



Tyndall Musician Set For
Dakota Theatre Stage
RIVER CITY

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Shades Of Spring



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

There isn't a pot of gold at the end of this rural rainbow, but a rain shower will due in a pinch. A year after enduring a brutal drought, much of the region received plenty of rain this spring, producing welcome sights such as this rainbow in northern Yankton County in late March. To see more images from the spring season, see today's River City on Page 1B.

Extension Specialist:

May Rain Boosted Drought Recovery

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Record amounts of precipitation in May throughout areas of the Midwest and Great Plains have helped the region continue the huge strides it has made in drought recovery over the past three months, an Extension climate field specialist said Thursday.

"There's been quite a substantial bit of moisture that's come in the way of precipitation that's come in the last month or so of the season," said Laura Edwards during the monthly Midwest and Great Plains Drought and Climate Update webinar. "We've seen quite a bit of improvement in the northern

plains in the way of soil moisture."

Iowa statewide recorded its wettest May on record with 4.77 inches of precipitation above average, and North Dakota had its second wettest May with more than 3 inches above its long-term average. South Dakota was not far behind, Edwards said, with precipitation totals placing in the top 15 on record.

Yankton did not see as much precipitation, as its 3.46 inches of May rainfall fell closely in line with its longterm average of 3.51 inches for the month.

Edwards said the impact of May's precipitation could be seen using the U.S. Drought Monitor, the latest of which was released Thursday.

The current map shows most areas of southeast South Dakota in the moderate drought to abnormally dry categories, compared to the extreme, severe and moderate categories it was enduring a month ago.

Northeast Nebraska also saw improvement, as areas that were experiencing extreme drought last month have been downgraded to severe or moderate drought.

Even more substantial gains can be seen when considering the last three months, Edwards said.

In South Dakota, only 9 percent of the state is experiencing severe to exceptional drought,

DROUGHT | PAGE 2A

House Rejects Farm Bill

62 Republicans Vote 'No'

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House rejected a five-year, half-trillion-dollar farm bill Thursday that would have cut \$2 billion annually from food stamps and let states impose broad new work requirements on those who receive them.

Those cuts weren't deep enough for many Republicans who objected to the cost of the nearly \$80 billion-a-year food stamp program, which has doubled in the past five years. The vote was 234-195 against the bill, with 62 Republicans voting against it.

The bill also suffered from lack of Democratic support necessary for the traditionally bipartisan farm bill to pass. Only 24 Democrats voted in favor of the legislation after many said the food stamp cuts could remove as many as 2 million needy recipients from the rolls. The addition of the optional state work requirements by Republican amendment just before final passage turned away many remaining Democratic votes.

Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., and No. 2 Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland, both of whom voted for the bill, immediately took to the House floor and blamed the other's party for the defeat.

Cantor said it was a "disappointing day" and that Democrats had been a "disappointing player."

Hoyer suggested that Republicans voted for the food stamp work requirements to tank the bill.

"What happened today is you turned a bipartisan bill, necessary for our farmers, necessary for our consumers, necessary for the people of America, that many of us would have supported, and you turned it into a partisan bill," he said.

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COME FLY WITH ME



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

Yankton community members were given the chance to ride in the 1929 Ford Tri-Motor airplane pictured above. The aircraft flew above the city of Yankton and around the lake Thursday afternoon, and will be in town to give rides through Sunday. The plane will then leave for Mitchell on Monday.

Flights On Historic Plane Offer Unique Look At Yankton

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
news@yankton.net

Members of the Yankton community had the opportunity to see the town from a different kind of view Thursday afternoon.

The local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and the Yankton Regional Aviation Association (YRAA) sponsored flights in a 1929 Ford Tri-Motor airplane, which flew over the city.

The plane was designed by Henry Ford in 1929, and was targeted toward the airline travel market. It

is touring the country this summer, stopping in 11 states to offer rides.

In 1973 the plane was smashed during a thunderstorm, but after a 12-year restoration the plane was debuted in Oshkosh, Wis., and still gives rides there now.

Pilot Ashley Messenger, who is also a volunteer, flew the aircraft Thursday afternoon. He said the plane was the first of its kind to be built completely from aluminum, and changed the industry.

PLANE | PAGE 12A

Animal Collection Draws Visitors To Local Eatery

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

CROFTON, Neb. — In between flipping burgers and filling weekend buffet dishes, Barry Meyer collects and displays a large collection of North America animals — stuffed by a local licensed taxidermist. His collection is housed at CJ's on the Lake, an eatery and convenience store, near the Weigand-Burbach State Recreation Area on Lewis & Clark Lake north of Crofton.

Meyer, owner of CJ's, started his fascination with stuffed animals when he was 14 years old. For years, his collection was housed in the basement of his home in Wisner where he operated a very successful exterminator business. As his family grew and his business prospered, they started coming to Lewis & Clark Lake for recreation and purchased a cabin 25 years ago.

The first owner of CJ's only operated the storefront lake business for three years when he decided the booming business was more than he could handle. Meyer's wife encouraged Barry to buy the business but he shied away at first. Coming to the lake to relax was one thing, but working there was questionable.

His exterminating business was operating very successfully in Meyer's son's hands and he watched as a new owner tried to run CJ's for a summer and failed. His wife told him it was a sign — he should buy it.

"My parents ran a mom-and-pop café for 45 years and I grew up working there," said Meyer. "My wife thought it was a perfect fit."

And she was right. That was 11 years ago, and Meyer said he is very happy and busy on the lake,



PHOTO: LINDA WUEBBEN

These mounted animals are on display at CJ's at the Lake near Crofton. Most of these critters belong to Barry Meyer, who owns the lakeside eatery and is a longtime collector of stuffed animals.

with every year being better than the last. Even during last year's drought, he supplied campers with every need.

There also was a plus. Meyer could move his animal collection to the new business and his wife could decorate the basement her way.

The current collection of 167 animal species has been a great attraction. Through the years, the animals draw questions and comments and Meyer is always eager to share his stories.

Meyer's claim to fame is a six-foot piece of whale baleen complete with bristles similar to a comb, which is what whales use to collect their food since some species have no teeth. This specimen is a very rare item to own because there is a

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