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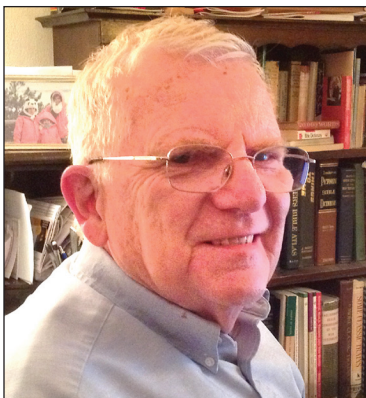


PHOTO: RANDY TRAMP  
**Bob Mason of Yankton's Redeeming Grace Bible Church is the local director of the National Day of Prayer activities. This year's Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7.**

**Day Of Prayer**

## Mason Celebrates Decades In Ministry

BY RANDY TRAMP  
P&D Correspondent

"There is stress and tension in our nation and what is happening in America is our concern," Pastor Bob Mason of Yankton says. "We need to pray."

Mason is assistant pastor of visitation at Redeeming Grace Bible Church, and he is the local director of the National Day of Prayer event, which will be held Thursday in Yankton.

"The noon ceremony gives Christians in the Yankton area an opportunity to carry out the directions from our Lord," he said.

Mason turns 83 in July and looks back upon his life.

In 1953 he attended a Billy Graham Crusade. "My friend kept inviting me and I tried to stay away. Finally, after a week and a half, I gave in and went," Mason says. "I can't exactly explain what happened, but after that you couldn't keep me away."

Mason's father was a mechanical engineer from Toronto, Canada, his mother a registered nurse who trained under Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, who invented corn flakes.) The family lived outside of Detroit, but in a rural setting.

Mason's early spiritual training began at home with his mother reading Bible stories to the family. He attended First Presbyterian Church in nearby Birmingham.

"As a result I found myself with a great respect for the Scriptures and a ... system of values," he explains. "However, I had no assurance of salvation and a great fear of death."

As a young man, Mason became interested in and started working for

# County Seeks Info On Rail Authority



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**As this railroad crossing at Utica indicates, rail traffic is an important component of Yankton County's economy. That is one of the reasons why the Yankton County Commission is considering the formation of a rail authority in conjunction with the City of Yankton. A public hearing on the proposed move will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Yankton County Government Center.**

## Public Meeting On Proposed Rail Authority For Yankton County Is Wednesday

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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The Yankton County Commission is looking to create a regional rail authority, and Wednesday, the board will be giving the public a chance to find out more information and give their input.

Tentatively, plans are to create the authority, in conjunction with the City of Yankton, and include Yankton County.

South Dakota Secretary of Transportation Darin Bergquist told the *Press & Dakotan* that regional rail authorities serve as a means to gain funds for projects pertaining to area railroads.

"One of the primary functions of a rail authority is as a form of local government entities with the ability to impose tax that's used as a conduit for loans issued by the South Dakota Rail Board," Bergquist said. "If the board is going to issue a loan for work on a track, they'll issue it to the regional rail authority because the regional rail authority has the means to guarantee repayment through their power to tax."

He added a regional rail authority can also serve as a means to allow for regional control over state-owned track.

"Historically, the rail board has also entered into agreements with regional rail authorities where they might lease some state-owned track to the regional rail authority," he said. "The regional rail authority would then manage it on a day-to-day basis with a sub-lease to a rail operator."

The state currently has more than 30 active rail authorities according to the South Dakota Department of Transportation's website. Some only include only one county and city governing body while others span multiple



**Bergquist**



**Moore**

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## Merkel Joins Survivors, US Vets To Mark Dachau Liberation

DACHAU, Germany (AP) — It was a shocking, horrifying "beautiful day."

Survivors and liberators alike recalled on Sunday the horror of the Dachau concentration camp and the overwhelming relief of its liberation 70 years ago. German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to keep alive the memory of Nazi crimes and give no quarter to present-day discrimination or anti-Semitism.

Dachau, near Munich, was the first concentration camp the Nazis set up — a few weeks after Adolf Hitler took power in 1933. Before it was liberated

by U.S. troops on April 29, 1945, more than 200,000 people from across Europe were held there and over 40,000 prisoners died.

"When we entered the camp exactly 70 years ago, it was a terrible shock to see how much you, the survivors, had suffered from starvation, disease, brutality and freezing conditions," Alan Lukens, who entered Dachau as a U.S. army private in 1945, said at the anniversary ceremony at the former camp.

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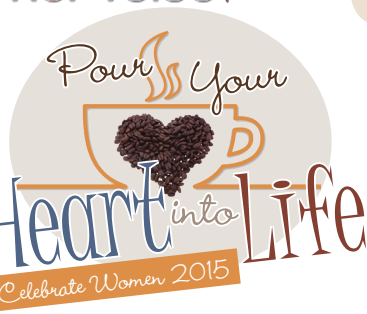


## Colorful Course Correction

**A young boy tries his best to avoid the inevitable during Mount Marty College's "Running In Color" event Sunday. The event, which features runners being doused with colored powder as they pass each station on the designated route, attracted runners of all ages. The event was sponsored by MMC's Student Government Association. (Rob Nielsen/P&D)**



her·voice presents...



with Event Speaker Julie Clark

NEW Location!

**Saturday, May 9th**  
**NFAA Easton Archery Complex**

Advance Tickets Only \$20  
Tickets available at Yankton Hy-Vee, P&D & the Broadcaster  
Doors Open at 11:00 am  
Lunch Served 12:30pm-1:45pm  
Speaker 2pm • Booths Open at 11am

*Yankton's Primo Women's Event!*

