

Press & Dakotan

(USPS 946-520)

© 2010, Yankton Media, Inc.

75 CENTS

The Oldest Daily Newspaper Of The Dakotas • www.yankton.net

VOLUME 136, NUMBER 49

YPD: No Evidence Of 'Bandit' Here

Intruder's Break-In, Other Thefts Stir Rumors

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Although speculation has been rampant in media reports that an intruder in a Yankton home last week was a fugitive from the law who has gained notoriety on the West Coast, police have been unable to confirm those suspicions.

After teletyping facts about a case unfolding in Yankton last week to other law enforcement agencies, Yankton's assistant police chief, Jerry Hisek, said his

department began receiving calls from other authorities warning that it could be a 19-year-old man named Colton Harris-Moore.

He is also known as the "Barefoot Bandit" because he allegedly leaves his bare footprints at the scenes of his crimes.

According to the *Seattle Times*, Harris-Moore has been on the run from authorities since April 2008 when he escaped from a Renton, Wash., halfway house. He had been serving time for burglarizing

Camano Island homes. Since his escape, he has eluded authorities while allegedly being involved in a rash of thefts in Washington, British Columbia and Idaho. Among the crimes he is believed to have been responsible for are the theft of boats, airplanes and luxury cars, as well as break-ins at homes and businesses.

"A lot of people are saying it was the 'Barefoot Bandit,'" Hisek said. "I don't have anything to confirm or deny that what we had here was him. It fits his M.O. It fits his description. But we have no physical evidence at this time to show it

■ BANDIT, Page 15 please



COURTESY PHOTO
This photo of 19-year-old man Colton Harris-Moore, also known as the "Barefoot Bandit," was taken in 2009.

For Family, Break-In Was Starling, Unsettling

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Members of the Kelly Kneiff family were looking forward to crawling into their beds back in Yankton early Friday morning but were instead startled by a nightmare awaiting them.

Arriving at their home in the 400 block of Belmont Avenue around 3 a.m. Friday after visiting

"I came around the steps, and it was pitch black. (The intruder) said, 'Stop! I've got a gun! I'll shoot! I'll shoot!' There was a laser light of some kind pointing in my direction. I turned around, went back upstairs and got out of the house."

KELLY KNEIFF

"We opened the garage door and drove in," Kelly recalled.

"My wife got out with our youngest daughter and was carrying her into the house when she noticed the entry door

between the house and the garage was locked but not shut. That wasn't how we remembered leaving it. She commented to me that it seemed strange.

"The interior door in the breezeway was open a little, and she saw a hand reach and grab the door to slam it shut," he continued. "She screamed, and I bolted past her to throw the door open. There was a young man turning around to run the other way. He was naked, ran three or four steps and then jumped over the banister into the basement. I came around the steps, and it was pitch black. He said, 'Stop! I've got a gun! I'll shoot! I'll shoot!' There was a laser light of some kind pointing in my direction. I turned around, went back upstairs and got out of the house."

■ FAMILY, Page 15 please

INSIDEtoday



Soccer Fever

■ Area Soccer Players, Fans Are Keeping A Close Eye On The World Cup. PAGE 8

OUR TOWNS

■ ETCHING: Hartington Artist Turns A Hobby Into A Business. PAGE 7

WEATHER

9 a.m. 77°
3 p.m. 86°
Scattered strong thunderstorms

PAGE 2

INDEX

Weather	2
Region	2-3
Obituaries	3
Viewpoints	4
Life	5
Comics	6
Our Towns	7
Sports	8-10
Midwest	11, 16
Nation/World	12
Classifieds	13-15
Crosswords	14

RECYCLING

River City Recycling This Week
SOUTH of 15th St.



TOMORROW

■ AG-TRAVIGANZA:
Chamber Hosts Ag Gala
* * *



CHASE ENDS IN FIERY CRASH



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The driver of this vehicle was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries after a chase involving Yankton County law enforcement ended in this crash into a tree near the intersection of Eighth and West City Limits Road just before 8 p.m. Monday night. According to authorities, the pursuit began in the lake area along Highway 52. Because county law enforcement was involved, the South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. Also on the scene were the Yankton police, firefighters and EMTs.

DECISION 2010

Charles Mix Co. Race Result Stands

Recount In Vermillion
Race Slated For Today

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Two weeks after the June 8 election, a Charles Mix County race has been decided following a recount.

Meanwhile, a Vermillion City Council race could be decided today (Tuesday) in the city's first recount in more than 20 years.

In Charles Mix County, Monday's recount found Randy Thaler remaining the winner over Derek Laska in the Democratic primary for sheriff. Thaler, a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper, defeated Laska, a Charles Mix County

deputy sheriff, 507-501. Monday's recount produced the same result for the two Lake Andes candidates, said Deputy Auditor Kristina Kranig.

The election night vote count stood at 506-500. During the election canvass, the Charles Mix County commissioners counted an additional two provisional ballots, awarding one to each candidate.

State law allows a recount for county races when the different falls within 2 percent of the total votes cast, Kranig said. Laska requested a recount following the canvass, she said.

"We haven't had a recount since I have been here, for the past four years," the deputy auditor said.

In accordance with state law, Charles Mix County Auditor Angie Meyerink contacted Judge Arthur Rusch of Vermillion.

the presiding judge for the First Judicial Circuit.

In turn, Rusch appointed a three-member recount board, Kranig said. "The recount board must contain an attorney, and it must be bipartisan," she said.

Lake Andes attorney Tim Whalen served as the referee. Darlene Tappe of Platte represented the Republicans, while Todd Doom of Wagner represented the Democrats.

The board decided to conduct the recount by machine rather than by hand. Thaler was in attendance, while Laska sent a representative, Kranig said.

The recount lasted about 1 1/2 hours. As the Democratic primary winner, Thaler advances to the November gener-

■ COUNTY, Page 16 please

Fox Run Honored With Employment Award

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course has gone out of its way to improve employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, according to the South Dakota Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. At a ceremony held last month, Gov. Mike Rounds presented Scott Larson, the PGA Professional at Fox Run Golf Course, with the Outstanding Public Employer of the Year Award. The golf course received a plaque for its accomplishments.

"It was pretty exciting to receive the award," Larson said.

The award is given to a local, county, state or federal government entity of any size. Past winners include the Mitchell Department of Public Safety, the 28th Mission Support Squadron at Ellsworth

Air Force Base and the City of Sioux Falls.

"It is nice to see Scott Larson get recognized for the work that he does with community organizations, not only with employment opportunities, but also with the events and clinics he conducts that serve different organizations in Yankton," said Yankton City Manager Doug Russell.

According to the introduction given at the May ceremony, "The Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton is an example of an employer that leads by example. Fox Run Golf Course Manager Scott Larson exemplifies an open and positive attitude towards employing people with disabilities. He values their contributions and provides a welcoming environment that has benefited his entire employee team. All staff are treated with dignity and

■ HONOR, Page 15 please



COURTESY PHOTO

Fox Run Golf Course Manager Scott Larson recently accepted the Outstanding Public Employer of the Year Award from Gov. Mike Rounds during a ceremony in Pierre.

Fremont OKs Restrictions On Illegal Immigrants

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press Writer

FREMONT, Neb. — Voters in the eastern Nebraska city of Fremont on Monday approved a ban on hiring or renting property to illegal immigrants, the latest proposal in a series of immigration regulations taken up by communities around the country.

About 57 percent of voters in Fremont supported the proposal, according to unofficial results that still must be certified by the election commissioner. The measure is likely to face a long and costly court battle, with the American Civil Liberties Union saying it will try to block it before it even goes into effect.

The town of about 25,000 people has watched as its Hispanic population surged in the past two decades, largely due to the jobs available at the nearby Fremont Beef and Hormel meatpacking plants. The city also has an enviably low unemployment rate that matches the Nebraska rate of 4.9 percent.

Nonetheless, residents worry that jobs are going to illegal immigrants who they fear could drain community resources. Proponents of the ballot measure collected enough signatures and

■ VOTE, Page 16 please

INFECTION RATES 37 TIMES LOWER THAN EXPECTED RATES

Choose With Confidence.

Choose Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.



www.AveraSacredHeart.com/surgeryfacts

Look no further.