



Mostly Sunny

9 a.m. **69** 3 p.m. **85** | DETAILS: Page 2

FRIDAY ■ June 19, 2015



YCTC Offers Some  
Amusing And Musical  
Childhood Lessons

RIVER CITY



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## SD Cited In Teen Driving Survey

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA  
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After a recent study conducted and published by WalletHub ranked teen drivers in South Dakota as one of the most at risk in the nation, state and local officials further discussed the issue.

"The WalletHub study is a number of studies we see every year that come out from different special interest groups that play that ranking game, for lack of a better term," Lee Axdahl, South Dakota Director of Highway Safety, told the *Press & Dakotan*.

WalletHub explored five teen driving categories of all 50 states. The higher the score equaled more teen driving risk.

South Dakota ranked 48 in the number of teen driver fatalities per teen population.

Axdahl explained that the study provided a discrepancy, as he was not able to locate what numbers and years they reviewed as part of the study.

Despite the study's ranking, 16 teen drivers were involved in fatal crashes in 2014, a statistic down since 31 fatal teen driving crashes in 2006, according to Axdahl.

The study further researched areas that provided possible causes of elevated teen driver fatality numbers, giving South Dakota a ranking of 50, the worst state for enforcing Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) provisions.

Recommended GDL's include: A minimum age of 16 to obtain a learner's permit, six-month holding period, 30 – 50 hours supervised driving hours, nighttime driving restriction, passenger restriction, cell phone restriction and an unrestricted license at age 18.

"We've got a pretty (lenient) GDL in our state," said Eric Majeres, highway safety program coordinator. "That is definitely an area that we all should be looking at — what we can do to improve our GDL."

South Dakota upholds two of the seven optimal GDL provisions. The state of South Dakota

DRIVING | PAGE 10A

## Avian Flu

# Knox Co. Plant Cleared

Mandatory Quarantine Is Lifted From Egg Facility

From P&D and AP Reports

A Knox County, Nebraska, chicken egg facility that had been quarantined because of suspected case of bird flu is in the clear after follow-up tests did not confirm the presence of the disease.

The Nebraska Agriculture Department imposed the quarantine on the Knox County farm May 27 after a preliminary test indicated the

probably presence of the bird flu.

The flock of 3 million birds was tested daily since, and the department says all the tests came back negative.

The Knox County case was one of a number of facilities in both northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota to have been suspected and/or confirmed of having avian flu on the premises.

The department said in its weekly flu report

Tuesday that flu has been confirmed at five Nebraska operations and that nearly 5 million chickens are being destroyed to help control outbreak.

A fifth facility in Dixon County was added to that list this week. It was found in a flock of 200,000 chickens already earmarked for preventive killing

So far, all the confirmed Nebraska cases are in Dixon County.

KNOX | PAGE 3A

# Drought Erased

Wettest May On Record Wipes Away Drought



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Despite a lack of rain in the immediate Yankton area, corn and soybean (shown) crops are off to a great start in some places. Forecasters on Thursday predicted a cool, wet July for much of the Plains.

BY ROB NIELSEN

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All winter long, it seemed unless you lived in the northeast, any moisture was fleeting — but May proved to be a different story from the Dakotas to Texas.

During Thursday's Great Plains & Midwest Climate Outlook webinar, Missouri State Climatologist Pat Guinan said the month was one for the record books.

"This, I consider a very incredible statistic since we have 121 years of record, it was the wettest May on record for the country," Guinan said. "The national average precipitation was about 4.36 inches — almost an inch and a half above normal."

The state of South Dakota, as a whole, experienced its fifth wettest May on record according to NOAA.

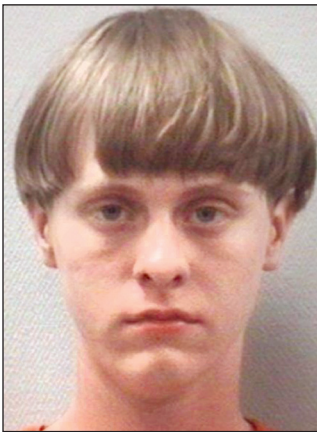
But Guinan said the record breaking didn't stop at the month of May.

"What's so impressive is that, not only was it the wettest May on record, it was the wettest of any month on record," he said. "Out of 1,445 months, May 2015 goes on top."

The record-setting month has meant major flooding across Texas and Oklahoma with minor to moderate flooding in the lower

DROUGHT | PAGE 10A

## The World



Suspect Is  
Caught In  
SC Church  
Killings • 5A

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## Study: Mega Injections Of Wastewater Triggers Quakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The more oil and gas companies pump their saltwater waste into the ground, and the faster they do it, the more they have triggered earthquakes in the central United States, a massive new study found.

An unprecedented recent jump in quakes in America's heartland can be traced to the stepped up rate that drilling wastewater is injected deep below the surface, according to a study in Thursday's journal *Science* that looked at 187,570 injection wells over four decades.

It's not so much the average-sized injection wells, but the super-charged ones that are causing the ground to shake. Wells that pumped more than 12 million gallons of saltwater into the ground per month were far more likely to trigger quakes than those that put lesser amounts per month, the study from the University of Colorado found.

Although Texas, Arkansas, Kansas and other states have seen increases in earthquakes, the biggest jump has been in Oklahoma. From 1974 to 2008, Oklahoma averaged about one magnitude 3 or greater earthquake a year, but in 2013 and 2014, the state averaged more than 100 quakes that size per year, according to another earthquake study published Thursday. Since Jan. 1, the U.S. Geological Survey has logged more than 350 magnitude 3 or higher quakes in Oklahoma.

Studies have linked the increase in quakes to the practice of injecting leftover wastewater into the ground after drilling for oil and gas using newer technologies, such as hydraulic fracturing. Recent studies have linked the damaging 2011 magnitude 5.7 quake that hit Prague, Oklahoma, to a nearby high-rate injection well.

# City, County Officials Discuss Highway 52

BY ROB NIELSEN

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Representatives of Yankton's city and county governments are seeking ways to clean up the look of the Highway 52 corridor between Yankton and Lewis & Clark Lake.

During Thursday's Yankton City/County Planning meeting, City Commissioner Craig Sommer said they'd like to add some uniformity to construction of new properties along the highway to clean it up a little bit.

"It's development guidelines," Sommer said. "Building materials have to be this, parking lots have to be landscaped, signs have to be landscaped, facades, signs and all of that are included in that. Some people have looked at it like they can't do what they want to do anymore. ... It's one of the five busiest roads in the state, so you want it to look nice when 1 million plus people are going up and down it every summer."

"We're not trying to create a Sturgis or a Hollywood or something like that — it's not a theme

park we're talking about. It's just cleaning up what's out there."

The plans for the Highway 52 corridor are set to get an open house in the coming weeks. Originally, the open house had been scheduled for June 30, but due to a conflicting schedule with the Ag Gala in Yankton, a new date for the open house will be released soon.

Sommer said one of the main changes in the corridor would deal with the construction of storage units.

"You can still have storage units and bulk storage and all that; they're just going to be 600 feet behind the road from now on," he said. "They won't be on the road. ... I think most of the business owners out there would prefer to see businesses along the road instead of storage units."

He added that rules pertaining to electronic signs have been long sought by some businesses in the area.

"A couple I talked to about the signage want



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Yankton Community Development Director Dave Mingo listens to a discussion about the Highway 52 corridor during Thursday's joint city-county meeting.

HIGHWAY | PAGE 10A

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TOMORROW: Checking In At Czech Days 2015

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

SOUTH  
OF 15TH STREET