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Area Races Begin Forming

Jones Won't Seek Reelection In District 17

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Will the District 18 legislators, representing Yankton County, run for re-election this year? The answers are yes, maybe and maybe. State Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R-Yankton) and State Reps. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) and Mike Stevens (R-Yankton) are all up for re-election for four-year terms. When contacted Monday night by the *Press &*

Dakotan, they indicated they were in various stages of weighing their options. They face a March 25 deadline for filing candidate petitions.

Their political decisions could come up during this Saturday's cracker-barrel session. The forum begins at 10 a.m. in the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital (ASHH) Pavilion amphitheater. Stevens, an attorney, told the *Press & Dakotan*



Jones

he will seek a return to Pierre but is unsure which chamber.

"I am going to run for the Legislature again," he said in an e-mail. "I have not decided whether to run for the House or the Senate. I intend to make a decision by Saturday."

Bernie Hunhoff, the House Democratic leader, told the *Press & Dakotan* that he hasn't made any decision on whether to run again. The magazine publisher said he wants to talk with his family in weighing his political future.

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30 DAYS UNTIL SPRING

2013 Park Numbers May Be In Question

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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PIERRE — Record visitation numbers recorded in the state parks system during 2013 may not be entirely accurate, according to a South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks official.

Bob Schneider, an assistant director of the Parks and Recreation Division, pointed out that the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area west of Yankton had averaged approximately 950,000 visitors during the previous five years, but in 2013 jumped 20 percent to about 1.2 million.

"We went to an entirely new traffic counter system (in 2013), and we saw some wacky things across the state," he told Yankton officials visiting Pierre recently during the annual Yankton Day at the Legislature. "I'm not going to put a lot of stock in that number — that we really did see a 20 percent increase in visitations to the parks. The parks were full. We had good daily use activity, and next year we'll see how those new traffic counters do in their second season. Then we'll have a new base to move ahead with."

Looking forward to 2014, Schneider said there's no reason to expect a decline in visitations to the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area.

"We're not looking at any facility expansions or more campsites," he added. "We try hard not to cram them in there. We want to have a state park feel with open spaces and trees."

"Are we maxed out?" Schneider continued. "Probably not. But we want to be smart about it and give everybody a good experience."

The big issue that will be addressed in 2014 is who will operate the Lewis and Clark Marina for the next 10 years.

Earlier this month, the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission approved a settlement agreement between the department and current concessionaire Russell Marsh, establishing the total sale price for the marina operation at \$3,037,000. Marsh has operated the business since 2005 under a concession agreement, which is set to expire Dec. 31.

Al Nedved, an assistant director for the Division of Parks and Recreation, said the department hopes to release a prospectus this week for a 10-year contract.

"That's negotiable based upon if a prospective bidder wants to propose additional investment into the facility," he stated. "It's our hope that we'll have a good opportunity out there."

When asked about the restaurant portion of the contract, Nedved admitted there has been

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Women Of Distinction



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Three Yankton women were honored with the 2014 "Women of Distinction" awards, presented Monday during the annual program at Mount Marty College's Roncalli Center. The honorees were, from left: Marcy Moser, Outstanding Pro-

fessional; Lois Halbur, Outstanding Community Service; and Frani Kieffer, Rising Star. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Celebrating The Power Of Kindness

'Everyday Heroes' Are Honored At Annual Event

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Motivational speaker Amy Dee-Kristensen told the audience at the sixth annual Woman of Distinction Luncheon Monday that choice can be a powerful tool in their daily lives.

"We can use the power of the choice to improve our relationships," Dee-Kristensen said. "We can use the power of choice to make good choices about our life and reach our goals. And we can use the power of choice to make the world a better place."

The theme for this year's event was "You! The Everyday Hero: The Truth About the Power of Kindness."

Dee-Kristensen — a Mitchell native who has traveled the world to speak on the benefits of kindness for more than 20 years — was this year's keynote speaker. She said being an everyday hero doesn't mean you have to be a comic book-style superhero, though.

"I'd like to say in order to be an 'everyday hero,' you don't need a red cape, you don't need superpowers, you just need to do the little extra you're not obligated to do," she said. "You need to choose to make a difference in the life of another person."

However, she added in some ways, these people can still be superheroes.

"Today I was reading about some of the nominees, and they're kind of superheroes, aren't they?" she said. "All the stuff they do, it's almost overwhelming to look at. We're celebrating those people, and we need that in our life. We need that in our community. We all need to take part in volunteering and making the world a better place, but the truth is that in every moment we interact with another person, we have that choice. We have the opportunity to make a human-to-human connection. We have the opportunity to do a little extra to make a difference in the life of another person."

From there, she went over the six principles of kindness, including how acts of kindness can be beneficial to health.

"Acts of kindness are like seeds — they will grow — but someone has to start by planting them," she said. "The truth is when you volunteer or when you do something nice for another human being, you get health benefits from that. Your blood pressure lowers, your immunity goes up so acts of kindness grow in that way."

Dee-Kristensen used a number of stories from her life — drawing on both her own experiences and the experiences of those around her — to demonstrate the six principles, which also include: "you never know how an act of kindness will return to you," "people change," "negativity spreads like germs," "have self-compassion"

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Motivational speaker Amy Dee-Kristensen delivered the keynote address at Monday's sixth annual "Women of Distinction" program, held at Mount Marty College's Roncalli Center. Dee-Kristensen discussed what she calls the "six principles of kindness" during her presentation to a large crowd. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Yankton County

Road Weight Limits Considered

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A new gross vehicle weight limit approved recently by the Yankton County Commission has proven controversial, and a discussion of the resolution will take place today (Tuesday).

At its Feb. 4 meeting, the commission approved a gross vehicle weight limit of 80,000 pounds on all roads maintained by the county.

The intent of the resolution was to protect the taxpayer investment in county infrastructure.

Since the measure was approved, Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said he and other commissioners have received a good deal of negative feedback from local truckers.

In response, a hearing on the measure has been scheduled for 5:45 p.m. during today's commission meeting at the Yankton County Government Center in downtown Yankton. Jensen said the commission could choose

to repeal the resolution.

The meeting will get under way at 3:30 p.m.

Also on the agenda is a resolution appointing a limited deputy coroner. Under the agreement, Yankton County and Hutchinson County coroners will cooperate under certain circumstances. In cases where the respective county coroner and the office's deputies are unavailable, or there is a conflict of interest in the investigation of a death, a coroner from the other county can be called in to carry out the necessary duties.

Additionally, the commission will discuss possible voting centers for the upcoming primary election.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

