



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Isaac's Wet Wallop

Avoids Direct Blow On New Orleans

BY CAIN BURDEAU AND
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Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Isaac sidestepped New Orleans on Wednesday, sending the worst of its howling wind and heavy rain into a cluster of rural fishing villages that had few defenses against the slow-moving storm that could bring days of unending rain.

Isaac arrived exactly seven years after Hurricane Katrina and passed slightly to the west of New Orleans, where the city's

fortified levee system easily handled the assault.

The city's biggest problems seemed to be downed power lines, scattered tree limbs and minor flooding. Just one person was reported killed, compared with 1,800 deaths from Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi. And police reported few problems with looting. Mayor Mitch Landrieu ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew just to be sure.

But in Plaquemines Parish, a sparsely populated area south of the city that is outside the federal levee system, dozens

of people were stranded in flooded coastal areas and had to be rescued. The storm pushed water over an 18-mile levee and put so much pressure on it that authorities planned to intentionally puncture the floodwall to relieve the strain.

"I'm getting text messages from all over asking for help," said Joshua Brockhaus, an electrician who was rescuing neighbors in his boat. "I'm dropping my dogs off, and I'm going back out there."

By midafternoon, Isaac had been downgraded to a tropical storm and the Louisiana National Guard wrapped up rescue operations in Plaquemines Parish,



JOHN FITZHUGH/BILOXI SUN HERALD
Members of the Swift Water Rescue Team gear up before rescuing stranded residents in the Shoreline Park area of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, during Hurricane Isaac on Wednesday.

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Heat Day? Schools Release Early Due To Hot Temps

From P&D Staff and AP Reports

South Dakota and Nebraska students are used to extreme cold and having classes called off because of winter blizzards, but the weather that caused their school day to be cut short Wednesday was intense for a different reason: the triple-digit temperatures.

Numerous school districts across the two states shut down early Wednesday as temperatures rose above 100 degrees, turning classrooms into saunas. Area schools that closed early included Tripp-Delmont, Niobrara (Neb.) and Creighton (Neb.).

"When it's over 90 degrees in the buildings, most of the time it's a pretty good indicator that it's too warm for anybody," Niobrara Schools Superintendent Margaret Sandoz told the *Press & Dakotan*.

She said teachers and students tried to keep cool with fans and coolers full of ice water in the classrooms, but eventually the heat was too much to handle. With no official policy as to when to close the school due to heat, she said school officials used their best judgment and decided to call it a day.

"We just try to use common sense," she said.

Like Niobrara, many schools in South Dakota also lack air conditioning and had to decide Wednesday whether to continue classes.

"The major factor in the decision is the safety and welfare of students and staff members. It's tough to learn in an environment when a room is 100 degrees," said Eureka Superintendent Bo Beck, whose north-central South Dakota district joined others in dismissing students a few hours early.

According to Chris Jansen, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls, high temperatures in South Dakota ranged from the low 90s in northeastern part of the state to 113 degrees in Academy, with much of the state seeing highs between 100 to 110 degrees.

"There were quite a few (records broken), especially where it got over 100 degrees," Jansen told the *Press & Dakotan*.

Don Hotalling, superintendent for the Stanley County School District, said all students in Fort Pierre were being sent home at 1 p.m. because some classrooms are not air-conditioned. That problem will be solved after a new building is completed next year, he said.

"With 106 degrees forecast for today, we knew it really was going to be miserable for some of the students," Hotalling said. "With the humidity and the heat, it's very uncomfortable. Not much learning is going to be

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Wagner Rolls Out Welcome Mat For Labor Day Weekend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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WAGNER — Labor Day weekend marks the last big hurrah of summer, and Wagner residents are rolling out the red carpet for their 112th annual celebration.

If recent years are any indication, thousands of visitors will pour into the Charles Mix County town for any or all of the three-day celebration that kicks off Saturday.

The largest draw again promises to be Monday's parade, which rolls through downtown following South Dakota Highway 46. This year's parade theme is "Leisure Times."

This year's parade may be even larger than usual, according to Labor Day celebration chairman Dave Greger. With 2012 as an election year, he anticipates additional entries from political candidates. The parade committee has received inquiries from candidates for statewide office.

"We are expecting 100 to 110 parade entries, but we may get more," Greger said. "We get entries not just from Wagner but from area towns. We get them from Yankton, we have the Czech Days Queen from Tabor, and we have had entries from Tyn-dall, Armour and Avon."

Wagner's population of about 1,600 swells to many times that size during the parade, Greger said.

"We will have 10,000 people lined up along the parade route that runs the entire length of town," he said. "We have a lot of 'old faithfuls' who show up every year to watch the parade, and they have their favorite spot to sit."

Wagner residents Jim and Shirley Leines will lead this year's procession as the parade marshals. The couple moved to Wagner in 1974 when they opened up the local NAPA auto parts store. They have remained active community members during the past four decades.

"Helping out in the community has always been a great way to meet people, make friends and share in the progress of the community," Jim told the *Wagner Post*. "I have always wanted to make Wagner a better place to live, and I hope that carries on for generations. I think the banks have also been a big part of this by giving young people opportunities to open businesses and keep families around."

The mantle has been passed to the next

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READY FOR RIBFEST



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton city commissioner Dave Knoff works on his entry in the amateur ribbing competition of the 2011 Rockin' Ribfest in downtown Yankton. The 2012 event has been moved forward two weeks for weather purposes and will take place this Saturday. Music starts at 11 a.m. and runs until 11 p.m.

Rockin' Ribfest Ready To Heat Up Downtown Yankton

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest is heating up this year.

For its organizers, that is exactly what they hoped would happen by holding the event on Labor Day weekend rather than later in September as in years past. Cool, rainy weather the last two years has put a damper on the festivities.

High temperatures during Saturday's Ribfest along Third Street in downtown Yankton are expected to be around 90 degrees with no rain.

"I think 92 degrees and no rain is going to make people hungry, thirsty and ready to party," said Ben Hanten, who serves on Ribfest's organizational committee. "The evening hours are going to be tremendous with beautiful weather. I hope the food vendors have a great year, because they've had a couple



years of having good but not great business. Ideally, we'd get to a point where we can invite in another vendor or two and still keep it profitable for everyone."

Seven food vendors will be at this year's Ribfest.

Hanten said the organizers felt like they owed it to everyone involved to try and have an event with better weather this year.

"We knew we had a couple great years early on and a couple in a row that were cold and rainy," he stated. "I think if you had that a third year in a row, people would start switching their plans and finding other things to do that weekend. I felt it was a line in the sand, and we needed to do it ... to show we cared about the audience."

Signs were put out along Third Street Wednesday evening, reminding motorists to have their vehicles out of the area by 2 a.m. Saturday or risk them being towed.

Ribfest starts around 11 a.m. Saturday and goes until 11 p.m.

Along with the earlier date, Ribfest organizers also tripled the budget for bands to play the event. That led to booking a couple bigger acts, including ZZ Top tribute band ZZ-3 and Des

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HOT ROD

Yankton firefighters are shown simultaneously prying open and dousing the hood of a late-model Buick Regal that caught fire Wednesday at a residence west of Yankton. Firefighters were summoned at approximately 2:30 p.m. after a woman drove her car into a garage, then noticed smoke coming out of the engine department. She was able to start the car and back it out of the garage. The fire was contained to the engine compartment, but the vehicle was declared a total loss. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Record High Temperature Set As Mercury Soars To 106

From P&D Staff Reports

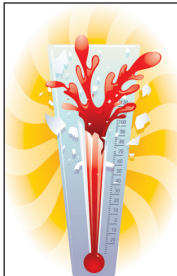
The long, hot summer of 2012 added another entry into the Yankton record books Wednesday.

Yankton saw an unofficial high reading of 106 degrees Wednesday, shattering the old mark of 101 degrees, set in 1984.

The normal high temperature reading in Yankton for Aug. 29 is 82.6 degrees.

Wednesday's scorcher marked the 12th time this summer that the mercury has climbed into the triple digits in Yankton.

Sioux Falls also saw a record high



about noon on Wednesday.

But the hottest of all may have been Marty, where the KELO Weather Net site reported a scorching 115 degrees. Other regional locations unof-

ficially topping the 100-degree mark included Valentine, Neb., (108); Marion (103); Menno (103); Parkston (103); Mitchell (103); North Platte, Neb. (103); Vermillion (101) and Elk Point (101).

Temperatures are expected to climb past 100 degrees again today (Thursday), accompanied but strong winds. The National Weather service has issued a red flag warning for fire danger.

Hot, dry conditions are expected to persist through Friday, with temperatures "cooling down" to about 90 degrees for Saturday.

For more details, see page 2.