



SPORTS



USD Women Roll
Into WBI Semis • 7

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Public Meeting To Discuss Fire Season

BY DEREK BARTOS
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With the prediction of continued drought and the threat of wildfires this summer for the Yankton area, state and area public safety officials will be holding a public meeting Tuesday on the summer fire season.

The community briefing will take place at 7 p.m. at Yankton Fire Station No. 2 at 201 West 23rd St.

"The main focus of the meeting is to provide the public with information on how they can protect their property should there be a wildfire, and the type of things they would need to do should they be threatened with the wildfire," said Yankton Fire Chief Tom Kurtenbach. "We're expecting a dry summer, and the dry hot winds can push fire quickly. We've seen from the fires they've had out west and in Nebraska last year that people can be in harm's way pretty quickly."

This is the first time a meeting like this has been held in the Yankton area, Kurtenbach said. While such briefings are often held later in the year, officials wanted to make sure it was done early enough so community members could benefit from it.

"We thought we'd be proactive this year to get the information out so when people go out to do their spring cleanup around their homes and property, they can use

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'THE KING OF GLORY'



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

A Mount Marty College student, armed with incense, leads worshipers from the Roncalli Center to the Peace Chapel at nearby Bishop Marty Chapel as part of the school's Palm Sunday observance. The procession gathered at The Raven in the Roncalli Center before heading to the chapel for a 4 p.m. Mass. The worshipers, who carried palm leaves, sang "The King of Glory" as they made their way across the campus on a chilly Sunday afternoon with snowflakes flying in a stiff northwest breeze.

Nebraska

Drought Contributes To Climate Change Debate

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A harsh summer drought that threatened Nebraska farms and ranches has prompted lawmakers to take a fresh look at climate change, an issue that has gotten little traction in the Legislature.

A bill that would launch a state review of climate change and its possible impact on life in Nebraska advanced out of a committee last week and is on pace to be debated this year.

Sen. Ken Haar's proposal would direct the state's climate-assessment commission to

draft a report for lawmakers and the governor. Haar, a well-known environmental advocate in the Legislature, has chosen the measure as his "priority bill" for the session, which increases the odds that lawmakers will debate it.

"We've never really had the discussion in the Legislature, and I don't know how it's going to turn out," said Haar, of Malcolm. "What we want to ask is, 'What does science say?' We have to make our own choices in this state, but climate change will likely have an impact on the temperature in Nebraska and the water that we get from the Rockies."

Scientists overwhelmingly agree that global climate change is under way and will likely accelerate, and that human activity is a significant contributor. Temperatures in the central United States are expected to rise by 4 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century.

For Nebraska, the higher temperatures likely will translate into a more arid climate with heavier but less frequent rainfall, said Clinton Rowe, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor and climatologist expert.

"That's not really what agriculture wants," Rowe said. "They want a nice, gentle, steady

rain. Farmers, water resource managers, and people like that — they're the ones who are going to feel the impacts."

Under Haar's proposal, the state climate committee would look at the effect of climate change on Nebraska. Committee members would draft a report on the state's climate patterns, as well as the possible impacts on agriculture, water, wildlife, ecosystems, forests and outdoor recreation.

The committee would release an initial report in September 2014 and present a final re-

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'A Very Spirited Discussion'

Sec. Of State Kerry Warns Iraq On Iran Flights To Syria

BY MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Just days after the 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry confronted Baghdad for continuing to grant Iran access to its airspace and said Iraq's behavior was raising questions about its reliability as a partner.

Speaking to reporters during a previously unannounced trip to Baghdad, Kerry said that he and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had engaged in "a very spirited discussion" on the Iranian flights, which U.S. officials believe are ferrying weapons and fighters intended for the embattled Syrian government.

Kerry said the plane shipments — along with material being trucked across Iraqi territory from Iran to Syria — were helping President Bashar Assad's regime cling to power by increasing their ability to



Kerry

strike at Syrian rebels and opposition figures demanding Assad's ouster.

"I made it very clear that for those of us who are engaged in an effort to see President Assad step down and to see a democratic process take hold ... anything that supports President Assad is problematic," Kerry said at a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad after meeting separately with Maliki at his office. "And I made it very clear to the Prime Minister that the overflights from Iran are, in fact, helping to sustain President Assad and his regime."

The overflights in Iraq have long been a source of contention between the U.S. and Iraq. Iraq and Iran claim the flights are carrying humanitarian goods, but American officials say they are confident that the planes are being used to arm the support the Assad regime. The administration is warning Iraq that unless action is taken, Iraq will be excluded from the international discussion about Syria's political future.

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LOW BRIDGE



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot's Ethan Hochstein, left, and Zach Burcham, right, go up as Gayville-Volin's Jacob Hirsch prepares to shoot during their sixth grade boys' game on Saturday at Yankton Middle School. The action took place during the Roger Haas Memorial Basketball Tournament. For tournament scores, see page 8.

Official Says Neb. Oil Boom Remains Unlikely

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — An oil boom remains unlikely in Nebraska despite the success of modern drilling techniques in Colorado and Wyoming.

Oil producers in Colorado extracted 48 million barrels of oil last year mostly from wells close to Nebraska. Wyoming produced 58 million barrels of oil.

But the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's director Bill Sydow tells the *Lincoln Journal Star* that the geology of western Nebraska makes an oil boom unlikely.

Sydow says the amount of conductivity in underground formations is considerably lower in Nebraska than in Wyoming and Colorado. Conductivity is an indicator of oil and natural gas deposits.

But there is still oil exploration in Nebraska. Last year, Nebraska wells produced about 2.5 million barrels of oil, up about 10,000 barrels over 2011.



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