



Cloudy With Light Rain Showers

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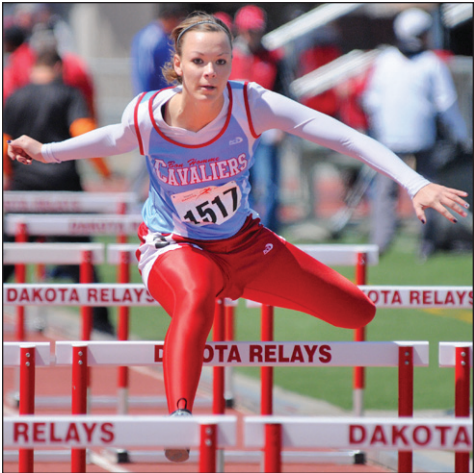
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YANKTON DAILY

PRESS & DAKOTAN

Saturday May 4, 2013



Local Teams Compete At Howard Wood Relays • 7

VOLUME 139
NUMBER 8

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **20 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

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COURTESY PHOTO
Father Terry Anderson (left) of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Huron and Father Mark Lichter of Sacred Heart Parish in Yankton spent the last several days biking across South Dakota to raise money for Catholic education.

Priests Biking Across State To Raise Money

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Late last year, Father Mark Lichter of Sacred Heart Parish in Yankton received a call from his friend, Father Terry Anderson.

The pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Huron, who often bikes with Lichter during the summer, wanted to know if the Yankton priest would ride across South Dakota to help raise money for Catholic education.

"I was crazy enough to say yes," Lichter said with a laugh.

After months of planning, the two priests set off on their 270-mile journey last week, departing from the Nebraska border south of Yankton. They were scheduled to finish their trip to the North Dakota border Friday.

"It's been a lot of fun," Lichter said in a phone interview with the *Press & Dakotan* earlier this week. "We've had people honk and say hi to us. We've also been stopping at rectories, and we've had some priests join us along the way."

The two priests have been raising funds for their respective schools, taking pledges for each mile completed.

"We're having a friendly competition between the two parishes to see who can raise the most money," Lichter said.

As of Friday, Sacred Heart had a slight lead over Holy Trinity, having raised \$7,452 compared to the Huron parish's \$7,249.

"I think it's a tremendous effort they're putting forth for Catholic education, both in terms of the roadwork and in terms of ingenuity," said Tim McCaffrey, director of the Yankton Catholic Community Development Office. "You rarely see anybody, let alone parish priests, take on this type of endeavor to raise money for their schools."

To keep in touch with their schools, Lichter and Anderson used Skype video calls to visit with their students. Both priests said they have been impressed with the support they've received.

"The kids are excited, the teachers are excited and the priests are excited," Anderson said. "It's great exercise, it's outdoors — everything is positive."

Lichter and Anderson also wanted to give credit to Father Paul Josten, previously of Yankton and the current pastor at St. Agatha Church in Howard. Josten was following the two bikers in the group's "sag wagon" support vehicle, offering shelter from inclement weather, tools for re-

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Body Found On Highway

Victim Identified; Law Enforcement Seeks Info

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The body of a Yankton man was found on Old Highway 50 east of Yankton early Friday morning.

The Yankton County Sheriff's Office has identified the man as Joseph Bret Jackson, 23.

A report was received at 3:45 a.m. of a dead body found along the roadway west of East Side Drive on 309th St./Old Highway 50. Deputies went to the scene and found Jackson deceased on the roadway.

An investigation revealed that Jackson was struck

by an unknown motor vehicle that left the scene.

Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said no witnesses of the incident have come forth.

It is believed the hit-and-run occurred between 2:30-3:30 a.m., he added.

Motorists drove by the scene around that time and noticed something on the road, but they didn't realize until later what they had passed, Vlahakis said.

"It's understandable," he stated, noting the body was dismembered. "It was a violent strike."

Jackson's body has been transported to Sioux Falls for an autopsy.

It is unknown what Jackson was doing along Old Highway 50. Vlahakis said the victim did not live in the area.

"If anybody has any information, we encourage them to call," he stated.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact the sheriff's office at (605) 668-3567. Anonymous information can be shared through Crimestoppers by calling (605) 665-4440.

The incident is being investigated by the sheriff's office, the Yankton Police Department and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

RIVERSIDE CLASSROOM



Festival Offers Outdoor Lessons

GF&P Employees Taught Students About Invasive Species, Other Issues

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Friday's gathering of nearly 400 students at Riverside Park contained some unwelcome visitors.

Sam Stukel with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) spoke about invasive species — including those in the Missouri and James rivers near Yankton. In fact, some species could probably be found a short distance from the students at the Missouri River Watershed School Festival.

"Not all exotic species are bad, but there are exotic species that are bad for people and bad for wildlife," Stukel said. "We have the invasive species that cost us time and money. The Missouri River has invasive species, and there are more and more all the time."

Stukel, along with assistant Jason Kral, spoke at one of 16 stations covering a wide range of environmental, historical and cultural issues. The Missouri River became a classroom for middle school and high school students from a 100-mile radius of Yankton.

Stukel took advantage of the opportunity to enlist the students' support in battling invasive species.

Gavins Point Dam west of Yankton acts as a natural barrier keeping invasive species at bay, he said. "If we had no dam, (those species) could swim all the way up the Missouri River," he said.

Zebra mussels have been located as far upstream as 15 miles south of Sioux City, near the Mid-American power intake, according to GF&P officials. Female zebra mussels can lay one million eggs at a time, and produce multiple spawns a year.

"Stay tuned, they (zebra mussels) are on their way. They're com-



TOP: Josh Wilhelm of Nebraska Game and Parks displays a silver carp to a student during Friday's Missouri River Watershed Education Festival at Yankton's Riverside Park. The festival drew hundreds of students from area communities for a day of hands-on learning about the river environment. **ABOVE:** Kit Karlson of Vermillion reacts as he takes hold of a salamander during Friday's festival. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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YSD, Others Team Up To Cut Costs

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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In response to increasing food costs, the Yankton School District's (YSD) child nutrition supervisor has teamed up with the nutrition supervisors in the Brandon Valley and Harrisburg school districts to cut food costs.

"I had talked about partnering with Brandon Valley for several years, but we wanted to pick up a third school, as well," said Sandy Kramer, YSD's child nutrition supervisor. "There was a new food director at Harrisburg, and we talked to him about it and he became very interested."

The three child nutrition supervisors began brainstorming on the program in the fall of 2011, and decided the following spring to do their bids together. This school year was the first of the partnership.

"We figure together, we've spent more than about \$2 million in food," Kramer said. "YSD and Brandon Valley both saved about 3-5 percent, and Harrisburg saved a little bit more because they hadn't done a bid before."

The districts will again partner this year, and they are currently taking bids for food service providers. The bid opening is set for May 17.

"We're also looking at combining other things, including doing some staff trainings together," Kramer said. "We could just get one speaker to come in for all of our staff members."

She added that it has been nice to share things with the other supervisors, and the three can divide things up with the USDA food guidelines changes.

"So far, we've been very compatible," Kramer said. "Each of us has had to give up different products that we've liked to use, but we never give up on the quality of the product we provide. For us, it's quality versus price."

In addition to the benefits for the districts, the food brokers also like the partnership.

"Without the partnership, the brokers would probably come around and stop at each school to show a product," Kramer said. "We can contact one broker and they can do all the food sam-

FOOD | PAGE 2

Alternative Energy Research Continues At MMC

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Mount Marty College (MMC) students who are part of an expanding effort to help the U.S. Department of Energy find alternative energy sources presented their research findings Friday on the school's campus.

Participants in MMC's cell and molecular biology course worked to annotate the function of the genes encoded in the bacteria *Sphaerochaeta coccoides* SPN 1 DSM 17374, which can be found in the intestines of Florida dampwood termites.

"What the Department of Energy did is, they were looking at alternative fuel sources, and they went to look in these unusual areas," said Vicki Geiser, assistant professor of biology, while introducing the research of her students. "A lot of times, if an organism lives in an unusual area, it will have unique traits. We might want to use those unique traits to get new functions."

Sphaerochaeta coccoides strain SPN1 helps the termites digest wood and seems to have a role in the production of things like ethanol and acetate. In the future, the microorganism could possibly

be used in the direct bioconversion of cellulose-containing wastes to fuel such as ethanol, or it may harbor enzymes with potential biotechnological applications, according to Geiser.

Since there are more than 1,400 genes within *S. coccoides* strain SPN1's genome, MMC students could be busy annotating the functions of the genes for some time.

One of the things students did this semester is manually work out details about

ENERGY | PAGE 2



'LIGHT' SHINES

At YHS

Yankton High School student Cebrina Kruse solos during the YHS Choraleers' performance of "This Little Light of Mine" during Friday Spring Choral Concert at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The Concert Choir, Girls' Chorus and Acappella choir also performed, with selections ranging from "Gloria Canon" to "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)