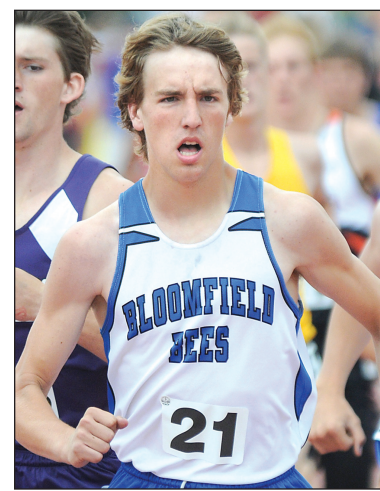


The Yankton area was under the umbrella of a solar eclipse Sunday night, with more than 70 percent of the sun covered by the new moon at one point. It was a rare eclipse for this area in that it was still under way as the sun set. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



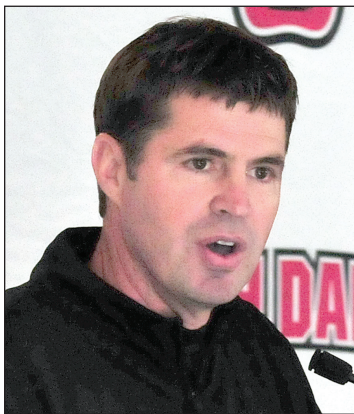
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Neb. House Opponents Recall High School Spat

BY MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Nebraska's 2nd House District GOP incumbent and his Democratic challenger had no sooner begun celebrating their respective primary victories Tuesday night than they resurrected an old conflict from their days as Omaha high school classmates some three decades earlier.

Rep. Lee Terry took issue with his challenger, Douglas County Treasurer John Ewing, referring to Terry in a recent fundraising email as "the water boy." Terry said that was a term Ewing called him when Terry was the school football equipment manager and Ewing was a starting tight end.

The reference clearly still stings for Terry.

"As a guy that was about 5-foot and 100 pounds, that was the only way I could participate on our football team," Terry said. "I don't know why he brought that up in his fundraising letter, but that was disappointing."

Terry said he hopes Ewing, who was a grade ahead of Terry at Northwest High School, is "a better person than he was in high school."

Ewing eschewed any insinuation that he had teased Terry while the two were in high school in the late 1970s.

"Oh, that's not true," Ewing said when asked if he had ver-

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NATO Goal: Peace In Afghanistan

Withdrawal Strategy Leads NATO Summit Talks

BY BEN FELLER AND ANNE GEARAN Associated Press

CHICAGO — President Barack Obama and NATO allies declared Sunday that the end of the long and unpopular Afghanistan war is in sight even as they struggled to hold their fighting force together in the face of dwindling patience and shaky unity.

From his hometown and the city where his re-election operation hums, Obama spoke of a post-2014 world when "the Afghan war as we understand it is over." Until then, though, remaining U.S. and allied troops face the continued likelihood of fierce combat.

Gen. John Allen, the top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, offered a stern warning Sunday that the plan to give Afghan forces the lead in fighting next summer won't take coalition troops out of harm's way. "It doesn't mean that we won't be fighting," Allen said. "It doesn't mean that there won't be combat."

The fate of the war is both the center of this summit and a topic no one is celebrating as a mission accomplished. The alliance already has one foot out the Afghanistan door, Obama has his ear attuned to the politics of an economy-driven presidential election year and other allies are pinching pennies in a European debt crisis.

As NATO powers and other nations contributing to the war effort gathered, the alliance's top officer, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, asserted that "there will be no rush for the exits" in Afghanistan. "Our goal, our strategy, our timetable remain unchanged," he said.

In fact, the strategy has shifted many times over the course of more than 10 years of war, and the goal narrowed to objectives focused on the long-term security of the mostly Western nations fighting there. The timetable has also moved, despite the overall commitment to keep foreign forces in Afghanistan into 2014.

Tension over newly elected French President Francois Hollande's pledge to end his country's combat mission two years early infused the meeting. German Chancellor Angela Merkel pointedly cited the credo of the allies in the Afghanistan war, "in together, out together," and her foreign minister cautioned against a "withdrawal competition" by coalition countries.

Hollande said he was merely being pragmatic in keeping a campaign pledge to pull combat troops this year but this still would "let the alliance continue to work."

While France's new posture obviously rattled the leaders, Allen betrayed no concern about the coalition's common purpose coming unglued. "The mantra of this particular mission has been in together, out together," he told reporters. "And I'm not seeing, frankly, many voices being raised that would

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TIME TO CELEBRATE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Yankton High School graduating of 2012 celebrates in a fog of spray confetti during Sunday's 137th annual spring commencement, held at the Summit Activities Center. Diplomas were handed out to 192 students. The program featured student addresses from graduating seniors Nicole Westerman, Molly Henrickson and Megan Christopher. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

GF&P Free Fishing Weekend Draws Crowds To Local Recreation Areas

BY JEREMY HOECK jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Regina Auch made sure she and her family didn't miss an opportunity to catch a big one this weekend.

Auch, along with her boyfriend, Jeremy Sobotka, and her daughter, Jade, were among many anglers who took advantage of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department's annual Free Fishing Weekend.

During the annual three-day event, anglers could fish without a license anywhere in South Dakota, and entrance fees for state parks and recreation areas were waived. Fishing regulations and limits still applied.

"That definitely made a difference," Auch said of the free weekend. "It's been hard to find a spot because of all the people. Everyone wants to come out and try it."

Unlike last summer, there were no high water or debris issues to speak of, which may have led to an increased number of anglers, according to Shane Bertsch, manager of Lewis and Clark Recreation Area.

"For the most part, the water is great right now," Bertsch said. "There are no floating objects or other issues like we had last summer."

Auch and Sobotka selected Lake Yankton on Sunday afternoon after scouring a few different locations, she said.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Regina Auch of Yankton helps her daughter, Jade, watch her line on Sunday afternoon at Lake Yankton. The pair were two of many anglers who took advantage of the state's Free Fishing weekend.

"We're just getting going (Sunday), but we wanted to make sure to get out here," Auch said.

Wherever anglers decided to cast their lines, they had to deal with cool water temperatures, Bertsch said.

"These are about ideal conditions to fish, though the water still isn't very warm," he said. "The warmest it gets in August is about 79 (degrees) and we're still in the low 60s now."

As temperatures rise, fish tend to

flock to deeper areas, which would mean recent cooler temps may have brought them to the surface.

George Hendricks of Vermillion, however, said he believes it's the wind that has the biggest impact.

"The wind has a lot more to do with it, I think," he said. "The fish will sit where they can get out of the wind."

Hendricks was fishing Sunday afternoon at East Midway Beach on Lewis & Clark Lake. He was part of a fishing party that included his wife, Sharon, and their two dogs, Tinker and Bella.

It wasn't so much the free weekend that brought the Hendricks out as much as it was routine, George said.

"I'm up here every weekend," he said. "We've seen some people out and about, but it seems like mostly people in boats."

Asked about last summer's issues, Hendricks pointed out that no matter where he tried, conditions proved difficult.

"That stuff on the water made for some terrible fishing," he said. "You couldn't keep a line out there; it was always getting tangled in something."

The high water, however, brought walleye to the surface, he added.

Cool water temperatures were having an impact on Hendrick's success, he joked.

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S.D. Kayak Challenge Returns To Missouri River

BY JEREMY HOECK jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Back after a one-year hiatus because of high-water issues in 2011, the South Dakota Kayak Challenge has a record number of participants for its second race this weekend.

The 72-mile race down the Missouri River begins at Riverside Park in Yankton at 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 26, and ends in Sioux City, Iowa.

With almost 200 people signed up to compete in the competition, enthusiasm hasn't been tempered after the race couldn't be held last year due to flooding concerns, said co-founder Steven Dahlmeier.

"We're pretty fortunate that people stuck with us after last year, especially when we had to call it off two days before the event," Dahlmeier said. "It was just a matter of safety with the high waters."

In the case of Rick LaBrie, an experi-

enced paddler from Yankton, that was the kind of challenge he was hoping to experience.

"It would have been a bad experience for people not familiar with the river, but I was actually looking forward to it with the high water; it would've been a riot," said LaBrie, who said he has been paddling since he was 18. "It (river) changes all the time, but I know the curves."

In the 2010 race, LaBrie teamed with Pam Swier of Sioux Falls to finish 23rd overall and first in the mixed doubles division. The duo completed the route in 14 1/2 hours, reaching Sioux City just after 9 p.m.

With a new kayak this year, LaBrie and Swier are ready to see what the river has to offer.

"(Last year's cancellation) was very disappointing, but understandably so.

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PHOTO: DAWNE OLSON

Paddlers venture down the Missouri River during the 2010 South Dakota Kayak Challenge, a 72-mile journey that began at Riverside Park in Yankton and finished in Sioux City, Iowa. The race was called off last summer because of high water complications, but returns this summer, starting next Saturday, May 26.

Neb. Vets Work To Keep Posts Strong

BY MICHAEL BAMESBERGER Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Jim Rall and Junior Woodcock arrived at VFW Post 3606 with a lot to do.

Beginning at 9 in the morning, they had to prepare for a lunch for railroad workers, followed that evening by the post's twice-monthly steak night.

The men wouldn't leave until 10:30 p.m. "As a post, we're very active," said Rall, a 79-year-old Korean War veteran who is beginning his seventh year as commander of the west Lincoln post. "I try to keep everybody busy."

Rall believes his long hours are critical to combating a nationwide decline in membership that has forced many posts to close.

"It's a never-ending battle to get younger vets to join," he said.

VFW posts across the country have lost numbers steadily since the early 1990s, when membership peaked

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