

Press & Dakotan

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To The Finish

Division I Schools Battle On Day Two Of Great West Outdoor Meet.

SPORTS/6A

One Final Voyage

Shuttle Atlantis Blasts Off Into Space For Its Final Planned Mission.

NATION-WORLD/4A



INSIDEtoday

Coupons Worth More Than

\$166



Wild Side

10 Great, Varied Places In America To Go See Wildlife. USA WEEKEND

MIDWEST

HOWIE: S.D. Gubernatorial Candidate Says Pastors Should Endorse Candidates. PAGE 14A

NEIGHBORS

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WEATHER

Weather forecast for 9 a.m. (56°) and 3 p.m. (65°) with icons for clouds and rain.

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RECYCLING

River City Recycling Next Week NORTH of 15th St.



MONDAY

HONOR: Local Counselor Wins State Recognition.



Obama Lashes At Oil Execs

President Wants End To 'Cozy Relationships'

BY ERICA WERNER Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Declaring himself as angry as the rest of the nation, President Barack Obama assailed oil drillers and his own administration Friday as he ordered extra scrutiny of drilling permits to head off any repeat of the sickening oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



Obama

As Louisiana wildlife officials reported huge tar balls littering a beach, BP PLC technicians labored to accomplish an engineering feat a mile below the water surface. They were gingerly moving joysticks to guide deep-sea robots and thread a mile-long, 6-inch tube with a rubber stopper into the 21-inch pipe gushing oil from the ocean floor — a task one expert compared to stuffing a cork with a straw through it into a gushing soda bottle.

It's the latest scheme to stop the flow after all others have failed, more than three weeks since the oil rig explosion that killed 11 workers and set off the disastrous leak.

Obama, whose comments until now have been measured, heatedly condemned a "ridiculous spectacle" of oil executives shifting blame in congressional hearings and denounced a "cozy relationship" between their companies and the federal government.

"I will not tolerate more finger-pointing or irresponsibility," Obama said in the White House Rose Garden, flanked by members of his Cabinet.

OBAMA, Page 13A please

KEEPING PACE



A farmer near Tabor pushes ahead with his disking last week, taking advantage of a break in the cloudy, rainy weather. The region's spring planting has continued ahead of schedule despite recent wet conditions.

Despite Recent Wet Weather, Spring Planting Ahead Of Schedule

BY LISA HARE lisa.hare@yankton.net

While rainy days in May have kept farmers out of the field, the impact on crop planting isn't as bad as some may think.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Dakota farmers were only able to work out in the field 3 1/2 days last week due to weather conditions, but estimates are that nearly half of the state's corn crop has been planted, which is better than the five-year average.

State climatologist Dennis Todey forecasts less precipitation and warmer temperatures in the coming weeks, which should aid area farmers considerably for finishing the planting season.

"It looks like we're going to shift back now fairly quickly to warmer conditions again so that will allow things to dry out," Todey said. "It probably shouldn't be too wet again, so I think progress will start to kick up again."

While spring wheat and soybeans aren't above average this year, Todey says he doesn't see too much of a delay on crops statewide.

Across Nebraska, the past week's highs averaged seven degrees below normal, with the Panhandle seeing temperatures dipping into the teens.

According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office, Nebraska's corn planting is 78 percent complete — a day ahead compared to last year's 74 percent and four days ahead of the five-year average of 65 percent. And corn emergence is 16 percent complete, which was near last

PLANT, Page 13A please

St. James Marketplace Honored For Help In Revitalizing Community

BY LINDA WUEBBEN P&D Correspondent

ST. JAMES, Neb. — Dreams do come true.

The women of the St. James Marketplace will attest to that.

As the St. James Five, Mary Rose Pinkelman, Vickie Koch, Violet Pinkelman, Louise Guy and Jeanette Pinkelman begin the 10th year of brainstorming for community revitalization, they agree they are amazed at what they have accomplished.

"We'll be back at it this summer with 60 vendors again

and all our finished rooms in the old schoolhouse filled to the brim," said Mary Rose Pinkelman. "Even in this tough economy, we have been successful. We work with a shoestring budget and continue to stay alive."

At a trade show this March in Kearney, Neb., the St. James Marketplace added another award to their growing collection. They were recognized by the Center For Rural Affairs with the Bob Steffen Pioneer Award.

In a short introduction



COURTESY PHOTO

The women of the St. James (Neb.) Marketplace were recently presented with the Bob Steffen Pioneer Award by the Center for Rural Affairs. Pictured are, from left: Wyatt Fraas, Center For Rural Affairs; Martin Kleinschmit, Resource, Conservation & Development; Mary Rose Pinkelman; Vickie Koch; Violet Pinkelman; Jeanette Pinkelman; and Kathy Starkweather, Center for Rural Affairs. Not pictured: Louise Guy.

before passing the award to the five women, the Center described the women's "vision to revitalize the dispersed community with a central gath-

ering point and shared purpose," showed incredible leadership and perseverance.

AWARD, Page 13A please



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Republican gubernatorial candidate Dave Knudson, a Yankton native, answers questions during a recent meeting with the Press & Dakotan editorial board.

Yankton Native Aims For Pierre

Knudson Uses Hometown Lessons In Run For Governor

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Even when he attended Harvard University in the 1970s, Dave Knudson never strayed far from his Yankton roots.

Yankton attorney Don Bierle, a state senator from 1971-74, approached Knudson about working for him during the Legislature. Knudson took him up on the offer for two years, missing his Harvard classes 1,500 miles away but receiving a valuable education of another sort.

"I was out in Pierre for three weeks (during the Legislature)," Knudson said. "I was AWOL from Harvard,

but they knew why and what I would be doing (in South Dakota)."

Three decades later, Knudson returned to Pierre as a legislator. A Sioux Falls attorney, he has been elected for four terms and serves as Senate Majority Leader.

Now, he wants to serve as South Dakota's next governor.

Knudson is one of five Republican candidates vying for the governor's chair. The winner of the June 8 primary election faces Democrat Scott Heidepriem and any independent candidates.

Knudson is not the only Yankton native running for high-profile office this spring. Mike Huether, a 1980 Yankton High School graduate, won the Sioux Falls mayor's race in his first try for political office. Huether takes office Monday.

Knudson graduated from YHS 12 years ahead of

KNUDSON, Page 12A please

HyVee advertisement for Cookies Rib Wagon on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22.