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INSIDE TODAY



**American
Profile**

Could Isaac Impact Drought?

Storm Could Bring Rain To States In Need Of Moisture

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The remnants of Tropical Storm Isaac could bring welcome rain to some states in the Mississippi River valley this week, but experts say it's unlikely to break the drought gripping the Midwest.

Along with the deluge of rain expected along the Gulf Coast when Isaac makes landfall, the National Weather Service predicts 2 to 6 inches of rain will fall in eastern Arkansas, southeast Missouri and southern Illinois.

Those areas are among those hard hit by the

drought that stretches from the West Coast east into Kentucky and Ohio, with pockets in Georgia and Alabama. The rain that falls inland likely will ease, but not eliminate, drought because those areas are so dry, said Mark Svoboda, a climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center.

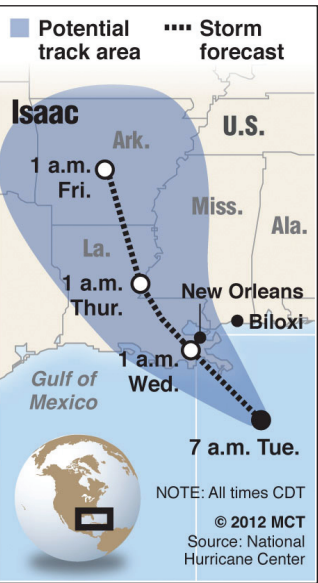
Arkansas rancher Don Rodgers said his area is short 17 inches of rain this year. He said even a couple of inches from Isaac would make a significant difference because he would have water for his cattle and might be able to grow some forage for this winter.

"I'm very sorry for the people in the path of this hurricane. I'm just praying we can get some

of the benefit from it up here," said Rodgers, who lives in Crawford County, a rural area near the Oklahoma border.

Heavy rain, especially if the storm pushes into the Ohio River Valley, would improve traffic on the Mississippi River, where low water levels have been a problem for weeks, National Weather Service hydrologist Marty Pope said. Pope said any rise in the river would help clear clogged shipping channels, which have caused temporary closures.

"If that happens, it would help us out quite a



DROUGHT | PAGE 10

Bosch Finds New Home As St. Rose Administrator

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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CROFTON, Neb. — Most people measure their retirement in terms of years.

For school administrator Wally Bosch, retirement didn't even last a week.

"There were five days between my two contracts, when one ended with the Yankton School District and the other started (as principal) with St. Rose in Crofton (Neb.)," Bosch said. "My wife gave me grief. She asked me, 'How are you enjoying that retirement?'"

"I tell her, so far it's been great," he added with a laugh.

Bosch took early retirement last spring, completing a quarter-century with the Yankton school system. He spent the first 23 years as assistant high school principal, then added the role of activities director during the last two years.

But Bosch found it difficult to walk away after a total of 36 years in education, and he looked at his options after retirement.

"They have rules about re-

OUR TOWNS

Knox County

tire-rehire in South Dakota, so I was looking at possible principal jobs in Nebraska," he said. "I loved what I was doing, and I wanted to be in education. But I also decided that I wanted to stay in this area. It was important to me."

After a lengthy search, he became discouraged when he could not find a school administrative position in the Yankton area.

"I had almost given up on staying in education," he said. "Then I saw the ad in the P&D for the job at St. Rose. It really appealed to me. It was a change, and it was a chance to return to Catholic education (where I started my career)."

Bosch attended the Catholic schools in Aberdeen for grades 1-12, then returned to the system as principal at Aberdeen Roncalli.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

After a quarter-century with the Yankton School District, Wally Bosch has taken a different career path as the new principal at St. Rose School in Crofton, Neb. His new job marks a return to Catholic education, where he started his career.

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Structure Plan Could Affect Many Area Post Offices

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With last week's approval of the Post Office Structure Plan (POSTPlan) by the Postal Regulatory Commission, many area post offices could see reduced hours of retail service in coming years.

"We are pleased with the commission's advisory opinion of our plan to save nearly 13,000 rural post offices from possible closure by reducing operating hours based on customer use," said a USPS statement provided by Pete Nowacki, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

Retail window hours at more than 13,000 post offices nationwide will be reduced to six, four or two hours per weekday. In approximately 73 locations, hours of operation will increase.

Although it offered some recommendations, the Postal Regulatory Commission found the POSTPlan to be consistent with the objectives of the USPS. It was considered a "significant improvement" over the Retail Access Optimization Initiative (RAOI) proposed last year that would have closed approximately 3,600 post offices.

"The commission is pleased that the Postal Service has been responsive to the suggestions we have been making in regard to community input and maintaining universal service in all communities," said Ruth Y. Goldway, the commission's chairman, in a media release last week. "With the Postal Service's assurances, as documented in this Advisory Opinion, the commission believes that adequate retail access will be preserved throughout the Nation."

The USPS assured the Postal Regulatory Commission that:

- Post offices will continue to provide the same services they provide today;
- Access to post office boxes will remain unchanged;
- Collection boxes at post offices will remain in place;
- Saturday hours will not be affected; and
- Post offices in the most remote and isolated locations will remain open at least six hours each weekday.

Additionally, the USPS said that, generally, it will not close offices unless a community expresses a strong preference for discontinuance.

The USPS will soon begin notifying affected communities across the nation of the planned changes. That will kick off a two-year process whereby each of the USPS's 67 districts will hold meetings in the affected communities.

"Residents in select affected communities nationwide will begin receiving surveys and letters notifying them of the date, time and location of their respective community meetings in early September," the USPS statement provided by Nowacki said. "The first community meetings are expected to begin the week of Oct. 9. The Postal Service will focus initial efforts on the nearly 4,500 post offices nationwide that are currently without a postmaster."

In a letter to his membership, Mark W. Strong,

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Isaac Makes Landfall In La.; Coast Braces



CAROLYN COLE/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT
Some New Orleans, Louisiana residents did not evacuate in advance of Hurricane Isaac but came to the West End on Lake Pontchartrain to watch the waves. Isaac, which spans nearly 200 miles from its center, made landfall in southeast Louisiana Tuesday, the eve of Hurricane Katrina's seventh anniversary.

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
AND STACEY PLAISANCE
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Isaac spun into the southern Louisiana coast late Tuesday, sending floodwaters surging and unleashing fierce winds as residents hunkered down behind boarded-up windows. New Orleans calmly waited out another storm on the eve of Hurricane Katrina's seventh anniversary, hoping the city's strengthened levees will hold.

Isaac, a massive storm spanning nearly 200 miles from its center, made landfall at about 6:45 p.m. near the mouth of the Mississippi River. But it was zeroing in on New Orleans, about 75 miles to the northwest, turning streets famous

for all-hours celebrations into ghost boulevards.

The storm drew intense scrutiny because of its timing — just before the anniversary of the hurricane that devastated that city, while the first major speeches of the Republican National Convention went on in Tampa, Fla., already delayed and tempered by the storm.

While many residents stayed put, evacuations were ordered in low-lying areas of Louisiana and Mississippi, where officials closed 12 shorefront casinos. By late Tuesday, more than 100,000 homes and businesses had lost power.

Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center, said Isaac's core would pass west of New Orleans with winds close to

80 mph and head for Baton Rouge.

"On this course, the hurricane will gradually weaken," Rappaport said Tuesday night from the Miami-based center. He said gusts could reach about 100 mph at times, especially at higher levels which could damage high-rise buildings in New Orleans.

As Isaac neared the city, there was little fear or panic. With New Orleans' airport closed, tourists retreated to hotels and most denizens of a coastline that has witnessed countless hurricanes decided to ride out the storm.

"Isaac is the son of Abraham," said Margaret Thomas, who was trapped for a week in her home in New Orleans' Broadmoor neighbor-

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Alcester-Hudson Nixes Fees For Home Events

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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ALCESTER — When it comes to this school year, Alcester-Hudson home games will be missing two things — an admission fee and ticket takers.

At its August board meeting, the Alcester-Hudson school board voted unanimously to forego charging admission for regular home events for the 2012-2013 school year.

The Alcester-Hudson School enrolls nearly 300 students, with 153 in grades K-6, 42 in junior high and 101 high school students.

"We hosted Freeman (on Monday night) in a volleyball match. It was the first time that we got an idea of the response," said Superintendent Tim Rhead.

The superintendent had presented the idea to the school board for two reasons. Besides seeking to increase attendance at events, the free admission also recognizes the hard economic times for many families, he said.

"By not charging admission to regular home events, families will be able to enjoy an evening of free entertainment," he said.

The idea of a free gate came up during a board meeting, Rhead said.

"We were deciding what we could do to in-

crease attendance. It was something that we had discussed in the past, that we would like to see more people at games and more involvement," he said.

"The students practice long hours in preparation for performances and competitions, so it is always nice when they can show the 'fruits of their labors' to a packed house."

At the same time, the board realized the tough economy — worsened by this year's drought and high food and gas prices — might keep many families away from games, Rhead said.

FREE | PAGE 10



JAMES CIMBUREK/P&D

Put away your pocketbooks, as the sign tells it all — the Alcester-Hudson school district isn't charging admission this year at its regular season home games. The move seeks to boost attendance and provide a financial break during tough economic times.