



Sunny And Cold

9 a.m. **16** 3 p.m. **22** | DETAILS: Page 2A

FRIDAY ■ December 18, 2015



USD Women  
Roll Past Dak.  
Wesleyan

PAGE 5A



Volume 140  
Number 200

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | TWO SECTIONS | www.yankton.net

75¢



ROB NIELSEN/P&D  
Corey Wright and his 5-year-old son Christopher prepare for the first screening of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" at the Yankton Mall Thursday evening.

## Local Fans Flock To Premiere Of New 'Star Wars' Film Back In 'Force!'

BY ROB NIELSEN  
AND ALISSA WOOCKMAN  
news@yankton.net

Space and the year 1977 are inseparable. That year, the Space Shuttle Enterprise — itself named after a figment of American pop culture — performed its first air-drop test over the California desert. Voyagers 1 and 2 were launched on their separate journeys to becoming the most

distant manmade objects in the Solar System and the Ohio State University Radio Observatory picked up the "Wow! Signal."

But arguably the most famed space exploit of the year didn't send artificial satellites or astronauts to explore new worlds, but rather took moviegoers on a trip into the past in a galaxy far, far away without ever having to leave the ground.

On May 25 of that year, "Star Wars" — the brainchild of George Lucas — opened around the world and touched off one of the largest pop culture empires of all time.

The movie inspired two sequels, a trilogy of prequels, endless lines of toys, cartoons, specials and an integration into everyday life the likes of which few pop culture properties have been able to achieve.

Thursday marked a new era in the storied franchise as fans flocked to theaters across the country, including the Yankton Mall, to see the seventh theatrical release — "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" — on its opening night.

FILM | PAGE 9A

### River City



YHS Begins To  
Claw Into Staging  
Classic Musical  
PAGE 1B

### Inside



More Letters  
To Santa  
PAGE 10A

### Happy Holidays



Dec. 18  
7 shopping  
days to Christmas



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
The new Farm Credit Services of America building in Yankton is now open and doing business. The new structure in the 3800 block of Broadway replaces the former business site on Second St.

## Yankton FCSAmerica Moves To New Home

BY RANDY TRAMP  
P&D Correspondent

Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) recently moved from its southern location, near the Meridian Bridge, to north Yankton. The new building at 3808 Broadway is one-third larger and gives customers easier access to a parking lot now large enough to accommodate grain trucks, trailers and other farm vehicles.

"This facility shows our commitment to the Yankton community and our belief in the future of agriculture," said Wes Chambers, regional vice president for FCSAmerica's Yankton office. "Agriculture is all we do and we are very proud to serve the producers in the area."

FCSAmerica is a customer-owned financial cooperative that serves 50,000 farmers and ranchers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Its new state-of-the-art building in Yankton features technology to better serve customers; ergonomics to create a healthy work environment; and additional space for growth.

The largest of six conference rooms seats 60 people and has video conferencing capabilities, via a large screen. This allows FCSAmerica's Yankton team to connect with customers, as well as with any of FCSAmerica's 41 other retail offices.

Technology also has made it easier for three home-based employees to remain close to their customers. "This has cut down on the amount of travel employees had to make in the past," Chambers said.

FCSAmerica has long invested in technology that makes it easier for customers to do business with the cooperative, including setting up and tracking accounts online. But face-to-face communication remains important to the 1,500 producers served by FCSAmerica's Yankton office.

"A majority of our interaction is right at the kitchen table," Chambers said.

With a laptop computer, a financial officer or insurance specialist can complete all paper-

FCS | PAGE 9A

## Snowfall Already Setting Marks

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Winter doesn't officially arrive until Dec. 21, but the area is already setting marks for snowfall.

South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today said the Yankton region has seen nearly double the snowfall expected at this time of year.

"You've had 21.5 inches of snow this cold season compared to an average of 11.1 inches. Historically, that would be the fourth largest snow total to this point in the cold season," he told the *Press & Dakotan*.

"Seasonal totals range from 15-22 inches around your region. ... You are one of the higher ranking totals. Several other places are top 10-15 most snow totals for this time of year."

If you're dreaming of a white Christmas, you probably won't get your wish.

At least, that's the forecast for the Yankton region, Today said.

"For places with just a couple inches of snow on the ground, the warm temperatures returning this weekend will likely take care of most of it," he said. "Places with higher totals will have a better chance of holding on to it until Christmas. But even in these areas, the warmer air temperatures with the warm soils will start working on the snow quickly again."

Any snowfall will get a double whammy from below as well as above, Today said.

"We have no frost depths in the soils across most of the (Yankton) area," he said. "Thus, warm soils will be able to add heat from below the snow to help melt it."

The snowmelt should benefit the region's agriculture, Today said.

"That melting will add moisture to the soil again," he said. "I've not heard of specific problems. But for livestock folks who have cattle in feedlots, the wet non-frozen soils are going to become at least a nuisance to deal with. I'm not sure if we'll reach a problem level, but certainly it'll be muddy to deal with."

The Yankton region has remained wet in recent months, resulting in notable totals, Today said.

WEATHER | PAGE 9A

## With Federal Permit Now Rejected, Opponents Want Keystone XL Pipeline Blocked From SD

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Public Utilities Commission will decide Tuesday whether to dismiss the permit for TransCanada to build its Keystone XL oil pipeline through South Dakota.

TransCanada currently is waiting for the commission to decide a different issue: Whether to accept the company's certification that permit conditions set in 2010 can still be met.

The certification is required under state law because the company didn't start construction within four years.

The pipeline would carry tar-

sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to the U.S. Gulf Coast region.

Opponents who have been fighting the certification now are asking the commission to pull the permit altogether.

Their request for dismissal of the certification and the revocation of the 2010 permit is based on the Nov. 6 decision by President Barack Obama's administration denying TransCanada permission to pierce the U.S. border.

Obtaining federal approval is condition No. 2 among the 50 set in the 2010 state permit.

Twenty people and four or-

PIPELINE | PAGE 9A

## Orchestration



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
The Yankton Elementary Orchestra presented its winter concert Thursday night at the Yankton Middle School auditorium. Fourth- and fifth-grade students from the Yankton public school and the Sacred Heart schools performed several holiday tunes.