



Partly Cloudy With Scattered T-Storms

9 a.m.: **75** | 3 p.m.: **84** | DETAILS: PAGE 2A

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YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Find Baby Wildlife? Let It Be

Experts Say Human Interference Can Lead To Animal Fatalities

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Earlier this month, Rocky, a five-week-old baby raccoon, was brought into the Yankton Veterinary Clinic. He had no signs of injury or disease, and just days earlier had been playing with his siblings.

Five days later, Rocky had to be euthanized. With more people picking up baby wildlife this year, instances like these are becoming far too common, according to Dr. Janet Messner at the Yankton

Veterinary Clinic.

"What I'm seeing happening more than I would like to is people picking up baby wildlife that are either with their mother, waiting for their mother or, at any rate, don't need to be rescued," said Messner, who has seen triple the amount of baby wildlife cases this year as opposed to normal years.

Messner believes more people are picking up baby wildlife because of the increase in wildlife population, most likely brought on by the warmer weather during the winter, which allowed the ani-

mals to breed earlier.

In Rocky's case, a young man picked him up while the baby raccoon was waiting for his mother. The man took the raccoon to his mother's house, where it was handled by several children in the neighborhood. One child who had played with the raccoon had cuts on his hand, and his mother, concerned about the potential spread of rabies through



COURTESY PHOTO

Rocky, a five-week-old raccoon, was brought into the Yankton Veterinary Clinic after being taken from the wild. He was euthanized five days later so he could be tested for rabies.

WILDLIFE | PAGE 11A

INSIDE TODAY



Photographer Puts Mead On Display

RIVER CITY



Tips To Keep Your Men Healthy

USA WEEKEND

SPORTS



Yankton Falls To Vermillion In Legion Action • **7A**

CAPITOL IDEA



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

National Park Service rangers (from left) Chris Wilkinson, Christie Eckel and Dugan Smith stand ready to assist visitors at the Dakota Territorial Capitol replica, seen in the background at Riverside Park in Yankton. Under a new agreement with the City of Yankton, the NPS will staff the capitol during weekdays. The rangers are also offering interpretive hikes over Meridian Bridge three times a day, seven days a week.

NPS Offers New Programs At Bridge, Territorial Capitol

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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In past years, the Territorial Capitol replica in Yankton's Riverside Park sat closed most of the summer, its rich history unavailable to visitors.

But now, the capitol will remain open weekdays thanks to an agreement between the City of Yankton and the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS is staffing the city-owned building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and during special events.

NPS employees will greet visitors with information and history about Yankton, the wild and scenic Missouri River and the surrounding area, according to Ranger Dugan Smith.

"This will be a great partnership with Yankton," he said. "We will still have our office headquarters in Yankton, which is open 8-4:30 weekdays. But this arrangement will enable us to be down here at the river."

Under the agreement, the city retains ownership

of the capitol, Smith said. The NPS will staff the building through mid-August and may offer special events on Fridays, he added.

The capitol replica houses river-related items and information that will appeal to both local residents and visitors, Smith said.

"We have developed new interpretive programs that are now in place," he said. "It's another educational, interpretive opportunity locally and regionally for Yankton and the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR)."

The NPS is taking advantage of the territorial capitol's proximity to Meridian Bridge by offering free interpretive hikes on the 1924 structure, Smith said. The bridge formerly carried motor traffic until it was replaced by the Discovery Bridge in 2008.

The two-tiered Meridian Bridge re-opened last fall for hiking and biking. The interpretive hikes will be offered seven days a week at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. However, the public can continue

CAPITOL | PAGE 11A

City Discusses Hiring Help For Sports Complex Plan

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Is a consultant needed to help Yankton determine what its sports complex needs are?

The general consensus of the Yankton City Commission Thursday night was that it is a logical step.

Outgoing City Manager Doug Russell raised the issue at the conclusion of a special meeting held to review Yankton's five-year capital improvement plan. No official actions were taken.

"I'd almost recommend in this budget year we put money aside for a consultant to come in and really identify and provide recommendations," Russell said during his last meeting with the commissioners before assuming the same position in Kalispell, Mont. His final day as city manager is today (Friday).

That report would address what the community needs in terms of a multi-sport complex and how much it would cost. To get to that point, the commission believes various youth athletic groups, the Yankton School District, Mount Marty College, the National Field Archery Association and other potential stakeholders will need to be a part of the process.

Once the needs have been determined, Russell said it should be "put out for a potential (property tax) opt-out election to see what the community really wants."

Perhaps a business improvement district that charges a fee for overnight stays could be formed to fund ongoing maintenance of the complex, he suggested. So far, attempts to create a business improvement district have stalled because hotel owners cannot agree on a common purpose for the up to \$2-per-night fee on a room.

"I really think the groups are going to have to get behind it to make it their own project," Commissioner David Knoff said. "If not, (the effort) is going to fail. That's what it's going to come down to."

Russell speculated that a consultant could cost as much as \$70,000. Staff will write up a scope of work for the study that can be put out in a request for proposals.

Mayor Nancy Wenande expressed some reservations about attempting an opt-out for a sports complex in light of two recent defeats the Yankton School District has experienced seeking an opt-out.

"Don't you think education should be the primary focus if there is a limited amount of tax dollars?" she

CITY | PAGE 11A

Search For Missing Neb. Man Continues

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Attempts to locate a missing Nebraska man made little headway Thursday, according to Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen.

Jeffrey Leo Potts, 47, was last seen in the Yankton area on Saturday, June 9, between 8 p.m. and midnight.

Paulsen said a plane was used to search for Potts Wednesday afternoon, but a helicopter could not be procured. However, the search was called off when authorities received a report Wednesday that Potts had been seen Monday.

"We reviewed video footage, and it



Potts

was determined he was not in the establishment (Monday)," Paulsen said. Potts last whereabouts were discovered via his cell phone activity between midnight and 1 a.m. Sunday.

"He was standing within 10 feet of the shore on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River by the Discovery Bridge," Paulsen said. "That call was to a son, and he was requesting help from the son."

The call was not urgent, according to Paulsen.

"Having all leads exhausted, we'll probably be doing a formal search tomorrow (Friday)," the police chief said.

Potts was last seen wearing a light-colored T-shirt, blue jeans and a baseball-style hat. He is approximately 6 feet tall and weighs about 175 pounds.

According to police reports, Potts was allegedly involved in the assault of a man at an establishment in the 100 block of East Third Street at 8:19 p.m. Saturday. The victim was transported to the emergency room.

"The victim of that assault is not cooperating with law enforcement, so

SEARCH | PAGE 11A



SWOOPING IN TO CZECH DAYS

One of the attractions at Thursday's opening night of the annual Czech Days celebration in Tabor was this Blackhawk helicopter, flown in by the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) in Rapid City. Hundreds of vehicle flocked to see the vehicle, which was among several SDNG vehicles and displays on hand just outside the ballpark. The SDNG presence at Czech Days was sponsored by the Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks Display committee, which also produced a pyrotechnics show following the South Central League baseball game between Tabor and Avon. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



JUNE 29-30, 2012 • RIVERSIDE PARK
SURVIVORS' LAP • 6:00 PM



REGION 2A | OBITUARIES 3A | MIDWEST 3A | VIEWS 4A | WORLD 5A | SPORTS 7A-8A | CLASSIFIEDS 9A-11A

TOMORROW: Doug Russell Bids Goodbye To Yankton

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET