



Warmer With Strong Winds

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WEDNESDAY ■ January 29, 2014



Gazelle
Gymnasts
Host Final
Event Of
The Season
SPORTS/8

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**American
Profile**

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Yankton Church School Says 'No' To Common Core

BY DEREK BARTOS

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As numerous schools in South Dakota are figuring out how to implement the new Common Core standards, one local private school will be avoiding them altogether.



Forbes

The Missouri Valley Christian Academy (MVCA) in Yankton has chosen not to adopt the Common Core State Standards, the *Press & Dakotan* learned Tuesday. The decision was made last week by an MVCA association composed of school board members, parents and other interested community members. "We don't believe it was founded with sound education principles," said MVCA administrator Dana Forbes. "The processes we have looked at don't make sense the way they are presented and don't follow what we feel like are best practices."

South Dakota adopted the Common Core for math and language arts in 2010, and public schools are expected to fully implement the standards for the 2014-15 school year. However, nonpublic schools have the choice of whether they will integrate the initiative into their classrooms.

The MVCA believes that the Common Core takes away local control and opportunities to individualize instruction, and also "lowers the bar" for students, Forbes said.

"The idea is that it's just the minimum and you can go above and beyond that. But having been in education a lot of years, that tends to be what everybody teaches to," he said. "Instead of

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YAPG Works To Get Napa Going

City Offers Support For Grain Facility

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) president John Kramer said this week that Yankton County didn't get the interstate and it doesn't have commercial airline service — but it could have an intermodal facility.

"We just can't afford to screw this up," he told the Yankton City Commission Monday.

Kramer speculated that the rail spur being proposed by Dakota Plains Ag Center

has the potential to be the impetus of hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in Yankton County.

Dakota Plains is proposing an up to \$50 million shuttle loading grain facility on approximately 50 acres at Napa junction northwest of Yankton. It is currently asking the Yankton County Planning Commission to rezone the property from agricultural to commercial use and to grant a conditional-use permit to build a grain storage facility on the site.



Kramer said the loop of track that would be built by Dakota Plains could clear the way for other businesses looking to utilize rail transportation. For example, Menards had been looking to build a facility at the site, but the project ended up in North Dakota.

"A transload facility or an intermodal fa-

ABOVE: This photo, shot in December, shows the Napa railroad junction northwest of Yankton, near the site of a proposed grain terminal facility. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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State Of The Union

Obama: 2014 A 'Year Of Action'



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT

President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address Tuesday during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

President Vows To Flex Powers To Narrow Economic Disparities

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Seeking to energize his sluggish second term, President Barack Obama vowed Tuesday night in his State of the Union address to sidestep Congress "when- ever and wherever" necessary to narrow economic disparities between rich and poor. He unveiled an array of modest executive actions to increase the minimum wage for federal contract workers and make it easier for millions of low-income Americans to save for retirement.

"America does not stand still and neither do I," Obama declared in his prime-time address before a joint session of Congress and millions of Americans watching on television.

Draped in presidential grandeur, Obama's address served as the opening salvo in a midterm election fight for control of Congress that will quickly consume Washington's attention. Democrats, seeking to cast Republicans as uncaring about the middle class, have urged Obama to focus on economic mobility and the gap between the wealthy and poor. His emphasis on executive actions was greeted with shouts of "Do it!" from many members of his party.

Declaring 2104 a "year of action," Obama also sought to convince an increasingly skeptical public that he still wields power in Washington even if he can't crack through the divisions in Congress. Burned by a series of legislative failures in 2013, White House aides say they're now redefining success not by what Obama can jam through Congress but by what actions he can take on his own.

Indeed, Obama's proposals for action by lawmakers were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction over the past year. He pressed Congress to revive a stalled immigration overhaul, pass an across-the-board increase in the federal minimum wage and expand access to early childhood education — all ideas that gained little traction after he proposed them last year. The president's one new legislation proposal calls for expanding an income tax credit for workers without children.

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Farm Bill Set For Vote Aids SD

BY DIRK LAMMERS

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A massive, five-year farm bill set for a Wednesday floor vote in the U.S. House offers important safety nets for South Dakota farmers and ranchers, legislators and advocacy groups say.

The deal reached by congressional leaders on Monday would reopen avenues of federal support, allowing ranchers devastated by an October blizzard to apply for emergency relief and support. The storm impacted more than 600 farmers and ranchers, some of whom lost more than half their herds.

U.S. Rep Kristi Noem, R-S.D.,

said the livestock program would reimburse producers up to 75 percent of the fair market value. The bill raises the cap to \$125,000 for a single producer and \$250,000 for a married couple.

Doug Sombke, president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, said farmers and ranchers would be compensated for losses in 2012, 2013 and every year going forward.

"If Congress passes the farm bill, livestock producers will not have to worry if they have some form of protection for natural disasters," Sombke said.

Farm-state lawmakers have been working for more than two years to get a new five-year farm bill passed.

House passage in particular is far from assured. Conservatives in the House have bucked party leadership repeatedly on the bill, saying it does little curb government spending and does not make significant enough cuts to the food stamp program.

The bill would still heavily subsidize major crops, including corn, soybeans, wheat, rice and cotton. But it moves many of the subsidies into insurance programs and eliminates so-called direct payments, the \$4.5 billion-a-year subsidy currently paid to farmers whether they farm or not.

BILL | PAGE 2

Wind Farm Promises To Give Area A Lift



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Avon resident Ron Hornstra, president of B&H Wind LLC, explains the wind farm's operation and the role it can play in boosting South Dakota's wind production. Hornstra spoke as a guest at Tuesday's Southeast Research Farm annual meeting, held in Freeman.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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FREEMAN — A new wind farm in southeast South Dakota should help the state boost its wind energy production, according to the wind farm's leader.

Ron Hornstra, a rural Avon resident, serves as president of B&H Wind LLC. He spoke Tuesday at the Southeast Research Farm's annual meeting on the Freeman Academy campus.

Citing a national study, Hornstra noted South Dakota has been ranked as one of the five windiest states.

"South Dakota has tremendous wind potential," he said. "We have the potential for producing 882,412 megawatts of wind energy annually."

However, South Dakota lags behind other states in developing wind energy, Hornstra said. He pointed to the sight of numerous wind turbines visible across the border with Minnesota.

"If you drive toward Pipestone, Minn., along I-29, you don't need a sign to know the state line," he said.



Hutchinson County

What are the benefits of a developed wind farm?

Hornstra outlined the various taxes and landowner payments for a typical 2.5-megawatt turbine operating at 44 percent efficiency.

"If you assume that a wind turbine is operated for 20 years, that comes to \$611,275 in taxes and landowner payments for a wind turbine, or \$30,564 a year for one turbine," he said. "If you have 100 turbines, that comes to \$3 million in new dollars a year, and 10 to 12 well-salaried jobs a year."

One wind farm can exert a tremendous impact on the local economy and the tax base for counties, schools and other entities, Hornstra said.

"If we develop even 1 percent of South Dakota's potential, that would amount to

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Hairball Slated To Headline 2014 Ribfest In June

From P&D Staff Reports

Hairball, a popular 1980s tribute band, is headlining Yankton's 2014 Rockin' Ribfest in Memorial Park this June, it was announced Tuesday.

The popular act has played around the region, but has never played in Yankton, according to Ribfest organizer Ben Hanten.

"They are a blast, and they wanted to play in Yankton," he said.

Hairball will play from 8:30-10:30 p.m. with an encore wrapping up by 11 p.m. during the June 7 event.

According to the Hairball website, "Vocalists Rockstar Bob, Joe Dandy, and Kris Voxx lead the band through a two-hour, mind-blowing and drop-dead accurate homage to some of the biggest arena acts in the world. Van Halen, KISS, Motley Crue, Queen, Journey, Prince and Aerosmith are but a few of the acts fans will see brought to life."

Hanten said two stages will be set up during Ribfest — one for Hairball and another for the other local and regional acts that will be announced at a later date.