



Sunshine And Warmer

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Marina Operator Set

10-Year Lease With Chris Donlin Approved By GF&P

BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The operator of the Missouri River marina at Pickstown said Thursday he's ready to start running the Yankton marina, too.

Members of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission unanimously approved a 10-year lease with Chris Donlin to operate the state's concession at Lewis and

Clark Recreation Area.

Donlin told commissioners he would provide certified technicians for boat work and is looking for someone to run the restaurant at an upgraded level of service.

The state Division of Parks and Recreation struggled for more than a year to find a successor to current leaseholder Russ Marsh. After two rounds of seeking proposals, Donlin was the only businessman to step forward with an acceptable plan.

Donlin has run the Pickstown marina for two decades and his family has deep roots in the region. He said his grandparents homesteaded at Fort Randall.

"We think the Lewis and Clark operation would be a good addition to it," he said. "We are a service-oriented business."

He added, "I just think we have a lot of great avenues to explore this, and have a lot

MARINA | PAGE 10A



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D Wagner school counselor Dana Sanderson (right), recently named the VFW "High School Teacher of the Year" for South Dakota, greets U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson of Sioux Falls prior to last month's program in Wagner.

Sanderson Honored As VFW High School Teacher Of The Year

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of three stories profiling area educators who recently won "Teacher of the Year" honors from the South Dakota VFW.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

WAGNER — Dana Sanderson loves being a school counselor so much that, some days, he can't believe he gets paid for it.

Then again, earlier in his career, he worked as a counselor for months without getting paid.

Sanderson accepted a counseling position for Indian educational programs at Wagner in 1975. After spending his first year in education at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, he took the job in Wagner as the next step in his career.

"And I'm still here, 40 years later," he said with a laugh.

Sanderson's commitment to his students and the school district has brought his selection as the South Dakota VFW "High School Teacher of the Year."

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El Nino Possibilities Diminishing In Upper Midwest

BY ROB NIELSEN rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Despite months of anticipation, El Nino conditions may not come to fruition in the upper Midwest forecast.

During the year's first NOAA Central U.S. Climate Outlook webinar Thursday, Illinois state climatologist Jim Angel said the region hasn't been seeing the effects of a warmer Pacific Ocean yet.

"For the last year, we've been talking about the arrival of El Nino," Angel said. "It's still in the neutral phase right now. The sea surface temperatures are close to an actual El Nino event, but the circulation in the atmosphere hasn't reflected that. We haven't seen any kind of effect from the warm temperatures out in the Pacific Ocean at this point in time."

Angel said there's still a chance it will occur at reduced impact.

"There's still a 50-60 percent chance over the next two months, but then the neutral phase is expected to kick in after that," he said. "If we get it, it's going to be very short and it's going to be pretty

CLIMATE | PAGE 10A

Building Momentum



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The City of Yankton and Yankton County both saw robust building in 2014, as permits for both entities soared. The Yankton Heights Apartments project along Highway 50 at Fox Run was one of several building projects undertaken last year. City and county officials believe the trend will continue in 2015.

City, County Building Boomed In '14

BY ROB NIELSEN rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Building permits issued in 2014 took center-stage during Thursday's meeting of the Yankton City/County Planning Commission — and the news was good at both the city and county levels.

Community Development Director Dave Mingo said he was happy to see the number of housing units rise, in addition to valuations.

"One thing that happened in 2014 that's good, in addition to the valuations being up substantially to a more customary level at (\$31,193,679), is the number of housing

units," Mingo said. "That includes apartment units, single-family units and everything. It's a dwelling unit per census definition. We were in the 20s for three or four years and so we're kind of back to that 2008 and prior level with 56 units in 2014."

In comparison, 2013 saw 22 housing units and valuations totaling \$12,842,385. In all, 299 building permits were issued by the city in 2014.

Mingo told the Press & Dakotan the rise was largely due to expansion of existing businesses.

"We saw a lot of development from our primary employers," he said. "We had Wilson Trailer do a large expansion. We had

Avera do a large expansion with the Sister James facility; a motel; an apartment complex — so the commercial sector drove the improvement in values. The increase in housing also played a factor in that increase in values."

Yankton County zoning administrator Pat Garrity said the county also enjoyed a successful year for building permits.

"We had a very good year — it was the second best year we've had since we (started) doing permits in 2003," Garrity said.

Valuations rose 102 percent, from

BUILDING | PAGE 10A

River City Cheer To Hold Annual Winter Chill Cheer And Dance Challenge

JORDYNNE HART jordynne.hart@yankton.net

A local all-star cheer and dance program is ready to give its audiences the "chills."

River City Cheer will hold their second annual Winter Chill Cheer and Dance Challenge Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Summit Activities Center.

Doors open at 7 a.m. Individual competition begins at 9 a.m. and team competition starts at 2 p.m.

According to River City Cheer coach Justin Olson, 690 athletes from across South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska — and an anticipated 3,000 spectators — are expected

for this year's event.

"We have definite rhythm from last year and that is always our goal," Olson said. "We wanted to have a quality tournament and it definitely says something when you have an event and people come back for it the next year. I'm excited about the numbers."

Olson said that the event started because he wanted to take advantage of the Summit Center.

"With the facility that we have access to, and the supportive community and school and all the clubs, I thought that we should

CHEER | PAGE 10A

Pop Rocks



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Classical music and rock and roll joined forces on the YHS/Summit Activities Center stage Thursday night for the Yankton High School Orchestra Pops concert. Selections included "Purple Haze," "Do-Wah-Diddy" and "Moondance." The concert was preceded by a pancake fundraiser in the YHS Commons. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net/.

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TOMORROW: Yankton School Deploys New Security System

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET