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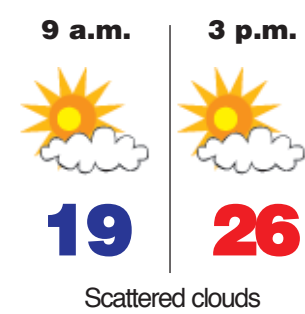
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RECYCLING

River City Recycling This Week NORTH of 15th St.



TOMORROW

NEIGHBORS: Better Results With Multi-Species Grazing.



S.D. LEGISLATURE

Cell Phone Ban For Young Drivers Killed

Measure Is Voted Down 9-4; Critics Question Ban's Enforcement

BY CHET BROKAW Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — South Dakota's youngest drivers may continue texting and talking on cell phones when they're behind the wheel, a state House committee decided Thursday.

The Health and Human Services Committee voted 9-4 to kill a measure that would have prohibited 14- and 15-year-olds from using cell phones while driving. Banning cell phone use by beginning drivers would reduce deaths and injuries from crashes caused by distracted driv-

ers, said Rep. Joni Cutler, R-Sioux Falls, the measure's main sponsor. "Driving an automobile for young people is really something they need to give their full attention to," Cutler said. However, committee members questioned how the ban would be enforced and also argued it would make no sense

to ban cell phone use by drivers in only one age group. If driving while talking on a cell phone is dangerous, it should be banned among drivers of all ages, said Rep. Larry Lucas, D-Mission. James Carpenter, director of the state Office of Highway Safety, said 21 other states have passed laws banning some

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NEB. LEGISLATURE

Attempt To Repeal Helmet Law Falls To Filibuster

BY NATE JENKINS Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — Kevin Wagner likes his home state of Nebraska, but after the Fairbury resident mounts his motorcycle, more times than not he heads to nearby Kansas where he can ride without a helmet.

"It's a cryin' shame," Wagner said. And it won't change anytime soon. A bill that would have allowed Wagner and others to ride helmet-free for the first time in two decades fizzled out in the Legislature on Thursday after supporters failed to muster enough votes to break a filibuster.

Measures to repeal the helmet law are often introduced, but this was a particularly stinging defeat for bikers.

Term limits have ushered in a new and relatively young crop of lawmakers who bikers thought might sympathize with those who wish to ride helmet-free.

"I really thought it would go through this time," said motorcyclist Kevin Johnson, also of Fairbury. He, Wagner and about a dozen other motorcyclists were at the Capitol on Thursday, watching lawmakers debate the bill.

Ultimately, concerns about safety, the human and financial costs of injuries, and whether the proposal could be enforced trumped the personal-freedom arguments of the bill's supporters.

"This bill is junk," said Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha, who led the filibuster.

Supporters of the measure needed 33 votes to end the filibuster, but got 27. Bill passage requires 25 votes, and

HELMET, Page 13A please

ADVANCING RIVER EDUCATION



Mary Robb with the City of Yankton and Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park Service look over materials after Thursday's planning meeting for several upcoming Missouri River-related events in the Yankton area.

Missouri River Watershed School Festival Expanding In Second Year

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

In only its second year, the Missouri River Watershed School Festival (MRWSF) is experiencing growing pains.

The May 7 event at Riverside Park in Yankton — focusing on river issues for students — will feature 15 educational presentations. The number marks a jump from last year's 10 presenters, who give a 20-minute talk or demonstration.

In addition, organizers are adding an evening program for the general public at the Yankton College Alumni Theater in the Summit Activities Center.

The 7 p.m. program will feature two of the day's presenters, Vicki Richmond, with the Columbia, Mo.-based Missouri River Relief organization, will speak on "Trash Science." Tim Cowman with the Missouri River Institute in Vermillion will discuss the organization's water trail.

The evening presentation represents an effort to reach out to the general public and give the event more exposure, said Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park Service in Yankton.

Richmond and Cowman are among the 15 presenters during the school festival. They will then return as

RIVER, Page 13A please

Relief Fund For Tribe Growing Quickly

PIERRE (AP) — The president of the South Dakota Community Foundation says donations are pouring in to a relief fund for residents of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

An ice storm and blizzard in late January paralyzed the reservation, knocking out power and water to thousands. Foundation President Bob Sutton says there was only about \$8,000 in the relief fund earlier this week. But he says thousands of donations have been pouring in from around the country after the reservation's plight and the relief fund were featured on a cable TV news talk show. The fund has now surpassed \$200,000.

The Bush Foundation and the Northwest Area Foundation are offering some matching money that Sutton says could push the relief fund to \$300,000.

Republicans, however, accused

Local Residents Get Good News In Pierre



Doug Hofer, director of the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation, spoke with Vermillion and Yankton residents Wednesday about Game, Fish and Parks plans for the area.

Delegation Visits S.D. Capital For 'Vermillion/Yankton Day'

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

PIERRE — Times may be tough in Pierre, but a delegation from Vermillion and Yankton attending Vermillion/Yankton Day at the Legislature Wednesday had plenty to smile about during the annual trip.

During the daylong event, government and business officials met with state officials representing the Department of Tourism and State Development; Game, Fish and Parks; the Department of Education; the Department of Transportation; and the Department of Agriculture. The trip was organized by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Vermillion Area Chamber

and Development Company.

Shortly after being recognized in the Senate chambers Wednesday afternoon, many members of the delegation remained to watch consideration of a bill that would authorize construction of a \$5.63 million dietary services building at the Human Services Center in Yankton.

Sen. Jean Hunhoff of Yankton defended the project on the floor, saying the current facility is outdated and pointing to the state and local efforts that have been made to reduce the impact of the undertaking on the budget. The Yankton County Commission recently agreed to transfer the \$5.5 million in bonding

PIERRE, Page 2A please

Dems Offer Smaller Jobs Bill In Bid For Support

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND STEPHEN OHLEMACHER Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Stung by criticism that a bipartisan jobs bill emerging in the Senate wouldn't create many jobs, Senate Democrats on Thursday proposed a new, stripped-down version they hope will still get support from both Republicans and Democrats.

Democrats of renege on their deal, putting in jeopardy a short-lived attempt at bipartisan lawmaking.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's latest bill focuses on several popular provisions aimed at boosting job creation, including a new tax break negotiated with Republicans for companies that hire unemployed workers and for small businesses that purchase new equipment. It also would renew highway programs and help states and local govern-

ments finance large infrastructure projects.

Reid, D-Nev., unveiled the pared-back plan after Senate Democrats balked at a broader bill stuffed with unrelated provisions sought by lobbyists for business groups and doctors. The surprise blew apart an agreement with key Republicans like Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who worked with Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., for weeks to

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