



MMC Women's Season Ends With Loss To Northwestern ■ 8

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## Powerful Storm Moves Across Plains

Yankton Area Spared From Full Brunt Of Snowstorm

From P&D and AP Reports

ST. LOUIS — Snow plows and salt spreaders took to highways in the nation's heartland Wednesday, preparing for a deadly winter storm that promised to dump up to a foot of snow in some areas and bring freezing rain and sleet to others.

The storm appeared to spare the Yankton area. The winter storm watches that were issued Tuesday were downgraded to winter weather advisories for the entire area from mid-day Thursday through early Friday. Snowfall for

the area was predicted to be in the range of 3-6 inches. Winds were expected to be about 10-20 miles per hour.

Winter storm warnings were issued from Colorado through Illinois. By midday Wednesday, heavy snow was already falling in Colorado and western Kansas. In Oklahoma, roads were covered with a slushy mix of snow and ice that officials blamed for a crash that killed an 18-year-old man.

National Weather Service meteorologist Jayson Gosselin said parts of Colorado, Kansas and northern Missouri could get 10 to 12 inches

of snow. Dodge City, Kan., was bracing for up to 16 inches of snow. Further south, freezing rain and sleet were already making driving treacherous.

Cody Alexander, 18, of Alex, Okla., died when the pickup truck he was driving skidded out of control in slush on State Highway 19, crossed into oncoming traffic and was hit by a truck, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said. The other driver was not seriously injured.

Officials feared the winter storm would be the worst in the Midwest since the Groundhog Day blizzard in 2011. A two-day storm that



MIKE HUTMACHER/WICHITA EAGLE  
Wichita Police work an accident on west Kellogg during the snow-packed morning commute in Wichita, Kansas, Wednesday.

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P&D ARCHIVE PHOTO  
It wasn't so long ago that the local supply of hay was bountiful, as this 2010 photo taken in Yankton County illustrates. However, the current drought is straining hay supplies across the county. U.S. hay production declined 9 percent in 2012, while production in South Dakota decreased 53 percent.

## Hay Shortage Forces Producers To Search For Solutions

BY DEREK BARTOS

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With hay cupboards nearly bare across the country, area producers are searching for solutions to deal with the shortage.

According to the annual crop production reports released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. production of all dry hay in 2012 was estimated at 120 million tons, down 9 percent from 2011 and the lowest production level since 1964. South Dakota produced 4 million tons last year, a decrease of 53 percent compared to the previous year.

As of Dec. 1, 2012, all hay stored on U.S. farms totaled 76.5 million tons, down 16 percent from the year before and the lowest level since 1957. South Dakota's hay stocks sat at 4.3 million, a decrease of 49 percent compared to the same time in 2011.

Larry Wagner, SDSU Extension agronomy crops field specialist, said it's difficult to quantify the hay supply in southeastern South Dakota, but the area is

certainly seeing a shortage like the rest of the state.

"It basically started last summer when the pastures started giving out and some people had to start feeding early in the fall," he said. "It's almost like adding a month or two to a winter feeding program."

Wagner said that the combination of the early feeding and a poor growing season last year caused by the drought depleted hay supplies in the area. He also speculated that the hay shortage in Texas two years ago could have contributed to the lower amount.

"The drought hit there a year or so before us," he said. "There was a pretty good price for hay, and people might have sold some of what they had on hand and shorted the carryover of surplus hay."

As hay supplies have gone down, prices have increased.

"It's going to be costly bringing it in from other parts of the country," Wagner said. "You look at the markets, and it's as much as \$300 per ton for good

alfalfa hay. It wasn't long ago you could get that for \$150 or \$175. Now, it's quite expensive."

Wagner said many area beef cattle producers have been able to manage the shortage this winter by utilizing other crops left over from last summer.

"There was a lot of corn that wasn't doing well, and that all got harvested for silage and chopped for forages," he said. "So there's quite a bit of that out there, and they're living off that."

Many cattle owners also sold off part of their herds last year in anticipation of the low feed supplies.

"They're pretty sharp on what they need to have," Wagner said. "They knew what they had and that hay was short across the country, so they knew it wouldn't be profitable to keep too many cattle around. They cut back to where they knew they could manage with what they had."

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## County Catches Up On Official Record

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Even though the Yankton County Commission has been conducting business as usual, taxpayers have not been updated on its activity through the publication of official meeting minutes for a couple months.

Commissioners took steps to correct that during their Wednesday meeting.

The problems began before Yankton County Auditor Paula Jones took a leave of absence from her position for medical reasons earlier this month.

As the auditor, she was tasked with taking meeting minutes and getting them published in the county's official newspapers, which include the *Press & Dakotan*.

According to state statute, "It shall be the duty of the county auditor to make a full and complete report of the proceedings of each regular and special meeting of the board, and to transmit the same to the publishers of the official newspapers. Such report shall be made out and transmitted within one week from the time such meeting is held."

Usually, the minutes of a regular meeting are approved by the commission for publication at the following meeting.

However, Jones was not getting the minutes done.

Since she took a leave from the office, Yankton County Register of Deeds Brian Hun-

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## A Lost Piece Of Yankton High School History Found In River

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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If Gloria Jean Watt is out there, she may have a ring waiting for her.

She is the best guess for who the owner is of a Yankton High School class of 1969 ring that was found Monday morning near Gavins Point Dam.

Al Hotzel, a diver from Wisconsin who works for a company cleaning debris off the dam's apron, said the small object was moments away from going to a landfill.

"Once our pump is going, it's

screaming and sucking in a lot of material," he stated. "It was almost gone. This was a one-in-a-million shot."

Hotzel said he had stopped the pump to clear away some large rocks that threatened to lock up the device.

As he moved the rocks, he noticed something glistening. Investigating further, Hotzel discovered it was a ring.

"We had to clean it up a little bit because there was so much calcium build-up on it," he said. "We saw the

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
This 1969 Yankton High School class ring was found below the Gavins Point Dam Monday. The initials indicate it could belong to Gloria Jean Watt.

## YCTC Seeks New Home

BY ANDREW ATWAL

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The Yankton Children's Theatre Company (YCTC) has been rehearsing in the old Elks building, in the 400 block of Walnut, for several years, knowing that the facility could be sold at any time.

That time has come.

"The Old Elks building has been our home base for several years, so having to move at this point is certainly a challenge," said Jill Paulson, president of YCTC. "However, we plan to do everything we can to work towards the continued progress of the organization, despite this bump in the road."

The YCTC has been informed that the building will be sold after May 1,

but they must be out by that date.

Paulson added that since the building has been for sale before, it was always a possibility that they would have to move out at some point.

"On a few occasions, we have reached out, or attempted to reach out, to property owners in the community that we felt might have empty or underutilized buildings that could fit our needs," Paulson said. "Unfortunately, we have not been able to find, or connect with, the right opportunity at the right time. Through connections on our current board, we do have a few possibilities to explore, but we certainly do not have anything definitive in the works at this time."

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Dr. Brooks & Vi Ranney

Yankton's 2012 Citizens of the Year

Join us for a Public Reception  
Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 1:30 - 4 p.m.  
Yankton Elks Lodge

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