves Up A Touch Of 'Arsenic' • 1B

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## Pressler Taps Support From Friends In Both Parties

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A lifelong Democrat who lost an election to former Republican U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler nearly a quarter century ago is working to help Pressler get his old job back.

Ted Muenster, president emeritus of the USD Foundation, has been circulating petitions in Vermillion this week to get Pressler on the 2014 ballot as an independent candidate for the seat being vacated by Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D.

"He makes a lot of sense, in terms of telling both political parties that they need to get off of their ideological high horses and do some compromising for the good of the country," said Muenster. "And I think that message is a valuable contribution to the Senate campaign this year."

Muenster is among several well-known South Dakota political figures from both parties lending a hand to Pressler, who served two terms in the House followed by three Senate terms from 1975 to 1997.

Former GOP state lawmaker Gene Abdallah, who hosts an annual law enforcement dinner that draws 1,500 people, said he's backing Pressler partly because he doesn't care for the field of Republican candidates and partly as a show of loyalty to the man who helped him become U.S. Marshal for South Dakota in 1982.

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## Intelligent Design Bill Killed

Proposal Would Have Allowed Education About Higher Power

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — A South Dakota senator on Thursday killed his proposal that would have allowed teachers to discuss whether a higher power played a role in creation, saying it was too poorly written to pass. The Senate Education Commit-

tee voted to kill the measure, which sought to ensure teachers could tell students about intelligent design, the belief that a higher power must have had a hand in creation because life is too complex to have developed through evolution alone.

The measure's main sponsor, Sen. Jeff Monroe, R-Pierre, said he had to scrap the bill because it was

badly written but didn't elaborate. He said supporters from across the nation have said there are far better ways to address the issue, but he declined to say what he might do in the future.

"I don't mind a good fight, but the amount of good that would have come from the bill would have been outweighed by all the miscon-

ceptions people have had," Monroe said. "I didn't want to put the people in that committee in a tight spot. Some agreed with the bill, but they would have had to vote against it, based on the fact it was written poorly."

The bill's entire text was: "No school board or school administrator may prohibit a teacher in public or nonpublic school from providing

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## Seeking A Solution



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Plans are continuing to conduct a "chemical renovation" of Lake Yankton, during which the fish currently in the lake would be poisoned and the lake would be restocked. The 2011 flooding caused invasive fish species to move into the lake water and proliferate.

## Officials Working Out Plan For Invasive Species In Lake Yankton

BY ROB NIELSEN  
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Plans are slowly progressing on a solution to the growth in invasive fish species in Lake Yankton.

However, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission fisheries biologist Jeff Schuckman said there is a long way to go before tackling the proposed "chemical renovation," a

process that involves partial draining the lake and introducing a chemical meant to kill off the fish in the lake.

"We've had another meeting with the (Army Corps of Engineers), the state of South Dakota and the Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery," Schuckman said. "We're still in the planning stages and we're hoping to move the project forward —

shooting for a late-September timeframe — but we have a lot of planning and coordination to do that we'll continue through the spring."

The issue stems from the flooding that occurred along the Missouri River in 2011. During the flooding, species such as gizzard shad, grass carp, smallmouth and

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## City Code Enforcement Actions Up In 2013

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Yankton's code enforcement officials were involved in more than 700 actions in 2013, according to an annual report.

It's a marked increase compared to 2012, when 588 code enforcement actions were taken.

"I think some of it is cyclical," said City of Yankton Code Enforcement Official Brad Bies. "We had some different weather patterns between 2012 and 2013 when it came to snow and grass. For example, when we had the drought, we didn't have a lot of grass-related issues because the grass wasn't growing. Because it rained more last year, it impacted the yards that grew or vacant properties. Maybe we mowed them a few times the prior year but had to mow them a bit more in 2013."

During a recent City Commission meeting, Commissioner Dave Carda spoke glowingly of the work chronicled in the annual report compiled by Bies.

"I think it shows a lot of things that code enforcement is doing around the city, and I think that is a positive — whether it's snow, car or building removals," he stated. "There is a lot of effort. A lot was done in 2013."

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## Excitement Growing For Fall Wagon Train In SD

BY LORETTA SORENSEN  
P&D Correspondent

Wagon train fever is likely to be making the rounds in South Dakota this summer as plans for a September trek from Yankton to Pierre take shape. The event will be part of South Dakota's celebration of its 125th year of statehood.

Rural Fort Pierre resident Gerald Kessler is organizing the event, working with Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the state's celebration planning panel. For Kessler, who is serving as wagon master, the event will mark his 106th wagon train trip.

"I'm kind of addicted," Kessler says. "I've been fortunate to have the opportunity and time to be part of that many wagon trains. This will be the third one I've led."

Kessler anticipates that close to 300 people will register to travel with the wagon train, which kicks off in Yankton on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Beginning the morning of Sept. 4, the wagon train will advance through southeast South Dakota towns that include Tabor, Scotland, Kaylor, Tripp, Parkston and Ethan. In all, the wagon train will cover approximately 254 miles during 17 days, arriving at Pierre on Sept. 20.

"The night of Sept. 3, we'll gather at the rodeo grounds on the north end of Yankton," Kessler says. "We expect to have speakers that evening, which could include the governor and lieutenant governor. We'll review the wagon train rules and prepare to start the journey the following morning."

Kessler has enlisted the help of many others, including five direc-



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton residents Dennis and Janice Weiss are helping organize the first leg of the Yankton-to-Pierre wagon train. Both of them took part in the Ft. Pierre to Deadwood wagon train a few years ago.

tors, to obtain all the necessary permissions and map out the exact route the travelers will take to reach Pierre. Five different people have started making arrangements

for five different segments of the trip.

"Denny Weiss in Yankton is my

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TOMORROW: Benedictine Sister Discusses Journey To Africa

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
NORTH  
OF 15TH STREET