

Festival

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going to put on a show. It's a six piece band and they are absolutely entertaining and exciting to watch as well as they'll get you dancing. They play all kinds of good country rock, original music. They may cover some music as well but they're mostly going to do their original stuff and it is fantastic."

Jesse Becker, lead singer of Maiden Dixie, actually has some personal ties to Vermillion.

"I'm from Minneapolis originally but I was recruited to play basketball at USD and I went down there for five years and just loved it," he said. "I'm back in Minneapolis now, definitely a lot of strong ties to Vermillion still."

Becker plans on connecting with some old friends on his visit to play at Ribs Rods and Rock & Roll.

"I have a couple of close folks on USD faculty still from teachers to coaches to people in the community that supported coyote athletics and things like that but and are still in Vermillion," he said. "I'm excited to see a lot of people that I haven't seen in a long time. A lot of people have helped promote too. I'm super excited. It's been awhile since I've been back. We did perform in Yankton at an acoustic thing by chance one time so I took a couple of members that were with us to the DakotaDome in Vermillion to kind of relive some old memories and show them around the Dome and things like that."

Becker went on to say how excited he is to relive not just the Vermillion experience but Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll itself.

"I used to attend this event back in the day," he said. "I just remember it was my second or third year of school, we would go downtown and join in the festivities. There were always great bands I remember and now I have the chance, I never thought I would, to play. I just remember a lot of people, a great time, a great atmosphere, great food obviously. I'm excited to get down there and perform."

Maiden Dixie, which has just released their second album entitled 'Unsafe and Sound', is looking forward to sharing their unique sound with the event attendees.

"I think Friday night you're definitely going to see a group of people," Becker said. "We all sing, we all play. It's going to be high energy. You're going to see a lot of our original music, you're going to see some covers that hopefully you'll recog-

nize. We're very eclectic. We have a base player that grew up listening to Pink Floyd, our guitar player started in a punk band a long time ago. When we come together our sound is definitely country music, we can hear a lot of influences in our original music when we come together to make our sound."

The band members' backgrounds contribute to the way they perform as well.

"It's funny because I'm probably the only one that really grew up listening to country music because my dad performed it," Becker said. "Then I got into hip hop and punk. My fiddle player is actually a violin major. He's a classical guy but now he plays banjo and mandolin so we've all just kind of come together to form this sound that comes out is country music, it's just a lot of influences."

"We have a great time performing because we play songs we've created together and we have a ball performing it. We'll definitely be performing all the songs off our second album and a couple off our first album as well. I'm excited and I think people will definitely dig it."

The entertainment will continue through Saturday.

"On Saturday at 5, we have Ledfoot and they're a fun band to watch," Hammer said. "They'll get you dancing as well. I think it's a five piece band and they play rock and roll. Good music, good band. We had them a few years back but they've changed somewhat with their members. Then we have my favorite band, Guilty Pleasures Orchestra (GPO)."

According to Hammer, GPO formed when two bands combined in the late 70's or early 80's.

"They're a classic rock band," he said. "They play songs that you don't hear other cover bands play. They just do a fantastic job. There's no better band locally that anybody could hire than the Guilty Pleasures Orchestra and we have them on Saturday night at Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll."

It's a great lineup of music and I promise entertaining. I promise that you will want to get up and dance."

Other activities include various BBQ competitions, street vendors, Family Fun area, poker run and classic car show.

"They'll enjoy it," Hammer said. "There will be a lot of good finger-licking ribs, beer, rock and roll and country."

For more information on Ribs, Rods and Rock & Roll, visit www.sdbbq.us.

City

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expansion plans.

"The City of Yankton has kind of a unique opportunity right now to help one of our local major employers do some expansion at their location," he said. "That includes a request for a new rail crossing."

Andrew Wordekemper, BNSF Project Engineer for Public Projects for Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, said Yankton is almost overloaded with crossings as is.

"Due to the way the railroad comes through the city, you guys have an above-average number of crossings," Wordekemper said. "Our main focus is to reduce that number because some of them may have gates and some of them may not. As you guys can see in the news, when a car or anything gets hit at a crossing, that's what we do not want to see, and the best way to prevent that is to remove the crossing entirely."

Mingo said the city is unable to simply ask the railroad to install a new crossing without the closure of others due to the safety initiatives.

"Our first request to BNSF was new crossings," he said. "At that point in time, we were talking about the one by KPI and we were discussing the potential for additional crossings as the community expands east and northwest. ... It became very clear very soon that the more recent safety programs for the railroads don't include new crossings for new development. The policy, from their perspective, is it's not even a one-for-one trade anymore — it ends up



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Andrew Wordekemper, BNSF Project Engineer for Public Projects for Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, discusses proposed railroad crossing additions and closures during a forum at the Technical Education Center Wednesday evening. A proposal includes closing a railroad crossing on 11th St. and an alleyway off of E. Eighth St. while adding a private crossing on the Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc. (KPI) property.

being a two-for-one or even greater trade."

The first location picked was an alley off of E. Eighth St. to the east of Mulberry St.

Mingo said while the first location for a closure was easy to find, city officials had to resort to finding more lightly traveled roads for a second closure.

"The next discussion led us to looking at crossings that access unimproved or partially improved right-of-ways," he said. "It became fairly obvious as we moved through the community that the second access point to consider is on W. 11th St."

The crossing falls on W. 11th St. between Broadway Ave. and Railroad St., which is also listed as Gravel Rd. on some maps.

Mingo said the street sees some additional traffic from trucks trying to access businesses in Morgan Square.

"One of the things that we noticed when we were viewing that location was that there was a certain amount of truck traffic utilizing this location and using that crossing to try and avoid the access to Broadway," he said. "Technically, this isn't a truck route."

Mingo said the city is looking into ways of improv-

ing access to the businesses from 12th St. and other ways of minimizing impacts of any potential closures.

As for the added crossing, Mingo said adding one on the west side of KPI's current property would help in a future expansion.

"A crossing here would allow them to expand into the 20 acres (west of the facility)," he said. "The local leadership at KPI is telling us that they have the market and ability to expand into this area. Without being able to utilize this property, it would limit their ability to maintain and expand their operations in Yankton."

With the city as a whole looking at future expansion, Mingo told the *Press & Dakotan* that the city and county may need to take a hard look at other potential crossing closures.

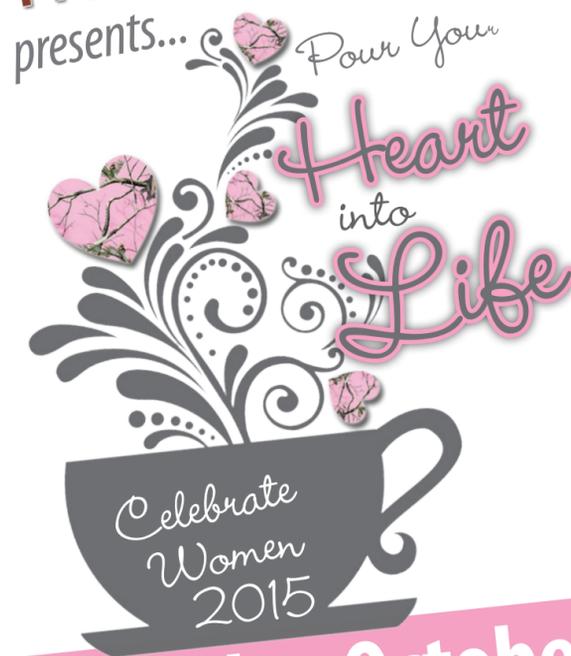
"We've scoured every crossing in the city," he said. "This negotiation was between the city and BNSF specifically. It didn't include county crossings at all. As the city expands, obviously, some of those crossings that are out in the county will be in the city, so they'll be part of the discussion. It gets really difficult — it was difficult to identify the 11th St. crossing — but as we have expansions or an industry on the east side of town or northwest of town that needs a crossing for their operations, we'll have to possibly make some hard decisions about other closures."

The proposed crossing closures and additions are set to be discussed at the Sept. 28 Yankton City Commission meeting.

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