



Partly Cloudy, Late Flurries Possible

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Researcher: Farmers Must Be Wary Of Skin Cancer

By The Associated Press

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — A North Dakota researcher is trying to convince farmers and ranchers to take cover from the sun.

Kathryn Stensgard recently completed a skin cancer study as a doctor of nursing practice student at North Dakota State University. She hopes the research will reach rural residents and persuade them to use sunscreen and other forms of sun protection.

Farmers and ranchers have skin cancer rates statistically higher than the average population, Stensgard said.

"These people spend so much time outdoors, and there's no way around that," she said.

Stensgard told the *Grand Forks Herald* she began her research last year at a soil conservation conference in western North Dakota. She surveyed the sun protection practices of 104 people attending the meeting, most of whom were involved in farming and ranching.

Of the surveyed group, 36 percent said they don't use sunscreen at all, and 50 percent said they rarely or never include it as part of their daily routine. People in the 25 to 40 age group reported the most frequent sunscreen use, while people ages 61 to 80 were least likely to use it, according to the survey.

Stensgard, who grew up on a farm south of Mandan, said she has also seen the disease firsthand. She said five relatives on her father's side of the family, including her father, have dealt with skin cancer.

She said other people in her community have suffered from the illness.

Stensgard said she's hoping her research will be published, but in the meantime she wants rural residents to start talking about skin cancer prevention. She said there was an average of 162 cases of melanoma — a serious form of skin cancer — in North Dakota from 2005 to 2009.

"I want the knowledge of skin cancer and healthy sun protection behaviors to increase for farmers and ranchers across the state of North Dakota, and any outdoor workers for that matter," Stensgard said. "That's the primary goal."

TWO STATE CROWNS? WYNOT!



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot senior Nathan Wieseler waves the freshly-cut net over his head after the Blue Devils captured the Class D-2 boys' basketball championship Saturday in Lincoln, outlasting Spalding/Spalding Academy 57-56 in double overtime. The victory wrapped up a triumphant March for Wynot fans, as the girls' team last week also won the D-2 state crown. Saturday's win was the first boys' basketball title for Wynot. For details on Saturday's game, see page 7. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Yankton Native Helps Author Wind Study

Research Concludes SD Needs Stricter Renewable Energy Standards To Spur Wind Tower Developments

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A new study co-authored by a Yankton native concludes that if South Dakota wants more wind energy development, it should put stricter requirements on renewable energy production.

"Catching the Wind: A Legal and Economic Comparison Between South Dakota's Renewable, Recycled and Conserved Energy Objective and a Renewable Portfolio Standard" by Ryan Cwach and Alex Baldwin was published in the latest South Dakota Law Review.

Cwach grew up on a farm just north of Yankton and developed an interest in renewable energy as a debater in high school. He currently practices law in Sioux Falls.

Cwach was working on a report for a client

about Iowa's wind energy economy when he and Baldwin, who has a master's degree in economics and is now at Harvard Law School, decided to analyze South Dakota's system.

They determined that South Dakota lacks the standards needed to spur wind energy development.

In 2008, the Legislature enacted a Renewable, Recycled and Conserved Energy Objective (RRCEO), which establishes a goal for electricity providers in the state to dedicate 10 percent of their retail electricity sales to renewable or recycled energy by 2015. It was amended in 2009 to allow conserved energy to count toward the objective.

Among the energy sources that qualify are wind, solar, hydroelectric, hydrogen, biomass and geothermal.

The problem with the RRCEO, according to

Cwach, is that it is voluntary.

"There is nothing requiring people to do that, and as a result, we haven't seen the development," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "What I think a lot of utility companies have been doing is purchasing renewable energy credits on the open market, or they're just saving any renewable energy credits that they generate for each year."

Cwach and Baldwin focused on the RRCEO's impact on wind energy. According to the model they developed, states with an RRCEO are statistically indistinguishable from states that have no wind production policies.

Instead of developing wind energy resources, South Dakota utilities are adding natural gas capacity, according to Cwach.

A Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) would set goals that must be met to avoid penalties. Twenty-nine states have adopted an RPS.

STUDY | PAGE 2

Lawmakers: D.C. Logjam May Break

GOP: Obama's Courtship Welcomed

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers said Sunday they welcome President Barack Obama's courtship and suggested the fresh engagement between the White House and Congress might help yield solutions to the stubborn budget battle that puts Americans' jobs at risk.

Yet the lawmakers cautioned that years of hurt feelings were unlikely to heal simply because Obama dined last week with Republican lawmakers. They also said they would not rush too quickly into Obama's embrace during three scheduled, and unusual, visits to Capitol Hill next week to win them over.

"He is moving in the right direction. I'm proud of him for doing it. I think it's a great thing," Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said. "I'm welcoming (him) with open arms. I think the president is tremendously sincere. I don't think this is just a political change in tactic. I think he would actually like to solve the problems of this country."

The White House charm offensive comes as automatic spending cuts have begun to take hold, and if



Coburn

Washington does not block them, they could cut jobs as varied as air traffic controllers, meat inspectors and Head Start teachers.

"I hope that this is sincere," said Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget

Committee, who lunched with Obama at the White House last week. "We had a very good, frank exchange. But the proof will be in the coming weeks as to whether or not it's a real, sincere outreach to find common ground."

His close friend, Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said lawmakers were unlikely to become fast friends with Obama after four years of being vilified in private and, in some cases, public. "I hope that he's genuine. But I don't think we're going to be doing the Harlem Shake any time soon together," Gardner said.

And Tea Party favorite Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin — who has proved a fiery foil to Obama's agenda — said he heard from White House chief of staff Denis McDon-

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Greenhouse Project Shelved

Developer Says Lawsuit Fears Put End To Plans

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The developer of a greenhouse and fish production facility on property along Highway 52 has announced that the project is being shelved.

Randy Golden, president of RC Investments Co., LLC, told the Yankton County Commission recently about his decision to halt what was to be known as Heartland Harvest Farms.

"I wanted to be the first to let you know, instead of going through some rumor-mongering," he stated. "The reason I've decided to pull the plug on (the greenhouse) was to avoid a lawsuit I would certainly get into and that Yankton County would have gotten drug into."

In January, Golden said he became concerned about the potential glare the glass greenhouse would cause for homes in the area. The development would have been on

the southwest corner of the Highway 52 and Timberland Drive intersection.

He did an experiment where he replicated the glare that would be caused and watched it from the nearby ridge above the property.

"We've all pulled up behind a car before when the sun hits the glass just right and it blinds you. Well, I had an epiphany moment back in January," Golden said. "We know how sensitive people are just by having a flashing sign out on (Highway 52) or having lights turned up at just the right angle. Can you imagine what that whole 600- by 450-foot solid glass building would look like?"

Golden became convinced that he, and possibly the county, could have faced a lawsuit from area residents if the project were to move forward.

"They wanted \$1.2 million to replace the glass section with polycarbonate, which still

RIPRAP ROCKS!



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Spring is in the offing (despite Sunday's cold temperature), but winter has not stopped the work being undertaken to reinforce the riverbank below Gavins Point Dam west of Yankton. Work continues on the bank restoration project, with tons of riprap being placed along the shoreline. The project was made necessary by the damage caused by the flood of 2011. U.S. Army Corps of Engineer officials have said they plan to boost releases from the dam briefly this week to test the spillway.

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