



Rain For Riverboat Days?

9 a.m.: **69** | 3 p.m.: **80** | DETAILS: PAGE 2A

FRIDAY ■ August 15, 2014

#RBD14

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Vermillion school board president Chris Esping has been recognized as the state's Outstanding School Board Member of the Year.

Head Of The Class

Vermillion's Esping Named SD's Outstanding School Board Member

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VERMILLION — The Vermillion school board president has received state honors as the Outstanding School Board Member of the Year.

Chris Esping recently received the award at the joint convention for the Asso-

ciated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) and the School Administrators of South Dakota (SASD), held in Sioux Falls. Melody Schopp, the state Secretary of Education, presented Esping with the plaque during the ASBSD awards luncheon. The honor is given to a school board member who exemplifies extraordinary leadership in public education.

Esping was also recognized for the award at this week's Vermillion school board meeting. "It's an honor because there are so many dedicated school board members across the state," she told the *Press & Dakotan*.

ESPING | PAGE 12A

Accident Leaves One Dead



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

One person was killed in a two-vehicle accident at 4:36 p.m. Thursday on Highway 50 near the intersection with Timberland Drive west of Yankton. According to the Yankton County Sheriff's Office, a 2003 Dodge pickup truck hauling a trailer was westbound on Highway 50 when a 1990 Buick LeSabre driven by Travis Hayes, 21, Yankton, pulled out of a driveway on the north side of the road and into the path of the pickup, which was driven by Samuel Arens, 24. The vehicles collided and wound up in the south ditch. Hayes, who was not wearing a seat belt, was pronounced dead at the scene. Arens and a 16-year-old male passenger were taken to a medical facility with non-life-threatening injuries. They were both wearing seat belts. The sheriff's department and Yankton County emergency responders were on the scene.



Riverboat Days

Mud Volleyball Set To Return To Festival

BY KAYLA PRASEK
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The 2014 Riverboat Days will be muddier than previous years, and not because of potential thunderstorms.

This year, a mud volleyball tournament has been added to the schedule, an event that hasn't been part of the festivities for many years.

"I play on two different sand volleyball teams during the summer, and we kept having conversations about bringing the tournament back," said Tammy Johnson, mud volleyball tournament organizer. "I sent the Riverboat Days committee an email asking if there was ever a chance they'd consider it, and they asked me to be in charge of it for this year."

Johnson gathered a group to help her organize the tournament, which wasn't easy since

TOURNEY | PAGE 12A

Regents Want Tuition Freeze

Tuition Would Be Frozen For Second Straight Year At State Universities

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Board of Regents wants to continue a tuition freeze for in-state students at the state's six public universities for another year, saying the funding is necessary to keep tuition affordable and the state's colleges competitive.

The state's higher education governing body approved its annual legislative budget request, which asks for about \$12.8 million in all, including \$6.8 million in exchange for keeping tuition level.

In their budget, the regents made the tuition freeze their highest priority. Legislators granted the re-

also

■ Some Athletic Insurance Prices May Rise Under Plan. **3A**

tuition for a second year will cost taxpayers slightly more, but it's a worthy investment, said South Dakota State University President David Chicoine.

REGENTS | PAGE 12A

Yankton Native Wins Honor

Kevin Koliner To Be Recognized By Group As Top Prosecutor

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Koliner, formerly of Yankton, has spent the better part of the last decade helping prosecute human trafficking across the state of South Dakota.

"It was a way to be a lawyer and serve my community," Koliner said. "The work is really fascinating." Koliner's dedication to the field is paying off. A couple months ago, he was informed that he's won the Women In Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) Top Prosecutor Award, which will be presented to him Aug. 27.

"The nominations are for people whose work has protected women and children," he said. "The reason I won it was for my sex trafficking prosecution."

This was Koliner's first nomination for the award, and he was nominated by the Department of Homeland Security.

Koliner said this distinction came as a bit of a surprise to him.

"It was a shock — I didn't know I was nominated," he said. "I was proud and very humbled since I know full well my job is one of many in the prosecution of these crimes."

KOLINER | PAGE 12A



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Koliner speaks at Yankton Middle School in April about the issue of sex trafficking involving minors. Koliner, a Yankton native, is set to receive the Women In Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) Top Prosecutor award Aug. 27.

RIVER CITY



Rumbles Are Ready To Rock Riverboat Days
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INSIDE



USA Weekend

* * *

SD Court Nixes Death Sentence Appeal

By The Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence of a man convicted for his role in killing a state prison guard three years ago.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Thursday that he'll ask state court officials to set an execution date for Rodney Berget. He was sentenced to death after pleading guilty to killing prison guard Ronald Johnson on Johnson's 63rd birthday during an escape attempt in April 2011.

"The heinousness of the crime, as well as Berget's extensive criminal history, hopeless chance of rehabilitation and multiple attempts of escape leave no alternative but to protect the public through imposition of the death penalty," Jackley said in a statement.

The state Supreme Court overturned Berget's initial death sentence because of an error by the judge in the case. But Berget was sentenced again to death last year.

His attorney appealed, saying

APPEAL | PAGE 12A

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TOMORROW: 'Achieve' — Our Annual 4-H Achievement Days Roundup

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET