



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

A Record Year For Lewis & Clark

‘Pent Up Demand’ From 2011 Flood Helps Recreation Area See Highest Numbers Ever

BY ANDREW ATWAL

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The Lewis and Clark Recreation Area experienced a record number of visitors this year.

However, Jeff Van Meeteren, the regional park supervisor for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) thinks that numbers could have been higher than they were.

“The numbers we had this year were good, but I was hoping they would have been a little higher than they were,” he said.

He added that there is still an opportunity to raise

the numbers this fall.

“We have had fantastic falls the last several years, so there is still a chance the numbers rise even higher.”

So far from Jan. 1 to Labor Day this year, the number of day visitations to the park, measured by counting the number of cars that come in, is up nearly 5 percent from where it was in 2011.

However, the key indicator to numbers at the park comes from the amount of campers staying on the grounds,

“The camping unit is really our bread and butter number,” Van Meeteren said. “The nightly camp unit

numbers is really one of the key numbers that we count.”

This year, the number of campers at Lewis and Clark is up 8.3 percent from 2011. Chief White Crane camping numbers are up 11.8 percent from last year, while Pier-son Ranch numbers are up 9.6 percent from last year as well. All told, when compared to last year, numbers are up an average of more than 10 percent. Van Meeteren added that he was hoping numbers at Lewis and Clark would have been up closer to 10 percent.

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Police ID Gunman In Sioux Falls Shooting

BY DIRK LAMMERS
AND KRISTI EATON

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A South Dakota man took his two young children from a baby sitter’s home at gunpoint, and then apparently killed himself inside of a hair salon Tuesday after officers found an employee shot to death in a car in the salon parking lot.

The man, identified by police as 38-year-old Tyrone Leeon Smith of Sioux Falls, released the children and four employees — one of whom was the children’s mother — after entering the Cost Cutters salon that sits in a strip mall along Sioux Falls’ busiest street about 1:30 p.m., Police Sgt. Loren McManus said. The employees reported hearing a gunshot as they were leaving the building, he said.

McManus said it didn’t appear that Smith wanted to hold the employees or the children hostage, but officers already had discovered Cost Cutters manager Amanda Connors inside her red sedan, dead from a gunshot wound.

McManus said he wasn’t sure what Connors’ relationship was to Tyrone Smith, other than being a coworker of his children’s mother.

Court records show Smith was released from the Minnehaha County Jail on Monday after pleading not guilty to a domestic assault charge against the mother, the Argus Leader newspaper reported. The mother took out a protection order against Smith Monday morning, asking that he be barred from coming within 500 feet of her, their children, their shared home or the day care their children attended.

Connors, who was in her early 20s, was “absolutely a sweet-heart. She could light up a room,” said friend Jarod Smith. He told The Associated Press that he met Connors about three years ago, when the two worked at a Sioux Falls restaurant.

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TODAY

Join Jeremy
Hoeck and James
Cimburek today at
3:30 p.m. for the
P&D sports chat.

www.yankton.net/live_chat

Congress Eyes Early Getaway

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Efforts in Congress to provide emergency drought aid to hard-hit farmers and overhaul crop subsidy programs appear to be falling victim to Washington gridlock.

Talk of action now to avoid sending the economy over the “fiscal cliff” is just that, talk.

Indeed, lawmakers have only been back in session for a couple of days since returning from their August recess, but on Tuesday were already anticipating a quick exit from Washington to hit the campaign trail — with the only significant accomplishment being a must-pass bill to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the month.

Tuesday at the U.S. Capitol, like so many other days, featured lots of talk but little action.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, started the day off on a sour note by telling reporters after a closed-door morning caucus with the GOP rank and file that he’s not confident Congress can reach a budget deal late this year and avoid a downgrading of the U.S. debt rating.

A couple of hours later, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, again threw cold water on GOP hopes of passing a short-term extension of food and farm programs when they expire Sept. 30.

For his part, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., was far more hopeful that “some kind of agreement” would be reached to avert the fiscal cliff — a one-two combination of automatic tax increases and across-the-board spending cuts set to strike the economy on Jan. 2. After the election, though. Not now.

“I’m hopeful we will reach some kind of agreement,” Reid said, suggesting that the results of the Nov. 6 elections will weaken the GOP’s resolve to block tax in-

CONGRESS | PAGE 2



PHOTO COURTESY BRYAN SLABA

The entrance to Parkview Villa Apartments in Wagner greets both tenants and visitors. The complex, built about 30 years ago, had suffered deterioration and financial woes. Now, a ribbon-cutting ceremony today (Wednesday) will celebrate new ownership and management, along with \$1.1 million in renovations and an anticipated full capacity in the near future.

Wagner Celebrates Major Housing, Hospital Projects On The Same Day

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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WAGNER — For Wagner residents, patience is more than a virtue — it’s a way of getting major projects accomplished. And thanks to years of hard work and patience, the Charles Mix County town will celebrate two ribbon cuttings today (Wednesday).

The 11 a.m. ceremony will feature the 31-unit Parkview Villa housing complex for the elderly and disabled. A seven-member board worked nearly five years, through a non-profit corporation, to secure \$1.3 million in state and federal funds to purchase and remodel a struggling operation.

OUR TOWNS

Charles Mix County

At noon, the ribbon-cutting at Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera (WCMH-A) will celebrate the final stage of the final phase of the campus master plan. The total project has spanned four years at a total cost of just over \$7 million.

“Both of these projects will help serve our community for many years in the future,” said Ken Thaler, WCMH-A board president and Parkview Villa board member.

The public is encouraged to attend the ceremonies, said Bryan Slaba, who has worked with both of the separate projects. Slaba serves as WCMH-A administrator and Parkview Villa board president.

“To celebrate two ribbon cuttings in one day, for two such major projects, shows that Wagner is a progressive community,” Slaba said. “This is a huge day for Wagner and a huge day for its people.”

PARKVIEW VILLA

The 34-unit housing complex, known

PROJECTS | PAGE 12

WIND WHIPPED

Firefighters from the Vermillion and Gayville had their hands full during a very windy Monday afternoon when a grass fire that began in a pasture approximately five miles west of Vermillion spread to a windbreak and threatened a rural home. According to Lee Huber of the Vermillion Fire Department, the fire began in grassland, bumped up into a cornfield, and then was fueled by timber in the windbreak. A small building was involved in the fire, which consumed from seven to 10 acres, but firemen were able to keep the blaze away from a residence. The Vermillion firefighters were assisted by the Gayville and Volin fire departments. Huber also believes a construction crew working on Highway 50 and a local fertilizer helped in the effort to bring the fire under control. Local law enforcement, including these two Highway Patrol troopers, controlled traffic on Timber Road near the fire. Vermillion firemen had earlier assisted in extinguishing a fire in the Elk Point area. “Some of our guys put in a 12-hour day,” Huber said. (David Lias / Plain Talk)



Yankton Resident Injured During Attack In Afghanistan

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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A Yankton man was injured early this week when the helicopter he was in was attacked with a rocket in Afghanistan.

Pvt. Zack Haas, 22, is “doing fine” his mother told the Press & Dakotan Tuesday evening. Susie Gill spoke with him Tuesday morning while he was recovering at a hospital in Afghanistan.

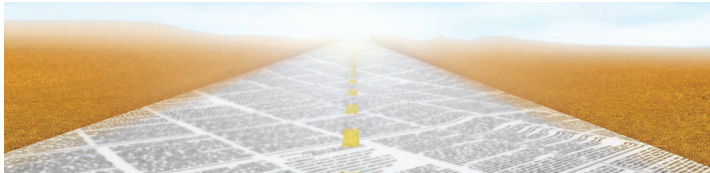
Shrapnel was lodged in Haas’ leg during the attack, Gill said. Haas told his mother no one was

killed in the incident.

He was deployed to Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division in June.

Gill said she is looking forward to seeing her son in Fayetteville, N.C., at the end of September when he returns to the United States with the rest of his unit.

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



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TOMORROW: Libertarian Vice Presidential Candidate Visits Vermillion

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:

SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET