



## Increasing Clouds

9 a.m. **77** 3 p.m. **93** | DETAILS: Page 2A

FRIDAY ■ July 17, 2015



**Parmalee And Swon Brothers Set For Cedar County Fair**  
**RIVER CITY**



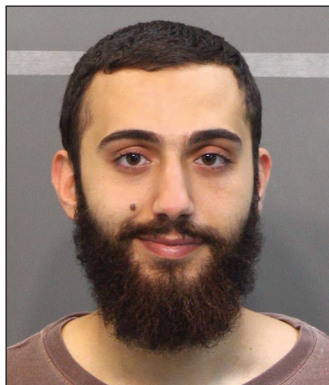
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75¢



### The World



## Gunman Kills 4 In Attacks On Military Sites • 3A

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## Smoke Shows No Effect On Weather

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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While it's been hard to miss the smoky haze that has enveloped the region at times over the last few weeks, the smoke is having no discernable effect on the region's weather.

Speaking during the Great Plains and Midwest Climate Outlook webinar on Thursday, Brian Fuchs, climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center, said smoke from fires in Canada and Alaska hasn't changed the weather patterns, contrary to some speculation.

"From the discussions that have gone around, most of the state climatologists that I heard back from were saying they were not seeing an impact," Fuchs said. "There had been some work done as far as looking at what this does mean for the diffused solar radiation coming in with response to the smoke. For the most part, there was going to be little impact, if any, due to that smoke in the atmosphere."

Fuchs said this comes despite the sheer size of the fires to the northwest.

"What really stood out for me was looking at the northern prairies of Canada and just the sheer number of significant fires greater than 2,500 hectares," he said. "Even up in Alaska, I know at one point in time at the

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# 500 Down To 15

## Onward Yankton Announces 15 Semifinals For 'Big Idea'

From P&D Staff Reports

The 500 are down to 15. The Onward Yankton committee on Thursday issued its list of 15 semifinalists for Yankton's next "big idea." The 508 submissions were collected during a 100-day campaign that began in the spring. "We were really happy with the diversity of the submissions," committee member John Andrews said in a press release. "They covered tourism, education, economic

development and recreation, just to name a few categories. And it was clear that people put a lot of thought into their plans. It was difficult to narrow the field to 15."

Andrews praised the quality of the submissions.

"We kept saying, 'I wish we could do all of these,'" he said. "But hopefully, after we've selected our winning idea, others will be inspired to take some of these ideas and run with them."

The semifinalist submissions



are available to read and comment on at [www.OnwardYankton.com](http://www.OnwardYankton.com). The semifinalists are the first 15 to appear on the Ideas page.

The committee asks the community give feedback on the final

15 ideas either on the website or on the Onward Yankton Facebook page.

In early August, five finalists will

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## Tech Talk At ABS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Ability Building Services of Yankton recently received a \$5,000 grant from the South Dakota Community Foundation to assist it with technological upgrades among the ABS clients looking forward to the upgrades are, from left: Drew Baily, Kaleigh Janssen and Bob Koester,

## ABS Receives Grant For Technology Upgrades

BY REILLY BIEL  
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Thanks to the South Dakota Community Foundation, Yankton's Ability Building Services (ABS) can continue to live up to their mission statement of "Providing People with Enriched Lives."

ABS recently received a grant of \$5,000 that will enable the organization to provide up-to-date computers and iPads to the people they service.

"We provide a variety of community-based supports for people with intellectual disabilities," explained Carrie Winterringer, quality assurances coordinator. "It's all person-based on what they want to achieve with their lives."

"We will have individualized training for each per-

son's needs and wants," she added. "It can be anywhere from teaching the person how to use an app on the iPad to communicate to helping someone use it for sensory therapy to showing them how to look for jobs online."

Upgrading their technology was something ABS employees have wanted to do for a while.

"We have already purchased some computers and iPads," said Sharon Oien, program manager. "We plan to provide things like learning money management and how to use various computer programs like Word. Computers go obsolete so quickly, and this has been a huge benefit for us to get upgraded equipment."

"There's so many awesome apps out there that can help with different areas of life and learning new skills,"

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## Delmont Relief Fund Reaches Milestone

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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DELMONT — Two months after a tornado devastated the community, the Delmont Disaster Relief Fund has surpassed \$200,000 in donations, a town official said Thursday.

Mayor Mae Gunnare released the donations figure for the first time. The needs are still great and the disaster fund will remain open, she said.

"The relief is definitely needed," she said. "We ask people to keep it coming. Every donation counts."

The Douglas County community of about 235 residents was hit hard by a May 10 tornado. The Mother's Day twister moved through Charles Mix and Douglas counties before demolishing the west end of Delmont.

The National Weather Service rated the tornado as an EF-2 with winds reaching 130 mph. The storm injured nine people but didn't cause any fatalities.

The storm damaged or destroyed 84 structures – including Zion Lutheran Church and the new fire hall – in and around Delmont.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rejected the state's request for individual assistance for tornado victims. In turn, relief efforts have relied heavily on the private sector, including church groups and a variety of fundraisers across the region.

This weekend, a line-up of bands – including a one-time reunion of the band Ivory – will play Saturday at the Twin Rivers Old Iron grounds to benefit the tornado relief fund, Gunnare said.

The mayor anticipates the relief fund will continue taking donations through at least the first part of 2016. The residents' needs will likely change as they make decisions on rebuilding their homes or other structures, she said.

"If they need Sheetrock, how can we help them?" she asked. "Or they may need volunteer groups to help put rafters up."

The American Red Cross has

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## SD Tourism Official Sees Big Opportunities Ahead

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN  
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Yankton County and city officials met Thursday with state representatives like State Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen to contemplate why and how tourism is done in the state and the possibilities for the future.

Tourism is a \$2 billion a year industry for South Dakota. Tourism also represents 20 percent of local and state tax revenue. Without the industry and the state, every household would pay about \$900 more in taxes to make up for the difference in revenue.

Being such a big economic importance, officials want to boost tourism on a local level. This involves representatives from cities and towns coordinating marketing strategies.

"It is so important to be able to create local events and to find the resources to allow the chamber to do that," Hagen said during a stop Thursday at the *Press & Dakotan*.

Thursday's meeting emphasizes how Yankton can participate cooperative marketing and what other locations are doing to promote their tourism. The Department of Tourism wants each location to have the

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

South Dakota Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen was in Yankton Thursday to discuss future opportunities in the industry. One focus of the department is to reach out to communities to better promote their attractions, he said.

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