



Sunny, Warm And Breezy

9 a.m.: 50 | 3 p.m.: 72 | DETAILS: PAGE 2

MONDAY ■ March 16, 2015



March Madness Is Poised To Begin!

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A Permit Change?

Bill Eyes State Standards For Neb. Livestock Permits

BY ANNA GRONEWOLD
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A sharp decline in the number of Nebraska dairy farms while neighboring states prosper is driven by inconsistent local zoning regulations, some county officials say, and a measure moving through the Legislature aims to rectify the issue with a mandatory set of standards.

Producers looking to settle livestock operations in Nebraska are deterred by regulations that vary across 93 counties, Merrick County zoning administrator Jen Myers said.

State agriculture department data shows that since 1999, Nebraska has lost 553 dairy farms, and is down to 195 licensed operations. And in the last decade, the number of cows in Nebraska decreased by 11 percent, while South Dakota, Kansas, and Colorado have grown by 14, 20 and 38 percent respectively.

Sen. Dan Watermeier is sponsoring a bill that would allow the agriculture department to create a matrix of statewide permitting standards to be used by a new seven-member, governor-appointed board in reviewing county decisions to grant or deny special-

use permits for livestock expansion.

"If you look at the makeup of a lot of these county commissioner and county zoning people, they don't have a lot of livestock experience and they're turning to someone else to ask these questions," Watermeier, of Syracuse, said. "So we're going to give them something that's black and white to answer some of the fundamental questions."

Opponents are concerned the board wouldn't have residents' best interests at heart, but supporters say current standards

PERMITS | PAGE 2



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Nathan Johnson will be taking his place on the Yankton City Commission after he was one of three candidates to file for the three open board positions. Johnson, a former city editor at the Press & Dakotan, cites economic development, wages and quality-of-life issues as three areas in which he will focus.

Garage Gone



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

A garage fire near Mission Hill Saturday afternoon resulted in the total loss of the structure. Fire crews from Gayville and Volin responded. The high fire danger predicted in recent days turned out to be accurate as fire crews have responded to several calls throughout the past week. For more, see page 2.

Johnson Looking Forward To Serving Community

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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For Nathan Johnson, former city editor for the Press and Dakotan, keeping a pulse on what's going on in Yankton has been a part of his daily life for more than a decade. So, when his professional path took a new direction, it compelled him to find a new way to stay connected.

His decision: Seek a seat on the Yankton City Commission.

"For 11 years, I was a student of Yankton," Johnson said. "I attended City Commission meetings, County Commission meetings, Yankton Area Progressive Growth meetings, etc. I wrote about businesses and non-profits. I met the people of Yankton day in and day out. These community leaders, business leaders, spiritual leaders — these people from every walk of life — were my teachers. And I made the most of my education."

Johnson, along with incumbents David Carda and David Knoff, filed petitions to fill the three vacant positions on the commission. Because they were the only three candidates to file, the April election was canceled. Johnson will take his seat on the City Commission when the board reorganizes in May.

Last summer, Johnson made a career change that took him to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, where he became communications coordinator. That change gave him the opportunity to serve Yankton in another way.

"Now that I've graduated to another phase of my life, it has opened up new opportunities for me to grow," he said. "I want to pair that education about Yankton with what I've come to understand about community growth and development. Like many residents of this city, I believe in Yankton's potential to be more, and I want to be a part of helping the community grow into a healthy and prosperous future."

With his perspective of having covered almost every news story in the community

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Sports



Huskies Fall In State Finals ■
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Today



Chat With The P&D Sports Staff From 3:30-4:30 p.m.
www.yankton.net

4 DAYS UNTIL SPRING
#ThinkSpring

Cost To Obtain Public Records Varies Widely Across South Dakota

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Before 2009, all government records in South Dakota were considered confidential except for documents that agencies were required to keep. With the Legislature's nearly six-year-old law that opened most records to public inspection, progress has come with a price — literally — that some consider reasonable and others think is excessive.

South Dakota law provides that "a reasonable fee may be charged" for the production and copying of requested records. But the law does not include guidance as to what may be considered reasonable.

"The issue is always affordable access," At-

torney General Marty Jackley said, describing the current concept of reasonable charge as "almost too subjective." He added that "not having any law giving direction other than it has to be a reasonable cost" creates a challenge when addressing concerns from the media and the general public.

Nationwide, the public's right to see government records is coming at an increasing price, as authorities set fees and hourly charges that often prevent information from flowing. Such costs are a growing threat to expanding openness at all levels of government, a cornerstone of Sunshine Week, which celebrates its 10th anniversary beginning March 15.

RECORDS | PAGE 5

Home Show Digging New Location At NFAA

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The Lewis and Clark Home Builders Association's (LCHBA) 10th annual home show seems to have made the most of its own move to a new home at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex.

According to LCHBA member Nick Kisch of Kisch Construction, the event was well attended at its new location.

"We have been excited about the new venue here at the archery center," he said Saturday. "It gives us room for new growth in the future, as well as being able to be held a little earlier in the year in a brighter and warmer venue. We are hoping we can catch people before they start into their projects rather than at the tail end of them."

Several vendors who have presented at past home shows said the numbers of people attending this weekend's show were higher than seen in any previous year.

"We ended up with 50 booths this year, right at or a tick above where we have been in the past," Kisch said. "But what is really exciting us is the number of people we are seeing attend. I think in years past, we have been in the 600-700 person range; the way it started out today, the first two hours have been the busiest it has ever been at a home show here. I think the nice weather the past few days has gotten people excited about projects they want to work on this spring. We are hoping that trend continues and people keep coming in."

Kisch added that the vendors at this year's show included builders, heating and cooling operators, electricians, window installers, landscapers, insurance providers, and much more.

"There is obviously stuff for people who are looking to do home improvement projects, but there are also quite a few

SHOW | PAGE 11



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

The 10th annual Lewis and Clark Home Builders Association Home Show was held this weekend and was well attended. In past years, 600-700 people toured the show, and organizers say they think this year's attendance exceeded those numbers.



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TOMORROW: County Discusses Issues At State Lake

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET