



Hot For May And Windy

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FRIDAY ■ MAY 18, 2012



South Dakota Track Teams Compete In Regionals • **7A**

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Local Band Returns From European Tour
RIVER CITY

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BATTLING THE BLAZE



Yankton firefighters battled high winds Thursday afternoon as they attempted to put out a fire that consumed two mobile homes in the Circle C Trailer Court. The blaze was caused by a mattress outside one of the homes that caught fire from an unknown source.

Fire Leaves Seven Homeless

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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High wind contributed to the destruction of two mobile homes in a fire Thursday afternoon that left seven people without shelter, according to a fire official.

“(The wind) was a huge factor,” Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles said.

Firefighters were called to the Circle C Trailer Court, located near the 1100 block of W. Ninth Street, at approximately 2:50 p.m. By that time, the structures were already engulfed in flames.

“The east trailer had one occupant inside,” Nickles said.

“When one of the other occupants came home, they discovered a mattress on fire that was laying on the outside of the trailer. They called the fire department and tried to extinguish it. It got away from them and got into the trailer.”

It is unknown what ignited the mattress.

No one was home at the neighboring trailer to the west when the wind spread the flames to that structure.

The emergency response was complicated by downed power lines that restricted access to the north of the trailers, as well as

FIRE | PAGE 3A

Postal Service Will Begin Closing Plants

Aberdeen, Pierre Set For Consolidation

BY HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service is moving ahead with plans to close dozens of mail processing centers, saying on Thursday it can no longer wait as Congress remains deadlocked over how to help.

At a news briefing, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said the agency's mail processing network had simply become too big, given declining mail volume and its mounting debt. It will now consolidate nearly 250 plants as originally planned, including 48 this summer, but will stretch out the remainder over a longer time frame in 2013 and 2014.

Mail processing centers in Aberdeen and Pierre in South Dakota and Devils Lake, N.D., are among the 140 slated for consolidation by February.

Nearly 250 centers will close as the nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service moves forward with a multi-billion-dollar cost-cutting plan. The

Postal Service on Thursday said it can no longer wait as Congress remains deadlocked over how to help.

Processing at Aberdeen and Pierre will shift to Huron. Processing at Devils Lake, N.D., will shift to Grand Forks, N.D.

Earlier this month, nearly half the Senate had written letters to Donahoe asking that he hold off on closing any mail facility until Congress could pass final postal overhaul legislation. The Senate last month passed a bill that would halt many of the closings. The House remains stalled over a measure allowing for more aggressive cuts.

“To return to long-term profitability and financial stability while keeping mail affordable, we must match our network to the anticipated workload,” Donahoe said. Failure to do so, he stressed, would “create a fiscal hole that the Postal Service will not be able to climb out of.”

Under the modified approach, up to 140 processing centers will be consolidated by next February —

USPS | PAGE 3A

Spencers No Longer Spectators

Couple Named Riverboat Days Captain, Belle For Involvement

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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When Dave and Brenda Spencer first moved to Yankton, they had no idea what Riverboat Days was. After attending the events for the first time in 1994, they have been involved within the Yankton community year after year.

Dave and Brenda have now been selected as the 2012 Riverboat Days Cap-

tain and Belle for their contributions to the community.

“For our first Riverboat Days, we were merely spectators,” Brenda said. “We didn’t know what it was all about, but we had our family from Nebraska come up and attend the parade and events at the park with us.”

Over the years, the entire Spencer family became involved with Riverboat Days events, which this year will be held Aug. 16-18, through dance, stu-

dent council, the Ice Association and the Boy Scouts, Brenda said.

Mike Gullikson, Chairman of the Riverboat Days Board of Directors, said the board selects the Captain and Belle based on their prior involvement with the festival.

The Spencers have been key people with the involvement in the Boy Scout river cleanups and the Ice Association,

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Dave and Benda Spencer have been chosen as the 2012 Riverboat Days Captain and Belle for their contributions to the community.

COURTESY PHOTO

Synthetic Drug Use By Young Adults On The Rise

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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Synthetic drugs are becoming more increasingly popular among young adults, Chuck Matson, founder of Recognizing Impairing Drugs Training said during a public forum at the Summit Activity Center Thursday night explaining the rise in use of synthetic drugs among young adults.

Jennifer Berg, prevention provider for Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health said the biggest problems in Yankton are binge drinking and the use of marijuana.

“We’ve seen problems with synthetic drugs recently, as well as cases of psychosis,” Berg said.

Matson discussed the issue of synthetic drugs in his presentation and said the reason most adults don’t address the concern is because they don’t know about the problem.

“No matter our level of expertise, we can all learn new information about the use of drugs,” Matson said. “It’s important for parents to address drug use early on in their child’s life.”

The rise in use of synthetic drugs may have risen because young adults think the word “prescription” makes the drugs safe, Matson said.

“There is a huge market for

DRUGS | PAGE 3A



PHOTO: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
In the midst of a large crowd on hand for the groundbreaking of Gavins Point Dam, Gov. Sigurd Anderson (left) of South Dakota, Gov. Val Peterson (center) of Nebraska and Lt. Gen. Lewis Pick turn over the first symbolic shovels of dirt on a project that would transform this region.

Gavins Point Celebrates 60-Year Anniversary Of Groundbreaking

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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It all began with a boom. Or maybe it ended with a boom. It depends on how you want to look at the events of 60 years ago today (Friday) that kicked off construction of the Gavins Point Dam.

A *Press & Dakotan* account of the groundbreaking ceremony held on a Sunday afternoon estimated that more than 8,000 people gathered at Calumet Bluff on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River to observe the event. It was the largest crowd to gather for any of the ground-breaking events for the mainstem dams along the Missouri River.

The climax of the ceremony was a dynamite blast on an island in the river, which signaled the start of construction. Colored smoke pots were also ignited in order to outline the shape of the dam.

Among the dignitaries present were Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Lewis Pick, former Sen. Chan Gurney (of Yankton), South Dakota Sen. Karl Mundt, South Dakota Gov. Sigurd Anderson and Nebraska Gov. Val Peterson.

In his remarks to the crowd, Peterson said the 1944 Pick-Sloan Plan that led to the construction of Gavins Point Dam would create wealth, prosperity and well-being for people along the river and elsewhere.

“Soil conservation is our first consideration,” Peterson said, according to the May 19, 1952, edition of the *Press & Dakotan*, “and we want the maximum amount to produce better crops. Even with proper conservation, there will be some runoffs from melting snows and spring rains, so we need these dams to hold back the floods.”

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