



LCTC Brings
'Oklahoma!'
To Dakota
Theatre Stage
RIVER CITY

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Volume 139
Number 71

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **TWO SECTIONS** | www.yankton.net

75¢



The Heat Is On

Drought Lessens, But Latest Temperatures Bring Concerns

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Drought conditions have eased dramatically, but this week's excessive heat and humidity are creating problems for farmers and ranchers, according to the South Dakota state climatologist. "With the extreme heat comes additional stress for crops and cattle to handle, as well as additional water use requirements," Extension climatologist Dennis Today said in a news release.

Thursday's heat index soared above 100 degrees, setting off heat advisories for southeast

South Dakota and northeast Nebraska. The situation is typical for mid-July, which brings the warmest time of year for the state, said Today, based at South Dakota State University (SDSU).

The region has been downgraded from exceptional drought, the worst category, but drought conditions persist, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

A mixture of abnormally dry, moderate



Today

drought and severe drought conditions are found in Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union counties in southeast South Dakota. In addition, abnormally dry conditions are found in Lincoln County and portions of Turner County.

Severe drought conditions exist in Knox, Cedar, Antelope, Pierce and Wayne counties in northeast Nebraska.

"Precipitation this spring was significant enough to greatly reduce drought conditions on the South Dakota side. The Nebraska side has

DROUGHT | PAGE 3A



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This area cornfield shows signs of this year's timely rains and heat. However, the region has shown signs of drought, in turn stressing crops and livestock. The next few weeks will prove critical in terms of both temperature and precipitation. The Missouri River basin provides a national dividing line with areas to the east experiencing wet conditions, while areas to the west are suffering extreme heat and dry conditions.

Yankton Is Setting For Film's Missing Piece

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Downtown Yankton will be transported back to the Dust Bowl era this Sunday as a Sioux Falls filmmaker makes it a backdrop for his short film project.

Dalton Coffey, 25, received permission from the City of Yankton to close Walnut Street between Third and Fourth streets from 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. in order to shoot what he says will be the climax of a 10-15-minute film he wrote and is directing called "Straight, No Chaser."

After some other locations fell through, Coffey said Yankton was an appealing alternative. "It's a beautiful town," he stated. "We think it will work perfectly."

Funding for the film was raised through a Kickstarter campaign. "Straight, No Chaser" follows on the heels of "Yonder," a short Western.

"Straight, No Chaser" is set in 1936. A man named Billy stumbles upon a suitcase filled with cash. Unfortunately for him, the mob wants it back.

The scene being filmed in Yankton is a foot chase. Walnut Street will be lined with antique cars from the era.

"The lead character is running from a couple of mob guys with a package in his hand," Coffey said. "They want it back. The scene includes a soup line that the character tries to hide in. The other men in the line get

FILM | PAGE 12A



USA Weekend

Bringing Water To The City



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson explains the details of the planned upgrades to the city's water system during a community forum Thursday at The Center.

'A Pretty Steep Hike'

City Officials Explain Need For Water Rate Increase

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

"When is the best time to spend millions and millions of dollars? Never. But when is the best time to have reliable water, ample water and clean water? Always."

Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson presented that point of view Thursday morning during a community forum at The Center to discuss the city's planned \$28.7 million upgrade to Yankton's water system.

The improvements would increase the water rate to \$15 plus an additional \$4.93 per 1,000 gal-

lons. For the current minimum user (up to 2,000 gallons), this would raise the rate from \$13.62 to either \$19.93 (up to 1,000 gallons) or \$24.86 (up to 2,000 gallons).

"It's a pretty steep hike, and I realize that," Nelson said.

The City Commission still needs to pass the rate increases, which it expects to do at its meeting Monday.

Yankton Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson said that the upgrades are needed to meet the growing water supply demand of the city.

WATER | PAGE 12A

Panel Delays Vote On S.D. School Sentry Rule

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A South Dakota commission delayed a vote Thursday on proposed rules for training teachers, other school staff members or volunteers to carry guns to improve security in school buildings.

The Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission originally planned to certify the so-called sentinels — essentially a license similar to the certification process the commission uses for law enforcement officers. Upon learning that the Legislature authorized the panel to train sentinels but not certify them, the commission changed the proposed rules so it will merely tell a school district when someone completes training.

The vote was delayed until Aug. 2 to allow time for public comment on the changed proposal.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said the change is significant because it gives the commission less ability to immediately disqualify sentinels for misconduct indicating they should no longer be allowed to carry guns in schools. A school board could still decide if a sentinel no longer should carry guns in schools, officials said.

Only those approved by a school board and local law enforcement agencies could be trained as sentinels. Then, they'd have to complete 80 hours of training through the state academy in firearms proficiency, use of force, legal issues, weapon retention and storage and first aid. To retain those qualifications, they would have to have another eight hours a year of training.

Commission Chairman Bryan Gortmaker, director of the state Division of Criminal Investigation, said he expects the fee charged to school districts for the initial 80-hour training course to be \$700.

SENTRY | PAGE 12A

Weiland Continues Battle Against 'Big Money'

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
news@yankton.net

Democrat Rick Weiland is on a mission to visit all 311 South Dakota communities during his run for the U.S. Senate.

Weiland visited Yankton Thursday afternoon at Yesterday's Cafe as part of a day-long listening tour.

"If there's one thing we could do to take our country back, it would be to drive big money into the black hole that it crawled out of when it took our country away from us," he told those in attendance.

Weiland said his message is not a Democratic or Republican message, but an honest message that he has seen people respond to during his campaign.

"I'm still talking about big money, and I'm going to keep talking about big money throughout this entire campaign," he said. "Big money writes our energy policy in this country, it writes our farm policy in this country, it writes our health-care policy in this country and it's got a grip on our government and it's ruining our country."

The message is fueling Weiland's "Take it Back" outreach program, which is taking him to the South Dakota communities.

"I've decided to spend 80 percent of my time on the road talking to people," Weiland said.

During the next few months, Weiland is hoping to travel to more than 100 communities and hold more 57 meetings like the one held in Yankton. Earlier on Thursday, Weiland visited Irene, Center-

WEILAND | PAGE 2A



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

Rick Weiland spoke at Yesterday's Cafe Thursday afternoon where he addressed the issues of big money, healthcare and other issues asked by those in attendance. Weiland is one week into his 'Take it Back' campaign, and is working to visit all 311 communities in South Dakota during his campaign for the Senate race.