



Partly Cloudy

9 a.m. **72** 3 p.m. **84** | DETAILS: Page 2

TUESDAY ■ June 30, 2015



Post 12
Falls At
Home

PAGE 7



Volume 141
Number 55

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Message Sent

South Dakota Texting Ban Has Seen A Quiet First Year

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

A year after the law went into effect, Vermillion authorities still aren't enforcing the South Dakota ban on texting while driving.

That's because the Vermillion police department is following the tougher city ordinance, explained Police Chief Matt Betzen.

"Vermillion instituted a texting ban in May of 2013, following several other cities," he

said. "We still enforce under the city ordinance because it is a primary offense unlike the state statute, which is a secondary offense."

The Vermillion ban, enacted in 2013, carries a \$54 fine and court costs. As a primary offense, law enforcement officers can stop a motorist for a texting violation. At the time of its implementation, Betzen said he supported Vermillion enacting the primary offense.

Besides Vermillion, other government entities with their own texting ordinances included

Sioux Falls, Huron, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Mitchell and Pennington County.

A year later, South Dakota became the 43rd state in the country to prohibit texting while driving. Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed HB 1177 into law in late March 2014. The law went on the books July 1, 2014.

The statewide ban – which marks its first



IMAGE: METRO GRAPHICS

TEXTING | PAGE 5

A Joint Venture



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Chris Ferdig, Yankton City commissioner, and Parker Erickson, Vermillion City Council member, listen to a report from Bob Iverson, Vermillion Landfill manager, on the Joint Powers which oversees the Yankton Transfer Station and the Vermillion Landfill and Recycling Center managed by both communities, during Monday night's joint Yankton City Commission and Vermillion City Council meeting.

Yankton, Vermillion Boards Meet

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

A unique joint Yankton City Commission and Vermillion City Council meeting took place on Monday night, bringing members of both boards to the same meeting table.

The joint meeting, held at the Technical Education Center in Yankton, saw members of both boards discuss how they could potentially work together in the future.

Yankton mayor Dave Carda said the idea for the meeting was born out of the 1 Million Cups meetings held earlier in both communities.

"When I was at that meeting, one of the Vermillion councilors was on that panel and

I didn't know who she was," he said. "We are only 20 miles apart and I didn't know their mayor. I didn't know anybody on their Council and I wondered how we could make that first step to get to know each other. Once you know someone, it is easier to talk to them and ask questions. So, it was just an opportunity to get everyone together and put a face to a name and have a quick discussion. Next time we have one, maybe we will have a higher comfort level just because we have met them and know you have had a discussion with them and we may be able to move into other things."

Carda noted that the two communities share similar struggles with attracting people and businesses to their respective towns, as

well as finding adequate housing.

"Given our backgrounds, we don't know what each other is doing," he said. "But we could work more together. It's a different environment in the two towns. They have a lot of students, they have a big college, where Yankton has a small college, with big manufacturing – they don't have as much manufacturing. But we both struggle with the same things: people and housing. How do you get more? We need to work together to find those answers."

Vermillion city manager John Prescott said the opportunity for the two boards to come together was a great first step

MEETING | PAGE 10

Harney Peak Won't See Name Change

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Harney Peak shouldn't become Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls), the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names decided Monday.

The board voted 4-1 to recommend retaining Harney Peak as the name of one of South Dakota's highest points.

Last month the board, whose members work for state government agencies, voted unanimously to consider Hinhan Kaga and opened a 30-day comment period.

But on Monday, the support vanished.

State Tribal Relations Secretary Steve Emery couldn't get any of the four other board members to second his motion to formally recommend changing the name.

The 7,242-feet mountain in the Black Hills honors William S. Harney, a U.S. Army general who commanded military forces against Indian people during the 19th century.

Emery, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and a lawyer, described himself as a combat veteran speaking on behalf of those who died.

Emery called Harney "a slaughterer of my people and possibly relatives of mine."

The board's chairwoman, June Hansen, said a clear-cut course didn't become apparent. The original proposal from a member of the public called for renaming the mountain as Black Elk Peak.

The board at its May 7 meeting turned down the Black Elk name and went with Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls).

That didn't go over well. "We have an additional 30-day comment period for a reason," Hansen said. "In this case I think the public definitely took advantage of this opportunity."

She said the strong opposition to Hinhan Kaga led her to waver. There isn't a clear mandate from the public and therefore the board shouldn't make a recommendation, she said.

The state board will send its recommendation against any change to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names whose members will make the final decision, according to Hansen.

She referred to an email received Friday from Jennifer Runyon, a member of the U.S. board's research staff.

Runyon advised Hansen the U.S. board wouldn't accept a name with the translation in parentheses.

Runyon also suggested that peak be added to the name and said the only name under consideration by the U.S. board is Black Elk Peak.

Runyon told Hansen that Basil Brave Heart, the citizen from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation who made the original proposal of Black Elk Peak, could endorse another name but would need to withdraw his proposal.

Hansen told the other board members Monday that the board went too far in recommending Hinhan Kaga and should have considered only Black Elk Peak.

The board held five public meetings

HARNEY | PAGE 10

Creighton Woman Dies In Boating Accident

From P&D Staff Reports

CEDAR COUNTY, Neb. – A two-boat accident Monday morning in the tailwaters below Gavins Point Dam in Cedar County claimed the life of a 68-year-old Creighton, Neb., woman.

Authorities did not immediately release the woman's name.

The two boats collided at approximately 9:55 a.m., according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The victim was a passenger in one of the boats. She was transported to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton where she was pronounced dead.

The investigation remains ongoing. Alcohol does not appear to be a contributing factor in the accident. The Cedar County Attorney has ordered an autopsy on the victim. Both boats have been impounded.

Those responding to the accident included the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska State Patrol, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Cedar County Emergency Management, Yankton County Emergency Management, Yankton County Search and Rescue, Yankton County EMS and Yankton Fire Department.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Emergency personnel leave the dock area downstream from Gavins Point Dam after tending to an accident involving two boats Monday morning. One woman died in the incident. An autopsy has been ordered in the case.

Printed on
Recycled
Newsprint



Printed With
SOY INK



REGION 2 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | SPORTS 7 | MIDWEST 9 | WORLD 10 | CLASSIFIEDS 11

TOMORROW: Chamber Holds Annual Ag Gala

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET