

# Christmas Storm Trudges Across Upper Plains

From P&D and AP Reports

SIOUX FALLS — A strong winter storm system that is moving into the region put most of South Dakota under a winter storm warning starting Friday evening.

The National Weather Service says the system will drop at least a couple of inches in much of the state and up to a foot in some areas.

Much of the Yankton area was under a winter weather advisory as of early Friday, but that was upgraded to a winter storm warning late Friday afternoon. Clay, Cedar and Knox counties remained under a winter weather advisory at press time.

The storm is expected to bring up to 5-10 inches of snow across the Yankton area, with the heaviest amounts to the west and north. Yankton itself could see 5-8 inches.

The storm is expected to end Saturday afternoon, but it will be followed by wind gusts that could reach 30 mph and may produce blowing and drifting snow.

Meteorologist Brad Temeyer with the Weather Service in Sioux Falls says wind chills will drop to zero in the southeastern tip of the state and nearly 20 below zero in the northeastern corner.

Temperatures are expected to stay below normal through New Year's Day.

## Redistricting Initiative Makes SD Ballot

PIERRE (AP) — Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says an initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution that seeks to put legislative redistricting in the hands of a commission has been validated and certified to appear on the November 2016 general election ballot.

A constitutional amendment initiative requires a minimum of 27,741 signatures from South Dakota registered voters.

Krebs says the measure's sponsor turned in 43,198 signatures to the Secretary of State's office. A random sampling of 5 percent of the signatures determined that 70.2 percent, or 30,335 of the 43,198 signatures — were in good standing.

## 1 Person Killed, 1 Hurt In Omaha Crash

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say one person has been killed and one injured in a northwest Omaha crash.

The accident occurred around 9:20 p.m. Wednesday when a sport utility vehicle ran off North 120th Street and rammed into a tree. Police say there were icy patches on the roadway but that the primary cause of the crash was the SUV's high speed.

Omaha police say a passenger in the SUV died at the scene. He was identified as 20-year-old Marcus Haney.

The driver was taken to Nebraska Medical Center for treatment. Police identified him as 19-year-old Deangelo Peak, of Omaha.

## 1 Person Treated After Apartment Blaze

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say one resident has been hospitalized and at least four others have been displaced by a fire at an apartment complex for seniors in Beatrice.

The fire was reported just after 4 p.m. Thursday when someone saw smoke coming from an apartment window. Firefighters rescued a man from inside the apartment. He was taken to a local hospital and then to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. His name hasn't been released.

Authorities say fire damage was contained to the apartment's bedroom, but there was smoke and water damage elsewhere in the building.

Fire investigators say the blaze was caused by a discarded cigarette.

## State's Attorney Apologizes For Offenses

BELLE FOURCHE (AP) — The state's attorney in Butte County is apologizing for her drug offenses after pleading guilty to three misdemeanor charges.

In a written statement, 31-year-old Heather Plunkett says she believes she owes Butte County residents an apology and "an expression of gratitude" for the patience they have shown since her arrest.

Plunkett entered guilty pleas Wednesday to one count each of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia and ingesting substance other than alcohol.

Plunkett and her husband, 33-year-old Ryan Plunkett, were arrested on drug charges on Dec. 4 in Belle Fourche.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard suspended Heather Plunkett from her duties as state's attorney following her arrest.

## 2 Hospitalized After Falling Through Ice

HOLDREGE, Neb. (AP) — Two boys have been treated at a local hospital and released after falling through lake ice at a park in the south-central Nebraska city of Holdrege.

Bystanders and Holdrege police officer Martin McIntire helped the boys reach shore and safety on Wednesday evening. McIntire told the *Holdrege Daily Citizen* that the boys were walking on the ice to test its depth when they broke through into the frigid water at the lake in North Park.

The boys were identified as 13-year-old Gage Huston and 7-year-old Roman Urbom, who live in Holdrege. They were released around 10 p.m. Wednesday from Phelps Memorial Health Center.

## Brookings Students Write Letters To Paris Residents

BROOKINGS (AP) — A class of first-graders in Brookings has given condolences to a student's extended family that lives close to one of the sites of the Paris attacks.

Medary Elementary School student Sidonie Cledelein and her family were on vacation during the Nov. 13 attacks in the French capital that killed 130 people and injured hundreds more. Sidonie and her parents were worried because some family members live in the area, including her aunt, who lives on the same street as one of the restaurants that was attacked.

Sidonie's teacher, Jule Bullington, had her students make cards to let Sidonie's aunt and other family members know that they're thinking of them, the *Brookings Register* reported.

To go along with the letters, Bullington began incorporating more lessons about France into her classes.

"We think it's very important for these young children to learn citizenship and caring for others. Not just caring for others in our classroom and in our school or community, but across the world. It was a timely learning experience," Bullington said. "The kids love to learn about current events, and then you can get them excited about the world."

Still, she's constantly surprised at just how aware they are of world events.

"I think when you have someone who has been touched (by these events), it brings it to life more," Bullington said. "It gives us a great chance to talk about other countries, too, because they might not have been on my lesson plan that day, but that's what they need to know."

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