



Inside Today



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Kayaking Growing
In Popularity • **1B**

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PHOTO COURTESY 'NO LIMITS'
Hartington, Neb., teenager Addison Peitz (center, with 'Deception' sign) joins dozens of other activists who picketed and spoke with investors during a recent New York City shareholders' meeting for a tobacco company. Peitz remains active in the No Limits anti-tobacco youth movement for Nebraska teens.

Hartington Teen Puts Out Tobacco Myths

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — Addison Peitz went to New York City, but she didn't play tourist.

Instead, she protested.
The Hartington Public High School student, along with dozens of teens from across the country, recently demonstrated outside a tobacco company's shareholder meeting. The teens were protesting the worldwide increase of death and disease brought on by the company's products.

While only 15 years old, Peitz already sees tobacco's harm on her friends.
"I have no interest in smoking, but a lot of kids in Hartington use tobacco," she said, "They smoke cigarettes and use smokeless tobacco."

Peitz is no stranger to activism. She has participated for two years in the local chapter of No Limits, Nebraska's first youth-led tobacco prevention movement.

"For one project, we put up '6's' all over school. Everyone was asking what it meant," she said. "We finally told everyone that the 6 represents that one person dies every six seconds (worldwide) from tobacco use."

Besides local projects, she has participated in "Kick Butts Day" where Nebraska teens protest outside the capitol building in Lincoln.

When she learned of the NYC demonstration, Peitz focused her activism on the very people financially supporting the tobacco industry. She applied for a spot with the group headed for NYC, writing an essay on her goals if she was chosen and the extent of her involvement in the No Limits organization.

She was selected for the Nebraska dele-

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State To Sell Napa Line

Iron Horse Development To Buy Railroad For \$1.5M

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The South Dakota Railroad Board is planning to sell 54 miles of an abandoned railroad line in the far southeast part of the state next month.

The former freight line was built around 1900 and runs east of the Missouri River from Platte to Napa Junction, just north of Yankton.

Bruce Lindholm, program manager of the state Department of Transportation's office of air, rail and tran-

sit, said the \$1.5 million deal with Iron Horse Development Company of Kimball should be finalized at the board's June 19 meeting.

"Right now we're negotiating, and it will have to be approved by the board," Lindholm said.

The board agreed in 2006 to sell the state-owned line to Wagner Native Ethanol for \$1.5 million, but because the company missed deadlines to shore up financing, the board voted last year to accept new proposals to renovate and restore railroad service.

The deal with Iron Mountain, which is also partner-

ing with Aberdeen-based ag cooperative Wheat Growers on a planned agronomy retail center east of Kimball, was the first one the board felt comfortable with, railroad board chairman Chet Groseclose said.

"Everybody has goodwill in trying to find the solution, but we just hadn't found anything that we agreed upon unanimously until this one came along," Groseclose said.

South Dakota bought the stretch after the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad — known as the Milwaukee Road — declared bankruptcy in the late

NAPA | PAGE 14A



P&D FILE PHOTO: KELLY HERTZ
Yankton area native Matt Varilek, shown here during a Yankton campaign stop last November during his unsuccessful bid for the U.S. House, had been named a regional administrator for the Small Business Administration. He said working with small businesses "is such an important job, and I'm honored to be a part of it."

Yankton Native Using His Past To Help Small Business Future

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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Recently appointed a regional administrator for the Small Business Administration, Yankton native Matt Varilek is looking to his South Dakota roots "to help small businesses in South Dakota and throughout the region."

Varilek has roots in Yankton and Tabor, and graduated from Yankton High School in 1993. He said working for small business in Yankton and being married to a small business owner gives him the knowledge to aid the small businesses around the region.

"I was one of the kids who benefited from the reduced-price school lunches, and it made me aware of issues of economic opportunity," said Varilek, who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House in 2012. "I've always wanted to do my part to help make sure people have opportunities to find good jobs. If they're willing to work hard they should be able to find a good job."

The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides support to small business around the nation. Varilek is now the regional administrator for Region VIII, which includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming — the most rural region.

The SBA provides support through capital, counseling and contracts, Varilek said. Business owners can access capital for things like expansion through the SBA and its banking partners. The SBA

VARILEK | PAGE 14A

AAA: Memorial Day Travel To Decline

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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According to AAA, 110,300 South Dakota residents are expected to travel over the Memorial Day weekend. Which marks a 1 percent decrease from last year.

Nationally, travel is also expected to decline during the weekend by 0.9 percent.

Nearly 90 percent of South Dakota residents traveling this weekend will drive to their destinations, with the average road-trip expected to be 680 miles or less.



Fuks

to have an impact to where, if people are contemplating taking longer trips, maybe

One of the biggest impacts on the lower travel numbers is the high gas prices across the region.

"Absolutely, gas prices will have an impact, they have already cut into peoples' budgets," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "I think it's definitely going

they will try and do things closer to home."

She added that she believes gas prices have reached a crest, and should start coming down.

In addition to gas prices, weather also impacts Memorial Day travel nationally, although not as much in the region.

"Traditionally, the weather is cool and rainy around Memorial Day, so at least people around South Dakota are pretty well prepared for that," Buskohl said.

AAA | PAGE 14A

Corps Study Addresses Mo. River Sediment

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says a new study indicates that high discharge, short duration reservoir releases out of Fort Randall Dam could help flush fine sediment out of the Missouri River.

The corps says it has been concerned about the buildup of silt and sand behind Gavins Point Dam since the dam was constructed during the 1950s.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003 recommended that the corps study the feasibility of hydraulic flushing to provide sand for shorebird habitat below Gavins to aid in habitat development.

Corps staff and basin stakeholders will be looking at combinations of flow, timing and infrastructure modifications that could more effectively transport sand downstream. The second phase of the study is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

Thinking On Their Feet

Importance Of Paramedics
Highlighted During EMS Week

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the Press & Dakotan's monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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When she was growing up, Jamie Freeman always knew she wanted to work in the medical field.



ON THE JOB

"I was working at a hospital in Sioux Falls, and I decided I wanted to work in an ambulance," she said. "This is the medical path I chose and, so far, it's worked out really well."

Freeman currently serves as a senior paramedic for

the Yankton County EMS.

She said training to become a paramedic is ongoing and is very detailed.

"People first become a basic, which is a 4-5 month class,"

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ANDREW ATWAL/P&D

From left: Jamie Freeman, senior paramedic; Jared Drotzman, paramedic; and Mark Nickles, senior paramedic, all of the Yankton County EMS. Freeman stresses the importance of 911 and paramedics, rather than people driving themselves to the emergency room.