


Issues & Programs
WNAX AM&FM Radio
Yankton, SD

July, August, September
2013

October 10, 2013

Prepared by:

Jerry Oster
WNAX News



570 WNAX Radio has news casts at 6:07, 6:37, 7:07,7:37
8:07, 8:37,10:07, 10:37am, 11:07am, 11:37am 12:07pm,
12:37pm,1:07, 2:05, 3:05, & 4:05pm Monday through Friday.
Newscasts on Saturday are produced at 6:05,7:05, &
8:05am.

104-1 WNAX-FM has news casts Monday through Friday at:
6:20am, 6:50am, 7:20am, 7:50am, 8:20am & 8:50am.

Long form public affairs programs include The Sunday
Morning Visit (20:00), Viewpoint, and Elder Law Forum,all
30:00.

This report contains coverage of issues including:

City government,

County government,

Economic development,

Education,

Health care,

Legislative,

&

Missouri River.

.....



WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 10, 2013
Henderson/District 3/jco

Some questions have been raised recently by city and county officials about the cost and benefits of belonging to Planning & Development District 3, based in Yankton. Regional planning districts were set up by the legislature in the early 1970s to consult with local governments. Greg Henderson, Director of Planning & Development District Three appeared before the Yankton City Commission last (Monday) night.....(NEWS6)(capacities)(:14)

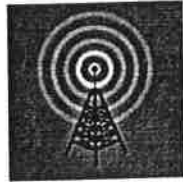
In their documentation, the district reports that they have helped their member governments get over two hundred fifty million dollars in outside funding since 1973.

Henderson used a data center in Yankton as an example of how the district does its work.....(NEWS7)(time)(:23)

Henderson says while the agency is based in Yankton, they work for all the governments and people in their fifteen county service area.....(NEWS8)(that)(:28)

The district reports their 2012 expenses were about one point one million dollars. About twenty three percent of that came from local government dues.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 15, 2013

Howe/Vermillion building/jco

The groundbreaking for Eagle Creek Software Services in Vermillion this week was a big step for the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company.

VCDC Executive Director Steve Howe said they will help the company ramp up to their full employment projection of two hundred workers.....(NEWS11)(need)(:25)

Howe says he thinks Vermillion has done a good job of preparing for more business expansions.....(NEWS12)(needs)(:15)

Howe says the Eagle Creek project was a bit of a risk for the development company.....(NEWS13)(area)(:27)

The new building for Eagle Creek should be open by late next year.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 17, 2013

Kraft/labor shed study/jco

Yankton Area Progressive Growth has updated their study of labor availability in the south east part of the state.

The study looked at available workers, and their willingness to commute for a job from Charles Mix County to Union County. YAPG interim development director Ron Kraft says they found a wage break that people will travel for.....(NEWS21)(down)(:36)

Kraft says with the health care changes going on, benefits are a much bigger part of the business development process.....(NEWS22)(wait)(:17)

Kraft says the study also found a number of employees with advanced education and training were available.....(NEWS23)(skill)(:25)

The study found about ninety eight hundred people underemployed, with about twelve thousand workers that would consider moving to a different job.

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WNAX AM&FM News

September 11, 2013

Rezac/YAPG-EDC/jco

Yankton Area Progressive Growth held their quarterly meeting this week, and announced plans for a merger with the local Economic Development Council.

The EDC is an informal group of city officials, business people and chamber of commerce representatives that work on development issues.

YAPG President Pam Rezac says they are working out the details.....(NEWS21)(goal)(:26)

Rezac says it makes sense to have economic development operating under one group.....(NEWS22)(concept)(:21)

Rezac says they are still seeing some development activity.....(NEWS23)(united)(:31)

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Yankton Deputy Fire Chief On Fireworks And Fourth Fire Safety Advice

July 2 for July 3, 2013

Although 2013 has been a wetter year than last year, it's still important people take precautions while celebrating the Fourth of July, especially with fireworks. Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles says potential problems can crop up such as in grassy areas.

News 5 Nickles Wbtyr q. fireworks they didn't get to last year.:23 Seconds

Nickles says it's good to have a shovel, rake or garden hose on hand and to watch for areas that have been mowed and have grass lying down as that tends to be drier and more susceptible to fire. He says use common sense when setting off fireworks.

News 6 Nickles Fwkss q. can step on the hot sparklers...:29 Seconds

Nickles says to be careful around trees or roofs as bottle rockets can become a problem and sometimes get lodged up there.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 16, 2013

Paulsen/one dead/jco

Yankton Police are attempting to reconstruct an accident that killed one man early this morning.

Police Chief Brian Paulsen says a car was found under the Marne Creek Bridge on east Highway 50.....(NEWS13)(later)(:16)

The creek is about thirty feet below the road at the point where the car went off a slight curve.

Paulsen says they are following up on an identification of the man in the car.....(NEWS14)(ordered)(:06)

Paulsen says they are trying to work backward to figure out what time the accident occurred.....(NEWS15)(loose)(:19)

Paulsen says while the man was living in Yankton, he also had connections on both the west and east coast.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

July 15, 2013

Nickles/hole fire/jco

Yankton Firefighters had to deal with an unusual fire yesterday(Sunday). Assistant Fire Chief Larry Nickles says a homeowner found a hole in his front yard that had been dug by an animal. He then attempted to smoke out the critter.....(NEWS21)(damage)(:22)

Nickles says the gas leak could have caused more damage.....(NEWS22)(hour)(:15)

Nickles says animal damage to those lines is hard to detect.....(NEWS23)(deal)(:10)

The home owner had his burns treated at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 8, 2013

Nelson/water rates/jco

An ordinance increasing water rates will be on the agenda for the Yankton City Commission tonight (Monday). The higher rates are needed to help finance construction of new collector wells and a water treatment plant. The city is planning to borrow up to twenty nine million dollars to finance the improvements.

City Manager Amy Nelson says she has not had a lot of feedback on the higher rates.....(NEWS16)(plans)(:30)

Nelson says the ordinance could be referred to a vote if a petition drive called for it.....(NEWS17)(it)(:08)

The commission meets tonight at 7pm at the RTEC building.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 10, 2013

Teal/Nelson/Yankton movie/jco

Part of downtown Yankton will be a movie set later this month. The Yankton City Commission this week gave approval to moviemaker Dalton Coffee to block off a section of Walnut Street for the short film.

Company spokesman, Clyde Teal explained the setting.....(NEWS11)(cars)(:13)

Teal said their company likes the setting they found in downtown Yankton.....(NEWS12)(rain)(:30)

City Manager Amy Nelson said she needed commission approval and proof of insurance to allow the movie shoot.....(NEWS13)(item)(:14)

The commission approved the plan on and eight to zero vote. The filming will take place on Sunday July 21st. Walnut Street in that area has a number of buildings from the late 19th and early 20th century.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

July 9, 2013

Mingo/Gross/Knoff/land no sale/jco

The Yankton City Commission had planned to sell several acres of surplus land for affordable housing development, but could not find numbers that worked.

City Planner Dave Mingo said they had only one bid for the land just south of the north side fire station.....(NEWS16)(bids)(:24)

The bid was well below the expected value of the land. Commissioner Charlie Gross said the bidding process was flawed.....(NEWS17)(developer)(:21)

The commission then went through a series of motions with a tie vote to reject the bid, then a three to five vote to accept the bid, and a motion to set a base price and rebid dying for lack of a second.

Commissioner David Knoff (ka-noff) then moved to table the issue.....(NEWS18)(now)(:06)

Mingo told the commission that eighteen to twenty one homes could possibly be built on the vacant land.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 24, 2013

Nelson/Roberts/Wenande/noise ordinance/jco

The Yankton City Commission again debated noise, and what to do about it at their meeting this week. There have been some complaints to police about loud music coming from at least one bar in downtown Yankton.

City Manager Amy Nelson posed a number of questions about noise regulation to commissioners.....(NEWS16)(means)(:30)

Jay Roberts, who lives near downtown, urged the commission to continue to look for regulations on all types of noise, not just music.....(NEWS17)(noise)(:23)

Mayor Nancy Wenande said she did not want the commission to make any new regulations without more study.....(NEWS18)(problem)(:22)

A citizen-commission task force was formed to gather more information and possibly make recommendations in the future.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 22, 2013

Nelson/water progress/jco

The Yankton City Commission will take the final steps at their meeting tonight to ~~finalize~~^{complete} new, higher water rates and surcharges needed to finance construction of new feeder wells and a water plant. The project could cost up to twenty nine million dollars.

City Manager Amy Nelson said this is the final step for the city on the financial side of the project.....(NEWS16)(plant)(:15)

Nelson said they are still on schedule for the entire project, but it could slip.....(NEWS17)(so)(:25)

Nelson said when the commission approves the higher rates, they will then file their application with the state to borrow up to twenty nine million dollars.....(NEWS18)(October)(:16)

The schedule calls for completion of the wells and new water plant sometime in 2015.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

July 23, 2013

Mingo/Dennis/sales tax incentives/jco

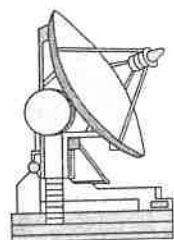
The Yankton City Commission approved sales tax incentives to help spur development of lots located on Highway 81 adjacent to Menards.

City Planner Dave Mingo said the city would share part of the sales tax from businesses that develop on those lots.....(NEWS 11)(prospects)(:22)

Matt Dennis, with the R.H. Johnson company, a Kansas City firm that helped develop the Menards location, said that incentives are a necessary part of retail business development.....(NEWS12)(markets)(:21)

Dennis told the commission that he was optimistic that passing the incentives would speed up the process.....(NEWS13)(days)(:07)

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

July 23, 2013

Viereck/Gross/city bankrupt/jco

With the news of the City of Detroit filing for bankruptcy, a citizen addressed the Yankton City Commission last (Monday) night about the fiscal condition of the city. Finance Director Al Viereck said the books are in pretty good shape right now.....(NEWS6)(disaster)(:25)

Commissioner Charlie Gross said the city has taken steps to address future financial obligations.....(NEWS 7)(funded)(:16)

Gross said the employees retirement benefits are invested with the state retirement system, rated one of the best in the country.

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WNAX AM&FM News

August 12, 2013

Nickles/lock box/jco

The Yankton City Commission will talk about expanding a city ordinance that could lead to more key lock boxes on apartments and businesses.

Assistant Fire Chief Larry Nickles says having one key lock box on a building entrance could save a lot of time in a fire emergency.....(NEWS6)(minutes)(:13)

The boxes, which contain keys to a building, can be opened only with special keys carried by fire department officers.

Nickles says while the keys are mandated by the fire code, an ordinance would help them explain their use to building owners.....(NEWS7)(it)(:25)

Nickles says having master keys in the lock boxes saves time, and could save lives.....(NEWS8)(faster)(:14)

Nickles says the boxes cost about two hundred dollars, and can be installed near access doors.

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WNAX AM&FM News

August 12, 2013

Wenande/full service license subsidy/jco

The Yankton City Commission will talk about their options for subsidizing full service liquor licenses. The South Dakota legislature authorized cities to issue additional liquor licenses to businesses that get sixty percent of their income from food sales. The minimum price of those licenses has been set at seventy thousand dollars.

Mayor Nancy Wenande says the commission needs to talk about those licenses, and if a subsidy is needed to help a business get started.....(NEWS11)(license)(:20)

Wenande says she feels the commission has to come up with a standard policy.....(NEWS12)(national)(:23)

Wenande says she feels a subsidy is needed for that type of business.....(NEWS13)(idea)(:23)

The commission meets tonight, 7pm at the RTEC building.

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WNAX AM&FM News

August 27, 2013

Hosmer/^{Nick}~~Miller~~/animal control/jco

The Yankton City Commission took a look at the first draft of a comprehensive update to animal control laws at their meeting last (Monday) night.

City Attorney Dave Hosmer said he took a look at similar ordinances from all the class one cities in the state.....(NEWS11)(infraction)(:24)

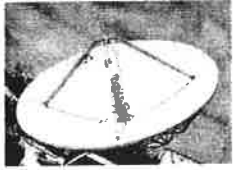
Hosmer said many parts of the city's ordinance have not been updated since the late 1940's.

He said they really need to take a hard look at how to define and handle dangerous animals.....(NEWS12)(quickly)(:31)

City Manager Amy Nelson suggested that the commission take some time to review the thirty plus page proposal, and hold a public hearing later.....(NEWS13)(extensive)(:26)

The commission decided to hold a work session on the new ordinance before their September twenty third meeting.

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WNAX AM&FM News

August 26, 2013

Nelson/animal control/jco

The Yankton City Commission will be asked to consider an extensive update to animal control laws.

City Manager Amy Nelson says a lot has changed over the years in animal ownership, and the current city ordinance is outdated.....(NEWS11)(state)(:20)

Nelson says they have come up with an extensive outline, and want to gauge the commissions interest.....(NEWS12)(reading)(:20)

Nelson says they may need some outside expertise in coming up with new guidelines.....(NEWS13)(there)(:13)

The commission meets tonight(Monday), 7pm at the RTEC building.

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570 WNAX NEWS
Yankton, SD

September 13, 2013
Nelson/muni bonds/jco

The Yankton City Commission this week passed a resolution opposing any changes to the tax treatment of municipal bonds. City Manager Amy Nelson says the state's first class cities talked about the issue at a meeting last month.....(NEWS16)(country)(:34)

Nelson says they are concerned about possible changes being talked about in Washington.....(NEWS17)(future)(:15)

Nelson says the tax exemption has been in place since 1913 and has helped fund over one trillion dollars in public improvements over the years. The commission passed the resolution unanimously.

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WNAX AM&FM News

September 9, 2013

Nelson/water issues/jco

Yankton city officials got a bit of a scare late last week when the main water treatment plant went offline due to a broken part.

City Manager Amy Nelson says it was the newer of the two water plants that had the equipment issues.....(NEWS21)(have)(:14)

The city commission has been moving ahead on a multi-million dollar plan to upgrade and replace the current water treatment system.

Nelson says they also got lucky with the weather this year.....(NEWS22)(usage)(:23)

Nelson says the plant malfunction points out the need to upgrade the water treatment facilities.....(NEWS23)(direction)(:22)

Replacement parts were on hand, and city workers were able to fix the plant, and restore the normal water treatment process.

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WNAX AM&FM News

September 23, 2013

Wenande/utility rate increases/jco

The Yankton City Commission tonight will consider proposals to raise utility rates, including solid waste.....Mayor Nancy Wenande.....(NEWS21)(month)(:18)

Wenande says wastewater rates will also be increased.....(NEWS22)(that)(:22)

Wenande says the hikes are needed in an attempt to close the funding gap in their utilities budgets.....(NEWS23)(funds)(:17)

The commission meets tonight, 7pm at the RTEC building.

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WNAX AM & FM News

July 8, 2013

Kindle/school issues/jco

The Yankton School Board meets tonight (Monday) to officially start the new fiscal year, and reorganize.

Long time board member Chris Specht will leave after deciding not to run for re-election in April.

It will also be the first official meeting under new Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle. He has been high school principal for the last six years.

He says one big issue for him and the board is finalizing a new contract with the district's teachers.....(NEWS6)(too)(:28)

Kindle, who has been on the job for about three weeks, says planning for the new school year is well underway.....(NEWS7)(19th)(:27)

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 9, 2013

Kindle/Bietz/budget hearing/jco

The Yankton School Board held a public hearing on the proposed budget for the next school year at their meeting last night. The proposal, at just over fourteen point four million dollars, is an increase of just over four percent from the current year.

Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle detailed some of the new expenses.....(NEWS11)(plant)(:28)

Kindle said they will also be shifting some expenses.....(NEWS12)(fund)(:18)

Business Manager Jason Bietz told the board that health insurance costs and payments could cause more budget shifting.....(NEWS13)(budget)(:19)

The board plans to officially approve the budget at their September meeting.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 10, 2013

Fitzgerald/Carda/school board/jco

The Yankton School Board began their new fiscal year this week, swore in elected members and re-organized.

Jim Fitzgerald was re-elected in April, and was named board president. He says it is a continuation.....(NEWS21)(direction)(:24)

Fitzgerald says he doesn't have any over riding issues.....(NEWS22)(Yankton)(:13)

Sarah Carda (sar-da) was seated on the board, after winning election in April. She said it has been a long wait.....(NEWS23)(happening)(:10)

Carda says she knows she has a lot to learn about the districts operations.....(NEWS24)(helpful)(:16)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 19, 2013

Abbott/Chicoine/new term/jco

The fall term begins later this week at state universities with move in weekend.

University of South Dakota President Jim Abbott says there is a push to add more doctor slots at the school of medicine.....(NEWS11)(effort)(:29)

At South Dakota State University, President Dr. David Chicoine says they will continue to grow their architectural program.....(NEWS12)(accreditation)(:18)

Chicoine says they also continue to plan for new doctoral programs.....(NEWS13)(program)(:29)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 16, 2013

Benoit/MMC science lab/jco

A ground “blessing” was held to mark the start of construction of the new science center project at Mount Marty College in Yankton.

President Dr. Joe Benoit (ben-waugh) says they need to expand and upgrade their labs and science classrooms.....(NEWS1)(here)(:29)

Benoit says the new center enhances the teaching mission of the college.....(NEWS2)(technology)(:22)

Benoit says this first phase of the project will cost about two million dollars, with more to follow.....(NEWS3)(opportunities)(:22)

The new science and botanical facility will be operational at the start of classes in the fall of 2014.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 23, 2013
Benoit/MMC start/jco

Classes start at Mount Marty College in Yankton next week, and President , Dr. Joe Benoit (ben-wah) says they may have a few less freshman than last year.....(NEWS11)(Dakota)(:12)

Benoit says surveys show they offer a very cost effective education.....(NEWS12)(students)(:22)

Mount Marty had about eleven hundred students last year at their three locations in Yankton, Sioux Falls and Watertown.
Benoit says they are seeing continuing changes in the make-up of their student body.....(NEWS13)(year)(:29)

Benoit says they expect that to continue as they develop and expand their graduate level courses.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 23, 2013

Johnke/Marlowe/Carda/homecoming parade/jco

The Yankton School Board has approved a limited liability waiver that should allow the Pioneer Days homecoming parade to proceed.

An earlier proposal would have done away with traditional floats, and instead have students walk the parade route, holding signs.

Yankton High School Principal Dr. Jennifer Johnke (jon-key) said those in the parade will have to sign waivers.....(NEWS6)(uses)(:25)

School district lawyer Mike Marlowe said the board had some choices in liability waivers.....(NEWS7)(insurance)(:30)

School Board member Sarah Carda said a partial waiver may be the best course.....(NEWS8)(waiver)(:22)

The board voted five to zero to allow the partial waiver for parade participants.

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570/104.1 WNAX AM&FM News

Yankton, SD

September 13, 2013

Kindle/survey/jco

The Yankton School District has posted a survey on its website, and wants public feedback on how they are doing. Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle told the school board this week that he wants lots of feedback.....(NEWS11)(survey)(:25)

Kindle says all of the information they gather will be compiled and released.....(NEWS12)(are)(:27)

Kindle says those results can be the start for their long range planning.....(NEWS13)(planning)(:22)

The survey can be found online at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ysd2013survey>.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 10, 2013

Kindle/Bietz/school budget/jco

The Yankton School Board adopted the budget for the current school year at their meeting last (Monday) night. Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle highlighted the funds that make up the spending plan.....(NEWS1)(budget)(:28)

Kindle says revenues into the district continue to run short.....(NEWS2)(enrollment)(:31)

Business Manager Jason Bietz (beets) says they have made some policy shifts in this year's budget.....(NEWS3)(room)(:31)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 17, 2013
Rezac/health care changes/jco

Health care providers are rushing to provide information to their employees and patients about the changes coming under the Affordable Care Act. The first provisions of the law go into effect October first with the opening of the health care exchanges.

Pam Rezac (ree-zack) is President of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.....(NEWS11)(exchanges)(:18)

Rezac says they may see more patients due to more people getting health care coverage.....(NEWS12)(insurance)(:21)

Rezac says they are concerned that even if they see more patients, they may not have the most comprehensive insurance coverage.....(NEWS13)(that)(:13)

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 16, 2013

Stukel/sturgeon search/jco

The search for young palid sturgeon in the Missouri River continues.

A team from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has spent much of the last five years on the river below Gavins Point Dam, looking for signs that the fish is naturally reproducing in the river.

Sam Stukel says they have not seen any positive results yet.....(NEWS16)(question)(:29)

Stukel says even if the fish below the dam are successful in spawning, the proof will be found far down river.....(NEWS17)(happen)(:26)

Stukel says working with the biology of the palid sturgeon takes time and patience.....(NEWS18)(times)(:18)

The palid sturgeon is an endangered species, since dams were built on the Missouri River, which changed the natural habitat of the fish.

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WNAX AM & FM News

July 10, 2013

Stukel/Asian carp/jco

This could be a big year for Asian carp in South Dakota rivers, and that could be bad news for boaters and fishermen.

Sam Stukel with the Game, Fish and Parks Department (based in Yankton) has been tracking movements of the fish the past few years.....(NEWS6)(spawning)(:27)

Those carp, also known as silver carp can grow very large, and have a tendency to jump out of the water when they hear boat motors, in some cases injuring those in the boats.

Stukel says if those fish spawn, next year would be even worse.....(NEWS7)(closely)(:11)

Stukel says some of the good news is that the fish have not spread beyond Gavins Point Dam on the Missouri River.....(NEWS8)(happy)(:14)

The fish have spread up the James, Vermillion and Big Sioux Rivers.

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570\1041 WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 30, 2013

Backer/dam flows/jco

The out flows of Gavins Point Dam on the Missouri River near Yankton have increased to over thirty two thousand cubic feet per second. That's up from the early summer flows of around twenty thousand cubic feet per second.

Gavins Point Operations Manager Dave Becker says it's getting dry downstream.....(NEWS11)(flows)(:23)

Becker says they are using the spillway because they can't max out the power plant right now.....(NEWS12)(second)(:28)

Becker says they expect the higher flows to continue for some time.....(NEWS13)(again)(:25)

The Corps of Engineers has also increased flows from the other dams above Gavins Point to keep the water flowing downstream.

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WNAX AM&FM News

September 9, 2013

Becker/dam spillway work/jco

The Corps of Engineers will take another look at the spillway at Gavins Point Dam on the Missouri River this fall in hopes of fixing the rest of the damage from the massive floods of the summer of 2011.

Dave Becker, Operations Manager at Gavins Point, says when dam releases go down, workers will be back on the spillway.....(NEWS11)(drains)(:35)

Becker says as part of this project, they got a large amount of rubble removed from the river just below the dam.....(NEWS12)(finished)(:21)

Becker says since the dam had never handled the amount of releases before the flood, they had not seen this type of damage before.....(NEWS13)(agencies)(:24)

The dam released flows of up to one hundred sixty five thousand cubic feet per second for several weeks in the summer of 2011.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 5, 2013

Becker/dam work/jco

Another major construction project at Gavins Point Dam related to the 2011 flooding should be wrapping up in the next few weeks.

Dave Becker, Operations Manager at the dam says they have had contractors drilling wells and laying pipe on the down river side of the dam.....(NEWS1)(wells)(:22)

Becker says there has been an improvement in water movement below the dam.....(NEWS2)(weeks)(:26)

Becker says control wells are a critical part of an earthen fill dam operation.....(NEWS3)(there)(:31)

Becker says most of the earthwork of the dam sits on eighty to one hundred feet of gravel, so water from Lewis & Clark Lake works its way through there.

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WNAX AM&FM News

September 18, 2013

Lederman/Niobrara-Ponca confluence/jco

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has taken the lead in working toward more land conservation in and near the Missouri River in south east South Dakota. The plan, called "The Niobrara and Ponca Confluence" has been open to public comment for several months. Now a state Senator is raising some objections.

Dan Lederman of Dakota Dunes says he doesn't think enough people have taken notice of the process.....(NEWS1)(me)(:27)

Lederman is concerned that changes in land status could have an impact in property taxes all along the river.....(NEWS2)(governments)(:13)

Lederman says the federal agencies are looking at a big land area along the river.....(NEWS3)(plan)(:23)

The public comment period had been extended for ninety days to September 30th. The plan details are online at fws.gov.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 4, 2013

Pearson/Human Services Secretary/jco

Governor Dennis Daugaard has appointed Gloria Pearson of Yankton to head up the Department of Human Services. Pearson has headed up Ability Building Services in Yankton since 2000. Before that, she was executive director of the Community Support Providers of South Dakota. Pearson says she wants to continue her service.....(NEWS11)(exciting)(:30)

Pearson, who will join the department in November, says she will take time to listen and learn.....(NEWS12)(it)(:28)

Pearson at this point, she has no definite plans to present to the 2014 legislature.....(NEWS13)(process)(:16)

Pearson takes over for Laurie Gill, who is moving to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Human Resources.

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 18, 2013

B.Hunhoff/SD democrats/jco

South Dakota democrats are looking for a new party chairman after former Chair Ben Nesselhuf left to manage an Iowa Congressional campaign. They are also looking for possible candidates for the US House and Governor's race next year. They have one Senate candidate in Rick Weiland.

House Minority Leader Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton, one of the most visible democrats, says while they may not have a lot of legislators or candidates right now, they are still able to move their ideas.....(NEWS16)(happening)(:26)

Hunhoff says democrats are at a big disadvantage compared to republicans.....(NEWS17)(ya)(:30)

Hunhoff says they have good potential candidates for statewide offices, but isn't sure at this point if they will run.....(NEWS18)(promises)(:18)

Hunhoff says democrats will meet this weekend in Burke to talk issues and possible candidates.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

July 15, 2013
Hunhoff/Morocco trip/jco

State Representative Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton was among a group of lawmakers from across the country who attended an international legislative conference in Morocco. He says they heard that Morocco wants to increase cooperation with the United States.....(NEWS6)(relationship)(:19)

Hunhoff says they talked a lot about ag production and world hunger.....(NEWS7)(producer)(:29)

Hunhoff says he also made some good connections with other American legislators.....(NEWS8)(well)(:24)

Others from South Dakota on the trip were Representative David Lust of Rapid City and Senator Jason Frerichs of Wilmot.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

July 11, 2013

J.Hunhoff/GFP-golf carts/jco

More motorized vehicles are showing up in South Dakota state parks, and the Game, Fish and Parks Department is attempting to put some rules on those.

Senator Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, says the Rules Review Committee this week looked over some proposals that would regulate golf carts, mopeds and ATV's in state parks.....(NEWS11)(hour):24)

She says those vehicles would also have to have a park sticker.

Hunhoff says it appears to be a good way to avoid some potential problems.....(NEWS12)(wax):18)

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 18, 2013

J.Hunhoff/medical payments/jco

The state funding gap for medical providers is getting wider. The South Dakota legislature this year approved increased Medicaid funding by about three percent, but it is not being evenly distributed.

Senator Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee, says some hospitals are seeing cuts.....(NEWS6)(increase)(:05)

Hunhoff says they are also seeing problems with special needs Medicaid patients that need out of state care.....(NEWS7)(funding)(:25)

Hunhoff says the growing gap could force some providers to limit the number of Medicaid patients they treat.....(NEWS 8)(yes)(:15)

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WNAX AM&FM News

July 9, 2013

J.Hunhoff/rules review/jco

The Rules Review Committee of the South Dakota legislature meets today in Pierre. One set of rules they will not be looking at deals with raw milk sales.

Committee member Senator Jean Hunhoff of Yankton says the state Ag Department pulled those from the agenda last week.....(NEWS6)(milk)(:24)

Hunhoff says the state has an interest in public safety.....(NEWS7)(decision)(:18)

Hunhoff expects those rules on raw milk to come back before the committee later this year.....(NEWS8)(also)(:19)

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570/104.1 WNAX AM-FM News

Yankton ,SD

August 21, 2013

J.Hunhoff/assisted living task force/jco

A task force focused on assisted living is meeting today in Chamberlain. The group was organized by the State Departments of Health and Social Services. Senator Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, a member of the task force, says they are looking at additional services that could be offered by assisted living facilities.....(NEWS16)(process)(:35)

Hunhoff says there are advantages of using assisted living instead of nursing homes.....(NEWS17)(that)(:15)

Hunhoff says one challenge for assisted living homes is the increasing numbers of the elderly suffering from dementia.....(NEWS18)(have)(:19)

She says the task force may have some recommendations for the 2014 legislature.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 13, 2013

Stevens/domestic abuse/jco

The Domestic Abuse Study Committee of the South Dakota legislature will hold public hearings around the state next week.

Committee vice chair Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton says they want to hear from people that are dealing with those situations and laws.....(NEWS1)(another)(:26)

Stevens says legislators can be disconnected from the effects of the laws that are passed.....(NEWS2)(insight)(:18)

Stevens says they have learned that domestic abuse enforcement and treatment can be complicated.....(NEWS3)(system)(:25)

Meetings will be held next week in: Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Yankton and Rapid City.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

August 27, 2013

Soholt/domestic abuse/jco

The Domestic Abuse Interim Study Committee of the South Dakota legislature held another field hearing in Yankton yesterday (Monday). The committee is gathering public comments on domestic abuse laws and their implementation. Committee Chair, Senator Deb Soholt of Sioux Falls said they appreciate what they have heard.....(NEWS1)(Dakota)(:16)

Soholt says it's an emotional issue, tied to law enforcement and the courts.....(NEWS2)(happen)(:30)

Soholt says they can't fix all the issues in one legislative session, but will bring some ideas to the 2014 session.....(NEWS3)(state)(:28)

One more field hearing is planned today (Tuesday) in Rapid City.

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 4, 2013

Stevens/committee meeting/jco

The Domestic Abuse Study Committee of the South Dakota Legislature holds their final scheduled meeting of the summer interim today (Wednesday) in Pierre.

The committee has held several field hearings around the state to hear from people affected by domestic violence, and the laws directed toward it. Representative Mike Stevens of Yankton is Committee Vice Chair.....(NEWS1)(law)(:28)

Stevens, a long time lawyer, says he has learned a lot about the issue during the process.....(NEWS2)(way)(:29)

Stevens says it may take some time to come up with good legislation.....(NEWS3)(involved)(:31)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 30, 2013

B.Hunhoff/Medicaid expansion/jco

The question of expanding Medicaid coverage in South Dakota will again be up for debate in the 2014 legislature. A task force studied the costs and benefits of the expansion and gave their report to Governor Dennis Daugaard. He later indicated he was leaning against the expansion. Representative Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton says it will continue an old debate.....(NEWS1)(uninsured)(:27)

The task force report said the federal government would contribute about two billion dollars for that coverage while the state would have to chip in about one hundred million dollars through 2020. Hunhoff says state residents will pay for the program no matter what the legislature decides.....(NEWS2)(hospitals)(:29)

Hunhoff says politics should be put aside in decisions like these.....(NEWS3)(first)(:29)

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WNAX AM&FM NEWS

September 24, 2013
Stevens/highway construction/jco

Yankton County legislators have written a letter to the state Department of Transportation, outlining their concerns with the proposed redesign of Highway 50 through the city. Representative Mike Stevens says the right of way is already narrow through town.....(NEWS4)(buildings)(:26)

Stevens says they would like the D.O.T. to ^{take}~~take~~ another look at the reconstruction, currently set for 2015.....(NEWS5)(is)(:13)

Stevens says they don't want to tell the Department how to design the project.....(NEWS9)(designed)(:23)

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