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## Sending A Clear Message?

### Legislators Try To Make Call On Text Ban

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Gov. Dennis Daugaard has indicated he would sign a ban on texting while driving, his lieutenant governor said Thursday.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, a Yankton native, made that statement Thursday during the weekly press conference held during the legislative session. Michels was filling in for Daugaard, who is attending the World Ag Expo in California. Michels later told the *Press & Dakotan* in an in-

terview that the governor was committed to a texting ban in nearly any form. "(Daugaard) said, in the past, if a bill came to his desk, ... that he would sign it," he said.

The consequences of texting while driving hit close to home for nearly everyone, Michels said. "We all know individuals who text and drive,



Michels



Prescott

and those who have been in accidents (because of the distraction)," he said. "It's heartbreaking, and there's no reason for it."

Michels admits he has been guilty of the practice. "I'm in a car a lot, so I shoot off an email (while driving)," he said.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Legislature's texting bills is being watched closely in Vermillion, where the city adopted its own ban last May.

Vermillion's ordinance treats texting while driving as a primary offense, said City Manager John Prescott. Violators are fined \$54 with \$60

TEXTING | PAGE 12A

## Audit Finds Improper Financial Practices At GOED

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The governor released the long-awaited special report Thursday from the state Department of Legislative Audit regarding the Governor's Office of Economic Development. The investigation found numerous instances of significant deficiencies, non-compliance and material weaknesses at GOED during the past five-plus years.

The period covered the final two-plus years of previous Gov. Mike Rounds' administration and the first two-plus years of current Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration.

Daugaard's commissioner of economic development, Pat Costello, arranged for the special audit.

Costello succeeded Richard Benda, who wasn't retained when Daugaard took office in January 2011.

The findings include questionable practices involving many millions of dollars in grants controlled by GOED and the governors.

They also cover many thousands of dollars in expense reimbursements and administrative costs incurred by GOED and its contractor that managed the EB-5 immigrant investor program for state government.

Responses from state officials including Costello are in the report regarding corrective steps that have been made or are under way.

The audit report specifically mentions Benda. He allegedly increased the amounts of two grants for the Northern Beef Packers project at Aberdeen in December 2010. However, two documents surfaced later Thursday showing that one of the increases was approved by the chairman for the South Dakota Development Corporation that was handling that funding.

That occurred as he was preparing to take a new job, as a loan monitor for the NBP project, working for the firm holding the EB-5 management contract.

The Legislature now will proceed with hearings on GOED, including the Future Fund grant program and EB-5.

"We will ferret all of that out,"

AUDIT | PAGE 12A

## 'I've Been Impressed'



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Tom Chapman of Nebraska Global was the featured speaker at Yankton Area Progressive Growth's annual meeting Thursday. He shared his advice on building an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Yankton and said he is impressed with the activity he sees occurring in the community.

### Venture Capitalist:

## Yankton Is On The Cusp Of Opportunity

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A venture capitalist working in Nebraska said Thursday that Yankton is a progressive city compared to other communities its size in the region.

"Many (similar cities in Nebraska) are wedded to past technologies or ideas. I've not found that to be true in Yankton, and I've been impressed," said Tom Chapman of Nebraska Global, a Lincoln-based venture capital fund. He has visited the community a handful of times in the last year.

Chapman was the featured speaker at Yankton Area Progressive Growth's (YAPG) annual meeting held at Minervas Grill and Bar. YAPG is a non-profit economic development corporation.

Chapman shared his advice on building an entrepreneurial ecosystem in a commu-

nity. The ecosystem includes financial capital, deal flow, infrastructure, a knowledgeable community and — most importantly — human capital.

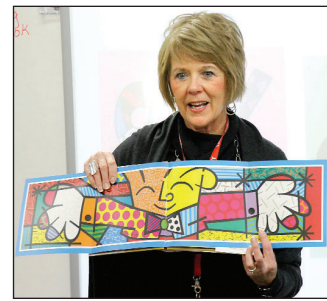
"I've been surprised by the amount of entrepreneurs who are residents of Yankton," Chapman said. "I've also been surprised at the depth of knowledge. I think there are a lot of interesting things that are right on the cusp. Specifically, I see some of the technologies that people are talking about. I wouldn't have expected that."

When looking to build an entrepreneurial ecosystem, he said the most important thing is to identify the community's entrepreneurs and find ways to empower and engage them.

"Cities that are able to unlock a higher percentage of their latent entrepreneurs grow much faster than cities that cannot do that," Chapman stated. "All cities have entrepreneurs, but it's critical to find the ones

YAPG | PAGE 5A

### RIVER CITY



Group Works To Keep Arts Alive In School  
PAGE 1B

### INSIDE



USA Weekend  
Feed your heart

## SD Senate Votes To Make Police Logs Public Records

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Police logs would become public records in South Dakota under a measure that received approval Thursday by the state Senate.

Legislators killed a bill last year that sought public-record designation for police logs and mug shots.

Current law allows for the release at the discretion of the law enforcement agency. The new legislation removes that discretion and would require police logs to be open to the public in most instances.

Dropping the mug shots made a big difference. The vote was 33-0 in favor Thursday.

Police logs provide general descriptions but don't contain specific information, according to the bill's prime sponsor, Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City.

The retired police chief said the proposed law includes additional protections that would apply in certain circumstances, such as responses to situation involving abuse, mental health or chemical dependency. "This I think is good government. People have a right to know what their law enforcement agencies are doing," Tieszen said.

No one else spoke on the bill. SB 85 now goes to the House of Representatives.

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REGION 2A | OBITUARIES 3A | MIDWEST 3A | VIEWS 4A | WORLD 5A | SPORTS 8A-9A | CLASSIFIEDS 10A-12A

TOMORROW: Local Firefighting Units Need Volunteers

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
SOUTH  
OF 15TH STREET