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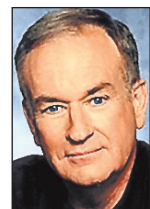
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Weather forecast for 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. showing temperatures of 76° and 81° with a partly cloudy and warmer outlook.

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RECYCLING

River City Recycling This Week SOUTH of 15th St.



TOMORROW

GRANT: RTEC Goes Green



First-Quarter City Sales Tax Revenue Up Slightly

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net



Russell

Yankton's first quarter sales tax receipts are up slightly over 2009, but city officials question whether that trend will continue. Through April, the city has \$1.2 million in sales tax receipts. That's almost \$18,000, or 1.46 percent, more than it had at this time in 2009. However, it was in April of last year that workers on the TransCanada Keystone pipeline began moving into Yankton. The city subsequently saw large jumps in sales tax revenue compared to 2008 until the employees left in the late

summer. "One of the things that is unfortunate is, we're going into the summer months where we had increases last year from the year before of 10 percent, 8 percent — it's pretty safe to say we're not going to meet last year's sales tax numbers for these summer months," City Manager Doug Russell said. "Where exactly we'll come out, we don't know. I just don't anticipate that trend (of higher sales tax receipts than 2009) continuing. Hopefully, we



Knoff

can come pretty close." Yankton was one of a handful of South Dakota cities to record a sales tax revenue increase in 2009 over 2008. The city had \$7.4 million in sales tax due to it in 2009 — a 1.58 percent increase over 2008 — according to a report from the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation. Aberdeen saw an increase of 2.11 percent, and Pierre experienced a 4.01 percent uptick. April itself was a "great" month for the city, Russell stat-

ed. Sales tax revenue was 8.71 percent above the same month in 2009. Curiously, lodging sales tax receipts are actually down so far this year, Russell said. The city has seen \$5,100, or 3.62 percent, less sales tax revenue in that sector. "Obviously, our big months for the lodging tax are spring, summer and fall, so it's not that big of an impact," Russell added. In its 2010 budget, the city projected a 2 percent increase in sales tax revenue. "We're a little bit off track from where we budgeted, but it's not enough to have any huge concern," Russell said,

noting that an evaluation of the budget will be done once the numbers through June are received. Yankton officials were forced to adjust the city budget in mid-2009 when it became clear that projections of a 3 percent increase in revenue would not materialize. It was July before any one month met budget projections. At that point, hundreds of workers on the oil pipeline were living in the area and contributed to a 10 percent increase in sales tax revenues for July over 2008. "Essentially, we're working on 2008 numbers in the 2010 budget

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CLASS OF 2010



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

More than 200 Yankton High School seniors received their diplomas Sunday during commencement exercises held at the Yankton High School Gymnasium. Brianna Willcockson, Emily Bosch and Jacob Fokken delivered student addresses. As the last students received their diplomas, the steady rattle of silly string cans could be heard among the seated seniors. When Dr. Wayne Kindie, the high school principal, presented the graduating class, there was an explosion of silly string and yells from the students before they proceeded out of the gym to pursue their futures outside of the Yankton School District.

STRATEGY

Clinton Talks Economics In China

BY MATTHEW LEE Associated Press Writer

SHANGHAI — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday that she would also be pushing the Chinese for a "more balanced economic relationship" with the U.S. as she prepared for economic and strategic talks in Beijing. Those talks, to be co-chaired by Clinton and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, are likely to be dominated by efforts to win China's support to punish North Korea for the sinking of a South Korean warship. But the U.S. officials will be focused on economic issues as well.

"For trade to work in any economy and for it to produce the benefits we know it can, there must be a level playing field where domestic and international companies can compete freely and openly," she told workers at a Boeing maintenance facility at Shanghai's Pudong Airport.

Geithner and Clinton are leading a delegation of nearly 200 officials to Beijing as part of an effort to help President Barack Obama deliver on his pledge to double U.S. exports within five years and create 2 million jobs.

One issue likely to come up is the trade advantage Beijing has because of an undervalued Chinese currency.

As the European financial crisis deepens, Beijing appears to be pulling back from expected moves to loosen its currency's peg to the U.S. dollar, saying the euro's slide to four-year lows against the dollar is putting too heavy a burden on its own exporters.

China has kept the yuan at a rate of about 6.83 per dollar for nearly two years, seeking to cushion its exporters from the global financial crisis. Some economists reckon the yuan is undervalued by up to 40 percent against the dollar, giving Chinese exporters an unfair advantage in overseas markets.

While trying to make progress on economic issues, Clinton will be trying to win Beijing's support for punishing ally North Korea.

She faces a hard sell convincing China's leaders that they should back U.N. penalties after an international investigation blamed North Korea for sinking a South Korean navy ship.

Touring the U.S. and Chinese

CHINA, Page 2 please

Officials On Guard Against Emerald Ash Borers

BY LISA HARE lisa.hare@yankton.net

Earlier this month, the first emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in an ash tree in north-eastern Iowa. This is the closest the destructive beetle-like insects have found to South Dakota. "We know it's really only a matter of time before they reach us here," said Shane Bertsch of the Game Fish and Parks (GF&P). That's why officials at the GF&P have been on alert. "We have signs up all over the campgrounds, and campers are informed when they call in for reservations not to bring firewood in from out of state," he said.

Transport on firewood seems to be the leading cause of new infestations of EAB.

Last year, EAB was found in Wisconsin, and this spring they had spread to Minnesota.

While this is another report of the insect expanding west, it is not a cause for alarm in South Dakota, said forest health specialist, extension forester John Ball.

"The infested tree is still hundreds of miles from our state and while I am certain we'll receive reports some day of closer infestations and eventually it will reach our state, it is really too early to begin control measures," he said.

Ball said the pesticides that are most effective for controlling the insect are expensive and there is little value in beginning treatments "just in



LISA HARE/P&D

Paul Ridgway of the Game Fish and Parks inspects firewood at the campground for evidence of the emerald ash borer. Ridgway said the insects often spread from state to state via firewood.

case." Also, the use of these pesticides may have other drawbacks such as increasing the populations of other insects or wounding the tree, acceptable if needed to control an infestation, but probably not as a "just in case" treatment.

Bertsch said "regular" ash borers are common in the region, and are not to be confused with the Emerald ash borer.

"Emerald ash borer is so much more destructive. They can destroy an entire stand or block or street line of ash trees in a very short time," he said.

associated with an EAB attack and report any trees or stands of trees that are expressing symptoms to the local cooperative extension educator or Department of Agriculture forester.

"Training in identifying possible EAB infestations will be conducted through our detector program," Ball said.

As EAB, and other potential insect threats, come closer to South Dakota, a force of volunteers trained to identify the pests will be developed and trained to assist extension educators and foresters.

"Volunteers can provide a valuable first line by conducting site visits," Ball said. "They can either determine if the tree is infested, or request that the educator, forester or other resource professional perform a follow-up inspection."

With the recent outbreak of ash anthracnose fungal disease in the Yankton area that saw numerous ash trees losing their leaves, Yankton County extension horticulture educator Cynthia Bergman said it's important that people be as informed as possible about EAB.

"(Extension educators) can literally spend days and days on the phone answering the same questions when something like this happens," she said.

With area detection plans in place, officials hope to catch EAB early enough to perform treatments to control the spread of the destructive insects in South Dakota.

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