



YANKTON DAILY
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State Tourney Berth • 7**



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Inside



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Bird Flu Progress?

USDA: Vaccine Works On Chickens; Testing On Turkeys

BY DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Scientists have developed a vaccine strain that has tested 100 percent effective in protecting chickens from bird flu and testing is underway to see if it also protects turkeys, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told the House Agriculture Committee at a hearing on Wednesday.

If it does, the agency plans to quickly license it for widespread production and is seeking funding from the Office of Management and Budget to stockpile it nationally.

“Hopefully we’ll be able to get a lot of folks working collaboratively together and we stockpile enough so that if this does hit and hits us hard we’re in a position to respond quickly,” Vilsack said.

Developing a vaccine targeted to the H5N2

virus that has killed 48 million birds since early March in 15 states, including hardest-hit Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska, is one aspect of planning for a potential recurrence of the bird flu, Vilsack said.

Scientists believe the virus was spread through the droppings of wild birds migrating

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L&C Visitor Stats Making Waves



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This Jet Ski provided some serious entertainment for these people of Lewis and Clark Lake last weekend. State officials say visitor numbers at the Lewis and Clark Recreation

Area are up over last year, with increased camping and more programs helping to attract visitors.

Our Towns | Bon Homme Co.

Science Teacher To Receive Award From Obama

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TYNDALL – When she visits Washington, D.C., next week, Janet Wagner will receive an award – and it won’t be the only thing presidential about the ceremony.

The Bon Homme science teacher will receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). She and Huron High School math teacher Lindsey Brewer are South Dakota’s two recipients.

President Obama named the 108 educators receiving the award. In addition, he is scheduled to meet the recipients at a July 31 White House ceremony, Wagner said.

“We go straight to the White House and get the award from him,” she said, noting it will mark the first time she will meet a president.

For Wagner, the presidential award marks a fitting finale as she concludes her teaching career.

“This will be my 42nd year of teaching, and it will be my last year,” she said. “This is a nice way to go out.”

She graduated from the University of South Dakota/Springfield with a double major in health and physical



Wagner

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Park Numbers Show Healthy Rise

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Yankton Lewis & Clark Recreation area continues to be a major tourism area for South Dakota. This year, numbers are up and the economic value of visitors to the area continues to rise.

“Year-to-date camping numbers are strong,” District Supervisor Shane Bertsch told the *Press & Dakotan* this week.

Lewis and Clark Recreation Area has had 14,709 camping units (one night’s stay in a camper or tent) through June of this year. This is up 8 percent over last year’s numbers. Pierson Ranch Recreation camping units are up 15 percent and Chief White Crane Recreation Area is up 6 percent. The total park visitation is also up 7

percent for the district through June.

The reason for these increased numbers could be attributed to the variety of extended stays occurring at the park. Most visitors are staying longer than just the weekend, Bertsch noted. Weekday camp numbers have been on the rise, as well.

“The early spring in the middle of March allowed us to open a couple more buildings for the season,” Bertsch said.

Another reason for the increase could be attributed to the emphasis on public programs. This summer, the park naturalists have offered more park events during the weekdays, which may have contributed to the extended stays at the park.

For example, on June 26, Lewis & Clark hosted a “Becoming an Outdoor Family” event, which provided each family

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Contact Center Provides Backpacks For Children

BY REILLY BIEL
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Providing a child a backpack of his or her choosing might not seem like much, but it means everything to the kids.

“I like to see the excitement on the kids’ faces when they get to pick out their own backpack,” said Kelly Stanage, an employee of Yankton’s Contact Center. “We don’t want to see any of the kids go without them.”

That’s why each year since 2004, the Contact Center has helped provide backpacks for grade school children from low-income



BACKPACK | PAGE 14

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