



Some Clouds, But More Spring-like

9 a.m.: **64** | 3 p.m.: **74** | DETAILS: PAGE 2



Vermillion Tops Dakota Valley In Baseball • 8

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Vehicle Seized In Fatal Hit-And-Run Case

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton County Sheriff's Office has seized a vehicle believed to have been involved in a May 3 fatal hit-and-run incident.

The body of Joseph Bret Jackson, 23, was found west of East Side Drive on 309th St./Old Highway 50 at approximately 3:45 a.m. May 3.

According to a media release issued by Sheriff Jim Vlahakis Tuesday, a vehicle was seized Monday in Mission Hill that is believed to have been

the one that struck Jackson. The driver of the vehicle has also been identified. However, the individual's name is not being made public as the investigation is continuing.

Vlahakis told the *Press & Dakotan* he can't say more about what led authorities to the vehicle at this point in the investigation.

The sheriff's office is awaiting final autopsy and toxicology reports, as well as an examination of the vehicle by the South Dakota Forensic Lab.

Vlahakis said he did not know when results

from those tests would be returned.

Once the investigation is complete, the results will be turned over to the Yankton County State's Attorney's Office for review.

Jackson had recently moved back to Yankton after spending some time in Minnesota. He was to have started a new job with a local construction firm days after his death.

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

Corps Bracing For Low Runoff

Gavins Pt. Discharges
May Drop To 9,000 cfs

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With runoff into the Missouri River expected to be below normal this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conserving water in its reservoir system.

During a monthly conference call Tuesday afternoon, officials said the ongoing drought continues to affect the river because much of the snowmelt and rainfall in the seven-state region is being absorbed into the soil.

"There is a long drought memory in the soil and in reservoirs," said Doug Kluck, regional climate services director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "It's very hard to overcome this long history of low moisture in the soil with the current snow-pack and outlooks. The soil is generally better off than it was during (March), but worse than at this time last year, generally speaking."

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DOUG KLUCK

The Corps predicts the amount of runoff flowing into the river this year will be about 20 million acre feet, or 79 percent of normal.

Only enough water is being released for a minimal navigation channel on the river. Minimum service flow support is generally sufficient to provide a navigation channel that is 8 feet deep by 200 feet wide.

"We're implementing measures to conserve water in the mainstem reservoir system this year, including reduced service to navigation," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Corps of Engineers' Missouri River Water Management Division. "Flow support for the second half of the navigation season and the season length will be

CORPS | PAGE 11

Deer Tag Numbers To Drop?

GF&P Proposes
Cutting Deer Tags
To Help Struggling
Population

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) has proposed further restrictions on deer tags this year in response to massive deer die-offs last year.

The Yankton region saw about 1,100 deer die last summer and fall from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or a similar disease known as blue tongue.

"EHD really hit hard, not only in the southeast but also in south-central counties such as Charles Mix," said GF&P wildlife resource biologist Julie DeJong.

The 1,100 deer may only be the tip of the iceberg, said Yankton County conservation officer Sam Schelhaas.

"Those were just the numbers that were reported. There may have been many more," he said. "What percentage of our deer herd that we lost — that's the million-dollar question."

Now, GF&P officials believe steps must be taken to protect rapidly declining deer numbers and help replenish the deer in the coming years.

The 2013 proposals include no antlerless tags for Bon Homme, Clay, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union and Yankton counties.

"But these are just proposals. We want people's input before it goes to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission for their action," said Yankton County conservation officer Sam Schelhaas.

GF&P staff outlined the proposals during Tuesday night's open house at the NFAA Building in Yankton. Additional open houses are scheduled for 4-7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) at the Bon Homme County annex building in Tyndall and 3-6:30 p.m. Thursday at Papa's Restaurant in Freeman.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton County conservation officer Sam Schelhaas and a member of the public discuss proposed reductions in deer tags during Tuesday night's Game, Fish and Parks open house in Yankton. The proposals are a response to last year's major deer die-offs because of disease. Open houses will also be held tonight (Wednesday) in Tyndall and Thursday in Freeman.

Florida Mourners Bid Farewell To Neuharth

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — *USA Today* founder Al Neuharth posthumously addressed mourners at his Florida memorial service Tuesday with a video segment he taped before his death last month.

"There are some people who wished this event had taken place long ago," Neuharth joked to mourners attending the service at Florida Today headquarters in Melbourne, Fla.

In the video, Neuharth recounted his "love affair" with Florida's Space Coast that began during a first visit in 1943. Speakers at the service included U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, family

members and former publishers of Florida Today.

The service was the first of three memorial services planned this week. Other memorial services will take place at the Newseum in Washington and the University of South Dakota.

Neuharth was the Newseum's founder. He earned a degree from the University of South Dakota, which currently is home to the Al Neuharth Media Center.

Neuharth changed the look of American newspapers with the debut of *USA Today* in 1982. He died last month at the age of 89.

also

■ Dignitaries To Be On Hand For Neuharth Memorial Service At USD Friday.

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COURTESY PHOTO

In this photo taken about two years ago, Mark Pischel of Verdigre, Neb., enjoys time with his dog on his land next to the Niobrara River. Pischel died last August in a motorcycle accident, and family and friends have raised about \$26,000 to build a new press box at the Verdigre football field in his honor.

Verdigre Works To Honor Silenced Voice

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VERDIGRE, Neb. — Mark Pischel was a big man with a big voice and an even bigger heart.

Pischel announced the local high school football games, serving as the voice of the Verdigre Hawks. He kept his role as announcer when Verdigre and neighboring Niobrara, Neb., formed the cooperative team known as the "Cougars."

"Mark was really involved with high school athletics and was a real supporter of the local teams. He just loved announcing," said Pischel's brother-in-law, Mitch Mastalir.

On game nights, Pischel's booming play-by-

play and commentary was heard far beyond the football field, Mastalir said.

"I'm sure Mark's voice would go throughout the valley around Verdigre," Mastalir said. "Everybody within miles of the football field could hear him announce."

But now, that booming voice has been silenced.

Pischel died last August in a fatal motorcycle accident. He had completed a tuxedo fitting in Norfolk, Neb., for a friend's wedding. On the way home, Pischel's motorcycle tire suffered a

blowout, and he died from injuries sustained in the accident.

"When Mark was killed, I was thinking of something appropriate to pay tribute to him," Mastalir said. "I thought of a new press box, because he was always complaining the current press box was too far from the end of the field. He couldn't see the west end of the field. He needed somebody to yell at him and tell what happened."

The fundraising effort began in October and has already raised about \$26,000, Mastalir said. He has raised the goal slightly, to about \$31,000,

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TOMORROW: Yankton's 2013 Captain And Belle Ready For Their Roles

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET