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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Newly-installed board member Dan Klimisch of rural Yankton County studies information with fellow board member Leanne Gutormson of Huron during Tuesday's meeting of the James River Water Development District (JRWDD), held at the Kelly Inn in Yankton.

River Board Moves Forward

Klimisch Joins JRWDD As Director

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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In the span of a few minutes Tuesday, the James River Water Development District (JRWDD) gained a new board member, a new manager and a new assistant manager.

At its meeting in Yankton, the JRWDD board appointed Dan Klimisch of Yankton County to fill the District 8 director vacancy on the nine-member board. The seat has remained unfilled since the resignation of former board member and chairman Jim

Lane earlier this year.

Klimisch was the lone applicant for the District 8 position, collecting enough petition signatures to qualify for the seat. He took his oath of office at Tuesday's meeting and will serve through the end of 2014.

During a break in the meeting, Klimisch said he sees the river as a treasure. "I grew up along the James River. I hunted and fished along there," he said. "I have enjoyed the river my whole life, and I take my children there. I



Bartel



Smoyer

saw the opportunity to serve my community (with the vacancy), and I took advantage of it."

Klimisch said he agrees with the board's movement toward more local projects rather than continuing to pursue large-scale studies. Many local needs exist that would gain from JRWDD assistance, he said.

"It's not just farmers, but also those who live along the river (who will benefit)," he said.

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Officials Get Set For This Year's Cedar County Fair

BY DEREK BARTOS
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — As the 2012 Cedar County Fair draws closer, workers at the fairgrounds in Hartington, Neb., are putting in countless hours to make this year's event the best one yet.

"We've got a lot of our board members working four nights out of the week getting it ready with a lot of volunteer help," said Larry Dybdal, co-president of the Cedar County Ag Society that operates the fair.

Dybdal said much of the work has been focused on the rodeo arena, which houses one of the fair's most popular events.

"Thursday night with the rodeo is always a big night for us," he said. "We'll have a lot of contestants from different areas — Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, South Dakota. It's always really good."

Dybdal said the work on the arena will make its use more efficient, as permanent shoots and back pins have been installed instead of temporary units used in past years. Not only will the improvements help with this year's fair, but they will also pay dividends long after the event is over, he said.

"We've got a new rodeo contractor coming in, and we're getting all our shoot and back pins all built permanent, so we'll be able to uti-

OUR TOWNS Cedar County

lize our rodeo arena a lot more throughout the year now," he said.

The fair officially kicks off Wednesday, July 18, with a team sorting event at 7 p.m. at the rodeo arena and a talent show at the grandstand at 7:30 p.m. The 13th Annual MSRA/MRA/IRA Rodeo follows at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19.

Music entertainment is also one of the main attractions of the fair, and Dybdal said he is pleased to present a variety of options for those attending.

"There's several different types of music," he said. "If you're into country or rock n' roll, you'll have your choice."

Music begins Friday, July 20, with Firehouse playing at 8 p.m. Formed in 1989, the nationally known rock band has released nine albums with four Top 40 hits. The group is best known for the Top 10 songs "Love of a Lifetime," "When I Look Into Your Eyes," "Don't Treat Me Bad," and "I Live My Life for You."

The Omaha-based band 3D In Your Face will follow Firehouse at

FAIR | PAGE 3

THE WHIFF OF THE CIRCUS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This clown gets a face full of powder as he checks the "business end" of his malfunctioning toy elephant during the 66th annual Lewis and Clark Shrine Circus, presented in two performances Tuesday at Yankton's Crane-Youngworth Field. Hundreds of kids and their parents checked out the proceedings, which included tigers, dogs, aerial stunts and other acts. The circus was presented by the El Riad Shrine Temple.

Neb. Tax Receipts Up Nearly \$105M Last Fiscal Year

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A slowly improving economy helped boost Nebraska's tax collections beyond what was expected during the fiscal year that ended last month, state Tax Commissioner Doug Ewald said Tuesday.

The state's fiscal year tax receipts through the end of June beat projections by nearly \$105 million, or roughly 3 percent, Ewald said after his office released its monthly tax receipt report.

Ewald said he viewed the numbers as a sign of Nebraska's slow-but-steady recovery from the global recession. He pointed to corporate income tax receipts, which ended the year more than 17 percent higher than expected. "That tells me they've become efficient, maybe a little leaner, and maybe haven't hired back that additional employee or two," Ewald said. "All those additional, incremental profits are going straight to the bottom line."

The state received nearly \$3.7 billion in taxes, up from estimates that Nebraska would collect a little less than \$3.6 billion during the fiscal year.

The growth was driven heavily by corporate and individual income tax receipts, which ended the year higher than expected. The state collected \$34.2 million more in corporate income taxes than expected, and \$64.7 million more in individual incomes taxes — nearly 4 percent higher than projected.

State sales-and-use taxes were nearly 1 percent higher than estimates, while miscellaneous tax collections came in 3 percent below the projections.

By law, the additional revenue will help replenish the state's rainy day fund. The additional money will bring the total cash reserve to \$384 million for the two-year budget period that ends in June 2013.

The estimates were set in April 2011 by the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board, a panel that predicts Nebraska tax revenue based on the housing market, farm conditions and reports by the state's budget offices. In February, the board voted unanimously to stick with its projection for the two-year budget period that ends in June

RECEIPTS | PAGE 3

Regional Tourism Association Launches Its New Website

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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The Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association has recently launched an innovative new website that allows users to find a lot more information that they did not have access to before.

The website, simplysouthdakota.com, launched last week and is a complete facelift from the old tourism website.

"We've been working on the website for about a year," Jacquie Fuks, director of the Southeast South Dakota Regional Tourism Association, said. "There are whole new functions and a new look to the website."

She added that the old website needed a makeover, and this site allows staff members to easily handle any changes and updates that may be needed.

One of the features of the site includes a journeys section, which allows users to pick something they're interested in, and the website will pull up a list of destinations related to that interest.

Examples of journeys on the website include golfing, discovering Bon Homme, various trails and the I-29 cultural corridor, among others.

Fuks added that she believes one of the best features on the new website is the calendar of events and that users can sort the calendar by their interests.

There is a long list of options that visitors can sort the list by, including art, auto shows, holiday events, music, events for children and many others.

Another new feature is an interactive map of the com-



COURTESY IMAGE

The Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association recently unveiled its new website, which could help increase tourism numbers in the region.

munities in southeastern South Dakota.

"Users can view the map, click on a community and it will take them to a whole page about what is offered there," she said.

Fuks noted that the new website might help tourism numbers in the region.

"There is a lot more opportunity for visitors to stay on the website longer than they would have with the old site," she said. "There are all sorts of different categories

WEBSITE | PAGE 2

S.D. Panel Approves Livestock Fee Increase

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A legislative committee on Tuesday approved a state board's compromise plan to raise the fee for brand inspections that are designed to prevent the theft of cattle and horses in western South Dakota.

The 3-1 vote by the Rules Review Committee allows the state Brand Board to increase the current 80-cent inspection fee to 90 cents a head on Sept. 1, a move expected to keep the brand inspection program in the black for at least three years. The committee's approval is needed before state agencies' rules can take effect.

However, the lawmakers also recommended that another legislative panel, the Government Operations and Audit Committee, take a detailed look into the Brand Board's financial situation and record keeping.

After two ranchers said they opposed the fee increase because of discrepancies in reports filed by the Brand Board, Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, said he wants officials to develop financial numbers everyone can agree are accurate. Disagreements have festered since the state board took over inspections in 2008 from the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, which previously had conducted the inspections on contract.

"I just want to put this to rest," Vehle said. The Brand Board voted in March to increase the inspection fee to \$1, but the panel withheld that plan when Gov. Dennis Daugaard urged the board to seek a compromise after livestock groups and other agricultural associations objected.

The board voted in late June to raise the fee to 90 cents after the compromise 10-cent fee increase was sup-

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