



Sunny And Very Cool

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Survey Suggests Rural
Economic Slowdown
In 10 States

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A third consecutive overall index drop in a monthly rural bankers survey suggests an economic slowdown is ahead for rural parts of 10 Western and Plains states.

The Rural Mainstreet Index sank to 44.4 this month from 49.0 in September and 50.0 in August. The overall index is computed from various economic category scores, and survey organizers say any score below 50 suggests that factor will decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says the overall index reflects "weakness stemming from lower agriculture and energy commodity prices and from downturns in manufacturing exports."

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

A Caution Road Ahead

County Tells City It Must Be Cautious
About Joint Road Agreement

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Yankton County and city officials will continue working on a shared road agreement, but in the wake of a failed push for a levy for road and bridge repairs, county officials are hesitant to commit to future projects.

During a meeting of the Yankton City/County

Planning Committee Thursday, Yankton County Commissioner Donna Freng said the county isn't in a position to make guarantees at this juncture.



Freng

"Putting together a shared road maintenance agreement is great," Freng said. "When it comes to reconstruction, I think we're going to have to define that a lot better. Personally, I believe we cannot promise anything in the foreseeable future as far as what we could do to help out."

In addition to laying out agreements on snow removal and routine maintenance, the drafted agreement also has a provision for the two entities to jointly pay for reconstruction of West City Limits Road and Ferdig Ave. — both of which pass in and out of the current Yankton city limits at

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The Crowd Scene



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Yankton High School student body took part in a video production Thursday morning in the Summit Center main gymnasium. The video is part of a school entry in State Farm's Celebrate My Drive contest, which promotes the importance of safe driving through Drive 2N2® — two eyes on the road, two hands on the wheel. The YHS video is being produced by students, with the assistance of local State Farm agent Rhonda Wesseln. Schools across the country have until Oct. 25 to submit videos, after which finalists will be chosen and online voting by the public will be held to determine the winners. The contest prizes include 22 grants of \$100,000 each, with one school winning a private concert by the band Echosmith.

Region Sees Warmer Temps; El Nino To Impact Winter

BY ROB NIELSEN
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It was a warm September across the upper Midwest — setting the stage for a beneficial, yet dry, harvest season and perhaps previewing what's in store for the Upper Plains during an El Nino-fueled winter.

During Thursday's NOAA Midwest and Great Plains Climate-Drought Outlook webinar, Nolan Doesken, Colorado State climatologist with Colorado State University, told attendees that last month was a record breaker in many places.

"If you look on a national time-scale, September 2015 for the country

— contiguous 48 states — was the second warmest on record and (there have been) not too many like it in recorded history," Doesken said. "We've been running an interesting September fall warming trend over the course of the last couple of decades."

South Dakota experienced its fifth warmest September since 1895 while Nebraska experienced its fourth warmest. Minnesota had its warmest September on record.

The Yankton area saw temperatures 4-6 degrees above average last month, while parts of the coverage area have seen temperatures 6-8 degrees above average. The warmer-than-average temperatures have also continued into

October. On Sunday, Yankton officially recorded a high of 96 degrees, tying a record for the warmest reading ever for October.

Doesken also pointed out that freezes have been late across the region as well.

"Many of us on the call have not yet had our first fall freeze," he said.

Around Yankton, first freezes normally occur between Sept. 21-30. However, a freeze was possible for early today (Friday).

Doesken said that while recent dry conditions have fueled some spotty

WEATHER | PAGE 10A

State Minimum Wage To Increase A Nickel In January

PIERRE (AP) — The state's minimum wage will bump up a nickel to \$8.55 in January because of a cost-of-living increase built into the law that voters approved in November 2014.

The state Department of Labor and Regulation on Thursday announced the increase for 2016.

The voter-approved law took effect in 2015. It initially raised the minimum hourly wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50, increased the hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage and tied future increases to the cost of living.

Supporters argued the Democratic- and union-backed proposal would boost South Dakota's lagging personal income, but business groups said it could trigger layoffs and higher prices for some goods and services.

The hourly tip wage is increasing to \$4.28 beginning in January.

Yankton Man Restores Automotive Memories

BY LORETTA SORENSEN
P&D Correspondent

It's not unusual to store family heirlooms in the garage. But Jim Carr's heirlooms are not only stored there — the family-owned cars he's retained and restored belong in the garage.

Carr's passion for saving family vehicles began after he restored a John Deere B vintage tractor in the 1970s. His first restoration project was the 1954 Ford Panel truck his father had used while he worked on road construction projects. Carr used the truck during his college and rodeo days.

"I was a steer wrestler in the '80s," the Yankton man says. "I had a horse and needed something I could use to pull my horse trailer. Since I needed a place to stay when I went to a rodeo, the panel truck fit all those needs."

When he acquired the panel truck, it didn't take much to upgrade it. Removing some dents and a few damaged parts and a paint job was all it required.

"I've never touched the motor on it," Carr says.

"It does blow a few smoke rings now. It probably has about 115,000 miles on it. I drove it until I met my wife, Karen. Then it was time to look for a different type of vehicle."

From 1988 through 1993, Carr tackled one of his prime restoration projects: the 1947 De Soto Karen's uncle had housed in the trees on his farm for many years. Her uncle purchased the De Soto in 1950, when it was just three years old.

"He loved that car," Carr says. "In his day, a De Soto was a banker's car, so it was something for a farmer to own one. It's amazing that, while it was in the shelterbelt, no tree limbs fell on it. Most of the glass in it is still original. A couple of years after I restored it, her uncle brought me the title."

Carr did his next restoration work on a 1969 Ford Explorer he bought in 1975. It was the pickup his son Todd used to learn to drive and as transportation while he was in high school. Todd opted to keep it in



PHOTO: LORETTA SORENSEN

Jim Carr of Yankton is a collector, and he avidly saves and/or restores family cars. He is shown standing by his current project: restoring a 1972 Volkswagen driven for years by his brother.

CARR | PAGE 10A

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