

### Attempt At Raise For SDRS Chief Broke State Laws

#### BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State legislators and trustees for the South Dakota Retirement System violated state laws regarding a special salary increase for the SDRS administrator.

Ad-

ministra-

tor Rob

Wylie sent an

email Thurs-



Hunhoff day to members of the

Legislature's Retirement Laws Committee acknowledging the problems.

"I owe each and every one of you an apology," Wylie wrote.

He confirmed to a newspaper reporter on Friday that he wrote and sent the e-mail.

The Legislature approved a 2 percent raise for state government employees effective July 1. That took Wylie's salary to \$129,639 as of July 1.

The violations occurred when the trustees sought to grant an additional 2 percent to Wylie.

State law directs that the trustees must recommend any additional compensation for the administrator before May 1.

That deadline wasn't met.

The trustees met in executive session at the start of their June 4 meeting. They returned to public session. On a motion by state Supreme Court Justice Steve



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D Delmont Mayor Mae Gunnare (left) talks with Vernon Neugebauer (center) and Tracy Neugebauer during Sunday's harvest festival just outside Delmont. Gunnare describes herself as a cheerleader, encouraging her town to continue its traditions and events while still recovering from a devastating May tornado.

## **Poetic Reaction**



Two-time U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser describes the general reaction of people when they encounter poetry in a magazine during his appearance at Mount Marty College Sunday night as part of the Great

# Something To Celebrate In Delmont

After Tornado, Douglas Co. Town Strives To Get Back To Normal

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net



elmont Mayor Mae Gunnare led Sunday's parade at the Twin Rivers Old Iron harvest festival, riding in the town's old fire truck named "Bertha." However, her role

was far more than ceremonial. Gunnare was also leading the town's determination to maintain traditions — such as the weekend's kuchen festival and harvest festival — while recovering from last May's tornado.

"Normal, normal, normal – that's our theme," she said. "We tell people, life has changed, but Delmont is still here."

However, she wore a T-shirt showing the memories from the twister remain fresh. The message read, "Delmont, South Dakota. Small, But Strong. Mother's Day Tornado 2015, May 10."

"I'm a cheerleader," the mayor said. "I talk to people and ask, 'How are you doing?' I get a lot of thank you's that I never expected."

The Douglas County community continues to recover from the tornado. The F2 twister reached gusts of 130 miles per hour, starting near Wagner and cutting a path until smashing into the west end of Delmont. The tornado didn't result in any fatalities, but nine people were injured. In addition, the town was temporarily evacuated because of concerns about propane and damaged infrastructure.

Zinter, who serves on the board, the trustees unanimously approved recommending the additional 2 percent.

State law further requires that the additional compensation can't take effect without approval from the Legislature's Retirement Laws Committee. The two bodies held a joint meeting June 2 in Sioux Falls.

The administrator's

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poetry in a magazine during his appearance at Mount Marty College Sunday night as part of the Great Plains Writers' Tour. Speaking at Marian Auditorium, Kooser read several selections from his books, including "Splitting An Order," published in 2014, as well as the prose work, "The Wheeling Year," also a 2014 publication.

### **Officials Breaking Ground On School Of Mines Student Housing**

RAPID CITY (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and its foundation are breaking ground Saturday on a new residence hall to house 200 students.

The six-story building to be constructed just west of campus will offer 51 suite-style units, each with a living room, private bathrooms and bedrooms. Community lounges, kitchens and group study spaces will be provided throughout the building.

The School of Mines and the foundation will enter into a 30-year lease agreement for the completed project, built on a 1.78-acre site

owned by the foundation. The South Dakota Board of Regents approved the proposal in June.

The new hall is in response to a 35 percent increase in enrollment over the past six years. It's expected to open by the fall 2016 semester. "We have lost about 70 residents, which is about one-third of the 235 residents before the tornado," Gunnare said. "It's had a tremendous ripple effect."

The tornado continues to take a physical and emotional toll on area residents. However, they are committed to keeping life as normal as possible – including moving forward with events such as the kuchen and harvest festivals.

"This weekend brought a lot of good feelings," Gunnare said. "But these things don't just happen. A lot of people work hard on these things."

<sup>1</sup>The kuchen festival was held on Saturday, while the harvest festival ran the entire weekend.

"I think the parade for the kuchen festival was the biggest they ever had," Gunnare said. "The entire festival was well attended."

This year's kuchen festival found some volunteers tied up with tornado relief work, said publicity chairwoman Elizabeth "Sam" Grosz. However, people still showed up to keep the process going in assemblyline fashion, she said.

"We made 1,500 kuchen on Friday at the Tyndall bakery and then kept them in a refrigerated truck for the festival on Saturday," she said. "We also had a number of other events like the art show, quilt show and the museum." Keeping such events alive has

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## **Bravo Battery Honors Change Of The Guard**

### **BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**

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Saturday's ceremony at the Yankton armory marked more than a transfer of command from CPT. Darrin Eichacker to 1LT Michael Nei.

The ceremony also signaled a new era for Bravo Battery of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery with the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG).

Eichacker commanded Bravo Battery since September 2012, a time of change for the Yankton unit amidst SDNG reorganization.

"I came on board as commander as we were going through the transition," he

her-voice

said. "We went from Charlie Battery to Bravo Battery in 2011." Eichacker served three

years as commander, longer than the typical two-year tenure. "I finished the two years, and I had the opportunity for another year," he said.

The longer command worked well in helping keep a smooth transition, Eichacker said. The change consisted of two parts. The former Bravo Battery of Salem became part of the Yankton unit, which in turn saw its name changed from Charlie Battery to Bravo

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with Event Speaker Julie Clark New Location! Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> NFAA Easton Archery Complex



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**TOMORROW:** New Yankton City Commissioner Expected To Be Chosen