



Scattered Showers

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THURSDAY ■ May 28, 2015

USD Track And Field  
Team Sends 14 To West  
Preliminaries • 7

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Neb.  
Death  
Penalty  
Falls  
Ricketts'  
Veto Struck  
Down

BY GRANT SCHULTE AND ANNA  
GRONEWOLD  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska abolished the death penalty on Wednesday over the governor's objections in a move pushed through the Legislature with unusual backing from conservatives who oppose capital punishment for religious, financial and practical reasons.



Ricketts

Senators in the one-house Legislature voted 30-19 to override the veto of Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican who supports the death penalty. The vote makes Nebraska the first traditionally conservative state to eliminate the punishment since North Dakota in 1973.

The override vote — passed by the narrowest possible margin — drew a burst of applause from death penalty opponents in the gallery above the legislative chamber.

"Whenever anything historic occurs, it's never the doing of one person," said Sen. Ernie Chambers, an independent who

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\* \* \*

Views Differ  
About Impact  
On SD  
Death Penalty

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

With Nebraska officially repealing the death penalty Wednesday, two Yankton area residents remain divided on whether South Dakota should follow suit.



Stevens

State Rep. Mike Stevens (R-Yankton) has dealt with the death penalty in the courtroom as well as in the Legislature. The Yankton attorney has represented an individual charged with first-degree murder and facing the death penalty. Ultimately, the case resulted in a plea bargain.

Stevens supports the South Dakota death penalty as it is currently implemented. He doesn't see the South Dakota Legislature moving to repeal capital punishment.

"I do not believe that the Nebraska action will have an impact on the current South Dakota Legislature," he said. "Every death penalty bill was defeated in committee this past session. Further, South Dakota very seldom ever invokes the death penalty."

On the other side, Burbank

IMPACT | PAGE 14

Bird Flu

Knox. Co. Facility Hit

Flock Of 3 Million Hens At Egg-Laying Operation Affected

A Knox County, Nebraska, flock of 3 million hens has been detected with bird flu, according to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

The farm marks the fourth case of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza (HPAI) in Nebraska, bringing the total to 7 million birds for the Husker State, NDA officials said in a news release.

It also marks the third case in the immediate Yankton area.

The Knox County farm is owned by the same operator as the three previously-announced Nebraska cases in Dixon County, Nebraska. Those three cases involve 3.5 million laying hens and a flock of 500,000 pullets (young hens).

The Knox County location is approximately 50 miles from the three Dixon County locations.

A response team is in Knox County to address the finding, according to Nebraska Agri-

culture Director Greg Ibach. The team includes federal, state and local officials.

"I cannot stress enough the importance for all Nebraska poultry facility operators to ensure they maintain the strictest of biosecurity measures," he said. "That means strictly limiting the traffic, both humans and vehicles, into and out of facilities in an effort to avoid any cross-contamination."

BIRD FLU | PAGE 14

Ready To Roll



Yankton Proclaims June Bike Month

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA  
news@yankton.net

In an effort to promote a healthy lifestyle, environmentally friendly travel and highlight Yankton's scenic heritage, Yankton Parks and Recreation and Bike Yankton, along with the endorsement of Mayor Dave Carda, have set the wheels in motion and proclaimed June Bike to Work Bike to Play Month.

The idea of dedicating a whole month to bicycle-friendly activities was created by Parks and Rec coordinator Todd Larson and Bike Yankton's Sarah Mannes Homstad, who regularly pedals to work and developed the grassroots effort.

"It is (our) hope to capitalize on all the great things that are happening in Yankton in June that (people can ride a bike to)," Homstad said. "Yankton is a very active place in the month of June, and we thought it was a good opportunity to get people out on their bikes."

She said there have been contained rides and biking events over the years, but this is the first year an entire month will be recognized and have activities planned

around bicycling in the Yankton community.

BIKE TO PLAY

One goal of Larson and Homstad with the Bike to Work Bike to Play effort is to encourage Yankton citizens to bike to events that are already happening in community.

Bike to Work-Bike to Play is planning an event around the long-standing tradition of free concerts highlighting local bands at 8 p.m. every Tuesday in June-August at the Riverside Park Amphitheatre.

The City Commission "Pedal to the Parks" Ride led by Mayor Dave Carda will begin south of the Dakota Territorial Capitol in Riverside Park on June 27. The ride, taken by city commissioners and Yankton community members, will begin at 6 p.m. with a "Blessings of the Bicycles."

"(The Blessings of the Bicycles) will include a short prayer for the environment, bicycle safety and being

BIKE | PAGE 3

Water Line  
Project  
Could Have  
Big Impacts

BY ROB NIELSEN  
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

In Yankton's effort to upgrade its water infrastructure, one of the most noticeable projects to date is set to get under way this summer — and officials are trying to mitigate its potential impact on a summer full of events.

Kyle Goodmanson, director of environmental services for Yankton, said the city will use this summer to start construction on a raw water line for its new collector well and a wastewater plant upgrade.

"The project will be taking the water line from the collector well that we're in the process of building right now back to the water treatment facility on the river," Goodmanson said. "The main portion of the project is the raw water line ... The second portion of the project is, we're doing a loop-feed system through the wastewater plant. Currently it's fed by one line, and that line has broke several times, leaving the wastewater plant without water, which isn't a good thing. So there's a six-inch water line that's going in along the west-side of the softball field."

Goodmanson said this could mean some disruptions.

"We're looking at some closures of Levee St. and that street to the west of the softball field," he said. "We're working around the softball schedules for that portion. And then the rest of the raw water pipe that goes through the park — everything from the baseball field west — we'll be doing after Riverboat Days."



Goodmanson

WATER | PAGE 14

Teaching Farm Safety



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Tom Kronaizl of Mark's Machinery in Yankton volunteered to instruct a basic tractor and heavy machinery safety course Wednesday at the Yankton County 4-H Farm Safety Day Camp. Area youth had the opportunity to attend nine safety stations, some including electricity, first aid, animal, chemical and ATV.

FCC Takes Aim At Annoying  
Telemarketing Calls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Those automated phone calls during the dinner hour, late at night or to your wireless phone can be so frustrating — and the government is taking note.

The head of the Federal Communications Commission circulated a proposal Wednesday designed to close loopholes, reaffirm current anti-robo-call rules, and encourage wireless and wireline carriers to do more to fight against unwanted telemarketing calls and spam text messages to consumers.

A key part of the plan:

clearing up any confusion over whether the phone carriers can offer blocking services — so-called robo-blocking technology that could help people stop the unwanted calls.

"We are giving the green light for robocall-blocking technology," FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler wrote in a blog-post on the commission website.

Phone companies have said that they worry that automatic call-blocking might run afoul of laws requiring them to connect phone calls.

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TOMORROW: LCTC To Present 'Nunsense'

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET