



Partly Cloudy With Possible Thunder

9 a.m.: **78** | 3 p.m.: **81** | DETAILS: PAGE 2A



## 2012 Fall Sports Preview

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# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

## Vermillion

# Call Center To Close

### More Than 150 Jobs To Be Lost When Facility Shuts Down In October

BY DAVID LIAS

[david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net)

VERMILLION — A major employer in Vermillion will be closing its call center in October.

Stream Global Services announced Thursday that it will be shutting down its facility here, which employs more than 150 people, near the end of October.

According to a statement released by Joe Thornton, Stream's senior director of brand management in Bloomington, Minn., "The company is realigning resources

across some of our U.S.-based facilities to better support our client needs and long-term business objectives. The affected client workload will be absorbed within our U.S. operations."

Those U.S. operations include a call center in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa.

"Certain positions may be open or soon become available in Stream's Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, facility," Thornton said. "We are encouraging any employee interested in these jobs to consider applying for them following the conclusion of their responsibilities at the

Vermillion facility."

Stream's Vermillion service center provides inbound customer care, sales and retention sales services, and data entry for a number of leading brands. The center has a history of working with telecommunications and broadband services providers.

Thornton said Stream recognizes that this action affects people's livelihoods, so affected employees who stay with the company through the closure will be pro-

CLOSING | PAGE 11A



PHOTO COURTESY ASBSD

Wagner school board member Mike Denker receives his "2012 Outstanding School Board Member" of South Dakota award from Melody Schopp, the state Secretary of Education. Denker became Wagner's first recipient of the award, sponsored by the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD).

## Wagner

# School Board Chairman Recognized For Service

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

WAGNER — As school board chairman, Mike Denker often asks Wagner students and staff to appear at board meetings.

It's not because of any problems. In fact, it's for the opposite reason — Denker believes in publicly recognizing students and staff for outstanding work and achievements.

"We have got a lot of academically very good students in Wagner," he said. "When somebody receives a higher honor, we like to bring them before the board and acknowledge what they have done rather than just read it in the newspaper or see it in the board minutes. The students show up and read their essays or tell us what they have done. That's one of the things we really promote."

And now, he can bring his own personal success story before the board.

Denker has been named the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) "Outstanding School Board Member of the Year." An independent three-member selection committee chose Denker based on his commitment to the Wagner School District and his extraordinary leadership for public education.

Denker said he was surprised to win the award — the first Wagner recipient — and sees it as a reflection on the entire board and school district. He is entering his 13th year on the board, previously serving six years as vice chairman and the past three years as chairman.

"When I look back over the last 13 years, we have had a tremendous board that has been able to put students and faculty at the front of their minds," he said. "We are dealing with something that is the most important thing in the world."

The Wagner school district contains a large number of American Indian students,

WAGNER | PAGE 5A

## Yankton's Water Intake Again At Full Capacity

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

For the first time since March, Yankton's water treatment system is operating on all cylinders.

The water intake that has been covered by a sandbar for the past five months is now elevated and bringing in water at full capacity.

After a stressful summer of high water demand and failing equipment, Kyle Goodmanson, director of environmental services for Yankton, is finally breathing a little easier.

"We feel a lot better," he said. The water treatment system's headaches began in March when the water plant started experiencing difficulties due to a sandbar that had formed over the water intake pipe in the Missouri River. While Yankton gets water piped over from wells on the Nebraska shore, approximately 50 percent of its supply still comes from the surface water intake pipe in the Missouri River near the Discovery Bridge.

"When the flooding first started (last year), we were so worried about losing some of the bank and our water intake," Finance Officer and now-Interim City Manager Al Viereck told the City Commission at a March meeting. "The opposite effect happened. The sand was deposited there, helping to protect our bank. The problem is, it covered our intake flow."

The intake pipe is 24 inches in diameter and roughly 250 feet long. It has barrel-shaped screens on the end making a "T" shape.

It went from drawing in 3,600 gallons per minute to 800 gallons per minute within the course of a day. The sand was piled four feet above

WATER | PAGE 3A

## A PLACE TO PRACTICE

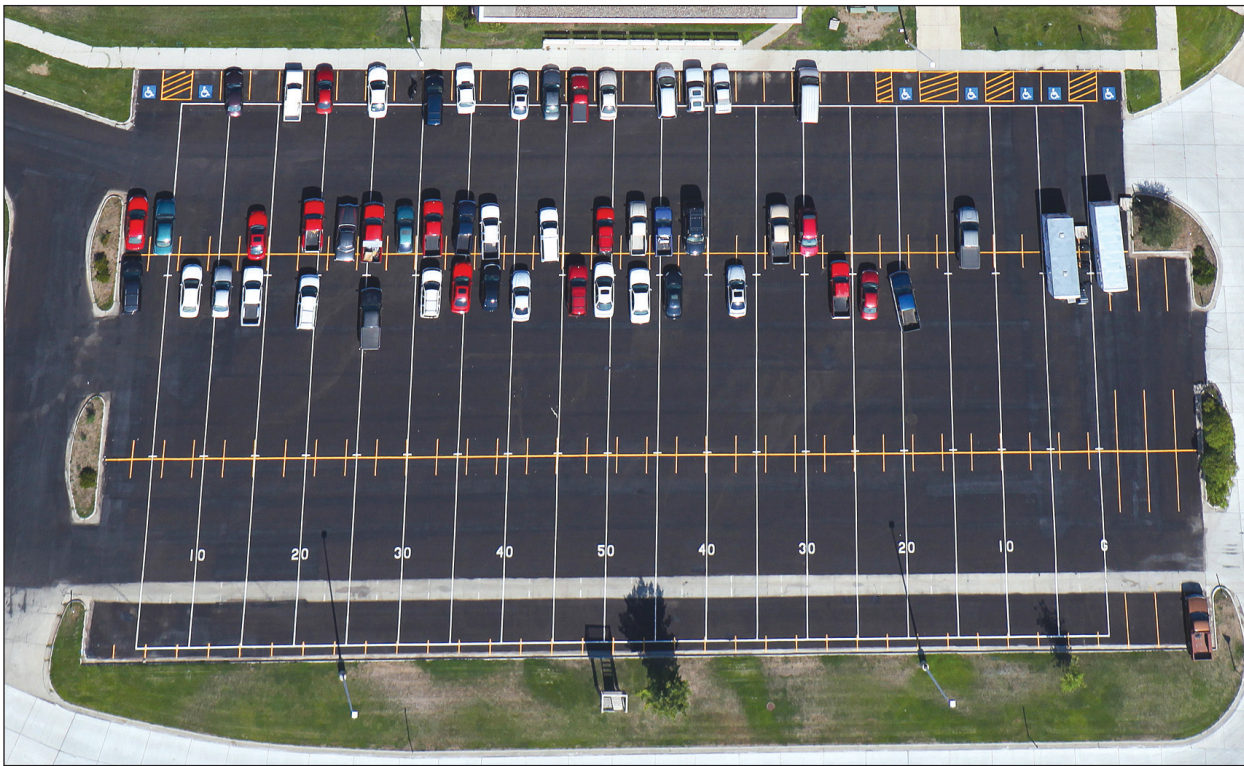


PHOTO: DAVE TUNGE/DAKOTA AERIALS

There's more to football season than a team hitting the gridiron. The northwest parking lot of the Yankton High School Summit Activities Center has been painted with football markings to allow the YHS marching band to work on its marching routine for the 2012 season. This photo was shot by Dave Tunge of Dakota Aerials last week. The Bucks open their football season at Pierre Saturday night. The home opener is Sept. 7 against Watertown.

# Drought Continues To Worsen In Plains

BY JIM SUHR

AP Business Writer

ST. LOUIS — While other corn growers already have knocked down their drought-ravaged crops to feed them to livestock, Nebraska farmer Doug Nelson still waits for his maize to mature, well aware it won't be a banner year.

On the day a new report suggested the nation's worst dry spell in at least a generation is deepening in America's breadbasket, Nelson said Thursday he expects to harvest anywhere from nothing to 43 bushels per acre on his unirrigated acreage, a far cry from the 120 to 140 bushels he'd typically get. On the irrigated land, he could see 150 to 200 bushels an acre; in previous years, Nelson would see a minimum of 180 bushels.

"For the most part, we haven't seen

a hit like this since 1974, as far as my career goes," said the 61-year-old Nelson, who farms some 5,000 acres near Wayne. "But we'll have the combines going here in probably another month, and then we'll know for sure."

"You can walk these fields and run into good spots, then walk another part where there's a different soil and have nothing."

That's part of the growing frustration with an increasing drought in Nebraska and several other farming states, despite recently cooler temperatures that have, at the very least, given people a break from this summer's stifling heat.

The U.S. Drought Monitor's weekly map showed that, as of Tuesday, just over two-thirds of Iowa, the nation's biggest corn producer, was in extreme or exceptional drought — the worst two

classifications. That's up more than 5 percentage points, to 67.5 percent, from the previous week.

Nearly all of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois are in extreme or exceptional drought, with Illinois showing the most dramatic climb, spiking 17 percentage points in one week to 96.72 percent, according to the map.

In neighboring Indiana, where 5 inches of rain fell in some parts over the past week or so, the area in exceptional or extreme drought fell 9 percentage points, to 37.09 percent.

Conditions cooled in the region, but little or no meaningful rain fell, said Mike Brewer, a National Climatic Data Center scientist who put together the latest map, which is released by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the

DROUGHT | PAGE 3A

# Crew Cleaning Scene Of Toddler's Death

WAGNER (AP) — A crew that specializes in cleaning drug-contaminated homes is at work in a South Dakota house where authorities say a 2-year-old girl was found dead in a closet while under the care of two people on a drug binge.

Traces of methamphetamine contaminate nearly every surface in the Yankton Sioux Housing Authority home where Taylor and Laurie Cournoyer lived, Santi-Kleen Environmental Solutions official Joe Newcomb told KELO-TV. Meth, which includes ingredients that are toxic, might have been manufactured at the home for years before the Cournoyers moved in, he said.

"Meth is such a monster. And then you have kids that die in (meth

houses)," he said.

Authorities have conducted an autopsy on the 2-year-old girl who died in July but have not released the cause of death.

Caregivers Taylor Cournoyer, 21, and Laurie Cournoyer, 29, are accused of failing to notify police of a death in a timely manner. They also face child abuse counts related to other children who lived in the home. One of them, an 11-year-old boy, is charged in the case, but authorities have not released details of his alleged involvement because of his age.

Authorities say the Cournoyers were using meth and other drugs when the girl died and did not report the death for nearly two days. They have

pleaded not guilty.

Some people believe meth use has become rampant on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

"We've dealt with alcoholism, with cocaine, heroin, all these other things, but this meth has them all beat," Housing Authority official Karen Archambeau said. "It's horrible."

Santi-Kleen Environmental Solutions officials wearing body suits and breathing masks are teaching local workers how to properly clean meth houses.

"I think it is very important that this be done," Archambeau said. "We have a lot of little children that are being exposed to this terrible drug, and it's so terrible because our kids don't have a chance."

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The Life Of Pie  
USA Weekend



Nadas Returning To Yankton For Ribfest • 1B