



Mostly Cloudy, PM Freezing Rain

9 a.m.: **30** | 3 p.m.: **37** | DETAILS: PAGE 2



Area Wrestlers Battle
At Wagner Invitational • 7

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Freedom And Concern



Hundreds of gun enthusiasts check out the displays at the annual Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show at the Easton Archery Center in Yankton. The expanded facilities led to soaring attendance, but an organizer and participants say Second Amendment concerns also prompted the larger visitor numbers and strong sales.

Gun Show Puts Spotlight On 2nd Amendment

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Greg Adamson came dressed Saturday for the Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show at the Easton Archery Center in Yankton.

Adamson wore a T-shirt with the words "I'm A Constitution Defender" on the front. The back of the T-shirt featured a portrait of the U.S. Constitution signers in 1787, framed by the words "Love It Or Leave!"

"This T-shirt was made in Yankton, and I have a friend who bought it for me," he said.

The weekend gun show has become an annual tradition, drawing hundreds of exhibitors and visitors. But for Adamson and others, this year's show meant more than guns, ammunition and accessories.

Both exhibitors and visitors expressed concern about protecting the Second Amendment right to bear arms. They pointed to the push for stricter gun laws following last month's shootings at a Connecticut elementary school, claiming 26 lives.

"As far as the Second Amendment, people are scared that someone will take their guns," Adamson said. "One vendor started with nine guns today (at the Yankton show), and he's down to two guns."

The current gun debate threatens to trample on basic freedoms, Adamson said.

"The Second Amendment is a constitutional right, and it isn't just about hunting purposes," he said. "It's about protecting yourself, your property and your family."

Much of the anti-gun rhetoric comes from a general fear or misunderstanding about guns among large segments of the general public, Adamson said.

"We need to educate people (about guns), and they need to take the time to educate themselves," he said. "They are talking about banning assault rifles. But if you point any rifle at someone, it could be considered an assault rifle."

During a town hall meeting this month in Yankton, audience members told U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) they were concerned about President Obama signing executive orders that could curtail gun rights.

In addition, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has introduced a ban on the sale of assault weapons, and other legislation may be in the works in Congress.

Such activities worry gun advocates, Adamson said, but he thinks Congress remains too deadlocked

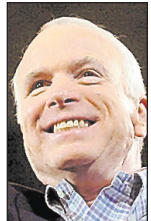
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Lawmakers: Immigration Deal Likely This Year

BY MICHELE SALCEDO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican and Democratic lawmakers were cautiously optimistic Sunday that a long-sought overhaul of the nation's immigration system that includes a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants currently in the country will clear Congress this year, the result of changes in the political landscape shown in November's election.

"We are trying to work our way through some very difficult issues," said Illinois' Sen. Richard Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate. "But, we are committed to a comprehensive approach to finally, in this country, have an immigration law we can live with. We have virtually been going maybe 25 years without a clear statement about immigration policy. That's unacceptable in this nation of immigrants."



McCain

Sen. Robert Menendez, who along with Durbin and Sen. John McCain, is part of the six-member, bipartisan Senate group working on a framework for immigration legislation to be announced this week, said current politics dictate that a pathway for citizenship must be included.

"Let's be very clear: having a pathway to earned legalization is an essential element. And I think that we are largely moving in that direction as an agreement," said Menendez, D-N.J.

But the package "will have the enhancement of the border security," he said, nodding to Republicans' priority to tighten borders to prevent future illegal immigration.

He also said the package would have to crack down on employers hiring undocumented workers.

Arizona Republican McCain has returned to the issue after having led a failed push to fix the nation's broken immigration system ahead of his 2008 bid for the White House.

McCain said: "What's changed is, honestly, is that there is a new, I think, appreciation on both sides of the aisle — including, maybe more importantly on the Republican side of the aisle, that we have to enact

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Bloomfield Native Passes Away On 110th Birthday

From P&D Staff Reports

NORFOLK, Neb. — A Bloomfield, Neb., native who was Nebraska's second oldest resident died Saturday, on her 110th birthday.

Eleanor Wrede Nielsen had lived in Bloomfield until she was 108. She lived on her own until she was 106, then moved into a Bloomfield facility the next two years. She had lived in a Norfolk, Neb., nursing home the final two years of her life.

A large birthday celebration, including a family dinner and open house, was scheduled for Saturday. The event was cancelled Friday, and Nielsen died the following day.

Nielsen was born Jan. 26, 1903, at West Point, Neb. She was featured last week in a Press & Dakotan story about her upcoming birthday and her life. She was considered a "supercentenarian" and was the oldest Nebraska resident behind an Albion, Neb., woman who marks her 112th birthday Feb. 1.

Funeral services for Nielsen are set for 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bloomfield. Visitation will be held Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until service time, at the church.

Her obituary can be found on page 3.



Nielsen

Corps' Raptor Program Takes Flight

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Over the weekend, the programs at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center were for the birds.

Actually, they were for the raptors.

The feathered visitors were featured during Bald Eagle Days. The free event is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service.

Laura Freeman of the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota showed a variety of birds — including the majestic bald eagle — during the weekend's eight presentations at the visitors center. Besides the bald eagle, she showed the red-tailed hawk, American Kestrel and great horned owl.

As for outdoor sightings, bird enthusiasts may think they are seeing more bald eagles this year. However, that's not really the case, a Corps official said Sunday.

"The eagle population down by the (Gavins Point) dam stays pretty steady each year," said Ranger Karla Zeutenhorst.

It's likely that more eagles are remaining in the Yankton area because of the differences between last winter



Laura Freeman of the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota shows a feathered friend — the bald eagle — during the annual Bald Eagle Days at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center.

and the current one, she said.

The winter of 2011-12 was milder, except for a cold snap around Christmas, while the winter of 2012-13 has seen more prolonged cold weather,

Zeutenhorst said.

"During the winter, if it's mild and there is a lot of open water, the eagle population isn't heavy by the dam," she said. "They spread out more, and

there is less competition (for food). There isn't a desire by them to sit by the dam. You won't have 15 to 20 at one location."

With this year's colder winter, the eagles are staying closer to the dam, she said. The fish population has remained steady and adequate for feeding the eagles, she said.

The Missouri River hasn't been hit as hard by drought as rivers, lakes and streams elsewhere, Freeman said. As a result, the Yankton area hasn't suffered any major fish deaths that would affect the eagles, she said.

The bald eagles are already starting to anticipate mating season, Freeman said.

"They will begin their courtship and stick carrying around the end of February. Then, they will really start (their activity)," she said.

The bald eagle was taken off the federal endangered species list in 2007, but some states could have the bald eagle on their lists, she said.

Freeman, along with Katie Burns, presented the weekend programs for the Raptor Center. The unit specializes in the medical care, rehabilitation, conservation and study of

BIRDS | PAGE 10

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