



YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**



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# Flood Threat Diminishing

Big Sioux River Crests Below Previous Record Level

BY DIRK LAMMERS AND DAVID PITT  
Associated Press

NORTH SIOUX CITY (AP) — A swollen river that threatened homes where Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota meet crested earlier and at a lower level than expected early Friday. Minnesota officials toured water-logged areas of that state, saying the severity and breadth of flooding make a federal disaster request a near certainty.

The less-serious crest of the Big Sioux River prompted crews to start taking down sandbags and other containers blocking a section of Interstate 29 that acted as a temporary levee to protect an at-risk South Dakota city.

The National Weather Service had predicted the river would hit a record high around midday, but later said it crested at Sioux City, Iowa, around midnight a couple of feet below the previous record.

Days of thunderstorms upstream swelled the 420-mile-long river and threatened homes and businesses in the three surrounding states, including up to 400 in a neighborhood of North Sioux City, South Dakota.

also

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# Johnson Continues Fight Against Drugs

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson of South Dakota has sought to crack down on crime - particularly drug use and dealing - in Indian Country.

Now, Johnson has added a new partner in his crime-fighting efforts.

J.R. LaPlante, currently South Dakota's first Secretary of Tribal Relations, will join the U.S. attorney's office in Sioux Falls later this year. This spring, LaPlante announced he was resigning his tribal-relations cabinet position effective Aug. 1 in order to take the federal position.

Johnson spoke of his plans for the new assistant U.S. attorney during a recent visit to Yankton.

"We worked to get J.R. to the U.S. Attorney's office," Johnson told the *Press & Dakotan*. "He has the important connections with Indian Country. He can communicate and bring people together. He has the style and strengths to put things together. And he is a very good lawyer. We need his legal skills."

LaPlante, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, will head up the Community Prosecution and

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# Old School Equipment



Members of the Tabor Fire Department pull an old-style hose unit during the Czech Days parade on Friday in Tabor.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

# Czech Days Returns For 66th Celebration

BY KAYLA PRASEK  
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TABOR — Traditional food, music, dancing and crafts are not only the heart of the Czech heritage, but they're also the focus of this year's Czech Days celebration.

At Friday's opening program, the 66th Czech Days celebration was dedicated to Josie Kutilek, who helped plan and promote Czech Days for years.

"Czech Days meant everything to grandma," said Ruthie Smith of Tabor, a granddaughter of Kutilek. "For our family, it was a national holiday. All the friends and relatives would come home, and we all still come home."

Having this year's Czech Days dedicated to Kutilek is special for her entire extended family, Smith said.

"We're very excited and blessed and honored that it's dedicated to grandma this year," she said. "We're blessed to be able to enjoy our Czech heritage together."

Smith said it is important to her family to keep many aspects of the Czech heritage alive, which is why Czech Days is important.

"It's important to keep the dancing alive," Smith said. "It's cool to see all of the dancers in their costumes, celebrating their heritage. My mom and grandma did the kolace demonstration for years, and members of my family still continue to make them."

Those kolaces are one of the most popular food items the Altar and Rosary Society serves each year, said GERALYN HELLMANN of Tabor, president of the Altar and Rosary Society.

"We had two baking days and baked 252 dozen kolaces this year," Hellmann said. "People always buy them by the dozen."

The rest of the menu for the weekend includes other traditional Czech foods, such as dumplings and sauerkraut.

"Church members volunteer and bring food, then we prepare everything here (at Beseda Hall)," Hellmann said. "Food

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The reigning Czech Days royalty take to the annual parade to welcome visitors to the 66th annual event on Friday.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

# Yankton Native Has Role In 'Jersey Boys' Film

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A graduate of Yankton High School can now be seen on a movie screen near you.

Lacey Hannan, 27, plays Angela in the film version of the popular Tony Award-winning musical "Jersey Boys." The movie, which was made by Oscar-winning director Clint Eastwood, tells the story of the 1960s rock group The Four Seasons.

"I saw the musical a couple weeks ago in Sioux Falls," Hannan, who lives in Los Angeles but still returns to the Yankton area to visit family, told the *Press & Dakotan* during a phone interview this week. "On Tuesday, we got to do the L.A. cast and crew screening. That was my first time seeing the film. It was really good. The guys (who play The Four Seasons) are amazing. I think people will really enjoy it."

Hannan has had roles in independent films, but "Jersey Boys" marks her first role in a major Hollywood production.

"Getting cast in 'Jersey Boys' was great for me because, at the time, I had just gotten my acting manager," she said. "It was the first thing he sent me out on. I auditioned for a smaller part and got called back for two different, and bigger, roles. He was very excited, and it put me in good standing."

Hannan describes the character Angela as singer Frankie Valli's first groupie.

"They both try to take advantage of that, and it doesn't



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton native Lacey Hannan attended the 2014 Los Angeles Film Festival premiere of "Jersey Boys" Thursday at the Regal Cinemas L.A. Live. She plays Angela in the film about The Four Seasons. Hannan is seen here with "Jersey Boys" co-star Michael Lomenda, who plays Four Seasons member Nick Massi.

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# Nursing Students File Lawsuit Against MMC

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Six graduates of Mount Marty College's master of science in nursing (MSN) program have filed a lawsuit against the institution.

The Yankton liberal arts college was informed by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) May 19 that accreditation was not granted for the new program, leaving 19 graduates unable to pursue jobs as nurse practitioners.

The lawsuit was filed with the circuit court system in Minnehaha County.

Plaintiffs Don Wipf, Jennifer Coffey, Laura Schultes, Kristin VanBuskirk, Susan Taylor and Jacqueline Kelley allege that Mount Marty College committed a breach of contract, negligence, misrepresentation, fraudulent concealment and unjust enrichment.

They are requesting damages, costs and disbursements, interest and any other relief determined to be just and proper by the court.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

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MONDAY: Czech Days Brings Merriment To Tabor

YANKTON RECYCLING NEXT WEEK:  
**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET