



Showers And Thunderstorms

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**FRIDAY** ■ September 27, 2013



Photos  
Celebrate  
The Summer  
Season  
**RIVER CITY**

**YANKTON DAILY**  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**



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75¢



**INSIDE**



**USA Weekend**

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**On The Job**

**Schramm  
Ready For  
Chamber's  
New Role**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the Press & Dakotan's monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.*

**BY NATHAN JOHNSON**

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The role of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce has been changing in recent years to meet the business community's needs, and Carmen Schramm hopes that



**Schramm**

process continues in a positive direction under her leadership. Earlier this month, the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors announced Schramm as the new executive director of the organization. She had been the director of Chamber services since December of 2009 and will incorporate those duties into the new position.

"It shifts the higher-level decision making and responsibilities over from (former Yankton economic development director and Chamber executive director Mike Dellinger) and onto me," Schramm said of the promotion.

Dellinger left the position in August for a new job in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Schramm's appointment is part of a larger change in the Chamber's relationship to Yankton's economic development efforts. While the Chamber will still be involved with that work, the executive director of the organization will no longer also serve as the economic development director for the community. That will be a separate position.

"We are excited for Carmen to lead the Chamber in her new role as executive director," Marcy

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**'Evisceration' Of The Arts**

**USD President Says Attitude Toward  
Certain Fields Is Challenging Education**

**BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON**

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**VERMILLION** — One of the biggest challenges to higher education today is the national attitude toward it, and toward liberal arts in particular.

Along with student retention, enrollment and graduation rates, this attitude was one of the main topics of University of South

Dakota president James W. Abbott's annual State of the University address, which was held Thursday at Aalfs Auditorium.

Abbott said he has a hard time understanding "of what I think is the current movement, really, to eviscerate the liberal arts. I don't know if it's intended, but I think that it's a part of what's happening, and it bothers me a great deal."



**Abbott**

... don't major in psychology," he said.

The emphasis away from liberal arts is an elitist one, Abbott said.

"The people I hear saying it are people who sent their kids to insti-

This "evisceration" was seen first-hand during meetings with the state Board of Regents, Abbott said.

"Person after person in these conversations got up and said, 'You know, tell the kids

tutions like the University of South Dakota to get a great liberal arts education, to learn to express themselves orally and in writing, to take sufficient classes to analyze things and solve problems," he said.

Abbott said he was not in any way denigrating general skills.

"Skills are necessary, but in a world that is rapidly changing, how is it that a set of skills that you learn gives you the ability to change the world?" he said. "We are so much in South Dakota a vic-

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**Pioneer Prince And Princess**



**KELLY HERTZ/P&D**

**JJ Hejna and Susanna Kinsley were crowned the Pioneer Days prince and princess during Yankton High School's annual homecoming coronation festivities Thursday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center main gym. Thursday's ceremony also included fan and parents awards and a bonfire. Festivities continue today (Friday) with a parade beginning at 2:30 p.m. Yankton will host Sioux Falls O'Gorman at 7 p.m. tonight in the annual football game at Crane Youngworth Field. To see or purchase photos from Thursday's coronation, visit spotted.yankton.net.**

**SD Could Lower Unemployment Taxes**

**BY BOB MERCER**

State Capitol Bureau

**PIERRE** — The state panel that provides guidance on unemployment insurance taxes in South Dakota meets Monday morning to consider recommending reductions in the tax rates starting in 2015.

The balance in South Dakota's trust fund for unemployment insurance stood at about \$63.5 million on Aug. 31 and is projected to reach the target of \$76.1 million by the end of 2014.

Unless there is a significant downturn in the economy, the trust fund balance is forecast to reach \$89.3 million by the end of 2015.

State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts said the system would be over-funded if that occurs.

Roberts, who retires in mid-October,

has asked the state Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council to look at UI tax-rate reductions that could be proposed to the Legislature for action in January.

The panel looked at four sets of recommendations during a meeting Tuesday and will gather again Monday to consider another proposal.

The internal debate among members of the panel is whether all contributors to the system should be treated somewhat equally by a package of reductions or those users who don't draw on the system very often or not at all should receive larger reductions.

The seasonal nature of the construction industry tends to make it the largest user of the system. Many construction businesses see their laid-off employees draw more benefits from the system than those em-

ployers pay into the system.

The lowest users of the system tend to be retail businesses. All businesses were hit with surcharges in recent years during the depth of the recession, because the system had gone broke and required a federal loan, similar to many states across the nation.

The latest proposal was circulated Thursday by Roberts' department.

It would keep the standard range of tax rates in place but would reduce by one-third the penalty paid by negative users and reduce across the board the amounts per employee that all businesses would need to have in reserve in the system.

The plan appears to be a milder version of the proposal submitted by

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**Avon  
Lawyer  
Pleads In  
Campaign  
Violation**

**BY BOB MERCER**

State Capitol Bureau

**PIERRE** — An Avon lawyer pleaded guilty Thursday to a violation of South Dakota's campaign-finance laws.

Scott Swier, 41, was ordered to return \$6,500 of the money that he received from Free Conferencing Corp. in his role as treasurer for the South Dakota Telecommunications political action committee.

Swier was accused of failing to file or amend a statement of organization for a political action committee, a Class 2 misdemeanor.

He entered the plea in Hughes County before Magistrate Judge Leo Disburg, who suspended the \$54 fine and \$66 of court costs provided that Swier returns the money.

Swier formerly was a lawyer for the South Dakota attorney general's office. His last day there was Oct. 15, 2009. He is now in private practice.

Swier's violation came to light this year as the result of an investigation of campaign finances involving Swier and a client, Native American Telecom, which was connected directly to Free Conferencing Corp.

The Long Beach, Calif.-based company was the only donor in 2012 to South Dakota Telecommunications PAC, for which Swier was chairman and treasurer.

The company sent \$16,500 to the Swier-run PAC. That was \$6,500 more than the \$10,000 limit for a PAC to receive from any one source under South Dakota law.

The Swier-operated PAC then

**LAWYER | PAGE 5A**

**Yankton Woman's  
Work At N. Carolina  
Camp Hits Home**

**BY ROB NIELSEN**

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Yankton resident Julie Cornay recently took on a volunteering opportunity with a personal connection.

Cornay, who works in Health Information at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital was a volunteer during the camp's annual Charles Kleinschmidt Fabry Family Weekend and said it was an exciting experience for all involved.

"It is basically a camp for fun," she said. "We didn't have any learning, there were just activities like horseback riding, archery, a



**Cornay**

stage show, boating ... they basically just ran from one place to the other the whole weekend having fun."

Victory Junction, based in Randleman, N.C., was

opened in 2004 by Kyle and Pattie Petty in honor of their son Adam, who was killed in a racing accident. The camp hosts children with chronic medical conditions or serious illnesses and their families for weekends full of activities, including fishing, swimming, mini-



**COURTESY PHOTO**

**Campers and volunteers gear up for the Charles Kleinschmidt Fabry Family Weekend held at Victory Junction in North Carolina. Julie Cornay of Yankton was among the volunteers.**

golf, horseback riding and many others and has a racing theme throughout the camp. Other camps held at the facility include weekends for families affected by

hemophilia and autism.

Cornay said she got involved

**CAMP | PAGE 5A**

**Rain Alleviates Drought  
But Too Late To Help Crops**

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)** — The storm system that left Colorado dealing with historic flooding dropped rain across a large swath of the nation from Wisconsin to Texas last week, helping to alleviate drought conditions in some areas of the country, including Iowa and Nebraska, authors of a weekly national drought monitor said Thursday.

The rain was too late to help most corn and soybean fields, however. Rainfall throughout the growing season has been spotty, leaving some farmers with a dismal harvest while others beginning to bring in crops are reporting surprisingly good results.

"There will be lot of variability out there field to field and even within a field," said Mark Licht, an Iowa State University field agronomist. "The rains we got here were welcomed, but they just didn't add much to that yield potential because the crop growth had progressed so far already."

The yield is the amount of a crop per acre a farmer gets.

Early harvest reports from soybean farmers in central Iowa range from 35 to 60 bushels per acre, Licht said. The normal trend is around 50.

Early corn reports range from 75 to 120 bushels per acre in central Iowa, lower than the state normal trend of about 170 to 180 bushels. But some farmers on the eastern edge of the state have reported an eye-popping 260 bushels an acre.