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Is It Branding Time?



ROB NIELSEN/P&D
Nate Welch, executive director of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCDC), speaks to a town hall meeting Wednesday.

Vermillion, Yankton Leaders Discuss Working Together

BY ROB NIELSEN
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VERMILLION — Community leaders from Yankton and Vermillion gathered for the second time in two months Wednesday to discuss ways to close the 23-mile gap between the two cities and work as one entity in developing everything from workforce to tourism.

The town hall meeting, held at the Vermillion Technology Center, brought together a panel that included Vermillion City Council vice-president Kelsey Collier-Wise; Nate Welch, executive director of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCDC); Carmen Schramm, executive director of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce; and Jesse

"IF WE STARTED BRANDING THESE TWO CITIES TOGETHER, WE'D HAVE A POPULATION BASE OF MORE THAN 25,000, WE'D HAVE A COUPLE OF COLLEGES INVOLVED, WE'D HAVE POWERHOUSES IN MEDICAL, MANUFACTURING AND RECREATION AND BANKING."

BEN HANTON

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Legislators Decide Against Delaying Plate-Fee Increases

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State lawmakers purposely decided against delaying increases in license plate fees when they approved the highway and bridge funding legislation on the final day of the main run of the 2015 session last week.

The House of Representatives engaged in a sharp debate Friday, largely between Rep. Thomas Brunner and Rep. Dick Werner, about whether county treasurers were ready to charge the 20 percent fee increases on vehicle registrations.

The increases take effect April 1. Many county treasurers told their county boards of commissioners Tuesday that they must scramble.

Vehicle registrations aren't renewed in April and treasurers said they were told by state officials they wouldn't be allowed to give discounts for May renewals that are made before April 1. However, the Daugaard administration

changed its position late Wednesday afternoon.

"April 1 is the date when the fee switches according to the new Highway Funding Bill," Peggy Laurenz, director of the South Dakota Division of Motor Vehicles said in a news release. "For example, if a customer with a May renewal date were to visit a County Treasurer's Office or a DMV self-service electronic terminal on or before March 31, they would pay the current fee."

Noncommercial vehicle registrations and renewals that occur in a County Treasurer's Office or a DMV electronic terminal on or after April 1, will pay the new fee set forth in the Highway Funding Bill, the news release said.

Brunner, R-Nisland, urged the House on Friday evening to send the legislation back to the conference committee for further negotiations between House and Senate members.

Brunner said county governments wouldn't have much time to be ready, because the legislation as presented would take effect in its entirety, including the license plate increases, April 1.

Brunner wanted counties to receive more time so they could "make it fair for everybody who has to renew their licenses."

He said "the real fair thing" would be to delay the license plate increases until Jan. 1, 2016, so that all renewals would pay the new amounts for the same year.

"With the emergency clause on there, I think we've created kind of a wreck for county treasurers," Brunner said.

Laughing For The LCTC



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
This year's LCTC Theatrical Gala will include a dinner and a show with a live, silent and desert auction. The show will feature Yankton's version of the "David Letterman Show" with Chris Hilson, and the Mike Hilson Band under the direction of Terry Winter. Lelia Elder and Becky Tasa are part of the fundraiser's committee.

LCTC Setting The Stage For Gala

BY JORDYNNE HART
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The "David Letterman Show" will be bringing famous "celebrities" such as Elvis Presley, Katy Perry and Meghan Trainor to Yankton for the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company's (LCTC) Theatrical Gala.

That is, Yankton's version of the "David Letterman Show" and well known stars.

The annual Theatrical gala fundraiser is slated March 28 at Minerva's starting at 5:30 p.m.

All proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company (LCTC).

LCTC and First Dakota National Bank are sponsoring the event.

According to the gala committee members Becky Tasa and Lelia Elder, this will be the last time "Letterman" will be hosting the event.

"We are following the Letterman show and retiring (the format)," Elder said. "So we are all going to retire and do something different next year."

With the purchase of the ticket, audience members get a meal, a ticket to watch a LCTC performance, a chance to win prizes at the live and silent auction, and a good seat to one of the best shows in Yankton, Tasa said.

Chris Hilson will be performing as Letterman for the fifth straight year.

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Sports



USD Women Ready For WNIT Action Page 7

Clarification

In Wednesday's *Press & Dakotan* story about the District 18 legislative meeting, the event was actually part of an American Legion Auxiliary meeting, not a public forum.

1 DAY UNTIL
SPRING
#ThinkSpring

FEMA Ultimatum: Flood Insurance Could Go Up

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — More than 400 homeowners whose property lies along the Missouri River in south-east South Dakota could end up paying a \$50 surcharge on their flood insurance if officials in Union County do not meet a federal deadline to submit flood insurance-related records.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to put Union County on probationary status with the National Flood Insurance Program starting in mid-May unless it addresses what it calls "program deficiencies" and "floodplain management violations." FEMA is accusing the county of not having adequate record keeping and failing to manage development in the floodplain.

Barb Fitzpatrick, a flood plain specialist with FEMA, said the agency is waiting to receive records from the county regarding issues such as construction of basements in the mapped floodplain area, as well as the

FEMA | PAGE 2

Donation Sends Fire Truck To State Recreation Area



PHOTO: JENNY NGUYEN/NEBRASKALAND MAGAZINE
Crofton volunteer firefighters Michael Guenther, Paul Schoenberger, Dave Hansen and Lewis and Clark Lake State Recreation Area park superintendent Dave Kinnamon pose in front of the 1983 Ford grass rig fire truck transferred from Crofton Fire and Rescue to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for \$1.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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CROFTON, Neb. — Dave Kinnamon found the ultimate fire sale. Kinnamon, park superintendent at Lewis and Clark Lake State Recreation Area (SRA), recently acquired a fire truck for \$1.

A buck for a truck, so to speak. The Crofton Fire and Rescue unit recently transferred its 1983 Ford grass rig to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (GPC) for \$1. In turn, Kinnamon and others can use the 300-gallon rig to extinguish small fires or to contain larger blazes until more help arrives on the scene.

Why the \$1 price tag? To meet regulations, Kinnamon explained.

"We had to buy the truck (rather than receive it for free), so we paid \$1," he said. "It'll be put to good use and still stay in the area."

The Crofton fire department may

OUR TOWNS
Knox County

Paul Schoenberger — who works at the state park as a maintenance man — considers it a good deal for all parties.

"I feel a lot better with the extra equipment (at the state park)," he said. "The rig doesn't haul a lot of water, and 300 gallons doesn't go far. But it's the time factor. It cuts the response time for getting out there (to fires)."

Kinnamon carries a pager and remains aware of fires, Schoenberger said. "If Game and Parks starts fighting a fire, it buys us 5 to 10 minutes of time, which really helps," the firefighter added.

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