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South Dakota

Cell Phone Restrictions For Young Drivers Eyed

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota should prohibit young drivers from using cellphones while behind the wheel and make those with learners' permits wait longer before driving unaccompanied by an adult, a state panel recommended Monday.

The Teen Driving Task Force, created by the Legislature, also recommended setting up a coordinated drivers' education system with statewide standards for course content, instruction, testing and certification of instructors.

The panel's recommendations will be submitted to the 2013 session of the South Dakota Legislature, which convenes in January.

Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City, chair of the task force, said the panel is seeking ways to save lives and reduce serious traffic crashes by teen drivers.

"There really is a purpose in what we're doing here," Tieszen told other members of the task force, which includes lawmakers, law enforcement officers, state officials and teen safety advocates.

Task force members said South Dakota has one of the nation's highest rates of fatal crashes among young drivers, and young South Dakota drivers are more likely to have accidents than older drivers are.

For example, 16- and 17-year-old drivers represented just 2.7 percent of all South Dakota drivers in 2011, but accounted for 5.9 percent of crashes involving deaths or injuries, according to the state Public Safety Department.

South Dakota law allows instruction permits to be issued at age 14, the youngest age in the nation for driving while accompanied by an adult, most often a parent. Those young drivers can graduate to restricted permits that allow them to drive alone in the daytime after six months, or just 90 days if they have completed a drivers' education course.

The task force is recommending that beginning drivers should have to keep instruction permits for a year before moving to restricted permits that allow them to drive alone. Those who complete drivers' education courses could move to restricted permits after nine months.

Young drivers can get regular licenses at 16 if they pass a written test and a driving test and have no traffic violations in the past six months. Those provisions

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City Hires Consultant



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton city commissioners Pauline Aklund and Jake Hoffner listen to a presentation from Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson Monday concerning the hiring of a consultant to assess the city's sports and recreational facility needs. The bid was awarded to a Sioux Falls firm on a 7-1 vote, with Hoffner the lone dissenter.

Despite Concerns, Bid Is Awarded To S.F. Firm For \$57,600

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Although fears were expressed about a past experience, the Yankton City Commission decided Monday to hire a consultant to conduct a study of the community's sports facility needs.

At the recommendation of a committee appointed at its last meeting, the Commission hired Stockwell Engineers of Sioux Falls for \$57,600.

"I think the fear is, this is going to become another pool project," Commissioner Pauline Aklund said during discussion of whether to hire Stockwell Engineers. "If we're going to hire a consultant, we need to be ready to do something and follow through on it."

In the mid-2000s, as the city considered the future of the Memorial Park Pool, several consultants became involved. A property tax opt-out for one plan was defeated, and another plan has still not been fully achieved.

Still, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson said the last blueprint has been the foundation upon which improvements to the pool have been made and has allowed for better planning for the future.

In the end, the commission's hope of what a consultant could achieve prevailed over the fears of past experience.

"(The consultant study is) going to put a price tag on this, and we will have to decide, do we pick this off in pieces or do we go to the voters for an opt-out to do the recreational plan?" Commissioner Charlie Gross said. "It's an easier decision to make if we've got the big master plan in front of us and know what the cost is. If we take this apart piece by piece and organization by organization, it will take us 20 years to get there as opposed to doing it in one big project."

Stockwell Engineers has done work on sports facilities in Hartford, Brandon and Worthing, as well as multiple projects for the City of Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department.

The committee appointed by the full commission to look at the consultant proposals and make a recommendation consisted of Mayor Nancy Wenande and commissioners Dave Knoff, Craig Sommer and Gross, as well as Interim City Manager Al Viereck and Larson.

The other proposals included RDG of Des Moines, Iowa, (along with Mannes Architects and Johnson Engineering of Yankton) with a \$75,000 bid; FEH of Sioux City, Iowa, (along with Eisenbraun & Associates of Yankton) with a \$69,000-\$92,500 bid; Johnson Consulting of Chicago with a \$64,975 bid; and C.S. & L International of Minneapolis with a \$79,000 bid.

According to a summary of the committee meeting provided by Larson, the first question asked by the committee was why a consultant should be hired



Larson

TransCanada Disaster Drill Thursday

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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As part of their disaster preparedness efforts, TransCanada officials will hold an oil contamination drill Thursday at Riverside Park.

TransCanada operates a pipeline through South Dakota and Nebraska, including a section of pipe that runs under the Missouri River at Yankton.

TransCanada spokesman Rob Latimer of Omaha announced details of the drill last Friday during a meeting of local, state and federal officials planning Missouri River events.

Thursday's drill will take place on the water and will use machinery, equipment and standard procedures to measure TransCanada's response, Latimer said.

"This will prepare us in the unlikely event of an emergency situation," he said. "Preparedness is a big part of our focus."

The drill begins at 9 a.m., and Riverside Park will remain open for public use during the drill, Latimer said.

The drill is a simulation, with no oil introduced into the river, according to TransCanada pipeline technician Joe Mueller of Yankton.

TransCanada employees will be conducting the drill, Latimer said. The company has contacted Nustar Energy about observing Thursday's exercise. NuStar, based out of San Antonio, Texas, has conducted pipeline work under the Missouri River at Yankton.

"We are also having (outside parties) from South Dakota and Nebraska observing us," Latimer said. "We have had a lot of interaction with South Dakota agencies while working on our pipeline system. This time, we have also invited Nebraska officials to observe this."

During Friday's meeting, Latimer said the TransCanada pipeline was constructed in 2009, with sections of the pipeline bored underneath the Missouri River at Yankton. The pipeline was laid "tens of feet below the river bed," he said.

The 2010 contamination drill was canceled at the last minute because of threatening storm conditions that apparently would have made activity on the water dangerous.

"Jeremy Dangel, who was the (Yankton County) emergency manager at the time, helped us with that process," Latimer said. "He was monitoring the weather conditions, and he said we needed to get off the water."

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USD Panel: Climate Change Will Change Us

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VERMILLION — At Monday's forum, University of South Dakota panelists found global warming to be a very hot topic.

"Global Warming: The Evidence Is In!" covered the scientific data pointing to global warming. But the panelists also acknowledged the political, social, economic and religious issues.

Climate change will directly affect agriculture and the way an exploding world population is fed, according to Dr. Meghann Jarchow, assistant professor of Sustainability in the Department of Biology.

The future points to intense, less frequent precipitation; and wetter winters and springs, along with drier summers, Jarchow said.

"We are seeing more events like 3 inches (of precipitation) followed by long periods of no rain, compared to spread-out rainfalls. That requires much adjustment," she said.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dr. Meghann Jarchow, assistant professor of Sustainability, speaks about the challenges facing agriculture because of climate change during Monday's international forum at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

During the past four decades, temperatures have cooled during the day and have risen at night, Jarchow said. The Midwest has seen dramatic swings in climate patterns in recent years, she added.

Looking to the future, southeast South Dakota is projected to see its winter temperatures rise around 7 degrees by the end of the century, while summer readings are projected to rise about 5 degrees.

Jarchow showed a crop map of Clay County consisting almost exclusively of corn and soybeans. In the future, farmers will need to produce a wider, more diverse range of crops, she said.

"We need more resilient, multi-functional ag systems," she said.

The current farm system and government policies focus on highly productive, specialized crops, Jarchow said. "It requires intensive, carefully-timed management," she said.

Climate change will require a different way of thinking, even looking at raising a wider variety of crops year-round to adjust for seasonal weather shifts, Jarchow said.

"You need to handle the trends over time, including the unpredictability," she said.

She recommended a wider range of crops to reduce risks; government policies supporting diversification while continuing to provide risk protection

FORUM | PAGE 3

Brokaw's To Be Marshals For Dakota Days Parade

VERMILLION — University of South Dakota alums Tom and Meredith (Auld) Brokaw will serve as Parade Marshals for the 98th Dakota Days Parade at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Tom Brokaw is a Yankton native who graduated from USD in 1964 while Meredith Brokaw, also a native of Yankton, graduated in 1962 from USD. In 2010, the Brokaw's established the Tom and Meredith Brokaw Scholarship in Honor of America's Greatest Generation with the USD Foundation.

Regarded as one of the most trusted and respected figures in broadcast journalism today, Tom Brokaw is currently a special correspondent for NBC News reporting and producing long-form documentaries while also providing commentary during election coverage and breaking news events. He is the former anchor of "NBC Nightly News" and most recently served as a correspondent during the network's coverage of the 2012 Olympic Summer Games in London. He is also a best-selling author of several books, including "The Greatest Generation" (1998) and "A Long Way from



PHOTO: USD

Yankton natives Tom and Meredith (Auld) Brokaw will serve as marshals for the University of South Dakota's 2012 Dakota Days homecoming parade Oct. 6.

Home" (2002). Meredith Brokaw is the founder of Penny Whistle Toys in New York City where she also served as operator until 1999. She

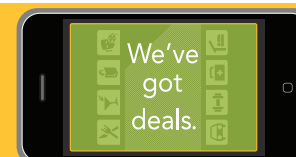
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TOMORROW: South Dakota Public Colleges Announce Enrollment Figures

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET