

# Auxiliary

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emergency lights. Auxiliary members also give vessel safety checks for guide boats or commercial operations, 19-foot fishing boats being the most popular for vessel safety checks in the Yankton area. (Hintgen noted the auxiliary always knows when its spring because Eisenbraun and Associates are always the first to call for a vessel check.)

Another important program the volunteers present every year are the Water Smart presentations to school children, grades 2 and up. The auxiliary also promotes an aquatic day for all sixth graders in Yankton at the Summit Activities Center swimming pool. For 12 years running, the auxiliary has held the six-hour day class which includes assistance from the Red Cross, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

"We are very pleased to note no Yankton youth have drowned since we began teaching our Water Smart program in the middle school," Hintgen said.

The program was not offered last year due to scheduling conflicts and the water safety experts hope to continue the project in the spring of 2013.

The last program the auxiliary is involved in is presenting a six-hour boating skills course every spring at All Seasons Power Sports for certification of all Nebraska boaters between the ages of 14-27. Anyone can take this boating course and, in order to comply with the law set Jan. 1, 1985, anyone who plans on operating a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC or jet skis) on Nebraska waters between those ages must pass this boating class. At the end of the day, participants need to pass a test to be certified. They receive a water-proof certificate card that must be in their possession when boating on Nebraska water.

Hintgen smiled as he recalls some of the boaters pull them out of the strangest places but they do carry them on their person at all time when they are boating.

"We follow the Nebraska certification program because they are the primo, the best, for certification of water and boating safety," said Hintgen. If a boater can pass the Nebraska certification test, they know their boating safety stuff.

The program includes many need-to-know information about boating including recognition of vessels and their class sizes; where to find the hull identification number (HIN); what type of emergency equipment to have on board and how to handle it; recognition of emergency signals; and rules like waterway markers, buoys, right of way signals; and navigation and unlawful practices.

Hintgen pulled his orange Coast Guard vest from his stash of auxiliary equipment and displayed the items provided to all auxiliary members for emergency situations. The vest pockets revealed day signals, night flares, a mirror for flashing codes using the sun and a light stick. Predictably, not many emergencies happen in the daytime, Hintgen said, so they are equipped with night equipment, also. Each auxiliary member has a brightly colored vest to wear along with the emergency rescue equipment.

Military experience is not required to be an auxiliary member, but many of the members have served in the armed forces. Hintgen said serving in the Coast Guard Auxiliary is just another way to serve the nation. Members must be age 17 or older and the training is offered in Sioux City and also with veteran members in Yankton.

Recently the Yankton Boy Scout group contacted the Coast Guard and asked if it would develop a safety program for jet ski operation they could teach at the annual Boy Scout Camp.

"I know it is important to teach boating safety and education, and I am happy to be involved in our area youth organizations," said Hintgen.

The auxiliary has been involved in the past with boating activities for the Scout camp and always looks for new ways to pass along boating safety. There can never be enough training or enough exposure to the dangers of recreating on the river he added.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has participated in the Riverboat Days festivities every year, and often, some member's boat is part of the parade. Keeping the auxiliary boating group's activities and availability out in the public eye reminds every one of the care needed on the water.

Both South Dakota and Nebraska have boating guides and handbooks to pass out and the best way to receive one is to participate in a boating course or contact a Coast Guard Auxiliary member. The Coast Guard members also hand out a pocket guide and talk about emergency repairs afloat.

Yankton's Coast Guard Auxiliary has been a source for boater education and water safety for more than 40 years. From the Yankton Mayor's Proclamation for National Safety Week right before Memorial Day until boats are dry-docked and even over the winter months, the voluntary members work hard to keep boaters safe.

# Meeting

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going forward," Today said in an email response to the *Press & Dakotan*.

The rest of Thursday's program will focus on the following:

- Gordon will discuss key areas impacting livestock producers, such as feed and forage options as a result of the drought-stressed crops. She will also speak on livestock management factors associated with early weaning.

- Anderson will discuss the impacts the drought has had on crops. He will also discuss options such as planting cover crops, managing corn and corn silage, and also management decisions for alfalfa and soybeans.

- Lemmons will provide information on the impact the drought has had on crops from an economic standpoint. He will address questions producers may have about pricing feed and forages and overall crop management decisions.

"After all four presentations are completed, there will be adequate time allotted for producers to ask questions," Gordon said. "Handouts and resources will also be available on many of the drought-related topics discussed."

Some parts of the region reported rain over the weekend, but the drought has created long-term

stress, Gordon said.

"It's a combination of prolonged lack of moisture and extreme heat day in and day out," she said. "The drought has continued to stretch on, and now it's August. Crop and livestock producers are asked to continue to make significant management decisions to address the challenges they are faced with as a result of the excessive heat and lack of moisture."

Using technology at its regional centers, SDSU Extension hosted a statewide drought meeting last month, Gordon said.

"We had producers represented from that (southeast) region at the meeting, and we noted it's one of the hardest-hit areas in the state," she said. "We decided to organize a follow-up meeting in Yankton."

While Extension personnel will provide information at Thursday's meeting, the specialists also expect to learn from the audience, Gordon said.

"I think we'll find that we'll get a better handle (on the situation) from all of the producers who come to the meeting," she said.

Monday's weekly crop report for South Dakota shows all or much of Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union counties remain more than 4 inches below normal for precipitation since April. Those same counties were more than 2 inches below normal for precipitation for the past month.

Charles Mix, Douglas, Hutchinson and Turner counties were 1-2 inches below normal for precipita-

tion during the past month.

The weekly state crop report listed the following readings for reporting stations in southeast South Dakota:

- Academy: 3.66 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 3.16 inches below normal since April 1;
- Centerville: 8.92 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 6.52 inches below normal since April 1;
- Pickstown: 8.03 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 5.87 inches below normal since April 1;

- Vermillion: 8.97 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 6.77 inches below normal since April 1;

- Yankton: 7.70 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 7.42 inches below normal since April 1.

In the wake of such numbers, Gordon expects strong interest in Thursday's drought meeting in Yankton.

"We anticipate a good turnout," she said. "The producers face a lot of decisions and a lot of difficult situations, and we want to provide them

with as many resources as possible to answer those questions."

For more information on the Yankton meeting, contact Gordon at (605) 782-3290. For more information on the drought and resources, SDSU Extension provides weekly drought briefings throughout the 2012 growing season on iGrow.org.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](http://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

## Anti-Bullying Ad Campaign Takes Aim At Parents

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new ad campaign will urge parents to teach their kids to speak up if they witness school bullying.

The Ad Council and the Free to Be Foundation are teaming up for the long-term campaign. Television, print and web ads will start running in October.

In one television ad, a girl watches two other girls bullying a schoolmate and doesn't intervene. A narrator tells parents to teach their kids to be more than a bystander.

Online ads will warn parents that their kids regularly encounter negative messages such as "you're worthless" and "everybody hates you."

The ads were unveiled Monday at an anti-bullying summit in Washington hosted by the Department of Education.

Actress and activist Marlo Thomas says schools should adopt zero-tolerance policies and expel kids who bully.



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