



First pitch

Post 750 White Sox drop VFW season opener. Page 1B



State tennis

Defending champion Arrows face tall task in repeating. Page 1B

Mostly clear



Low Tonight **48** High Tomorrow **75**

Forecast on Page 2A

Watertown PUBLIC OPINION

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State pours resources into job market

By **RACHELLE KLEMM**
Public Opinion Staff Writer

A state cabinet panel for SD WINS: South Dakota Workforce Initiatives held a presentation on resources available for workers and employers in the state during the Governor's Regional Workforce Summit Wednesday at Lake Area Technical Institute.

SD WINS was established in 2012 with the goal of government, education and business leaders developing and attracting a stronger, better-educated workforce.

One program, Dakota Roots, invites former South Dakotans to return to the state for jobs.

"In 2013 alone, 756 individuals returned to the state for employment through the Dakota Roots program," South Dakota Secretary of Labor and Regulation Marcia Hultman said.

New South Dakotans, set to run through December, is another program bringing people to the state.

The National Career Readiness Certificate, an assessment by the ACT company, aims to measure the test taker's foundational skills for the workforce.

South Dakota Secretary of Education Dr. Melody

Schopp said her department has the goal of assuring all students are "college-, career- and life-ready."

She said one resource is the South Dakota MyLife portal helping youth with career and academic planning, and also connecting business and industry to students.

Options for high school students include remedial coursework, dual credit and advanced placement to help with college.

Career exploration resources include career cluster camps for hands-on opportunities and contact with people currently working in students' fields of interest, career and technical education programs, internships and the National Career Readiness Certificate.

Critical Needs Scholarships have been established for 20 high-need program areas in the state. At Lake Area Technical Institute, programs associated with the funding are energy operations, energy technology, precision machining, the precision machining e-degree and the robotics e-degree.

Early Alert Systems are to help post-secondary students remain in school.

Please see **JOBS**, Back Page



Public Opinion photo by Rachelle Klemme

A state cabinet panel was one of the presentations at the Governor's Regional Workforce Summit held Wednesday at Lake Area Technical Institute. From left, Nathan Lukkes of the South Dakota Board of Regents; Halley Lee of the South Dakota Office of Rural Health; Dr. Melody Schopp, secretary of education; and Marcia Hultman, secretary of labor and regulation.

Inside

Public Notices

Included in today's *Public Opinion* are five public notices with information that is a matter of public record and may be of interest to area readers.

Today's paper includes Kranzburg town minutes, Florence and Watertown voter registration deadline, and 2 public notices.

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Rape plea

Charles Clinton Dammann, 60, of Watertown, who was accused of first degree rape in May 2013, pleaded guilty to the charge on Wednesday.

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Voter rolls

What it means that nearly half the state's voters register as Republicans.

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The Public Opinion

Recycling this week:
Route B (south of Third Ave. North)



Farm Rescue assists in Florence



No big job comes without a few hitches. In the middle of planting soybeans, Farm Rescue volunteers Jim Genter, above, and Dan Feige, below, made some impromptu repairs to a bearing. Ten minutes and a few adjustments later, the outfit was back to work.

Public Opinion photo by Kyle G. Horst

Team helps get Becking's beans planted

By **KYLE G. HORST**
Public Opinion Staff Writer

Farm Rescue, a unique nonprofit group dedicated to helping farmers get back on their feet, made a stop in rural Florence Monday afternoon to help a family operation get soybeans into the ground.

According to Faron Wahl, the regional manager for Farm Rescue, his three-man crew stopped in Florence to plant soybeans for David and Laurie Becking. David Becking is currently fighting "a rough case of pneu-

monia."

"Every situation is different, be it illness, injury or natural disaster," Wahl said. "The services we provide allow them the opportunity to focus on their health, so they can get better without having to worry about the harvest or planting."

Farm Rescue, based in Jamestown, N.D., serves a large part of the Midwest including South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Montana.

Please see **RESCUE**, Back Page

Resolution reached in large manure spill

By **TERRY O'KEEFE**
Public Opinion Staff Writer

A large manure spill at a Codington County dairy farm that raised concerns among neighbors and caused county officials to update regulations relating to large livestock operations has reached a resolution.

The spill happened at MoDak Dairy just northeast of Kranzburg Jan. 7 when extremely cold temperatures froze manure in a settling pond at the farm. The frozen waste was forced over and out of the containing area, spreading across nearby land and traveling nearly a mile.

According to owner Greg Moes, the spill occurred in a matter of hours overnight.

When the spill happened, Moes contacted the S.D. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) immediately as required by MoDak's concentrated animal feedlot operation (CAFO) permit. Then cleanup began — and still continues today.

Please see **SPILL**, Back Page

Memorial Day means camping

By **SAM WILMES**
Public Opinion Staff Writer

A cold, wet spring is slowly transitioning into summer and the unofficial start of the season, Memorial Day weekend, promises to fill local parks with campers and tourists seeking to get a taste of warm weather, barbecues and s'mores.

With highs expected to top 80 degrees on Sunday and no rain expected, Director of the Watertown Parks and Recreation Department Terry Jorgenson is hoping for large crowds at Stokes-Thomas City Park.

"I'm hoping for a lot of campers to come out on Memorial Day Weekend," Jorgenson said.

Jorgenson offered several tips to perspective campers. He advised them to follow the arrows and follow the guidelines established by the campgrounds. He spoke of storm shelters available to all campers in case of bad weather, his number one concern.

He also advised bringing mosquito spray to combat lakeside infestations.

"Come out, have a good time, enjoy the lake," Jorgenson said.

Jorgenson says the Fourth of July causes the most concern within the department, with fireworks and other explosives sometimes going off at all hours of the night; Memorial Day weekend, however,

Please see **CAMPING**, Back Page

Last day of school



Public Opinion photo by Rachelle Klemme

Students congregate outside McKinley Elementary School, supervised by para-professional Deanna Hickel (left of center), just before the last day of school this morning.

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■ **JOBS**

Continued from Front Page

Future Fund Grants include \$3,777,831 for equipment for technical institutes, \$1,500,000 for Critical Needs Scholarships and \$8,543,532 in Governor's Grants for CTE.

Halley Lee of the Department of Health talked about the state of the workforce in terms of rural health care.

In findings by the Governor's Primary Care Task Force, over 8,000 new health care workers will be needed between 2010 and 2020, Lee said.

"The average age of our physicians is 52 years old, and 19 of our counties – which is just shy of a third of our counties – have no primary care physician at all," Lee said.

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is to expand its capacity to 15 more students per year to meet the demand for physicians.

"The state is also providing funding to support payments to South Dakota providers who serve as preceptors for our physician assistant and nurse practitioner students," Lee said.

The Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM) program provides third-year medical students with a nine-month clinical training. Up to six students can participate each year, chosen through an application process. Milbank, Mobridge, Parkston, Platte and Winner are participating.

The Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) program provides experience to 24 pharmacy, medical, physician assistant and nurse practitioner students in 12 rural communities for several weeks of immersion.

The Rural Healthcare Provider Assistance Program and Rural Healthcare Facility Assistance Program provide incentives for healthcare workers, are designed for communities with a population under 10,000 and require a three-year service commitment.

Nathan Lukkes of the South Dakota Board of Regents talked about strategies on the higher education side.

Targeted industry sectors are advanced manufacturing and materials, energy and environment, human health and nutrition, IT and cybersecurity, and value-added agriculture and agribusiness.

"The governor mentioned earlier that with regard to going to school, that it's not just about getting a skill – you need to have a skill that's in demand," Lukkes said. "We've realized that the same is true when it comes to research. It's not just about doing research for the sake of research, but it's doing research that's going to result in value in the marketplace."

Resources include expanding commercialization opportunities with proof of concept funding, intellectual property and technology transfer, and entrepreneur in residence.

Another resource is the IT Academy and Summer Institute through the university system, providing an IT certificate, paid internship and interview for employment.

"The intent of this program isn't to replace computer science degrees, but it's to identify and give the base-level training to individuals that have an aptitude for IT," Lukkes said.



Public Opinion photo by Kyle G. Horst

Farm Rescue volunteer Dan Feige watches Jim Genter (in tractor) plant soybeans for David and Laurie Becking in Florence on Monday. Farm Rescue helps farmers who are sick, injured or recovering from a natural disaster plant their crops or harvest them. The volunteer group will plant up to 1,000 acres for farmers, free of charge.

■ **RESCUE**

Continued from Front Page

The nonprofit organization operates similar to a mobile farming operation: Members bring a crew and equipment to where they are needed to either plant, harvest or hay for the family. The only differences are that the crew consists of volunteers and no money ever changes hands.

"We operate solely on donations and grants. We try to take every case we can handle every year."

While the services Farm Rescue offers are free, the farmers they assist are still expected to provide the materials necessary to complete the job such as seed, fertilizer and fuel.

Wahl said their season began in early April. After they have finished in Florence, they are moving on to Albany, Minn., before hopefully finishing up in early June.

Family farms can apply for assistance by filling out an application at farmrescue.org or by calling 701-252-2017.

■ **CAMPING**

Continued from Front Page

is extremely peaceful, according to Jorgenson, even with a large crowd.

Gas prices could bring a significant increase in camping. Prices are significantly down from last year, making it easier for those facing long drives for the holiday. Watertown's gas prices are at an average \$3.56, down \$0.69 from the \$4.25 prices seen last year.

Camping is a significant part of American life. According to the Outdoor Foundation, 42.5 million Americans, 14.4 percent of the population over the age of 6, participated in camping in 2011. Those who camp spend a significant amount of time at it, averaging 12.6 days a year.



Public Opinion photo by Sam Wilmes

City Park will see one of its busiest weekend of the year as throngs of campers will stay for the weekend. Wednesday afternoon, camping equipment was already on the grounds.

■ **SPILL**

Continued from Front Page

"We're still in the process (of cleaning up)," Moes said Wednesday. "We have to let (the rest of) it dry up so we can get at it."

The dairy is permitted for 2,000 animals and has to have adequate manure storage and other safety requirements to handle that number of animals. At the time of the spill, Moes said he felt the spill was a fluke, brought on by extreme cold over several days.

Now changes are being made to make sure it can't happen again even under those conditions.

"We're building the berms up right now to upgrade the holding ponds," Moes said. "We're raising the containment."

Codington County Zoning Officer Luke Muller has been steadily involved through the process and said the DENR has been taking water samples from the area to test for contaminants on a regular basis.

In the first couple months following the spill, the DENR reported the samples tested on the high end of acceptable for livestock and other general uses. By the latter part of March, those numbers had dropped as the main cleanup progressed.

Moes said although the manure traveled quite a distance, it did not threaten any direct sources of water.

"It went about a mile down through the draws," he said. "It would have never got into any wells and the water samples that came back from the state met all the standards for livestock."

Muller said the incident brought to light a couple holes in the county's CAFO requirements when it comes to reporting such spills. In April the county's Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment met and attached Muller's recommended amended conditions to the MoDak CAFO permit, including installing a camera for monitoring the manure lagoons and laying out specific testing and reporting procedures.

"They (the board) approved plans going forward and added monitoring just to make sure this doesn't happen again," Muller said at the time. "And if it does, who to contact first."

"It's just to establish a (reporting) process for the county."

Although Moes' attorney, Mark Meierhenry of Sioux Falls, questioned the county's legal ability to change the conditions of the permit, after reviewing it for a few weeks, the amendments were accepted and signed by Moes and adopted by the board at a meeting Monday night.

"It was pretty simple," Muller said of the short meeting Monday. "They (Moes) had time to look at it and talk to their attorney, so everything was pretty much done right away."

"There were no comments from anyone (on the subject) at the meeting."

Both Muller and Moes feel the incident is coming to a close and has been handled well, and the condition changes are good going forward.

"The letter of assurance was signed and that's what we had wanted," Muller said. "It's back to operating as normal according to their permit."

"We had no problems, we went along with it," Moes said. "We've had good relations with the DENR and the county and they've been monitoring (the operation)."

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