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For National Tourism Week, Officials Point To The  
Economic Importance Of Visitors To Yankton Area

## Touting Tourism

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Quickly: Where is the closest national park to Yankton? Stephanie Moser has stumped people with that question during group discussions.

"Once in a while, we'll have a crowd where someone says, 'This is a trick question!'" says Moser, the director of the Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

The answer to the question, she says, can literally be found in Yankton's backyard. The National Park Service oversees the Missouri National Recreational River (MNR) and operates its MNR headquarters in Yankton.

"We tend to forget, but people need to be mindful that Yankton is part of a national park," she said.

Moser makes the point as part of building awareness during National Tourism Week, running May 2-10.

In the same manner, the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area outside Yankton stands as the second-most visited state park in South Dakota. Its 1.2 million annual visitors trails only Custer State Park in the Black Hills.

The Lewis and Clark Recreation Area features the 25-mile Lewis and Clark Lake. However, it offers not only water recreation but also hiking, biking, camping, disc golf, horseshoes and birding.

"It's always so funny that we tend to take our own area for granted," Moser said. "We're on a river, and we're around it every day. We forget that millions of people are taking advantage of it."

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**  
During National Tourism



KELLY HERTZP&D

The great weather and the great outdoors provide a powerful draw for visitors such as the one shown here enjoying Lewis and Clark Lake near Yankton. Tourism officials are forecasting a banner year which has already seen sites and facilities opening eight weeks ahead of schedule.

Week, Yankton and other area residents have much to consider regarding the huge impact of tourism on the local, regional and state

economy – and how to grow it even more.

How big is tourism? One needs only to look at the numbers.

Moser released the following facts compiled by the South Dakota Department of

**TOURISM** | PAGE 3A

## Pipeline Hearing Slated For July

PUC Sets Evidentiary Hearing In TransCanada Pipeline Case

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The state Public Utilities Commission set new dates Thursday for taking testimony whether TransCanada can still meet the conditions set five years ago for building the proposed Keystone XL pipeline through South Dakota.

The evidentiary hearing will be July 27-31 with Aug. 3-4 if needed. The hearing had been scheduled for May 5-8 until the commission decided Monday to push it back.

"As I look around the room there's a lot of — nobody's happy," Chris Nelson, the commission's chairman, said. "This may be the best that we can accomplish."

State law requires the certification hearing because TransCanada wasn't able to proceed on the project within four years after the state permit was granted in 2010.

The company is waiting for clearance from President Obama's administration for the pipeline to pierce the Canada-U.S. border.

TransCanada wants to ship tar-sands oil from Alberta through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska where the pipeline would connect with the existing distribution network.

The commission also listened to the sides argue for some 90 minutes Thursday about the protective order that had been granted earlier to TransCanada.

"At this point we can't even show documents to our clients for comment," Robin Martinez, a lawyer representing Dakota Rural Action, said.

The order allows TransCanada to keep information out of the public domain but be available to lawyers and consultants working on the case.

The interveners opposing the pipeline's construction wanted the commission to scrap the protective order. Instead the commission allowed the sides to work out modifications to it.

**PUC** | PAGE 2A

## County Looking To Design Seal

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Yankton County officials are looking at ways to help create a visible identity for the county. A committee is now at work trying to create a county seal incorporating elements important to the area.

Brian Hunhoff, Yankton County Register of Deeds, said it had come to his attention the county had no official seal, with individual departments occasionally coming up with their own.

"County Commissioner Debra Bodenstedt knew I had researched some of our Yankton County government history, so she asked one day if we have ever had an official county seal," he said. "To the best of my knowledge, we have not. ... There are some individual county offices that have used different symbols on stationery or uniform patches. The Veteran's Service Office currently uses the American eagle and a couple of other departments have used the Meridian Bridge. However, we have never decided as a county to come up with an image

**SEAL** | PAGE 3A

## Girls On The Run Participants Ready To Reach Their Goals In Race This Weekend

BY JORDYNNE HART  
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COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton students who participate in the Girls On The Run will put their knowledge they knowledge they learned into play at the Embe 5K this Saturday. According to their volunteer coach Amy Reyes they are ready for it.

For Yankton girls participating in the Girls On The Run program, finishing the Embe 5K this Saturday is much more than just running a race — it's achieving a goal which may impact their lives forever.

The event will take place at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls at 10 a.m. on May 2, and is part of the goal-setting portion of the lessons learned in the program.

According to Amy Reyes, volunteer coach of the Yankton program and counselor for Yankton High School, participants were told at the beginning of the season they were going to work towards running a 5K at the end.

"Some of the girls said, 'We will never be able to do that,'" Reyes said.

But throughout the 10-week program, Reyes has witnessed a total change in attitude.

"It's been really cool to work with them because I can see the girls confidence building as we work through the lessons and the practices," she said. "I think the girls are now to the

**RUN** | PAGE 3A

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