



## Showers And Thunderstorms

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PHOTO: TERRY SAYLER  
Volunteers offer assistance for Delmont farmers recovering from Sunday's tornado.

## Gov. Daugaard Seeks Federal Aid For Delmont Tornado Victims

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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DELMONT — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has started the process that could open up federal assistance for this tornado-stricken Douglas County community and other sites.

Daugaard requested Wednesday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) join state teams for a preliminary damage assessment.

"Moving our citizens quickly into the recovery process is important," the governor said.

The assessment, planned for Tuesday, will help determine the impacts to homes and businesses in two South Dakota counties resulting from last Sunday's — Mother's Day — tornado.

The governor requested preliminary assessments of damage to private homes and businesses in Charles Mix and Douglas counties, including the town of Delmont.

The process, called an Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment, is the first step to determine if FEMA's Individual Assistance program or the SBA's disaster loan program will be made available to help residents with recovery.

"These assessments will give us an accurate picture of the damages to homes and businesses in Delmont and in the rural areas of Douglas and Charles Mix counties," the governor said.

"That information will help us determine whether federal financial assistance or low-interest loans might be available for tornado survivors with damaged homes or businesses."

Federal assistance could become available if the preliminary assessment indicates damage beyond the capability of local and state resources to handle it.

Sunday's tornado touched down near Wagner around 10:30 a.m. and hit Delmont shortly before 11 a.m. The National Weather Service rated the twister as an EF-2 tornado, with peak winds of 130 miles per hour. The tornado carved a path 17 miles long with a width up to 400 yards.

The storm devastated the western end of Delmont, while the eastern end remains intact.

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## Bird Flu Response

### Thune Calls For Immediate Action Against The Disease

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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This week's confirmations of bird flu in southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska show the need for immediate action, U.S. Sen. John Thune said Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, the avian flu isn't going away," Thune (R-S.D.) told the *Press & Dakotan*.

The virus has affected two commercial

turkey operations in Yankton and Hutchinson counties, according to South Dakota state veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven. In addition, the bird flu was confirmed in Dixon County, Nebraska, just across the Missouri River from Clay and Union counties in southeast South Dakota.

These new outbreaks bring the number of affected commercial turkey farms in



Thune

South Dakota to eight, Oedekoven said. The state doesn't release the names of affected farms, just the counties in which they sit. However, he confirmed roughly 68,000 growing turkeys at the Yankton County site and 52,000 at the Hutchinson County site.

"The birds (in those two counties) are being destroyed today (Wednesday)," he told the *Press & Dakotan*.

Oedekoven will update the Animal Industry Board (AIB) on the avian flu outbreak at next week's AIB meeting. Approximately 465,000 turkeys have been destroyed in South Dakota so far as a result

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## A Missouri River Adventure



PHOTO: DAWNE OLSON  
Pictured are participants in the South Dakota Kayak Challenge in Yankton. The annual event challenges kayakers to complete a 72-mile course on the Missouri River within 30 hours.

## Kayakers Prepare For 72-Mile Challenge

BY REILLY BIEL  
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For the past six years, kayakers from South Dakota and the surrounding area looking for some excitement have participated in the South Dakota Kayak Challenge in Yankton.

"We started this in 2010 and it's been a success ever since," said Jarrett Bies, event organizer. "We did this as a way to bring more people to the Missouri River, and it's been a labor of passion and love."

The South Dakota Kayak Challenge is a 72-mile stretch of the Missouri River, between Yankton and South Sioux City, Nebraska, where kayakers take on the

**"We did this as a way to bring more people to the Missouri River, and it's been a labor of passion and love."**

JARRETT BIES

wind and waves to challenge themselves to finish the course within 30 hours. This year's event is set for May 23-24.

Bies believes the competitive fabric makes the event more appealing.

"It's fun to see newcomers from two or three years ago step up from their small kayaks to larger models," he said.

People from South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa make up a majority of the event participants, but it has also attracted people from other states like Colorado, Illinois, Oregon and even Rhode Island.

"A few diehard Canadians have come down, too," Bies said.

The challenge is described in a way that just about anyone with a little paddle experience can participate.

However, the kayakers aren't left on their own. Four mandatory checkpoints between Yankton and Sioux City help the event organizers keep track of where the participants are, when they arrive and

CHALLENGE | PAGE 14

## Winter Wheat Production Down in The Dakotas

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — This year's winter wheat crop in the Dakotas is expected to be quite a bit smaller than last year's.

The Agriculture Department estimates South Dakota's crop at 48.4 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2014. North Dakota's crop is pegged at 11.2 million bushels, down 59 percent.

In South Dakota, they're estimated to be up 2 percent over the year. The production drop is due to a 20 percent drop in average yield.

## YSD Teacher Awarded Teacher Of The Year By Students



JORDYNNE HART/P&D  
Dr. Angela Hejl was named Teacher of the Year. The senior class of Yankton High School voted on the award that was sponsored by Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital. Pictured from left to right is senior class vice president Jadyne Arens, Dr. Angela Hejl and senior class president Paul Fanta.

BY JORDYNNE HART  
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Dr. Angela Hejl received the best retirement present she could ever hope for at the Yankton High School (YHS) Academic Awards Program last week.

Hejl, a longtime science teacher at YHS, was named Teacher of the Year. The award is sponsored by Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital.

Throughout her 21 years of teaching at the Yankton School District (YSD) as well as teaching at Mount Marty College and assistant teaching at the University of South Dakota, Hejl has won many awards — but this one is special. It is voted by her students.

"I can't even begin to tell you how incredibly grateful I am," Hejl said. "Anytime a teacher is honored, it's special and it's humbling. But this award the senior class voted on, which makes it very special. To have students acknowledge you is a very special honor."

Before teaching, Hejl took up nursing for a few years. Hejl has a B.A. in Nursing/Biology/Education from Mount Marty College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of South Dakota.

"I got into patient education and loved it," she said. "I decided to go more into education. What I learned as a nurse, I apply when I teach anatomy, physiology, and advanced placement biology."

Senior class president Jadyne Arens said Hejl is a very deserving recipient.

"I think Dr. Hejl was chosen because our class had such a good experience with her," she said. "We all felt like we learned so much. We feel like she really prepared us for college next year. I think we all feel blessed that we were one of the last grades that had her as a teacher."

"She has such a desire to teach students," senior class president Paul

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