



Thunderstorms, Much Cooler

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A Look Back On
Summer • **1B**

Onward Yankton Winner To Be Announced Monday

The winner of Onward Yankton's search for the community's next big idea will be announced on Monday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m., at the Meridian Bridge Plaza (Second and Walnut).

More than 500 ideas were submitted during Onward Yankton's 100-day search, which was launched in April. The committee narrowed the field to 15 ideas before six finalists were announced on Aug. 4. They presented their ideas at a public forum on Aug. 31.

Monday's announcement marks the end of the search and the beginning of the implementation phase.

Committee members are already at work on plans to make the winning idea become a reality. "We really think the winning idea will be a big boost to Yankton, and we'll need the community's help to make it happen," said Onward Yankton committee member Heidi Marsh. "We were excited about several proposals, and we're hopeful that other service groups or organizations in town select one and run with it."

The winning idea will net a \$10,000 cash prize. Each idea in its entirety is available at www.onwardyankton.com.

County Reaches Halfway Marker On Town Halls

BY ROB NIELSEN

rob.nielsen@yankton.net

GAYVILLE — Three Down, three to go.

Yankton County Commission board members Donna Freng and Raymon Epp were on hand at the Gayville Community Center Thursday night for the third of six commission town halls being held throughout the county this month.

As has been the case at the previous two meetings, a vote on a proposed road and bridge levy was the centerpiece of the night's discussion. The levy is set to go to a county-wide vote on Sept. 29.

"There's still a lot of questions about how it's going to be appropriated out that we're answering," Epp said. "(The money) is going into a special fund just for roads and bridges."

He added that questions about how in-town maintenance throughout the county would take place stuck out to him.

"There's concerns about small towns — how they will be affected and if more monies will be available to work on their potholes and if that would be part of this," he said. "In a roundabout way, that will be able to be addressed, because if we have monies for our roads and bridges, the (Highway) Department's general budget may be able to have money available to work on potholes."

A crowd of about 20 area residents spent more than an hour discussing a variety of issues with the commissioners, including the proposed levy.

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This young dancer for Yankton's Academy of Dance scans the crowd before performing at Riverboat Days in August. To see more summer photos, see today's "River City."

L&C Lake 'Infested'

Corps Steps Up Efforts To Contain Zebra Mussels

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN

alissa.woockman@yankton.net

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has declared Lewis & Clark Lake "infested" with zebra mussels after the invasive species was discovered in greater numbers this past summer.

Currently the infestation has only extended to the lower third of the Lewis and Clark reservoir and to an unknown extent down-

stream of Gavins Point Dam, since upstream inspections have found no evidence of zebra mussels.

"Within the lake itself, in a water body this size, once they are in, they are going to be in," said Omaha District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative Jonas Grundman. "Eradication is probably not going to happen. It's about isolating the population in the reservoir itself and trying to educate folks that are visiting so they are not inadvertently taking it

from this water body to another water body."

These creatures have a dense habit of interfering with water intake infrastructures by coating exposed surfaces. They tend to grow heavy on the undersides of docks, boats and anchors.

The larval stage of zebra mussels, called veligers, is nearly impossible to detect due to their small size. Veligers can be easily

MUSSELS | PAGE 11A

Homecoming Pioneers!



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Joseph Kelly and Sophie Drotzmann were named Pioneer Prince and Princess as Yankton High School held its coronation on Thursday at the Summit Activities Center. Homecoming for YHS concludes today (Friday) with the parade at 2:30 p.m. and the football game against Aberdeen Central at 7 p.m. RIGHT: Students from YHS pose in their homecoming week wear for Thursday's Black-Out Day. Underclassmen are in black while all the seniors are dressed in white. In front, senior royalty court candidates Becky Frick and Reid Sawatzke show their spirit with some underclassmen in the commons study hall.



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Charles Mix Co.

'Multiple' People Die In Platte Home Fire

BY DIRK LAMMERS

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS (AP) — An early-morning fire engulfed a rural home in South Dakota where a couple and their four children lived, leaving multiple people dead, authorities said Thursday.

Charles Mix County Sheriff Randy Thaler said firefighters were called around 5:30 a.m. to the home of Scott and Nicole Westerhuis, about 3 miles south of Platte, about 110 miles west of Sioux Falls. A preliminary investigation revealed "multiple victims," but they are not yet identifiable, Thaler said.

Platte-Geddes School District Superintendent Joel Bailey said local agencies informed him Thursday morning that the couple and the children, who attended school in the small district, died in the fire. He said the students killed were Kailey, a third-grader; Jaeci, a fifth-grader; Connor, an eighth-grader; and Michael, a high school sophomore.

Scott and Nicole Westerhuis worked for Mid-Central Educational Cooperative, a Platte-based education organization that provides speech, language and hearing services to several area school districts. Scott Westerhuis served as the organization's business manager for about 15 or 16 years, and Nicole Westerhuis served as assistant business manager for about 8 years, said Dan Guericke, the cooperative's director. Both were great people

FIRE | PAGE 11A

Musicians Set For Fiddle-Filled Weekend

BY REILLY BIEL

reilly.biel@yankton.net

There will be a lot of fiddling around in Yankton this weekend.

The 43rd annual South Dakota Fiddle Contest, held at the 4-H building in Yankton, begins tonight (Friday) at 7 p.m. with a jam-boree and will continue with a fiddle contest on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Other activities will be included throughout the weekend.

"Participants like hearing others play music and they like playing with other people," said Hartley Alsgaard, a fiddle contest volunteer. "They like getting together with other fiddlers and learning new tunes."

The contest has four levels for different age groups: a beginner level for kids up to age 12, a junior level for teens ages 13-17, an adult level from ages 18-64 and a senior level for ages 65 onward. Participants are re-

quired to play two fiddle tunes; a waltz and a musical piece of their choice. Alsgaard and other volunteers will be on hand to play backup on guitars for the fiddlers. Winners in each level will receive a cash prize.

There will also be contests for harmonica and accordion players.

The number of contest participants varies year to year.

"We've had as few as 25 to as many as 80 people in the contest," said Alsgaard.

This year, a new addition to the weekend is contra dancing, a type of dance similar to square dancing.

"Contra dancing is easy and fun for anybody from age eight to 80," Alsgaard said.

The contra dancing and music workshops were added in the hopes of attracting more participants.

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