



**Volleyball: Gazelles  
Fall In Opener • 11**

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## Ready To Roll



**Yankton Convention and Visitors Center Director Stephanie Moser, left, and Yankton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carmen Schramm display the South Dakota state flag and the 125th anniversary flag in front of the Dakota Territorial Capitol in Riverside Park. They are working with others on the South Dakota 125th Anniversary Wagon Train, which hits the road Thursday from Yankton for a 17-day trip to Pierre. A program and celebration will be held Wednesday at the rodeo grounds on W. Highway 50.**

## Yankton Gears Up For Start Of Modern-Day Wagon Train

**BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**  
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**E**arly South Dakota settlers blazed trails with their horses and wagons, creating a new life and a new state. Their pioneering spirit will return next month, celebrating the state's 125th anniversary with a modern-day wagon train running from Yankton to Pierre.

Next Wednesday, area residents will gather at the Yankton rodeo grounds to kick off the 250-mile wagon ride. The rodeo grounds are located a half-mile west of the Highway 50-81 intersection on the north side of Yankton.

The wagon train should provide an exciting and historic sight for all visitors, said South Dakota Magazine publisher Bernie Hunhoff.

"Gerald Kessler, the wagon master, said there were going to be 40 wagons, so there may be over 100 people," said Hunhoff, one of the kick-off organizers. "If that holds true, it will be a long wagon train."

A special invitation is extended for young people to view the wagon train and learn more about their state's history, according to one of the event's organizers.

"Bring your children and grandchildren," urged Carmen Schramm, executive director of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce. "This will be their memory of our state's 125th birthday, and we'll have a good time."

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**Members of the Dakota Prairie Quilt Guild made a quilt to send off with wagon master Gerald Kessler on the wagon train September 3. Kessler will take the quilt on the 17 day trip across the state for people to sign. Guild members Ber Peitz of Hartington (left) and Joyce Braken (right) hold the quilt that will soon be a part of South Dakota history. The quilt will be given to the state Cultural Heritage center once it is done.**

## Orphan Quilt To Be A Patchwork Of History

**BY JORDYNNE HART**  
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Members of the Dakota Prairie Quilt Guild have stitched together a quilt that will soon be South Dakota history. The quilt is made out of "orphan blocks" of past guild projects. It will be sent off with wagon master Gerald Kessler for the state's quincentennial wagon train.

The wagon train will start in Yankton on Sept. 3 and end at the state capitol in Pierre on Sept. 20.

Kessler plans on taking the quilt on the 17-day wagon train for people across the state to sign.

"It will be a great addition

to the wagon train. I think it's a swell idea," Kessler said. "When we're done, it will be history."

Kessler and Sharon Heisinger, president of the Dakota Prairie Quilt Guild, plan to present the quilt to the state Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Quilt guild members Joyce Brunken of Yankton who has been making quilts since 1979 and Ber Peitz of Hartington who has been making quilts since 1977 put together the orphan quilt.

Branken said that the quilt guild had a lot of extra orphan blocks that needed to

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**KELLY HERTZ/ P&D**  
**This tornado, which struck in northeast Yankton County Thursday night, took residents and meteorologists by surprise. National Weather Service meteorologist Mike Fuhs told the Press & Dakotan Friday the storm formed in conditions normally unfavorable for tornadoes.**

## Yankton Co. Tornado Called An Oddity

**BY ROB NIELSEN**  
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Some were caught by surprise Thursday night when a tornado touched down with no prior warning in the Mayfield area north of Yankton.

This surprise extended to the National Weather Service (NWS), according to NWS meteorologist Mike Fuhs.

"It's fairly uncommon for a tornado to touch down in the environment we had (Thursday) night," Fuhs said.

He explained that Thursday's atmospheric conditions were common for this time of year and that it was somewhat baffling to see them produce a tornadic storm.

"There was a little service warm front there and there was also low pressure just to the south of Yankton," he said. "Honestly, during the course of the summer, this type of situation happens all the time and tornadoes will not form. Why this decided to get going out of this one cell is still a bit of a mystery to me — why it decided to touch down instead of just remaining a funnel cloud. ... There was some weak rotation being shown on the radar, but other storms will

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## South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame Presents: Elaine Peacock & Friends Youth Program

The South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame (SDCMHoF) will gather at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron, SD, on **Saturday, August 30** for a very special show.

**Elaine Peacock & Friends Youth Program with featured guest Rachel Wood.**

The show will be presented on the Farm Bureau Dakotaland Stage at Gate 3 starting at 6 p.m. For details visit us on the web at [southdakotacountrymusichalloffame.org](http://southdakotacountrymusichalloffame.org) or contact the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame at 605-310-2441.

