



Cloudy With Flurries Possible

9 a.m.: **9** | 3 p.m.: **18**
FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2A

FRIDAY ■ January 31, 2014



**YHS One-Act
Play Gives A
Light Touch
To Death's
Heavy Hand**
RIVER CITY



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Park Numbers Surge

L&C Recreation Area Shattered Mark For Visitors In 2013

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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It was a record year for the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area.

Even though camping units at the park were down slightly, the total number of visitors reached approximately 1.2 million — shattering the record set in 2012 by a healthy margin, according to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) District Supervisor Shane Bertsch.

"We had good weather and a lot of beach traffic and water recreation activities," he said. "I think that's what caused the jump in usage."

According to the GF&P, visitors to Custer State Park in the Black Hills and the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area comprised nearly 40 percent of the 7.8 million park visitors statewide in 2013. Custer had 1.9 million visitors.

Camping numbers increased across the state last year, the GF&P reported.

They were up 3.2 percent over 2012.

However, the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area did not share in that trend.

The Lewis and Clark campground had 36,699 camping units in 2013, a decline of 2.3 percent compared to 2012.

Lewis and Clark Recreation Area campground Chief White Crane declined by .8 percent to 9,511. Meanwhile,



FILE PHOTO

This watersports enthusiast at the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area was one of a record-setting 1.2 million visitors to the state park during 2013. The record was set even though camping units at the park declined from 51,355 in 2012 to 50,695 in 2013.

PARK | PAGE 5A

Hockey Tournament Looks To Give Yankton A Boost

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Some little squirts are poised to have a big impact on Yankton this weekend.

With the city set to host the Yankton Squirt A & B Hockey Invitational on Saturday and Sunday, many local businesses should see a boost from the hundreds of visitors expected for the tournament. The event will feature 12 teams from across South Dakota and northwest Iowa, 19 games and approximately 150 participants, with numerous spectators attending to see the action.

"I think we're going to have a really nice turnout," said tournament director Gwen Wenisch. "The kids are really excited about coming and we're really excited about hosting. And we hope the community is excited about welcoming them to our town, showing them a good time and showing our appreciation for them coming."

The tournament is a welcome boost to the area during a time when tourism numbers are typically low, said Lisa Scheve, director of the Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We are always looking at what we can do in our off-season to try to find ways to bring people into the community," she said. "Since the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Center was put in, we've definitely been able to attract more winter activities to the area, with hockey being one. There's anywhere from one to five hockey

HOCKEY | PAGE 5A

It Takes A Lot Of Care



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Doug Hellmers has served as the live-in curator at the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home since October 2012. The museum has been occupied by a live-in curator since the mid-1970s.

Live-In Curator Works Hard To Make Museum 'Pop'

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

BY ROB NIELSEN

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For just more than a year, Doug Hellmers has been tasked with conducting tours and general upkeep of the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home. Additionally, Hellmers also lives in the 128 year old house year-round.

Hellmers said day-to-day operation of the home requires a lot of work.

"Basically I'm here 24/7," Hellmers said. "There's a lot of things I watch and take care of. There's a lot of dusting and care with this place. I check the place every evening and make sure there's nothing missing, and I also tour the outside grounds making sure everything is in order with the windows and the grounds."

In addition to the day-to-day work, Hellmers also takes care of snow-shoveling, helps museum board members with gardening and restoration work around the house, and prepares the home for the main tour season which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day.



ON THE JOB

new things as I go along. It's quite involved."

Hellmers said it's always his goal to leave a lasting impression of the home on visitors.

"I am very persnicketic when it comes to this place," he said. "I want it to 'pop' when they walk in."

The live-in curator program began early in the museum's history, due mostly to an incident in which heavy wallpaper damage occurred during the winter of 1973-1974 and wasn't noticed for weeks. The house has been occupied ever since.

Hellmers has a background that includes schooling in interior design in New York City and co-owning a business in Omaha. He took over the Cramer-Kenyon position in

He also has to learn the history of both families that once occupied the house.

"There's a lot to know on the backgrounds of both families that lived here," he said. "I'm still learning

OTJ | PAGE 3A

Lawmakers Say SD Bill On Clergy Rights Not Needed

PIERRE (AP) — A measure that sought to protect clergy members who refuse to take part in gay marriages was rejected Thursday by a South Dakota legislative committee after opponents said the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom already gives those church leaders the protections.

The Judiciary Committee voted 4-3 to kill a bill that would have prevented clergy from being forced to perform marriages that violate their religious beliefs or consciences. It also sought to prevent clergy and other church officials from being sued or charged with crimes if they refused to take part in such weddings.

The bill's main sponsor, Sen. Ernie Otten, R-Tea, said the state's constitution and laws ban gay marriage, but courts may overturn that ban and force South Dakota churches to perform same-sex marriages.

The proposal would have required tolerance of clergy members who do not believe in same-sex marriage, Otten said.

"This bill does not force or impose an agenda on anyone," Otten said. "What the bill does, however, is protect South Dakota from anyone trying to impose his or her view on people by using legal or financial threats."

BILL | PAGE 2A

Party-Fishing Law Could Be Expanded

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A state fishing law might be changed so anglers have less worry about being cited for catching too many.

Rep. Lee Qualm wants South Dakota's party-fishing law that covers anglers in a watercraft to be expanded to ice fishing and shore fishing as well.

The current law lets a party of two or more anglers fishing together in a boat to keep their combined limit of a species, regardless of how many are taken by each angler.

"Invariably there's one guy who gets hot and catches more than everybody else," Qualm, R-Platte, said. "It's pretty simple. It just makes legal what everybody is doing anyway."

No one else testified for or against the legislation during a hearing Thursday by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The panel endorsed the bill 11-0.

HB 1076 now moves to the full House of Representatives for consideration as early as today (Friday).

The committee placed the bill on the House consent calendar. That means it won't be debated, unless a member asks for it to be removed, but members can ask questions.

CORRECTION

Yankton Sioux tribal member Basil Heth spoke the featured front-page quote in Thursday's story about the World War II code talkers. The name that followed the quote was incorrect.

MMC Royalty

The Mount Marty College faculty, staff, and student body recently voted for homecoming royalty candidates among its eligible senior class. Five women and five men were chosen to be candidates for Lord and Lady Marben as part of the 55th Annual Homecoming Coronation taking place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in Marian Auditorium on the Yankton campus. The five women chosen were: Nikki Boyle, Creighton, Neb., daughter of Ed and Karen Boyle; Kim Kokesh, Wagner, daughter of Doug and Kathy Kokesh; Johanna Scheich, Ethan, daughter of Len and Patty Scheich; Stacey Schleich, Mitchell, daughter of Robert and Lori Schleich; and Megan Wortmann, Norfolk, Neb., daughter of Mike and Jackie Wortmann. The five men chosen were: Dylan Babel, Humphrey, Neb., son of Lyle and Sue Babel; Mychal Bierwagen, Lemmon, son of Ron and Doreen Bierwagen; Ben Harmon, Omaha, Neb., son of Tom and Kath Harmon; Chris Hoffman, Yankton, son of Jerry and Kathy Hoffman; and Jordan Pater, Adrian, Minn., son of Darrin and Joan Pater. (Courtesy Photo)



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