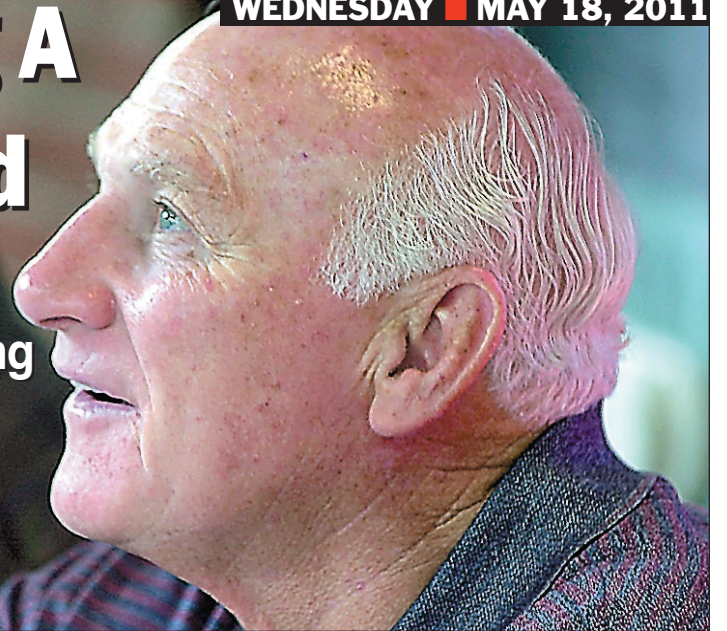




YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Losing A Legend

Twins Fans Mourn Passing Of Harmon Killebrew
PAGE 14



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INSIDE TODAY

BON HOMME COUNTY

Wheel Tax Is Approved

Unless Referred, Law Will Go Into Effect July 1

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

TYNDALL — Barring a referendum, Bon Homme County residents will start paying a wheel tax July 1.

The Bon Homme County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to pass the wheel tax ordinance, according to Auditor Tammy Brunken.

The ordinance received its second reading at the commission meeting, then received a "yes" vote from Commissioners John Pesek (chairman), John Hauck, Russell Jelsma, John

Fathke and Mike Soukup.

The ordinance calls for a tax of \$2 per wheel, with a maximum of \$8 per vehicle, Brunken said. Based on current figures, Bon Homme County would receive \$38,500 from the tax during the final six months of this year and \$77,000 annually in subsequent years.

"Those figures are estimates based on the current number of vehicles," the auditor said. "The revenue could fluctuate from year to year."

At the request of the commissioners, Brunken drew up the wheel tax ordinance.

She based it on other counties, noting the tax would be paid at the time of license renewal each year.

"The wheel tax can be used only for the construction and repair of roads and bridges," she said. "The money can't be used for other purposes."

The 2011 county road and bridge budget is \$2,035,528, Brunken said. The figure includes a \$400,000 supplement from the county's general fund.

In an earlier interview, Pesek told the Press & Dakotan that the wheel tax is necessary to help repair Bon Homme County's rapidly de-

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Bon Homme, Yankton Continue 4-H Discussion

Counties Still Have No Clear Solution

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

After discussing possibilities for working together on providing 4-H services Tuesday, the Yankton and Bon Homme county commissions came away with no clear direction.

The Bon Homme County Commission attended the Yankton County Commission's regular meeting as a follow-up to a meeting held last week during which a representative of the South Dakota Extension Service Cooperative explained to them the available options.

"We have to go with someone else. We know that," said Bon Homme Commission Chairman John Pesek. "We've decided we would kind of like to go with Yankton County. ... I guess we're kind of here at your mercy, in a way. I'm sure we can work together."

Clay County has also expressed an interest in working with Yankton County.

Under a restructuring plan announced in April, the Extension Service will support one full-time equivalent 4-H advisor per county with more than 10,000 youths, and a .5 full-time equivalent (FTE) per

2,500 youths in one or more counties. That formula creates the potential for the Extension Service to fund 34 half-time 4-H advisor positions that could be full-time if counties decide they would like to pay the remaining half of the salary. However, the advisor would be considered a state employee under that scenario.

Other options also exist for counties wishing to retain their 4-H programs, such as funding the advisor position on their own, and receiving only educational and informational support from the state.

Yankton County has 5,030 youths, according to the Extension Service, so it would be eligible for a .5 FTE. It would qualify to receive \$16,750 annually to pay for the position. If the county provides a matching \$16,750 to make the 4-H advisor a full-time job, the state will add a benefit package worth approximately \$9,000 annually.

However, Bon Homme County and Clay County would have to partner with another county to receive any state support for an advisor because they have less than 2,500 youths.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

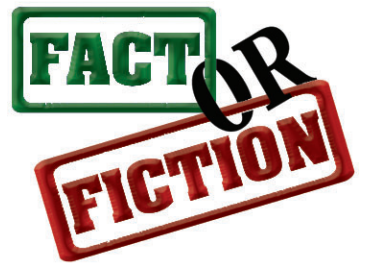
Yankton County Commissioner Allen Sinclair shares his thoughts on the possibility of the Yankton County Commission and the Bon Homme County Commission collaborating on the hire of a 4-H advisor.

If Yankton and Bon Homme counties were to collaborate, for example, they could share the \$16,750 expense.

Yankton County already funds a full-time 4-H position on its own, and commissioners said Tuesday they could not foresee moving forward with less than that. If that is the expectation, Yankton County would likely have to agree to also pay for a portion of a 4-H advisor under the Extension proposal in order to make sure Bon Homme County could participate in the state's program.

Yankton County usually has between 140-150 4-H participants in a given year, while Bon Homme County has fewer than 100.

"I think what we need to do is



Is Captial Outlay Being Used Enough?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Press & Dakotan series "Fact or Fiction," is our attempt to clarify the issues surrounding the Yankton School District opt-out. By checking with state and local authorities, as well as other resources, we hope to give you the best answers from as independent sources as possible.

If you have a question or concern about the opt-out that you want clarified, send the question to: Fact or Fiction, c/o Shauna Marlette, PO Box 56, Yankton, SD 57078; or e-mail the question to news@yankton.net. We will do our best to provide as much information as possible ahead of the May 24 vote.

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QUESTION: Senate Bill 111 extends the use of capital outlay funds to pay for certain General Fund expenses including: student transporta-

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OUTLAY | PAGE 3

Birding Festival Takes Flight This Weekend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

The latest social and educational event in southern Charles Mix County is for the birds.

The inaugural Fort Randall Birding Festival will be held Friday through Sunday in the Wagner, Lake Andes and Pickstown areas. Participants can take part in any or all of the presentations and field trips.

Organizers hope the event takes flight, so to speak.

Matt Cerny of Wagner came across the idea of a birding festival as a board member for the Great Lakes Tourism Association. He also serves as the Wagner Chamber of Commerce coordinator and



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the economic development director for the City of Wagner.

"Our Great Lakes chairwoman, Karen Kern, found that birding was becoming this hot tourism thing," Cerny said. "She was receiving more and more requests from people across the country, and

even from Europe, who wanted to bird watch." Cerny and other area residents discussed the idea of a birding festival, tak-

BIRDING | PAGE 14



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mount Marty College graduate Jordan Foos recently began his horticulture internship for Hebda Family Produce of Mission Hill. The business is one of four local companies that has been selected for the Dakota Seeds program, which awards grants to help fund internships in South Dakota.

Local Company Selected For Dakota Seeds Program

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

MISSION HILL — A local business is looking to expand its research, and this summer, it's getting a little help.

Hebda Family Produce of Mission Hill has been selected for the Dakota Seeds internship program, which awards grants to South Dakota employers to provide them with qualified employees and to provide students with solid job opportunities within the state.

Rena Hebda, co-owner and manager of Hebda Family Produce, said the company has participated in the program before and is excited about the opportunities that the grants will once again provide.

"The Dakota Seeds program has allowed us to expand our product line, as well as do on-farm research and establish quality stan-

OUR TOWNS

Yankton County

dards for our operation," Hebda said. "These are areas of growth that, as a small business, we may otherwise not be able to do without the assistance of the interns."

The business will employ two full-time interns during the summer: one in food science and one in horticulture.

Hebda said the new employees will serve multiple purposes and should learn a few things as well.

"Not only will they assist with projects,

PROGRAM | PAGE 2

HyVee DON'T MISS COOKIES RIB WAGON Friday, May 20 11am-7pm Saturday, May 21 10am-5pm

