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Rain Limits Some Planting Of Crops In South Dakota

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Rain limited the ability for farmers in some areas of South Dakota to plant crops last week.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop report that producers had on average only 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

Winter wheat was jointed at 76 percent and headed at 39 percent. This is behind last year's pace of 99 percent and the average of 73 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated 34 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 15 percent good and 0 percent excellent.

Ninety-five percent of cattle were reported as moved to pasture compared to 90 percent the week before.

Pasture and range conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good and 10 percent excellent.

Storm Cleanup Continues

Despite Power Outages, Electrical Service Fared Well, Officials Say

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Saturday morning's storm created power outages and some damage, but area electric utilities report they don't face any long-term problems.

The storm pummeled the region with 60 mile-per-hour (mph) winds, torrential rain of up to 2 inches in a few minutes, and mostly pea-sized hail.

About 5,000 NorthWestern Energy customers in southeast South Dakota experienced outages between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturday, said NorthWestern spokesman Tom Glanzer.

"In Yankton, we had 2,884 customers who were off for 34 minutes," he said. "Due to the high winds, we had a lot of tree branches that affected service to homes."

Most of the lines that went down provided overhead service to homes and were considered secondary lines, Glanzer said. One pole broke off that affected a line in downtown Yankton, and that will be replaced later this week, he said.

NorthWestern also reported outages in an area that included Wagner, Dante, Avon, Tyndall, Springfield, Kingsburg and Running Water.

"Most people experienced about an hour outage (in the affected region), but the Springfield-Kingsburg-Running Water area was out for a couple of hours," Glanzer said.

NorthWestern didn't experience any major problems, he said. "We are working now on picking up the small pieces of what happened from that storm," he added.

Around the region, rural-electric co-operatives faced mostly smaller power outages that

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Royalty To Reign At Tabor's Czech Days

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TABOR — Prince William and Kate Middleton aren't expected to attend, but you'll still find plenty of royalty during this year's Czech Days celebration.

The annual event unofficially kicks off Thursday evening with a craft fair, baseball game and fireworks. Friday's schedule includes the 1 p.m. giant parade, and the ethnic celebration continues through Saturday night.

During the course of the weekend, the Bon Homme County community's 417 residents will welcome an estimated 10,000 visitors.

In recognition of the event's 65th anniversary, all former Czech Days queens are invited to return as special guests, said publicity chairman Dennis Povondra.

"We didn't have queens from the beginning of Czech Days. We started with (royalty) in the 1950s," he said. "We have invited all of the former queens to ride in the parade, and we'll then introduce them on stage in the (Sokol) park."

The special invitation to former royalty has drawn strong interest, Povondra said. All but two Czech Days queens are still living, which could mean a large turnout of royals.

"The last I heard, the number of returning queens was in the 30s," he said. "For the Friday afternoon parade, we have three businesses who are sponsoring floats to haul the queens. They are looking at doing it by decades."

The 2012 Czech Days Queen, Raquel Sutura, will ride in the parade, as will Princess McKensie Sedlacek and Prince Bryce Dangler. The 2013 queen candidates, Mariah Kostal and Kelsey Sutura, will also take their place in the procession.

But the royalty isn't limited to the Tabor delegation, Povondra said.

"We have at least seven visiting queens from other Czech heritage celebrations," he said. "The parade chairman talked to me (Monday) morning, and we've got one (queen) from Kansas and two or three from Nebraska."

And that's not counting the queens representing area communities and celebrations, Povondra said.

This year's Czech Days Queen competition has drawn only two contestants, but that doesn't mean area girls are losing interest, Povondra said.

"It runs in streaks. Some years, there are five or six candidates," he said. "For the competition, we have categories like talent, costume and interviews. The queen is crowned Saturday night."

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IMPACT AT DOUGLAS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

One person was injured in a two-vehicle accident that occurred at the intersection of 19th St. and Douglas Ave. in Yankton at 12:16 p.m. Monday. According to police reports, an elderly female driver was transported by Yankton EMS after colliding with the second vehicle. She was cited for operating a left-turning vehicle and not yielding to oncoming traffic. Two people were in the other car but there was no report of injuries.

City Looks At Highway 50's Future

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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While budgeting for capital improvement projects in 2014 and beyond, the Yankton City Commission spent a lot of time Monday night debating the best way to beautify the East Highway 50 corridor.

With Highway 50 scheduled for reconstruction from Broadway Avenue to Archery Lane in 2015 and 2016, city officials ideally wants to obtain 30 feet of right of way on the south side of Highway 50 east of Marne Creek for utilities. The highway is the main utility corridor on that side of town, they say.

But the City Commission also sees it as an opportunity to address a

long-standing desire by many in the community to clean up the south side of the highway. Rundown buildings and cluttered property have caused many to see it as an eyesore and unbecoming of a major entrance into the city.

Despite an overwhelming desire by the commission to seize the opportunity presented by the highway reconstruction, its members wrestled with the reality that the city has limited funds to acquire property. If any significant effort is to be made along Highway 50, the discussion Monday was that a major road project may



Nelson

have to be delayed.

Some commissioners said they would be happy just to get a berm built along the highway similar to what has been done along the north side. However, others argued that it would make more sense to try to obtain properties and get rid of the eyesores rather than try to hide them behind landscaping.

"Let's figure out a way to clean it up," Mayor Nancy Wenande stated as a commissioner who fell into the latter camp.

If the city doesn't want to purchase the property outright, she questioned whether an incentive pro-

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President May Veto House Farm Bill

White House Objects To Cuts In Food Stamp Program

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is threatening to veto the House version of a massive, five-year farm bill, saying food stamp cuts included in the legislation could leave some Americans hungry.

The House is preparing to consider the bill this week. The legislation would cut \$2 billion annually, or around 3 percent, from food stamps and make it harder for some people to qualify for the program. Food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, cost almost \$80 billion last year, twice the amount it cost five years ago.

The Senate passed its version of the farm bill last week with only a fifth of the amount of those cuts, or about \$400 million a year, with the support of the administration.

The White House said in its statement Monday that food stamps are "a cornerstone of our nation's food assistance safety net." The administration argued that the House should make deeper cuts to farm subsidies like crop insurance instead.

The bill, which costs nearly \$100 billion a year, would save a total of about \$4 billion annually, including the food stamp cuts. It would eliminate some subsidies while creating others, raising subsidy levels for several crops. It would expand the current crop insurance program and also create a new type of crop insurance that would kick in sooner than the paid insurance farmers have now.

Farm-state lawmakers are aggressively lobbying their colleagues to gain enough support for the bill, which is expected to lose votes from liberal Democrats

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Heartland Humane Society Eyes Expansion



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dawna Ofstehage, a volunteer at Yankton's Heartland Humane Society (HHS), holds one of the cats recently housed at the facility. HHS is looking to expand its facilities to contend with the growing number of animals on hand.

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Last year, Heartland Humane Society (HHS) took in 256 surrendered animals from Yankton and the surrounding area.

It wasn't enough, according to HHS officials.

"There's still a lot more we could be doing," said Kerry Schmidt, the organization's executive director. "Right now we're just limited because of our size."

Interested in expanding its operations, HHS had Animal Shelter Fundraising of Surprise, Ariz., conduct a building planning study in April to assess the percentage of animal population being served and what facilities would be necessary to operate at the national average. The study showed that the animals brought in by HHS represent only 1 percent of the animals throughout the area, compared to the 4 to 6 percent an average shelter sees.

"The big problem we have right now is that we don't have a space to house dogs at all, so we have to rely on foster care. ... We really need a spot where we can bring in dogs and keep them safe and make sure they are vaccinated before they are adopted."

SHEILA WOODWARD

"If we saw (the national average), our number would jump to between 700 and 900 animals a year," Schmidt said. "It's a lot — my eyes got really big when I first heard that number. But it would be very possible if we had a fully functioning, open-admission shelter."

The current shelter, located on Burleigh St., services Yankton, Clay and Cedar (Neb.) counties, but has a limited admissions policy, she said.

"What that means is you have to set an appointment to surrender an animal to us, and we only allow those animals

that we can fit, either in our foster program or here at the shelter," she said. "So we can end up with waiting lists that have 40-plus cats or 30-plus dogs on it, and by the time we can get to each of those animals, they've usually found another outlet — good or bad."

The waiting lists are caused by the shelter's limited space, as the facility can only hold approximately 30 cats. HHS also services an average of 14 dogs

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