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Finale
PAGE 13**



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Off The Tracks: What Would Yankton Do?



DAVE TUNGE/DAKOTA AERIALS

Last month's rail accident between Scotland and Lesterville caused very minimal delays to rail traffic and resulted in no injuries or significant damage to the surrounding area. However, rail officials and local entities have gone to great lengths to prepare for such situations.

Procedures Are In Place In The Event Of A Local Train Derailment

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Dozens of trains pass through the Yankton area each week without incident. However — as evidenced Sept. 19 at 6:15 a.m. when a 98-car freight train carrying ethanol derailed on a bridge between Scotland and Lesterville — sometimes accidents do occur.

But first responders and railroad officials have constantly worked to prepare themselves for such events.

Amy McBeth, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) director of public affair for the Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin region, told the *Press & Dakotan* that the railroad has been putting in effort to make sure derailments don't happen in the first place.

"We believe that one incident is one too many," McBeth said. "We work to prevent incidents through a number of efforts, including investment in our infrastructure — replacing

rail, replacing ties, robust track inspection. We inspect our tracks more frequently than what's required by the Federal Railroad Administration. We have equipment detectors placed along the tracks to alert us to potential mechanical issues. When shipping hazardous materials, we have additional procedures such as stricter operating practices — which would include speed restrictions. All of those efforts are employed on our part to work to prevent an incident before it happens."

McBeth said 2014 was the railroad's safest year of operation.

IF AN ACCIDENT OCCURS

Should a major accident occur — especially in Yankton itself — Yankton deputy fire chief Larry Nickles said there's a number of procedures first responders would use.

"We would respond to a rail accident just like any other,"

TRAIN | PAGE 11

Tornado May Alter Delmont's Form Of City Government

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

DELMONT — The May 10 tornado that struck this Douglas County community could lead to a change in the town's form of government.

Delmont voters head to the polls Tuesday for a special election. They will decide whether to change from the current use of wards and aldermen to an at-large board of trustees.

Mayor Mae Gunnare said a group of residents circulated petitions putting the measure on the ballot.

"We currently have six council members and a mayor. The council members are elected from wards," she said. "This (ballot measure) would change us to a three-member board of trustees with the (president) coming from among those three."

At the present time, voters elect a mayor. Under the proposed change, the three trustees would choose the president from among themselves.

Changes have been discussed in the past, Gunnare said. However, the Mother's Day tornado that hit Delmont has renewed the discussion.

The F-2 twister reached winds of 130 miles per hour and hit hard the west end of town. The storm claimed a number of homes along with Zion Lutheran Church and the new fire hall. Surrounding farms also sustained extensive damage.

The tornado didn't result in any fatalities, but nine people were injured. In addition, the town was temporarily evacuated because of concerns about propane and damaged infrastructure.

As a result of the damage, a large number of Delmont residents have moved out of town, Gunnare said. The reasons have varied from their financial inability to rebuild homes and businesses to personal situations such as school, employment and medical care.

"We've lost 70 residents, or one-third of our population," she said. "We went from 240 residents (before the tornado) to around 170 current residents. But people have to do what they feel is right for themselves and their families."

Regardless of Tuesday's election outcome, the City Council will see one change, Gunnare said.

DELMONT | PAGE 11

Coming Up

MVCA Hopes For Repeat Success With Benefit

BY REILLY BIEL
reilly.biel@yankton.net

After the success of last year's inaugural Fall Banquet and Auction fundraiser, Missouri Valley Christian Academy (MVCA) is looking for a repeat showing.

MVCA is holding its second annual fundraiser at Calvary Baptist Church in Yankton Saturday, Oct. 24. Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. and the auction beginning at 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required for auction numbers.

The fall banquet is one of three

major fundraisers MVCA has each year. The other two are calendar sales and a Race for Christ servathon.

MVCA raised \$13,000 at last year's fall banquet and has high hopes for this year's numbers.

"Our goal is to raise at least \$20,000," said banquet committee member Stacey Nickels. "We have a generous donor who believes in the value of Christian education and is going to match, dollar for dollar, what we make up to \$20,000."



COURTESY PHOTO

This photo was shot at the Missouri Valley Christian Academy's inaugural inaugural Fall Banquet and Auction fundraiser last year. This year's event is set for Oct. 24 at Calvary Baptist Church in Yankton.

MVCA | PAGE 11

Motions Deadline Extended In Angel Case

BY ROB NIELSEN
Rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The deadline for filing motions in the case of Trae Angel, the suspect in a September assault that ended in an officer-involved shooting, was extended during a hearing Friday morning.

Angel was not present but was represented by his court-appointed attorney, Luci Youngberg.

Youngberg asked that the court extend the motions hearing deadline in order to fully review materials recently released by the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). Youngberg said three motions had already been filed but did not elaborate on them.

Deputy States Attorney Erich Johnke had no objection to the deadline extension, which First

ANGEL | PAGE 11

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