

'Christmas In July' Bazaar In Yankton July 28

Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton will host its 43rd annual "Christmas In July" church bazaar on Saturday, July 28, running from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "A Bit of Sparkle," featuring crafts, a bake sale, collectibles, and a raffle. In addition, there will be a "second time around" area with treasures from our attics. There will be a complimentary tea table for refreshments.

There will be three raffle items:

- A prime rib dinner for 8, delivered to one's home;
- A framed needle-punched verse;
- A silent auction for a Kay Jameson doll.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each. Drawings will be held at 3 p.m.

Corn

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Across the border, southeast South Dakota has seen some of the worst drought and potential yield loss in the Rushmore State, according to South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today.

"I have heard of people chopping corn for silage already (in southeast South Dakota). I have heard of as much as 50 percent yield loss in places," he said. "Clearly, corn is going to take a hit around Yankton. The corn is at its worst right now and really needs the moisture."

Beans are faring better in southeast South Dakota but also reaching the critical month of August. Today said. "If we get some rain in August, the soybeans can recover and do OK," he said.

But the rainfall hasn't been coming so far, Today said. Most areas south of Interstate 90 are in severe drought. About a half-dozen stations in the southeast showing record low precipitation since June 1.

"Currently, since June 1, you (in the southeast) are the driest on record at 1.02 inches. That is less than 25 percent of average over that time," he said. "You are also sixth warmest on record during that same time, being beat out by some other wonderful early summers of 1934, 2002, 1988, 1936 and 1933. If you were to go year to date, (this is the) warmest on record."

According to the state crop report released Monday, all of southeast South Dakota is 2.5-4.32 inches below normal for the past 30 days.

For the growing season, southern Yankton County and most of Charles Mix and Clay counties are at least 4 inches below normal. Douglas, western and southern Hutchinson, Bon Homme and northern Yankton counties are 3-4 inches below normal.

The following are precipitation readings for reporting stations in southeast South Dakota:

- Academy: 4.78 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 4.28 inches below normal since April 1;
- Centerville: 9.21 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 6.81 inches below normal since April 1;
- Pickstown: 8.37 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 6.21 inches below normal since April 1;
- Vermillion: 9.99 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 7.79 inches below normal since April 1;
- Yankton: 7.86 inches below normal since Oct. 1; 7.58 inches below normal since April 1.

Some cooler temperatures and isolated storms may be on the way this week, but nothing that will break the major ridge resting over the region, Today said.

"We may likely have to wait until fall before pattern changes occur in the atmosphere to give us some larger relief," he said. "There is nothing in the next week or two that is

going to see a big change to better conditions."

South Dakota Extension crop specialist Larry Wagner points to the southeast region as some of the hardest-hit areas of the state for drought. Areas that could see corn yields of 150 to 200 bushels an acre during great years may now see a total loss, he said.

"Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Charles Mix have it pretty tough," he said. "My guess is, as you get into those areas, you are seeing 50 percent loss at least. That would put some yields at possibly 50 bushels, and some spotty areas are below that, down to zero."

The soybeans are hanging tough but likewise are seeing a critical time for moisture, Wagner said.

"The dry times started last October, and we had a winter with little moisture," he said. "We are looking worse than normal, but farmers will find ways to cut back. They'll make it through."

Nebraska state climatologist Al Dutcher sees the next two to three days as a deal breaker for corn, which is losing an average of 1 to 2 percent yield per day.

"We have gone for better than 30 days without precipitation, and we have gone 5 to 15 days of above 100 degree weather during pollination. Nobody could escape damage (under those conditions)," he said. "I wouldn't be shocked if the yields in these areas come in at least 50 percent below normal."

Some areas are beyond help, particularly for corn, Dutcher said. He pointed to a dry spell dating back 13 months and statewide temperatures running above average 14 of the last 15 months, some of the worst in 10 to 20 years. Areas of the state were running 12 to 15 degrees above average last winter and are 8 degrees above average this summer.

"Based on the water usage by the crops, you would need 2-plus inches a week if you are looking at 100 to 105 degrees with winds," he said. "Hopefully, we will see a change. Right now, even if rain comes, we have endured a lot of significant damage. At this point, all we hope to do is limit the damage in some areas."

Dutcher said any loss figures are estimates at this point, and he should know more when crop assessments come out.

"I have a sneaking suspicion that a lot of producers have yet to step into their fields and understand the full extent of the damage," he said. "They won't know until they step into the middle of their fields the damage being done."

Despite such a dire situation, Wynot farmer Foxhoven reflects the optimism that's needed to survive in agriculture.

"We will do what we can possibly do to get through this year," he said. "Hopefully, next year, it will be back to normal."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

City

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It was discussed that having an objective third party come in to look at the number of kids in the various programs and what the needs are would be beneficial, she stated.

"My understanding is, if we go forward to get proposals, we'll have (the cost) and we decide whether or not we want to spend the money in the future," Commissioner David Carda said he liked the idea of looking at a consultant as a first step.

"There could be many steps after it," he said. "We're at least getting the information in front of us and getting an outside firm do a lot of the research. Then we can make a good decision."

If the community decides to proceed with a sports complex, Interim City Manager Al Viereck said a property-tax opt-out would likely be the only way to fund it.

"But there is no decision yet on funding," he stated. "All we're looking for is whether or not to bring in a consultant to start the process."

When the public was offered the opportunity to weigh in on the issue, Yankton resident Don Lowrie expressed dismay that the commission was even considering the use of a consultant. He cited what he saw as the city's negative experience with consultants during the proposed expansion of the Memorial Park pool as an example of what can go wrong.

"At this time, I don't think spending any amount on any consultant is going to solve anything," said Lowrie, who is also Commissioner Paul Lowrie's father. "Most of our consultants are going to come up with something that has all sorts of bells and whistles in it, because they know that if they can convince you to go ahead with them, somehow or another they're going to benefit from it. They do have skin in the game."

"Yankton is jealous of Watertown. They're jealous of Aberdeen. You name it," he continued. "They have events centers. There are people in Yankton, I don't care what you say, who aren't going to be happy until they have forced me as a taxpayer to fund their playground. I don't like it, and there's a lot of other taxpayers who don't like it. If you're thinking of opting out to push this thing through, you better have another thing coming, because all of us are still around from the Memorial Park deal."

On the issue of finding a new home for the Yankton Youth Soccer Association's (YYSA) fields, Lowrie suggested they be put on land along the Missouri River.

One element fueling the possible need for a sports complex is that the YYSA fields on Human Services Center property could be displaced. The City of Yankton purchased the property earlier this year and plans to develop it into commercial space.

Deb Lillie of the YYSA had a simple request on behalf of her organization.

"Whether or not hiring a consultant is the way to go, we just need it to keep moving forward," she said.

The YYSA is currently struggling with its fields on Human Services Center property because a well pump went out and left the complex without irrigation for 3 1/2

weeks. The issue cost \$8,700 to fix. Now, the organization is looking at spending \$1,200-\$1,400 to repair a leak in the system.

The grass on the fields has suffered, and Lillie said YYSA is struggling to get it ready for a home soccer game Aug. 18.

Knoff made a motion to approve the request for proposals, and Carda seconded the motion.

The commission approved it with a 4-3 vote. Commissioners Pauline Akland, Jake Hoffner and Brad Woerner dissented.

Commissioners Lowrie and Craig Sommer were absent from the meeting.

Also Monday, Viereck noted that the city continues to see record water demand.

"Last week, we reached as high as seven million gallons per day," he said. "So far, the temporary intakes are working well, although it takes a lot of man hours to blend it in with the well water."

In response, staff is beginning to look at ordinance changes that would give the city the ability to control water consumption at a moment's notice. Viereck said those changes could not be implemented in time for this year's conditions, but would be available in future years.

Monday mornings have taxed the water system the most because industry is gearing up, in addition to all the lawn watering.

"We've been starting as early as 4 o'clock in the morning (at the water plant) on Mondays because of the increased demand of everybody trying to get caught up on watering," Viereck said.

"What we thought would probably happen looks like it has," he added. "Our water bills made it into residents' hands on Friday, and we didn't have to start the plant until 7:30 this morning."

Viereck said he believes people are giving up on watering their lawns because of the expense.

"I understand the reaction of the citizens," he stated. "I'm one of them that had a bill that was almost double last month's bill, and that was to keep my back yard only alive."

"We encourage you to try to keep (your grass) in a dormant stage," Viereck continued. "That means you can water it less. You can kill grass if you let it go into a dormant stage too long."

In other business Monday, the commission:

- was told that the top and bottom trails on the north end of the Meridian Bridge are now open. Work remains to be done on the irrigation system in the area;
- was told that Yankton's sales tax figures were up 14.33 percent in June compared to June 2011. For the year, the city is up 11.37 percent — the highest among first-class cities in the state. However, Viereck said staff will keep in mind the potential negative effect of the drought on the local economy as it prepares the proposed 2013 budget;
- approved the purchase of play equipment from Cunningham Recreation/Game Time for Sertoma Park;
- approved a special events parking request for Historic Downtown Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest; and
- approved a letter of support for Ability Building Services as it attempts to get funding for a new six-unit residence at 2001 Locust Street.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

MOTORCYCLE MISHAP



PHOTO: YANKTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The driver of a motorcycle sustained non-life-threatening injuries when the bike slid underneath a hay truck in the 1900 block of West City Limits Road in Yankton at 9:50 a.m. Monday. According to the fire department, the hay truck was northbound when it entered the turning lane to go left. However, the truck then turned right, and the motorcycle slid underneath the truck. The driver of the cycle sustained minor injuries when his foot became entangled in some chains on the truck.

OBITUARIES

Larry Caskey

Funeral services for Larry D. Caskey, age 67 of Creighton, Nebraska, will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 24, 2012, at the United Methodist Church in Creighton. Reverend Bev Lanzendorf will officiate, with burial in the Greenwood Cemetery at Creighton.



Caskey

Visitation will be Monday, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Brockhaus Funeral Home in Creighton.

Larry died Friday, July 20, 2012, at Avera Creighton Care Centre in Creighton.

Larry Dean Caskey, son of Ora and Mary (Porter) Caskey, was born September 9, 1944 at O'Neill, Nebraska, and shared his birthday with his twin brother, Gary. Larry attended Orchard Public School and graduated with the class of 1962. In 1971, he began his career as a Driver's License Examiner with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. On June 26, 1971, he married Norma Hainerich of Verdigré. Larry and Norma were married for 41 years. In 1972, their daughter, Nancy Jean, was born. Their second daughter, Lisa Kay, was born in 1976.

In 2001, Larry retired after 30 years of service to the Department of Motor Vehicles. During his retirement, he enjoyed working in his shop, yard work, and helping his wife Norma with various jobs. Larry had an interest in

John Deere tractors, and his Ford tractor. He also enjoyed watching airplanes and he took his first solo flight in 1979 in a Cessna 172. Larry truly enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and he especially liked playing ball and giving the kids a ride on his riding lawnmower. Larry passed away at Avera Creighton Care Centre on July 20, 2012, following a two-year battle with cancer.

Larry is survived by his wife, Norma Caskey of Creighton, Nebraska; daughters and sons-in-law, Nancy and Don Ofé of Neligh, Nebraska, and Lisa and Ron Wagner of Creighton, Nebraska; grandchildren, Blake and Ben Ofé of Neligh, Nebraska, and Darrah and Drey Wagner of Creighton, Nebraska; brothers, Gary and Vicki Caskey of Orchard, Nebraska, and Lee Caskey of Lincoln, Nebraska; as well as many relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ora and Mary Caskey; sisters-in-law, Betty Caskey and Juanita Caskey; and parents-in-law, Leonard and Betty Hainerich.

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July 24, 2012

Gary Hochstein

FORDYCE, Neb. — Gary Hochstein, 68, Fordyce, Neb., died Monday, July 23, 2012, at Sister James Nursing Home, Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington, Neb.

Acres

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rain does not fall soon. Some ranchers in the western part of the state are selling off cattle because they don't have enough feed, he said.

"(Auction) markets are way higher than they have normally been," he said. "Normally there are 200 to 400-head sales, now they're in the 2,000 range. Guys don't have the feed."

The situation is similar in southwestern North Dakota. Stockmen's Livestock Exchange in Dickinson is seeing more cattle than normal, manager Larry Schnell said.

"I would say it's probably 50 per-

cent higher than in a normal year, and I think we'll see that increase," he said.

The worsening conditions in North Dakota come just a few weeks after Wyoming Department of Agriculture Director Jason Fearneyhough contacted Goehring about the possibility of drought-stricken Wyoming ranchers moving cattle to North Dakota pastures. In late June, Goehring said he felt "blessed" that North Dakota was not mired in severe drought like so many other states.

Goehring said Monday that while conditions have worsened since then and the request from Wyoming is now "probably a pretty moot point," he still feels North Dakota is "some-what of a garden spot when it comes to the rest of the nation."

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Source: Treatment Research Institute & The Partnership at Drugfree.org. "6 Parenting Practices: Help Reduce the Chances Your Child will Develop a Drug or Alcohol Problem"

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The choices we make

There are any number of ways to create a fitting farewell to a loved one lost. We can help you decide what is right for your family. Talk to us about selecting the appropriate options to help you through this difficult time. And be sure you'll always be treated with sensitivity, compassion and respect.

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