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**Cedar County**

## Storm Damage Costly

Destruction Could Be In Millions Of Dollars

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — The figures are still being tallied, but Cedar County officials believe the losses from this month's weather disasters could run into the millions of dollars.

Cedar County emergency manager Kevin Garvin noted one party alone has claimed more than \$1 million in damages. "We have a farmer who figures his losses at \$1.5 million," the emergency manager said. "That includes his farm equipment — his tractor and combines — and his grain bins. And his house was heavily damaged."

According to Garvin, 66 homes suffered some sort of minor to major damage, with five homes declared uninhabitable.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) says 150 farms have been affected, Garvin added. The report lists 110 farm dwellings and service buildings that were damaged and another 20 that were destroyed for total losses of \$20.5 million. In



PHOTO: MMC  
Several volunteers from Mount Marty College this week helped residents in the Laurel, Nebraska, area clean up from tornadoes that hit the area earlier this month.

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The Start Of WWI:  
100 Years Later

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## US Senate Hopefuls Split On Minimum Wage Proposal

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — South Dakota is joining cities and states in the national conversation over raising the minimum wage, and the four candidates for the open U.S. Senate seat are split on the issue. A state ballot initiative set to go before voters Nov. 4 would raise the wage from the federal \$7.25 per hour to \$8.50 an hour on Jan. 1 and tie future increases to the cost of living. The proposal has set up a dividing line between supporters who believe it will help struggling families and opponents who say it will do little good and could lead to more unemployment.

Independent candidate Gordon Howie, a former Republican state lawmaker from Rapid City, said there is a growing economic disparity but the real problem is the shrinking value of the dollar. "As long as we are putting a Band-Aid on it by just increasing the minimum wage, we really aren't accomplishing anything..." Howie said. "The problem is that the Federal Reserve continues to create millions of more dollars every day. That devalues money in the pockets of the middle and lower classes economically."

Former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds, Democrat Rick Weiland and independent candidates Howie and former U.S. Sen. Larry

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## A Political Spirit



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
R.T. Rybak, former mayor of Minneapolis and vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), was the featured speaker at Friday's South Dakota State Democratic Convention banquet, held at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton.

## Democrats Rally In Yankton

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Candidates acknowledged time and again at the South Dakota Democratic State Convention Friday night that it's not easy to be a Democrat in a Republican state — but added that wouldn't stop them from winning elections in November.

The legacy of the late Sen. George McGovern loomed large over the proceedings at the Kelly Inn in Yankton, and was cited as an inspiration in multiple speeches.

"There was something about George McGovern," said featured speaker R.T. Rybak, the for-

**also**

See Video Highlights From The S.D. State Democratic Convention.

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mer mayor of Minneapolis and a vice chair for the Democratic National Committee. "As I looked in his eyes at a period of time as a kid where I was trying to decide between cynicism and hope — and really trying to decide what was it the country was made of and what I believed in — there was no question in my mind he was a person I could believe in. I

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## No Relay Delay



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Light, intermittent rain showers didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the opening ceremonies of the 2014 Yankton County Relay for Life, which kicked off Friday night at Riverside Park. Opening festivities included the Survivor's Walk, in which cancer survivors made a triumphant tour around the park. The Relay or Life event was expected to run through 6 a.m. today (Saturday). To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

## SD Tribes Seek Fed Money For Foster Care Services

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Five more American Indian tribes in South Dakota are seeking federal money to help operate their own foster care programs.

The Rosebud Sioux last year became one of the first tribes in the nation to receive a \$300,000 planning grant. The Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Yankton, Oglala and Crow Creek Sioux tribes this week also submitted applications for grants, the Argus Leader newspaper reported. The Standing Rock reservation is half in South Dakota and half in North Dakota.

If approved, the tribes would have two years to build up their capacity to operate their own programs — everything from licensing foster homes to the mandatory collecting and submitting of case information to the federal government. Once that infrastructure is in place, the tribes then could apply to directly access federal money for foster care services rather than having the money routed through the state government. Congress in 1978 passed the

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