



Clouds Moving In

9 a.m. **58** 3 p.m. **73** | DETAILS: Page 2

WEDNESDAY ■ May 13, 2015



Tennis: YHS
Drops Final
Two Duals
Of Season
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After Rains, Yankton Co. Lifts Burn Ban

From P&D Staff Reports

Improving conditions have led to the Yankton County burn ban being lifted again Tuesday.

According to a release from Yankton County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt, this past weekend's rains helped to mitigate grassland fire dangers, along with low winds on Tuesday.

People are still cautioned that, should the grassland fire index reach "Very High" or "Extreme" again, the burn ban automatically goes back into effect.

Rate Hike Hearing Set For Yankton

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing Thursday in Yankton concerning NorthWestern Energy's proposed 20 percent electric rate increase.

The hearing, which is open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. at the Kelly Inn. The meeting will adjourn at the conclusion of comments and questions from all persons who arrived before 8 p.m.



Nelson

The Yankton meeting was prompted by a petition from local residents, said PUC Chairman Chris Nelson. The meeting will gather comments and information, but the PUC commissioners will not make a decision that evening.

"We're not required to hold a hearing unless we get a petition signed by 25 of the (rate) payers asking for it," he said. "In this case, there was a formal request from Yankton residents. We're not scheduled to go to another community serviced by NorthWestern unless we receive a petition from them."

On Dec. 19, the PUC received an application by NorthWestern Energy for approval to increase rates for electric service in its South Dakota service territory by \$26,509,557 annually. The figure amounts to an increase of 20.24 percent based on NorthWestern's test year ending Sept. 30, 2014, according to the PUC.

The company states the proposed increase for a typical residential customer would be \$16.76 per month based on average annual usage.

The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 62,100 customers in NorthWestern's South Dakota service territory.

HEARING | PAGE 5

Today



Chat With The P&D
Sports Staff From
3:30-4:30 p.m.

www.yankton.net

Avian Flu Found In 2 Local Facilities

Operations In
Yankton And
Hutchinson
Counties Are
Confirmed;
More Than 110K
Birds Impacted

BY ROB NIELSEN

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After nearly three weeks of South Dakota being free of new cases of the H5N2 strain of avian influenza — also known as bird flu — the virus has afflicted two locations in the Yankton area.

Dustin Oedekoven, state veterinarian with the South Dakota Animal Industry Board, confirmed to the *Press & Dakotan* Tuesday that the virus has now affected the two local operations.

"We don't release the names of the farms, but the two farms are in Hutchinson and Yankton counties," Oedekoven said.

He said the two affected commercial turkey operations announced Tuesday combine for around 115,000 birds.

Reuters reported as of Monday that a number of states and two Canadian provinces had reported instances of avian flu in one of three strains — H5N2, H5N8 and H5N1.

H5N2 has been, by far, the most prevalent, affecting Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, British Columbia and Ontario — leading to the deaths or culling of an estimated 30 million birds.

Oedekoven said the two area cases mark the seventh and eighth instances of the virus in South Dakota.

"Just under half a million turkeys have been affected by that (in South Dakota alone)," he said.

He added that while it's most certainly avian influenza, a confirmation of the N2 strain will come later today (Wednesday).

"The two latest farms we haven't received the final virus type on," he said. "I expect that it will be the H5N2 virus, but what we do know is it's the H5 strain of avian influenza."

Oedekoven said these were the first signs of the virus

FLU | PAGE 11



PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY
The Riverboat Days Board of Directors have selected Dick and Joyce Lane as the 2015 Captain and Belle. The Lanes have both been volunteers for the event, with Dick taking part in the first Riverboat Days firework show.

Lanes Chosen RBD Captain And Belle

BY JORDYNNE HART

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One of the highlights of each Riverboat Days celebration in Yankton is the fireworks display. Thousands of people line up on the riverside to watch the colorful lights dance across the August night sky.

But there hasn't always been fireworks on Riverboat Days. There is now, thanks in part to Dick and Joyce Lane.

The Riverboat Days Board of Directors have selected the Lanes as the 2015 Captain and Belle. The selection was announced during Monday night's exhibition baseball game at Tereshinski Stadium.

The Lanes were chosen because of their love of Yankton and their involvement in Riverboat Days, especially the vital role the couple played in the annual fireworks show.

According to Dick, he joined the Riverboat Days Board of Directors about 20 years ago and suggested a fireworks display.

"I realized they didn't have any fireworks on Friday night," Dick said. "So we talked them into a small fireworks show."

"It's going to be fun and it's an honor to do it. We are going to have a good time and try to be the best ambassadors we can for the event."

DICK LANE

Now, the fireworks display is anything but small.

"Now it's one of the biggest ones in the state," Dick said. "It's come a long ways."

But to put on a 20-minute fireworks show takes a lot of work, especially when the weather isn't cooperating, Joyce said.

"If it gets wet, it doesn't work. So we have to cover up all the fireworks," she said.

Dick said it takes three to four days to set up the fireworks, so the crew needs good weather in order to have a good show.

"It's a lot of work putting it together," Dick

RBD | PAGE 11

Some Water, Electricity Return To Delmont

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

AND ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ

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DELMONT — Electricity and water have been restored to Delmont following Sunday's tornado, and residents are allowed to remain in undamaged homes.

At Tuesday night's town meeting at the old fire hall, a state official provided Delmont residents with more information about clean-up and relief efforts.

"You're welcome to stay in your homes tonight if you have power and water," said spokeswoman Sandy Frentz with the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

The National Weather Service rated the Mother's Day twister as an EF-2 tornado, with peak winds of 130 miles per hour. The tornado, which was spotted on the ground near Wagner around 10:30 a.m. Sunday, traveled northwest and hit Delmont just before 11 a.m. The twister carved a path 17 miles long with a width up to 400 yards.

Nine Delmont residents were hospitalized following the tornado. Eight have been released, and one remains hospitalized. However, no fatalities were reported.

The tornado hit Delmont's west end particularly hard. The twister destroyed the century-old Zion Lutheran Church and the new fire hall which had yet to be dedicated.

However, the town's business district and the homes in the eastern end — starting with Gifford Street — remain mostly intact. The Douglas County community has approximately 250 residents.

Power was restored to about 160 customers in Delmont as of 10:45 p.m. Monday, according to NorthWestern Energy spokesman Tom Glanzer.

Some damaged properties will need to be repaired before electricity can be restored, and those properties will be dealt with one by one, he told The Associated Press.

"Most of the people are coming back this morning to homes with electricity," Glanzer said Tuesday. "With the electricity back, there's a little bit of normalization for the city."

At Tuesday's town meeting, Frentz said the water supply has been restored to the entire community. However, residents must continue to boil the water before using it for bathing and consumption. State officials are awaiting lab tests on the water supply. Thursday looks to be the earliest time for lifting the boil order, she said.

Bottled water remains in plentiful supply for those in need of it, Frentz said.

Meals will be provided at 7:30 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. today (Wednesday) at the Delmont steakhouse.

In addition, the Community Health Nurse (CHN) will be available today, Thursday and Friday to provide tetanus shots. The shots will be administered from 1-3 p.m. daily at the old fire hall.

The shots are particularly encouraged with

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TOMORROW: Organizers Prepping For Local Kayak Challenge

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

NORTH
OF 15TH STREET