

Forecast: Warmer Weekend Ahead For Dakotas

SIoux FALLS (AP) — After a cold and snowy early spring, residents of the Dakotas are looking forward to warmer weather at the weekend.

Temperatures are expected to reach into the 50s and 60s in North Dakota and into the 60s and 70s in South Dakota this weekend, according to the National Weather Service. That will be a big change from a two-week stretch of storms that has broken snowfall and cold temperature records across the two states.

Another record fell Monday, when the temperature rose to only 31 degrees in Rapid City, breaking the city's previous lowest high temperature record of 34 degrees set in 2001, according to the weather service.

The city also has had its snowiest April on record, due to the nearly 10 inches that fell Sunday and Monday and pushed the monthly total in downtown Rapid City to 39.5 inches. The previous record was 38.5 inches, set in 1927. Half of this April's total came on April 9 — the city's snowiest day of all time.

"It's sure nice moisture," Quinn rancher Mary Lou Guptill told the *Rapid City Journal*. "It's been very dry around here."

The U.S. Drought Monitor map shows no areas of South Dakota remaining in exceptional drought, the worst category, though much of the west remains in extreme drought, the second-worst category.

Trial Starts For S.D. Inmate In Rape Case

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A jury trial got under way Tuesday for a work-release inmate in South Dakota who's accused of raping the girlfriend of a former cellmate.

The *Argus Leader* reported that 29-year-old Henry Ricky Anfinson was indicted last May on one count of rape by force and one count of first-degree burglary. If convicted as a repeat offender, he could spend life in prison.

Prosecutors say Anfinson made an unannounced visit to the 31-year-old woman's home on May 7 and then raped her in the bathroom as her children sat in the living room.

"The man said something to her like 'I shouldn't be around you,'" Minnehaha County Deputy State's Attorney Tom Hensley told jurors during opening statements. "He then started fondling her."

From there, Hensley said, Anfinson forcibly raped the woman, leaving bloody fingerprints on the bathtub afterward.

But defense lawyers say the sex was consensual and that the woman invited Anfinson to come to her house between visits to potential job sites. They also say that Anfinson helped the woman shoot methamphetamine.

"He was 75 days away from completing his sentence at that time," said Minnehaha County Deputy Public Defender Michelle Thomas.

The trial is expected to last through the week.

Climatologist: Weather Changing More Rapidly

MITCHELL (AP) — A state climatologist says that South Dakota's weather has become more volatile and could make flooding and drainage issues more difficult to manage in the future.

Climatologist Dennis Todey said Monday that South Dakota's precipitation has been trending upward for decades — especially in the few years leading up to last year's drought. Todey tells the *Daily Republic* in Mitchell that the changes are coming faster now than ever before.

Todey spoke to the 14-member Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force that was created by the Legislature last year to study water and drainage issues.

Todey says that while precipitation in South Dakota has been increasing since the 1930s, the period between 2007 and 2011 was especially wet. That has led to more soil loss and water runoff.

Nebraska

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Farmers in the Republican River Basin could get paid by the state if Nebraska cuts off their access to surface water, under a bill that won first-round approval Tuesday from lawmakers.

The bill was advanced in the midst of drought fears and repeated legal battles involving the Republican River. Lawmakers voted 27-0 to move the bill through the first of three readings.

The bill by Sen. Mark Christensen of Imperial would make up to \$10 million available over the next two years to compensate surface-water irrigators. The measure would cap the payments at \$300 per acre. Christensen said the state has traditionally given a right to users with a permit to tap the resource.

"We're constantly complaining here on the floor about the feds taking something from us," Christensen said. "Now, it's a little different. We've got the state taking something. Are we going to allow that to happen?"

The state Department of Natural Resources issued an order in January requiring additional conservation measures in the river basin to help Nebraska comply with a long-standing agreement with Kansas and Colorado. The 1943 compact dictates that Nebraska gets 49 percent of the Republican River's water, Kansas gets 40 percent and Colorado gets 11 percent.

The bill was advanced in the midst of drought fears, and concerns over a 1943 water-sharing agreement with Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. Kansas has claimed that Nebraska violated the compact by over-using water.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources recently mandated the release of water from four reservoirs in the Republican River Basin, to keep the state from violating the Republican River Compact. The order came after the department warned that drought conditions would require extra conservation by irrigation districts that use surface water and natural resources districts that oversee groundwater.

Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha said the state's natural resource districts need to find a sustainable way to manage water. Without a long-term

management plan, he said, water users will continue asking for state money.

"Until we address this problem, we will always have somebody coming back to the Legislature, saying 'I didn't get to use water,'" said Lathrop, a member of the Agriculture Committee. "The question is, are we managing it properly, or ignoring the problem?"

Lawmakers have already given tentative approval this year to a longer-term water study that would identify conservation projects, despite questions about its cost and whether lawmakers will follow its recommendations in the future. The water task force would organize a set of water-project needs and report back to the Legislature by January 2014.

Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala, a western Nebraska cattle farmer who heads the Agriculture Committee, said he had concerns about how water users should be compensated. Some surface water users are considered "senior" and have first access to the water, and Schilz said it wasn't clear whether payments from the state would get divided in a similar fashion.

South Dakota Court Asked To Make Lawsuit A Class Action

BY CHET BROKAW

Associated Press

PIERRE — A lawsuit alleging a Rapid City credit union and an insurance company improperly raised the rates for insurance that makes loan payments if borrowers become disabled should be handled as a class action, a lawyer for those borrowers told the South Dakota Supreme Court on Tuesday.

The lawsuit against the Black Hills Federal Credit Union and CUNA Mutual Insurance Society must be

handled as a class action because it would be impossible for 4,461 borrowers to file individual lawsuits for the amount of money involved, James Leach, a Rapid City lawyer, said.

"There is no doubt the alleged wrong can only be remedied in a class action," Leach told the Supreme Court.

But an attorney for the insurance company argued that the dispute cannot be handled as a class action because each borrower would have to testify about whether each had waited too long to sue.

"That is simply not a fair and efficient adjudication of a controversy," Roger Heidenreich of St. Louis said.

A circuit judge had ruled that the lawsuit could not be handled as a class action. Leach asked the Supreme Court to overrule the circuit judge and order that the case proceed as a class action.

The high court will decide the case later in a written ruling.

The lawsuit alleges that the credit union and insurance company improperly changed the terms and rates for disability insurance without giving borrowers sufficient notice.

Court documents indicate that people who borrowed money and bought the disability insurance before July 1, 1999, had been told they would be notified before any premium rate was increased. The lawsuit alleges that a quarterly advertising newsletter sent to credit union members contained a notice that said the insurance terms would change and premium rates would increase on July 1, 1999, but few people would be able to understand the change would double the amount they would pay for the insurance.

Transit

From Page 1

- go through an exemption process wherein the FTA would allow Yankton Transit to continue providing exclusive bus service. Yankton Transit would have to prove no private school bus operators are able to provide transportation at a reasonable rate and in conformance with applicable safety standards; or
- contract with a private busing service for the transportation of children through a parent association or possibly a sub-contract with Yankton Transit.

In addition to seeking feedback

on the various options, community members were asked about what they consider to be a reasonable rate for transporting children and what is expected of Yankton Transit.

Among the things parents said they expect from Yankton Transit are bus drivers who are consistent so young children get to know them, flexibility so that children can be dropped off at different locations with notification, and reliable pickup and drop-off times. Another expectation was that siblings could ride the same bus, as there were instances with the tripper service in which one family member was picked up by a bus but the other family member had to wait for another bus.

Disappointment was also ex-

pressed in the communication Yankton Transit had provided in regard to the FTA decision and the resulting changes.

"There were some breakdowns in communication," Erickson responded. "We would do some things differently."

Several parents said they want Yankton Transit to seek an exemption from the FTA to provide service as it has in the past.

Erickson said the Yankton Transit board will meet Thursday, and he expects, based on previous discussion, that it will agree to go through the exemption process. However, he believes it is a "long shot" that an exemption will be granted.

Part of the process will involve advertising for services from pri-

vate bus contractors.

Rick Meyer of B-J School Buses in Scotland was in attendance Tuesday and said he is looking at what options he could provide. He told the crowd that he is unable to provide any cost estimates at this point.

Erickson said he is unsure how long the exemption process will take.

No matter what, he said Yankton Transit will provide tripper service in the fall for parents who want to utilize it.

"Our goal in the future is to be as proactive as possible," Erickson added.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

"Like" Kid Scoop on Facebook!

© 2013 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schirke, Graphics Vol. 29, No. 19



Bluebirds

Bluebirds are considered to be one of the true signs of spring. They are songbirds and are about the size of a teacup.

In recent years their numbers have steadily declined and they are now seldom seen in areas where there are many houses.

But the future of bluebird populations is promising because, with the help of the National Bluebird Society, people are setting out nest boxes and starting bluebirds trails with a series of nest boxes along a certain route in suitable habitat to help increase populations.

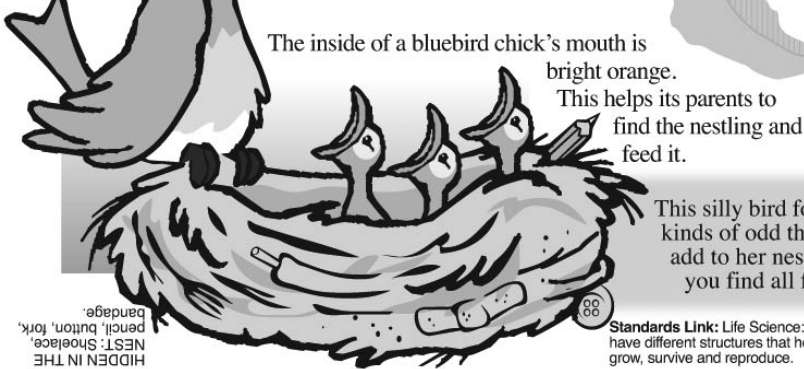
Disappearing Bluebirds

Around the start of the 20th century, good insect-eating birds like the bluebird started to disappear. The trees where they built their nests were cut down. Two birds brought from other countries, the House Sparrow and the European Starling, took over many of the holes where bluebirds built their nests. Sometimes bluebirds died in the fight to save their nesting sites.

Farmers and others have learned that by building and monitoring special nest boxes, or birdhouses, they can help bluebirds safely raise their young. Now people in Canada and the United States are putting up nesting boxes to help the bluebird make a comeback.

Open Wide!

If you were to peek inside a bluebird's nesting area, you might find a nest with three to six eggs — each about the size of a grape. If the birds have hatched, you might see the little guys opening their mouths wide, WIDE, WIDE, hoping some food will be delivered.



The inside of a bluebird chick's mouth is bright orange.

This helps its parents to find the nestling and feed it.

This silly bird found all kinds of odd things to add to her nest. Can you find all five?

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have different structures that help them grow, survive and reproduce.

Thank you to the North American Bluebird Society for their help with this page!

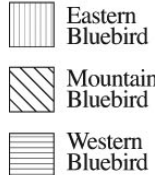
Enjoy the beauty of a bluebird as you color in the three kinds of bluebirds found in North America.

- 1 – red
- 2 – light blue
- 3 – medium blue
- 4 – white
- 5 – black
- 6 – dark gray

Bluebirds Habitat

Bluebirds like to live near meadows dotted with trees.

In warm months, they eat insects that they find in grassy fields. In the fall and winter, they eat berries that grow in wooded areas.



Animals in the News

- Find and list up to ten animals mentioned anywhere in today's newspaper.
- Make a list of one-word clues that tell what it is about the animal that makes it "newsworthy."

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Home Tweet Home

While nesting boxes are a big help, the natural place for a bluebird to build a nest is in a hole in a tree or a fence post. Unlike a woodpecker, they cannot make a hole so they must find a suitable hole with a small opening in which to build their nest. Birds that build their nest in this way are called:

CODE:									
1 = A	6 = R								
2 = C	7 = S	2	1	9	4	8	10		
3 = E	8 = T								
4 = I	9 = V								
5 = N	10 = Y	5	3	7	8	3	6	7	

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



For lots more information about bluebirds and some coloring pages and games, go to www.kidscoop.com/kids.

Double Word Search

DISAPPEAR
BLUEBIRD
MOUNTAIN
HABITATS
MEADOWS
SPARROW
BERRIES
WESTERN
ORANGE
MOUTH
BUILD
NEST
EGGS
GRAY
BUGS

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

D	B	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	R
I	D	O	R	A	N	G	E	N	S
S	L	R	I	G	R	H	I	S	T
A	I	R	I	A	T	A	G	E	A
P	U	A	Y	B	T	G	B	I	T
P	B	P	I	N	E	S	T	R	I
E	R	S	U	S	G	U	B	R	B
A	M	O	U	T	H	D	L	E	A
R	M	E	A	D	O	W	S	B	H

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Farmers Follow the News

Look through the newspaper for articles mentioning things that might have an impact on agriculture. Write one sentence next to each article, explaining why or how agriculture might be affected.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand how cause and effect impact the economy.

Write On!

Hot News!

Write a news article about something really hot. Be sure to include the *who*, *what*, *where* and *why* of the story.

Send your story to:

Press & Dakotan
C/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: May 19 Published: Week of June 16
Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Signs Of Spring

When you go out for a walk, what are the signs of spring that you notice?

Today I am at the park with my friend Rebecca. We are here to see animals and to relax. Rebecca said she saw a deer with her fawn eating blueberries that were as blue as the ocean's water. Their fur was as white as snow falling from the sky. When we took a picture, they ran off like a bird being startled. We tried to chase after them as far as we could but they were so fast. So we decided we would just lay on the ground and relax.

Dezirae, 5th grade

When I went out for a walk, I saw some signs of spring. First, I saw red cardinals and small robins. Bunies kept jumping in my front yard. Pinecones grew and green caterpillars came out. I saw rainbows shining in the sky. I love spring.

Jeremy, 2nd grade

When I walk outside, it is spring. It's cool outside and I am playing football with my friends. When football changes to baseball, then it's spring.

Mario, 3rd grade

When I step outside on the first day of spring, it is awesome. The sun is brighter than in winter, but it's still a little chilly. The birds are chirping their songs. The grass, when I walk, is wet with dew that gets my shoes all wet and uncomfortable.

Aiden, 5th grade

Well, I know a lot about the signs of spring because I see them every day. The first sign is birds tweeting and coming back from migration. Also, buds on trees and bushes in my neighborhood bloom and kids laughter and joy of springtime air. Spring is coming. Be prepared with smiles and love and care.

Le'Taysha, 5th grade