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KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Tractors like this one, seen in last week's Fourth of July parade in Menno, will be on hand this weekend for the seventh annual WNAX/Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Drive in the Yankton area. The event will feature a parade through downtown Yankton at 6 p.m. Friday night.

# Tractor Drive Brings Tradition To Life

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

This week, tractors won't be found only in the fields — they'll be found on the highways, back roads and even in downtown Yankton.

The seventh annual WNAX/Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Drive will headquarter in Yankton at Paddle Wheel Point (behind the Chamber of Commerce building) from Thursday through Saturday.

Check-in for the tractor drivers will begin at noon Thursday with the 65-mile rides in Nebraska on Friday and in South Dakota on Saturday. The tractors will form a parade Friday evening through downtown Yankton.

The event has quickly grown into a popular attraction drawing riders from across the nation, according to Rodger Harts, president of the Tri-State Old Iron Association in Yankton.

"We started this ride seven years ago, and it's pretty much a tradition," he said. "We capped it at 180 tractors this year. Quite a few wanted to get in this year, and we had to say no. You feel bad about it, but we had to do it. We may take a look at (raising the cap) next year."

Why is the ride so popular? "Word of mouth, from friend to friend or from one relative to another. They learn about it from someone who has ridden in the ride," Harts said.

This year, drivers are registered from South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Kansas, New York and Pennsylvania.

The participants cover the entire age spectrum, he said. "Last year, we had people in their 80s. As far as the youngest, you have to be at least 16 years of age," he said.

The public can view the tractors as they start arriving Thursday afternoon at Paddle Wheel Point, Harts said. He anticipates most of the tractor owners will register by 5 p.m. Thursday.

Visitors should see some vintage tractors throughout the weekend, Harts said.

"A lot of them are antiques. Last year, the oldest tractor was from 1934," he said. "Some of these tractors have on their everyday clothes, some are still in the fields, and a lot of them have been taken out of the trees and redone. People have restored them and brought

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# Still Playing Catch-Up

Corps: Reservoirs Remain Low, Drought Measures To Continue

BY DEREK BARTOS  
derek.bartos@yankton.net

Despite continued improvement in Missouri River basin conditions during the last month, the reservoir system levels remain below normal and drought conservation measures will continue to be implemented, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps shared that outlook Tuesday during its final scheduled Missouri River basin update teleconference for 2013.

"Reservoir levels at the upper three reservoirs — Fort Peck, Garrison, and Oahe — are up 5 to 10 feet over the lows experienced during this drought," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Missouri River Water Management Division. "However, even with the improved moisture conditions, they are not expected to refill this year."

Farhat said the three reservoirs remain 2-7 feet below desired operating levels and are also 2-10 feet lower than they were last year at this time.

According to engineer Bill Doan, precipitation in June varied greatly throughout the Missouri River basin. Rainfall accumulations over the northern half of Montana were two to three times the normal amount, but other parts of the basin received rainfall that was mostly below normal, he said.

"The June runoff though was only 116 percent of normal," Doan said. "While the overall May-through-July snowpack runoff

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## In The Balance



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Balancing artist Gua Ming rolls a heavy oriental vase from his right hand to his left — by way of the top of his head — while performing at the 67th annual Shrine Circus, held at Yankton's Crane Youngworth Field Tuesday. The event, which featured an afternoon and evening performance, featured the George Carden International Circus, and brought tigers, elephants, acrobats and a clown to town. The circus was presented by the Lewis and Clark El-Riad Shrine Temple

# House GOP Looks At Splitting Farm Bill

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A month after suffering an embarrassing defeat, House Republican leaders are considering a new strategy to try to win support for the massive, five-year farm bill: splitting it into two separate measures, one for farm programs and one for food stamps.

It's an attempt to gather support from conservatives who voted against the \$100 billion-a-year farm bill, and critics say it could lead to bigger cuts in both farm subsidies and the domestic food aid.

Republicans discussed the strategy in a Tuesday caucus meeting, with House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, R-

Okl., saying for the first time that he would go along with a split bill if leaders could deliver the votes. Republicans were assessing support for the idea, and a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said no decisions had been made on how to revive the bill.

The House rejected the farm bill in June by a vote of 234-195 after some in the GOP complained that the legislation did not cut enough from food stamps. Democrats said the 3 percent cut in food stamps was too much.

The idea is that the farm portion of the bill could pass without the food stamp provisions. By splitting the two, Republicans might be able to make bigger cuts in food stamp programs and pass that bill with conservative support.

However, conservative groups, farm groups and nutrition groups all expressed concerns with the strategy.

Farm groups and anti-hunger groups have warned that separating the farm and nutrition programs after decades of linking them would be a major mistake. Rural lawmakers have added money for food stamps to the farm bill, which sets policy for agricultural subsidies and other farm programs, to gather urban votes for the measure. The Democratic-led Senate, which overwhelmingly passed a farm bill with smaller cuts to food stamps, would be reluctant to go along with a split bill or further cuts to the programs.

Spending on food stamps has doubled in

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# Guard Duty Calls For Freeman Pitcher

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

FREEMAN — As manager, Brett Scherschligt faces a gaping hole in his lineup for the Freeman Black Sox amateur baseball team.

He hasn't lost the missing player because of injury, work or vacation.

His brother, Lee, deployed last week with the South Dakota Air National Guard for a 2 1/2 month mission to Southwest Asia. About 200 airmen with the 114th Air Fighter Wing began the mission last Thursday — which was Independence Day.

In an interview prior to his de-

parture, Lee said he found the Fourth of July deployment to be appropriate.

"It's ironic, but it's fitting that we are getting activated on Independence Day," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "At our (activation) ceremony, we were reminded that (the patriotic holiday) fit perfectly. This is the reason we have Independence Day — we are serving (in the military) to make sure we still have freedom."

## ON A MISSION

Lee knew for more than a year

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
Freeman Black Sox pitcher Lee Scherschligt hurls an offering at a Yankton Tappers batter during last week's game in Freeman. Scherschligt ended a stellar season early as he recently left on a 2 1/2 month mission to Southwest Asia with the 114th Air Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard.

## Two Pedestrians Killed In Accident Near Pickstown

From P&D Staff Reports

A man and woman were killed near Pickstown Monday night when they were struck by a vehicle.

According to the South Dakota Highway Patrol, Robert Allan Klumb, 46, Pierre, and Maegen E. Spindler, 25, Cazenovia, N.Y., were killed around 8:44 p.m. when a 2003 Chrysler Town and Country mini-van struck them and two parked vehicles.

The vehicle was driven by Ronald Ray Fischer, Jr., 28, Lake Andes, who had serious, non-life threatening injuries.

Fischer was driving along Highway 18 and failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection with Highway 46. He drove into a private parking lot, where he struck the two pedestrians and two parked vehicles.

Fischer was taken to a Wagner hospital and then transferred to a Sioux Falls hospital.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the incident.