



Storms Likely Before Noon

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Take Third
World Cup**

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Yankton Celebrates A Booming Fourth



Yankton celebrated the Fourth of July in a big way this weekend, with fireworks, music and other activities. ABOVE: Yankton Area Arts kicked off its summer concert series with performances by Livin' Free (shown) and Saving Vinyl City at the Riverside Park amphitheatre. (Kelly Hertz/P&D) BELOW: Earlier in the day, the Memorial Park swimming pool hosted its annual Swim Carnival, a free afternoon of swimming and games, including a diving competition. (Jeremy Hoeck/P&D). LEFT: The holiday activities were capped off with a fireworks display along the Missouri River at Riverside Park. Thousands of residents showed up at the park, went on the Meridian Bridge (as this couple did) or stationed themselves at strategic points to catch the 20-minute show. (Hertz)



Nebraska

Marriage Equality May Mean Profits

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow same-sex marriage could be good news for businesses that serve couples, from wedding planners to divorce attorneys.

Businesses that help plan and stage weddings said they expect a boost from gay and lesbian couples who can now marry legally Nebraska, instead of traveling elsewhere.

Shelly Richardson, the owner of Event Design in Lincoln, said couples in the past would often wed in states like Iowa, which legalized same-sex marriage in 2009, and host a separate reception in Nebraska. Now, Richardson said she expects more gay and lesbian couples will hold their formal ceremonies in Nebraska as well.

"We do expect an increase in business," she said. "It's definitely a good thing for wedding businesses."

The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln has fielded a handful of calls from couples interested in using the venue for wedding receptions, said general manager Susan Madsen.

"We've only booked a couple at this time, but we hope to see an uptick," Madsen said. "We're marketing that we're open to hosting these special events."

Nebraska's two largest counties have seen a trickle of marriage applicants since the June 26 ruling. The Douglas County Clerk's office in Omaha had issued 21 as of Thursday afternoon, while the Lancaster County Clerk in Lincoln had issued 27.

A 2014 study by the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute found that extending marriage rights to Nebraska same-sex couples could generate \$8 million in economic activity over three

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Filmmaker To Focus Camera On Former POW's Vietnam Journey

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Many Americans try not to think much about the Vietnam War.

John Mollison is working to make sure they never forget.

The Sioux Falls public relations, marketing and advertising executive — and filmmaker — was scheduled to depart over the weekend for eight days in Vietnam. He is accompanying Capt. Charlie Plumb, a former Navy fighter pilot who was a prisoner of war (POW) in the former North Vietnam for nearly six years.

Mollison, a journalism graduate from South Dakota State University, will use the material from the trip for a documentary. He has worked with the South Dakotan Newspaper Association (SDNA) on making arrangements for providing material from the trip to South Dakota newspapers.

"As far as the Vietnam War, I believe it was one of the pivotal moments of the 20th century," he said. "The case could be made that it had just as much impact as World War II."

Mollison plans to capture Plumb's emotions and memories upon returning to a place that represents so many painful experiences.

Plumb grew up in Kansas and graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, according to his biography. He went on to fly the F-4 Phantom jet on 74 successful combat missions over Vietnam.

On his 75th mission, with only five days before



Mollison

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'Onward' Deadline Draws Near

BY ROB NIELSEN
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After getting off to big start April 1, the submission deadline for Yankton's next big idea is quickly closing in.

Onward Yankton will officially close its site to new idea entries on Thursday, July 9, at midnight.

Onward committee member Heidi Marsh told the *Press & Dakotan* there's been a great response during the last three months.

"The last stretch of Onward Yankton has been really successful," Marsh said. "We have over 350 ideas submitted."

Committee member RJ Rieger told the *Press & Dakotan* that response far surpassed his expectations.

"We started this back in (the fall) of 2014 as a smaller group of us getting together ... trying to figure out the right people to bring in for additional help in areas," Rieger said. "At that time, I didn't really know what to expect out of this when we got rolling with it. When we rolled everything out to the public on April 1, I personally was hoping we'd have 100 good ideas come in. We're at 355 as of (June 22)."

As of July 3, there are 377 ideas submitted, 258 of which were posted online.

There had been more than 50,000 visits to the website since its launch.

Rieger added that he's thrilled with the positive input the contest has garnered.

"The community has had really positive responses," he said. "We have not had the naysayers that you see a lot of times making comments on our Facebook. Only good, positive and helpful posts."

Marsh said she's noticed some very high-quality ideas coming across in the final days of the contest.

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Education The Key For Mo. River Summer Programs

BY JEREMY HOECK
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If awareness and education are the goals for the National Park Service (NPS), summer programs during the next five weeks should provide a perfect opportunity to meet those aims.

Starting today (Monday) and running through Aug. 13, rangers from the Missouri National Recreational River will offer Territorial Capitol programs, Meridian Bridge Tours and Mobile Ranger Station exhibits each week.

While the programs may be designed for visitors, they will also serve to education Yankton residents, according to park ranger Teresa Mentzer.

"Like always, we can take for granted things that are right under our noses," she said during Saturday's Independence Day exhibit at



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The Missouri National Recreational River's Mobile Ranger Station will play a key role in the National Park Service's summer education programs, which begin today (Monday) in Yankton and run through Aug. 13.

Riverside Park.

With that mind, rangers plan to showcase the history of the only national park in the northeast Nebraska-southeast South Dakota region.

NPS rangers will be at the Territorial Capitol replica at Riverside Park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Along with special exhibits and activities, rangers will be available to answer questions

and conduct tours of the Meridian Bridge.

The Missouri National Recreational River's Mobile Ranger Station will be set up for visitors from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday in the parking area near the north entrance on the lower portion of the bridge.

If visitors walk away having learned something, that's the goal, Mentzer said.

"It's not unusual to meet people from Yankton who didn't realize there was a national park right here," she said.

Seasonal park ranger Joe Delvaux said he also hears similar comments, that residents know about the river but not about the park.

"People's conceptualization of a national park is

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