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## The City Union At 5

Municipal Union Believes Partnership Is Forming With City

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Five years ago, an atmosphere of uncertainty prevailed over the City of Yankton's political landscape.

City Manager Jeff Weldon resigned in October 2007 after losing the confidence of the majority of the Yankton City Commission, two City Commission members were recalled in a December 2007 special elec-

tion and the community was divided.

It was during this storm of uncertainty about the future that city employees decided to form American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3968.

City leadership was notified by the end of October 2007 that employees were requesting AFSCME representation. It was Feb. 20, 2008, when 61 of 86 union-eligible employees voted to form Local 3968.

Beth Parr, president of Local 3968, recalls that time in late 2007 and early 2008 well.

"From the city employees' perspectives, City Manager Weldon was a well-liked, fair and respected city manager," she said. "Many employees took off from work to attend the (Oct. 12, 2007) City Commission meeting where the commission accepted



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**"In years to come, we believe that city management will look at the union as a partnership, recognizing that union members take great pride in their work as public employees."**

**BETH PARR**

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## A Ranger's New Home



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Rick Clark took over as superintendent of the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) on Dec. 28. Clark has worked at a number of parks within the National Park Service across the country for nearly 30 years. Stops along the way to Yankton included Florida, Michigan, Wyoming, Missouri, Nebraska, Arizona and Alaska.

## New Park Ranger In Familiar Territory

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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After spending nearly 30 years working for the National Park Service (NPS) system at a variety of parks and locations, Rick Clark is returning to his roots.

The new superintendent of the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) is not only a Midwest native, but he also worked with the park as part of his first permanent status assignment with the NPS.

"When the Missouri National Recreational River was administered out of the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha in the late '80s, I had some coordinator responsibilities before they established on-site presence, initially in O'Neill, Neb., and most recently here in Yankton," Clark said.

He began working out of the MNRR headquarters in Yankton on Monday, but officially started his new post Dec. 28. He most recently was the chief of science and resources management at Gulf Islands National Seashore, headquartered in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

He replaces Steve Thede, who had been serving as acting superintendent since last spring, when then-superintendent Steve Mietz left the position to become superintendent at Great Basin National Park in Baker, Nev.

Clark said he took his new role at the MNRR because he believes it will be an opportune way to utilize his experience. He also is looking forward to seeing how the management of the park has

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## Neb. Man Dies In Friday Accident

From P&D Staff Reports

A Newcastle, Neb., man died Friday following a vehicle accident just north of Yankton, according to Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis.

Eugene Day, 51, was driving a vehicle that went into the west ditch near High-

way 81 and 39th Street at 8:52 a.m.

Vlahakis said it is believed Day was having medical problems — possibly a heart attack — when the accident occurred. He was transported to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital by ambulance and subsequently died.

## SPORTS



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## SPORTS



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## JoDean's Passes Follow-Up Inspection

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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JoDean's Steakhouse and Lounge in Yankton received a passing score on its latest health inspection Friday.

The follow-up inspection was conducted as part of ongoing legal action by the South Dakota Department of Health (SDDOH), according to Bill Chalcraft, administrator for the Office of Health Protection. The restaurant was given a score of 93.

As was reported in Wednesday's *Press & Dakotan*, legal action by the state has been pending as a result of JoDean's health inspection scores last September and December. The restaurant scored 76 and 65, respectively. Its previous three scores were 90, 90 and 94.

JoDean's owner Jack Nielsen expressed frustration Friday following the passed health inspection, saying several items that were previously listed as infractions were now approved by the SDDOH.

"There were some things that I got marked down for that I never should have been marked down for, because the way I was doing them was perfectly OK," he said. "They said the hand sinks weren't approved, but now they are approved. The way I store my buckets with food in them wasn't

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## SD Lawmakers Endorse Insurance Regulation Bills

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislative panel on Friday approved a package aimed at giving people better protection against unfair practices by insurance companies.

The proposals were drafted at Gov. Dennis Daugaard's request after reports that an insurance company had harmed some customers who held policies for long-term care. A state review found current laws fall short of providing adequate protection against unfair handling of claims by insurance companies.

The House Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to send the measures to the full House for further debate.

One measure defines unfair practices and allows the state Insurance Division to order insurance companies to stop such practices. The division also could fine a company up to \$1,000 for each violation, to a total of \$100,000. For flagrant violations, a company could be fined up to \$25,000 for each violation, to a total of \$250,000.

State Insurance Director Merle Scheiber said the



Daugaard

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