



A Sunny Saturday

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SATURDAY ■ September 26, 2015



High School
Football Season
Reaches Midway
Point • **11**



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NW Buys Wind Farm

Deal Nearly Complete On Northwestern Rate Request

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — An October hearing by state regulators remains scheduled regarding electricity price increases sought by NorthWestern Energy, despite a proposed settlement between the company and South Dakota Public Utilities Commission staff, a PUC spokeswoman said Friday. Leah Mohr said NorthWestern Energy

hasn't reached a proposed settlement with several large customers who intervened in the rate case. They include Wal-Mart Stores, Toshiba American Business Solutions, Trail King Industries and Redfield Energy.

The settlement stipulation signed by PUC lawyer Karen Cremer and NorthWestern lawyer Al Brogan was filed Thursday with the PUC.

NorthWestern issued a news release

Friday announcing the proposed settlement and its acquisition for \$143 million of an 80-megawatt wind farm known as Beethoven located near Tripp that was developed by BayWa r.e. Wind.

NorthWestern originally sought an annual total rate increase of \$26.5 million. The proposed settlement calls for \$20.2 million annually, according to the com-

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ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Lead Archery Assembler Darren Sundleaf works on an archery bow at Yankton's Applied Engineering warehouse. The archery sector is one of the many stops the public will get to make on their tour of the facilities during Yankton's 3rd Annual Manufacturing Week, which starts Monday.

Yankton Builds An Excitement For Local Area Manufacturers

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Yankton Manufacturers team up next week to promote an awareness and appreciation for one of the state's major industries.

Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 has been proclaimed South Dakota Manufacturing Week, culminating with National Manufacturers Day on Oct. 2.

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce along with the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), S.D. Department of Labor and Regulation, and several manufacturers have assembled to promote the week's activities.

"This is a great opportunity for Yankton to showcase our manufacturing sector and the impact it has on not only the local economy but also statewide as well as globally," said Chamber Executive Director Carmen Schramm.

Monday will be the kickoff day with tours of Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc., and welcome remarks from Operations Manager, Yankton Manufacturing Distribution facility for Manitou Americas, Inc., Dave Ewal, President of Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc., Jeff May and Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Marcia Hultman, who will be addressing the



Schramm



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The railroad crossing on 435th Ave. south of Utica is posted due to crumbling conditions that have plagued the crossing for years. On Tuesday, Yankton County voters will be asked to either approve or reject the proposed institution of a levy to help pay for road or bridge repairs. Opponents of the measure say the County Commission hasn't done enough to look for other sources to pay for the work.

County Voters To Decide Levy Issue

BY ROB NIELSEN
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A proposed levy to help fund repairs to roads and bridges throughout Yankton County is set to go to a vote of the people Tuesday.

The levy, which imposes a maximum tax increase of 90 cents per \$1,000 of valuation on non-agricultural property and \$1.62 per acre on agricultural property, is an option authorized by the passage of Senate Bill 1 that counties that meet certain criteria can pass.

The Yankton County Commission had originally passed the levy in July, but a petition ultimately referred the tax to a vote.

If passed, the county would net an additional \$1.5 million in

funds that, by law, are only allowed to be used for improvements and repairs on county controlled roads and bridges.

Randy Gleich, one of the levy's main opponents, told the *Press & Dakotan* he expects the measure to fail and that he'd like to see the commission explore other alternatives before raising taxes.

"It's a 6 percent tax increase and it's forever," Gleich said. "There's a lot of alternative funding mechanisms out there for repairing our roads besides a tax increase, and those options haven't been explored. I think the public, before they proceed with a tax increase, would like the commission to do their homework and explore every possible option before they impose this tax on the

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Friday Car Fire



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This car parked in the Yankton Hy-Vee parking lot was destroyed after a fire broke out in its engine compartment at about 5 p.m. Friday afternoon. Firefighters contained the blaze, which did not damage other vehicles. Yankton County EMS was also on the scene.

Officials Train Their Sights On Zebra Mussel In L&C Lake

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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A small mollusk is creating huge headaches at Lewis and Clark Lake.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has declared Lewis and Clark Lake infested with the zebra mussel. The invasive species has also been found below Gavins Point Dam.

This week, a conservation official announced efforts to keep the zebra mussel from spreading even further to other waterways.

The annual Clean Boat Event will ramp up its outreach next May at area boat ramps, said Paul Lepisto with the Izaak Walton League of America (IWL).A.

Lepisto said he has been asked whether the Clean Boat Event has become a moot point given the discovery of zebra mussel at Lewis and Clark Lake.

"Absolutely not. If anything, it's re-energized and more urgent than ever," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "We need to keep the zebra mussels out of places like Lake Henry, Lake Thompson and the lakes in Nebraska. Our message should also be for recreationists and fishermen as well as boaters."

The mollusks reproduce rapidly and feed on the plankton and algae needed by young fish, Lepisto said. The mussels also latch onto boats and motors for easy transportation

to other waters and even causing engine failure.

"Boaters may need to resort to power-washing their boats," he added.

The Clean Boat Event is part of the Missouri River Events held the first full weekend of May. The school festival is held Friday and the river clean-up Saturday morning. This year's clean-up drew 130 volunteers who collected 2.17 tons of debris, according to Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park Service.

The Clean Boat Event kicks off that Saturday, in conjunction with

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