



Increasing Clouds, Rain Late

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Yankton Boys Fall,
Girls Win • **8**

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Blizzard Watch Posted For Much Of South Dakota

From P&D Staff Reports

The Yankton area is facing an uncertain weekend as a major winter storm moved across the Central Plains.

At press time, much of the area had been placed under a blizzard watch for Sunday and Monday morning as the storm moves northeast out of the Rockies.

For Yankton and Turner counties, a blizzard watch has been issued for Sunday afternoon through Monday morning. According to the National Weather Service, rain and thunderstorms were expected late Saturday through early Sunday afternoon, then gradually turning to sleet and then snow during the afternoon. Winds are expected to switch to the northwest from 25-45 mph in the afternoon

Projections at press time called for snowfall

totals of 2-5 inches, but the strong winds could produce widespread blizzard conditions.

Meanwhile, areas to the west and north — including Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Douglas and Hutchinson counties — were placed under a blizzard watch from early Sunday morning through Monday morning.

At press time, Clay and Union counties were excluded from the blizzard watch, as were local Nebraska counties.

Most of central and eastern South Dakota were under a blizzard watch at press time. Up to 10 inches of snow are possible in the east-central part of South Dakota.

The wintry threat will not be so evident today (Saturday), as high temperatures are expected to reach into the upper 40s.

For more details, see page 2.



CLOE POISSON/HARTFORD COURANT/MCT

Inside

New England States Are
Pounded By What May Be
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Low River Levels Affecting Electricity Production

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Continued drought has meant lower runoff in the Missouri River basin, affecting hydroelectric production, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Based on the current soil moisture and snowpack conditions, 2013 runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City is forecast to be 19.9 million acre feet (MAF), 80 percent of normal. The Corps is maintaining reduced releases as part of its water conservation measures.

"Right now across the system, we're trying to save as much water as we can. It's no different than here (at Pickstown)," said Fort Randall project manager Tom Curran.

The lower releases are resulting in reduced hydropower, Curran said.

"The low winter releases kind of make us cut back on power generation over what a higher winter flow would allow us to do," he said. "The longer the drought goes on, the more impact it will have on our power generation."

The six mainstem power plants — including Gavins Point near Yankton — generated 634 million kilowatt hours of electricity in January. Typical power generation for the month of January is 714 million kWh.

The six power plants are projected to generate 7.9 billion kWh of electricity this year, compared to the normal of 10 billion kWh.

"During the spring, summer and fall, where they release more water, there is higher power generation," Curran said.

With the reduced releases, the Corps is also working to meet the basin's needs besides hydropower, Curran said.

"We do the best that we can to make sure the water intakes have enough water and that we have cooling for power plants on the river," he said.

Runoff is typically slowed during winter months as rivers freeze over and cause temporary reductions in inflows into the reservoir system, according to the Corps news release. However, warmer-than-normal temperatures, plains snowmelt and rainfall runoff above Sioux City resulted in slightly above normal runoff during January.

"Based on the current forecast, the total volume of water stored in the mainstem reservoir system at the start of the 2013 runoff season is expected to be 8.3 MAF below the top of the Carryover Multiple Use Zone," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Missouri River Water Manage-

"We do the best that we can to make sure the water intakes have enough water and that we have cooling for power plants on the river."

TOM CURRAN

Teacher Achieves National Honor

Former Andes Central
Educator Earns National
Board Certification

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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BURKE — As a young educator, Stacy Otten wanted to become a nationally certified teacher to learn more about her profession.

In the end, she also learned a great deal about herself.

Otten recently became one of 10 South Dakota classroom teachers to achieve National Board Certification in 2012. The process is administered by the National Board

for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Otten's work places her among the nearly 5,000 teachers nationwide to achieve the national honor last year. With the latest honorees, South Dakota has 99 National Board Certified Teachers.

"It can be very overwhelming when you start out," she said. "But it's a very beneficial process for many teachers to go through and learn about yourself and the whole process."

Otten, a Wayne State (Neb.) College graduate, started her teaching career at Creighton, Neb., in 2002. She taught business and computer courses at Andes Central starting in 2004, earning her national certification while at the

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CORRECTION

In Friday's *Press & Dakotan*, the large photo of the old Trinity Lutheran Church being torn down was incorrectly credited to Sacred Heart Parish. Although the *P&D* got the image from the parish, the photo was actually taken by Paul Harens. We apologize for the error.



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

This mystery dog has brought a lot of joy to the lives of (from left) Christine Vlahakis and her nieces Amanda Johnson Feimer and Amy Johnson. The three women became concerned about the welfare of the dog after spotting it near the Vishay plant along Highway 50 in Yankton and were later able to capture it.

Elusive Dog, Cared For By Many, Finally Finds A Loving Home

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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For months, a mystery dog patrolled the area around the Vishay plant on the east side of Yankton, capturing the hearts of those who saw him.

However, until this week the canine had always managed to elude capture himself.

Employees of the manufacturing firm and nearby Sturdevant's Auto Parts, as well as citizens from near and far, would try to get close to the dog and would regularly set out food and water for him. A dog house was even placed in the area.

But the unnamed dog would not get close to hu-

mans. Various attempts to catch the canine were foiled.

"I was getting a lot of calls," said Lisa Brasel, Yankton's animal control officer. "Sturdevant's was getting complaints that they were letting their dog run loose. Vishay may have gotten the same complaints. I even crawled into a culvert after the dog, but couldn't capture it. It wouldn't let me get within 25 feet."

Part of what made it so hard to capture the dog was that it got such good care.

"It makes it harder when a whole bunch of people

DOG | PAGE 3

Benefit For Local Man To Be Held Tonight

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Friends, family and members of the Yankton community will gather today (Saturday) in an effort to help a Yankton native battling a rare form of cancer.

"The Concert for Code Red," a benefit for Cody Ellingson, will be held at 5 p.m. at the Rounding 3rd Bar and Casino at 304 W. 3rd St. Along with music, it will feature an auction, raffle and bake sale.

Ellingson was diagnosed last month with thymic carcinoma, a rare type of

thymus gland cancer. The news came a month after he had visited a doctor for symptoms of a respiratory infection and a large mass was found in his chest.

"The doctor they saw at the Mayo Clinic has been practicing for seven years and this is only the second case he's seen. So it's very rare," said Monica Muth, a friend of the Ellingson family.

Muth said the family is still unsure of where Ellingson will receive treatment, but the expenses are expected to be "monumental."

"Treatment will involve surgery, radiation and chemo," she said. "All that is

going to be overwhelming."

Justin Johnson, a Mitchell musician who grew up with Ellingson in Yankton, said that when he heard about his friend's struggles, he knew he had to find a way to help.

Johnson contacted his friends and various bands with the idea of putting on a small benefit concert. But as word spread about Ellingson's battle with cancer, the event grew.

"People kept calling me and asking

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