



Sunny And Feeling Like Fall

9 a.m. **53** 3 p.m. **69** | DETAILS: Page 2

**Area Football
 Teams In
 Action Friday
 PAGE 11**

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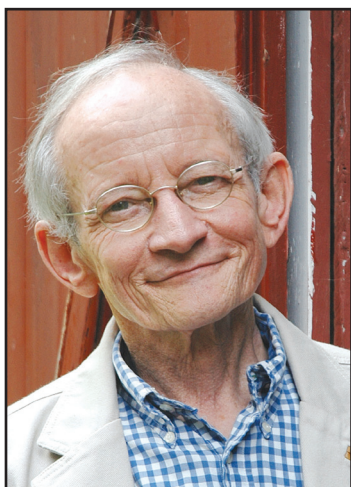


A Clear Success



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Officials with Nebraska Game, Fish & Parks are pleased with the progress made on Lake Yankton one year after the manmade lake below Gavins Point Dam was partially drained and poisoned due to the overwhelming presence of endangered species. Officials noted, among other things, the clarity of the water on the lake now, as exhibited at the shoreline near the bottom of this photo, which was taken last month.



COURTESY PHOTO

Former two-time U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser will hold a book-reading and book-signing Sunday night at Mount Marty's Marian Auditorium.

Former U.S. Poet Laureate To Speak At Mount Marty

BY REILLY BIEL
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As a former two-time U.S. poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize recipient, it's not surprising that Ted Kooser has inspired writers across the country, including those here in Yankton.

"I have a quote from Ted outside my office door that states: 'Anyone in the world can write a poem people can't understand,' said Mount Marty College (MMC) English Professor Jim Reese.

With the two U.S. poet laureate titles, as well as 13 books of poetry under his belt, it's clear that Kooser is not that kind of writer.

"Writing usually reflects the person doing the writing, and because I've become less brash and more tolerant, I think my poems reflect that," Kooser explained.

As part of the Great Plains Writers' Tour, Kooser will be at MMC at 7 p.m. Sunday in Marian Auditorium to give a reading of his newest poetry book, "Splitting an Order." The poems in the book "honor the lives of everyday people," he said.

"Poetry for me has always been a way for a person to say things with care and precision that in ordinary conversation would have come out awkward and clumsy," said Kooser. "I've never wanted to look foolish or stupid, and when you're writing, you have time to consider what you're going to say."

Kooser first spoke at MMC in 2006, when he was in his second

KOOSER | PAGE 10

One Year Later, Lake Yankton Rehabilitation On Track

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Exactly one year after a complete chemical renovation of Lake Yankton, signs of the lake's recovery are everywhere. Jeff Schuckman, Nebraska Game, Fish & Parks Northeast district fisheries manager, told the *Press & Dakotan* things are looking positive for the lake.

"I'd say everything is right on track and looks fantastic," Schuckman said. He added that there are a lot of visible signs of the lake's recovery.

"Probably everybody that's been at the lake this summer has noticed how clear the water is," he said. "There's abundant vegetation growing again in the lake which is great for fish habitats and for waterfowl. I was up there about three weekends ago doing some kayaking with my wife and really noticed a lot of users on the lake — lot of kayaks, canoes, the swimming beach was full, people on those stand-up paddle boards. It's great to see the use back on the lake. And the water is just crystal clear."

The lake was partially drained and filled with 700 gallons of chemicals last September in an

effort to kill off invasive species that had overtaken it following the flooding in 2011.

Schuckman said the lake's fish population is also making a comeback.

"We do have a full complement of our stocking completed since the renovation," he said.

Since the renovation, the lake has been stocked with 16,759 large-mouth bass fingerlings (2014), 132,640 bluegill fingerlings, 300,000 walleye fry, 38,475 large-mouth bass fingerlings (2015), 50,018 black crappie fingerlings and 3,210 10-inch channel catfish.

Schuckman said those fish have been growing fast.

"I have seen some bass and blue gill swimming around," he said. "Looks like the bass are in that 8- to 10-inch range, and I've seen bluegill look like they're around six inches or better."

He added that, so far, it's looking as though the lake is free of invasive species.

"We feel it was a complete renovation," he said. "We got a very good kill on the lake and, while we haven't been up there with our sampling gear yet taking a look at it, I haven't seen any evidence of any unwanted species in there at this time."

LAKE | PAGE 10



Several members of Yankton's Pizza Ranch staff travelled to Wisconsin in June to receive the 2014 team of the year award from franchise president Adrie Groeneweg at the chain's summer conference. The 35 employees beat out more than 180 restaurants from 13 states for the honor of top crew. (Courtesy photo)

Employees Win 'Team Of The Year' From Pizza Ranch Chain

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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When you think of the characteristics that make up a good team, what comes to mind? Trust, understanding, camaraderie?

Well, the staff of Yankton's Pizza Ranch has showcased all that and more, especially in the past year.

The local Pizza Ranch staff has been named the 2014 Team of the Year out of all the restaurants in the Pizza Ranch chain. These 35 members beat out more than 180 locations across 13 states for the honor.

General manager Annie Plautz, who has been with the Yankton Pizza Ranch for more than 12 years, had so much faith in her team to succeed that she filled out the application form to nominate her crew with a particular

direction in mind.

"I didn't want to talk about numbers, how we increased this or we increased that, because they (the corporate employees) see that every day," Plautz said. "I chronicled the year by months and I was coming up with something every single month that was above and beyond what was expected of them."

The Pizza Ranch corporate office in Orange City, Iowa, has a leadership team that considers each of the applications and makes the final decision on the award.

Twelve of Yankton's Pizza Ranch team members traveled to Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin in June to the franchise's summer conference to accept the award.

"You only have a few minutes up

AWARD | PAGE 10

Bon Homme Co.

DOT Plans Further Study Of Highway 50 Changes

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TYNDALL —The South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) announced Friday it will take another look at its proposal to eliminate four-lane divided sections of state Highway 50 in Bon Homme County.

The DOT proposal would affect five four-lane stretches between Avon and Tabor. Those sections of highway would be changed to two lanes with a center turn lane, likely in 2020 at the earliest.

This project is tentatively programmed into the department's eight-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The conversion would cost \$8.3 million, and another 13 miles of resurfacing would bring the total project cost to \$14.1 million, according to DOT estimates.

DOT planning engineer Mark Malone said the move would bring greater safety. In addition, the traffic counts don't warrant a four-lane highway, he said.

"They (residents) feel like their lanes are being taken away," he told the *Press & Dakotan* in an earlier interview. "We're trying to express to the folks from a traffic standpoint that a divided four-lane highway isn't needed at all."

However, area residents raised concerns at a DOT meeting in Tyndall last month. In addition, nearly 600 individuals signed petitions opposing the change.

In response, the DOT said Friday afternoon it would conduct further studies on the highway from the Avon area to Tabor.

"As a result of the feedback, the department is planning to collect data during peak travel seasons over the next six to eight months on the section of Highway 50 from west of Tyndall through Tabor," the news release said.

"This will assure the final project provides a safe and efficient highway both now and for the future."

"Once the data has been gathered and analyzed, the SDDOT will hold another public meeting sometime next year to discuss the findings and resulting recommen-

TYNDALL | PAGE 9

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