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YANKTON DAILY

PRESS & DAKOTAN



Gazelles Drop Tennis Opener • 8



KELLY HERTZ / P&D
As the drought continues throughout South Dakota and Nebraska, trees are also feeling the stress as a result of the conditions. Conifers, spruce, evergreen and pine trees have been among the trees impacted most by the drought and hot conditions.

Trees Hit Hard By Dry And Hot Weather

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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As the dry conditions roll on with seemingly no end in sight, the drought has also taken its toll on trees in the area.

Dr. John Ball, forestry specialist with SDSU Extension, said the drought has had quite a bit of impact on trees throughout southeastern South Dakota.

He said that conifers in the area have been hit hardest, but evergreens, spruce and pine trees have also been hard, as they are all used to wetter conditions than has been prevalent this season.

One of the major impacts the dry and hot weather has had on trees has come through the form of stress-related pest problems taking their toll. When the weather is as dry and hot as it has been, it weakens trees so that other forces, like pests, can come in and finish them off.

"There has been some premature needle loss in trees in the area," Ball said. "Some needles are turning yellow already, which shouldn't happen in normal conditions."

Ball noted that the warm winter caused added stress to conifers, and this dry and warm season has been a "major stress for trees in the area."

One of the diseases impacting trees is Cytospora Canker. According to Colorado State University Extension, this is caused by several species of fungi and typically occurs on woody shrubs and trees, or parts of plants that are slightly stressed. The canker-causing fungi essentially surround the plant, killing the plant located above the canker.

The best way to get rid of the disease on impacted trees is to remove infected limbs on the trees that are impacted.

However, despite the dry conditions, Ball said that all hope is not lost. He said that if some rain comes into the area, trees can still improve.

"If fall rains occur and the winter is normal, many

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Grad Rate Gradually Rising

Yankton Co. College Grad Rate Has Risen Since 1970 But Behind U.S. Average

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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South Dakotans often hear about the brain drain that is occurring in the state, but that doesn't tell the whole story.

In Yankton County, for example, the number of people above the age of 25 with college degrees rose from 10.3 percent in 1970 to 26.8 percent in 2010, according to Census data.

That was slightly below the 2010 national average of 27.9 percent, but higher than the South Dakota average of 25.3 percent.

Yankton County had 10,273 adults over 25

years of age in 1970 and 15,390 such adults in 2010.

The data on college graduation rates in rural areas like Yankton County was collected and interpreted recently by the Center for Rural Strategies, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote healthy civic discourse about rural issues.

Although Yankton County has been successful in attracting and retaining college graduates, Yankton Economic Development Director Mike Dellinger said there is more work that needs to be done.

"I have always been of the perspective that

we should expect our youth to fly the nest and gain life experience," he continued. "I am more interested in attracting talented, skilled workers and families to meet current need. Those who left, if willing, may return someday, but we need experience now. There is nothing better for attracting and retaining talent than creating an environment in which their prospective employers prosper and thrive."

Yankton County does have something to offer college graduates, Dellinger said.

"I believe that there are opportunities and

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REEL TO REAL AT RIVERBOAT DAYS

The setting Friday night was Riverside Park in Yankton, where the opening scenes of the 29th annual Riverboat Days festival unfolded before a good crowd and very comfortable temperatures. LEFT: This year's Riverboat Days theme is "Weekend at the Movies," and many of the entries in the Kid's Parade Friday afternoon dressed up as movie characters to take part in the event. This girl had to quench her thirst after rolling through the parade. ABOVE: After the parade and the opening ceremonies, MC'd by Scott Kooistra, dancers from Judi's Dance Studio in Yankton entertained a large crowd at the amphitheatre. The dance studio has presented performance in all 29 of the Riverboat Days celebrations. Friday night's entertainment included fireworks and a performance by Wakefield. Activities resume today (Saturday) with the annual parade at 9:30 a.m. To see or purchase images from Riverboat Days, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Aussie Kayaker Sails Into Yankton

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Mark Kalch arguably has traveled the farthest to attend Riverboat Days in Yankton, even though he never intended to visit or had even heard of the three-day festival.

He may also have arrived at Riverboat Days as the only kayaker among the weekend's estimated 100,000 visitors.

Kalch originally hails from Australia and now lives in London with his girlfriend and their two young children. Now a half-world away from his family, Kalch pulled into Yankton on Thursday as a stop on his journey covering the entire Missouri-Mississippi river system.

"My goal is to kayak the longest river on each continent, which has never been done before," he said. "I kayaked the Amazon, which was the longest river in South America, and now I am traveling the Missouri-Mississippi river system, which is the longest in North America. Eventually, I want to take on the seven rivers in seven continents."

Kalch said he follows the "source to sea" rule, which means he takes the entire route from a river's source to the sea in which it empties. On his current trip, he started at



KELLY HERTZ / P&D
Australian Kayaker Mark Kalch tries out the Missouri River at the Riverside Park Ramp.

Brower's Spring, Ore. — using the U.S. Geological Survey and National Geographical Society definition of "source" — and will finish at the Gulf of Mexico.

"Most people start at Three Forks, Mont., when they travel the Missouri River. But I started at an earlier spot, so it will take longer," he said. "I started on the 11th of June, and it took me two weeks to go from Brower's Spring to Three Forks."

Kalch selected the Missouri-Mississippi route because of its length, but he has also gained a great appreciation for the Missouri River expedition by explorers Lewis and Clark from 1804-06.

"I have researched and learned a great deal about Lewis and Clark," he said. "I realize what a big part that Lewis and Clark played with the settlement of the United States. Without a doubt, they helped develop the region."

Kalch has found a challenging route on his current journey, even with modern conveniences and the six mainstem dams unknown two centuries ago by the explorers.

"I ran into storms with winds that reached 80 to 100 miles an hour on three lakes. I was next to fishing boats with 300 horsepower engines that had trouble," he said. "Around mid-day, I just pulled off the lakes because the wind was just too difficult."

As he moved through South Dakota, he found himself caught in the drought and temperatures of 110 degrees during the day and 90 degrees at night.

"I worked to keep cool. I stuck my arms in

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West Nile Virus Numbers Climb In South Dakota

From P&D Staff Reports

PIERRE — South Dakota is reporting 26 new cases of human West Nile virus (WNV), including two in Yankton County.

In a press release issued Friday, the South Dakota Department of Health noted that the total number of West Niles in the state so far this are now stands at 67, the highest number of cases since 2007 when 208 human cases were reported.

The Yankton County cases included one human diagnosis and one blood donor diagnosis.

Elsewhere in the Yankton area, Hutchinson County has had one human case; Turner County has reported one human case, one donor case and one horse care; and Union County has had one human case.

"Case numbers fluctuate from year to year but the virus is endemic to South Dakota and we can expect to see cases each summer," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the Department of Health, in the press release. "We encourage people to make using insect repellent part of their summer routine the same way we urge them to get flu shots each fall and winter."

Kightlinger noted that historically, mid-August is the peak time for WNV case onset in South Dakota so more cases are expected.

So far the virus has been detected in 28 of South Dakota's 66 counties. There have been 67 human cases reported, including one death. There have also been 22 WNV positive blood donors, six positive horses, one positive bird and 56 positive mosquito pools.

Since its first case in 2002, South Dakota has reported more than 1,800 human WNV cases and 27 deaths.