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# The Search Moves Forward

City's Economic Development Council Recommends  
Search Firm To Assist With Finding Its New Director

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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The Yankton Economic Development Council (EDC) is recommending that the services of an executive search firm be acquired as it looks to hire a new economic development director. Although members of the EDC remain tight-lipped about what was discussed at their Mon-

day meeting, they did confirm that the search process is moving forward. "We're doing some research relative to salary levels and other information for the type of position we want," said Randy Johnson, chairman of the EDC. The job description for the position is also being reviewed before moving ahead, he added. After five years as the economic develop-

ment director, Mike Dellinger will leave Aug. 30 to become the vice president of economic development for the Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce. Members of the EDC are: Johnson, who fills an at-large seat but also happens to serve on the board of Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG); Pam Rezac, chairwoman of YAPG; Rob Stephenson, past chairman of YAPG; City Commissioner David Knoff; City Manager Amy Nelson; Mayor Nancy Wenande; Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce President Marcy Moser;

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## Ark. District Arming More Than 20 Teachers, Staff

BY ANDREW DEMILLO

Associated Press

CLARKSVILLE, Ark. — As Cheyne Dougan rounded the corner at Clarksville High School, he saw three students on the floor moaning and crying. In a split-second, two more ran out of a nearby classroom.

"He's got a gun," one of them shouted as Dougan approached with his pistol drawn. Inside, he found one student holding another at gunpoint. Dougan aimed and fired three rounds at the gunman.

Preparing for such scenarios has become common for police after a school shooting in Connecticut last December left 20 children and six teachers dead. But Dougan is no policeman. He's the assistant principal of this school in Arkansas, and when classes resume in August, he will walk the halls with a 9 mm handgun.

Dougan is among more than 20 teachers, administrators and other school employees in this town who will carry concealed weapons throughout the school day, making use of a little-known Arkansas law that allows licensed, armed security guards on campus. After undergoing 53 hours of training, Dougan and other teachers at the school will be considered guards.

"The plan we've been given in the past is 'Well, lock your doors, turn off your lights and hope for the best,'" Superintendent David Hopkins said. But as deadly incidents continued to happen in schools, he explained, the district decided, "That's not a plan."

After the Connecticut attack, the idea of arming schoolhouses against gunmen was hotly de-

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## Hand In Hand



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Heinrich (played by Blake Wieseler, left) and Charli (Anna Carda) engage in a bit of arm wrestling in a scene from the Yankton Children's Theatre Company's production of "The Reluctant Dragon," a rehearsal for which was held Tuesday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The play debuts Thursday night at the SAC theatre and runs through Sunday. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Our story on the production will be published in Friday's "River City" section of the Press & Dakotan.

## Area Enters Period For Fairs, 4-H

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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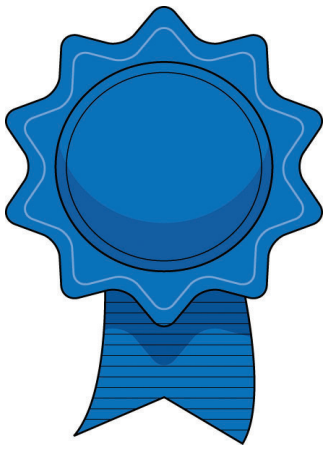
The area schedule of county fairs and 4-H Achievement Days shifts into high gear today (Wednesday) and continues through mid-August.

The Cedar County Fair in Hartington, Neb., kicked off the season earlier this month. The fair featured a combination of 4-H, FFA and open class exhibits along with a carnival midway, grandstand entertainment and a variety of booths.

Work has already begun on the 2014 fair, according to Larry Dybdal, who serves with Greg Heine as co-presidents of the county agricultural society.

"You have to plan a year ahead of time. We are in the process of working on next year's entertainment," Dybdal said. "Nothing's booked, but we're trying to see who's available and who we could have come to our fair."

Now, the remainder of the Press



& Dakotan coverage area launches its schedule of events, starting with Charles Mix County today (Wednesday).

The following is a look at upcoming activities the region:

• Bon Homme County Achieve-

ment Days, Aug. 5-6 in Tyndall;

• Charles Mix County Achievement Days, July 30-Aug. 2 in Lake Andes;

• Clay County Achievement Days, Aug. 7-11 in Vermillion;

• Douglas County Achievement Days, Aug. 5-6 in Armour;

• Hutchinson County Achievement Days, July 31-Aug. 2 in Tripp;

• Knox County (Neb.) Fair, Aug. 8-11 in Bloomfield, Neb.;

• Turner County Fair, Aug. 12-15 in Parker;

• Union County Achievement Days, Aug. 1-4 in Alcester;

• Yankton County Achievement Days, Aug. 1-4 in Yankton.

This time of year can be hectic for Extension and fair personnel, but especially for those who cover more than one county.

Andy Jensen works with 4-H and youth development for Bon Homme, Yankton and Clay counties. He has

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## INSIDE



American Profile

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## Police Seeking Suspects After Chase

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Suspects are still being sought in the case of a stolen vehicle that led law enforcement on a chase early Tuesday.

Local authorities were notified that a pursuit was under way along Highway 46 in Clay County.

The vehicle eventually stopped near 307th Street and 448th Avenue, and four suspects fled from the scene.

"Both of our K-9 units went out to help track the suspects," said Lt. Mike Burgeson of the Yankton Police Department. "We never found them."

The vehicle had been stolen from Berkley Motors in Yankton sometime earlier in the night, according to Burgeson.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office, the Yankton County Sheriff's Office and the South Dakota Highway Patrol were also involved in the case.

It is not clear what caused authorities to initiate the pursuit.

Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

## Driver Arrested After Going Through Construction Area

From P&D Staff Reports

A 21-year-old Yankton man was arrested early Tuesday morning after driving through a construction zone in the 900 block of Summit Street.

Cyrus Sorenson was charged with driving under the influence and possession of marijuana. He was also cited for careless driving and failure to obey traffic control devices.

Yankton Police Lt. Mike Burgeson said that Sorenson went over a sharp drop-off in the concrete and then attempted to drive back up where the concrete resumed. Instead, the vehicle became stuck. While the concrete was mostly unharmed, the incident did cause significant damage to the vehicle.

A tow truck was summoned to remove the vehicle from the area.

# Friends, Strangers Open Arms To Accident Victim's Family



PHOTO COURTESY TANYA CROCKETT

Cub Scout Pack 86 of Springfield cleans up, as they tackle a pickup truck during a car wash benefiting the Pisano family of Springfield. Brenda Pisano and her unborn child died in last month's auto accident near Tabor, leaving behind her husband, Jim, and their five children.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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SPRINGFIELD — Friends and even complete strangers have rallied around the family of a Springfield woman who — along with her unborn child — died in a June 7 auto accident near Tabor.

Thirty-six-year-old Brenda Sue Pisano left behind her husband, Jim, and their five children: sons Dakota, Trevor and Justin, and daughters Amber and Serenity, all of Springfield.

Family friend Tanya Crockett cannot even imagine the pain felt by the Pisanos. "You just want to open your arms and hold your own children a little closer," she said. "And as a mother — your heart aches for the Pisano children."

Accounts have been set up at the Services Center Federal Credit Union in Springfield. Cub Scout Pack 86 of Spring-



field has set up the "Jim Pisano Family Benefit Fund."

The Springfield ambulance crew practiced a form of "pay it forward," said Ashlea Pruss, the ambulance director and a Pisano family friend.

"We received a donation from the Bargain Shoppe in Tyndall (which supports area causes)," Pruss said. "Shortly after we got the donation, when Brenda passed away, we decided to turn around and start up a fund (for the Pisanos) with the money."

Brenda Pisano had worked as a certi-

fied nursing assistant until moving to Springfield last July. She then worked at the Springfield Assisted Living Center and had started working at the Good Samaritan Center in Tyndall in April.

At the time of her death, she was studying for her South Dakota Nursing Board Exam to become a registered nurse. Pisano also had been studying for a time to become an emergency medical technician (EMT) and to join the Springfield ambulance crew.

"Brenda started the EMT class in September, shortly after they moved here," Pruss said. "But (the EMT course) became too much for her with five kids, a full-time job and taking classes to get the next step in her nursing degree."

Pisano may have put her EMT training on hold, but the Springfield ambulance

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