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J.B. FORBES/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT An aerial view of the extensive tornado damage to the city of Joplin, Missouri, is seen on Tuesday morning.

Crews Race To Find Joplin Survivors

BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER, NOMAAN MERCHANT AND JIM SALTER Associated Press

JOPLIN, Mo. — Emergency crews drilled through concrete at a ruined Home Depot, making peepholes in the rubble in hopes of finding lost shoppers and employees. A dog clambered through the shattered remains of a house, sniffing for any sign of the woman and infant who lived there. Across devastated Joplin, searchers moved from one enormous debris pile to another Tuesday, racing to respond to any report of a possible survivor. The human toll rose to at least 122 dead and 750 people hurt. But just nine had been pulled alive from the aftermath. Searchers fought the clock because anybody still alive after the deadliest single tornado in 60 years was losing precious strength two days after the disaster. And another round of storms was closing in. For Melissa Burns, hope was fading that her 16-month-old grandson, whose parents were both hospitalized after the tornado hit their home, would be found. She showed up Tuesday at a demolished dental office near the child's home to watch a search team. At one point, a dog identified

JOPLIN | PAGE 3

No 66% Yes 34%

Opt-Out Fails

Voters Resoundingly Turn Back \$4.2M Effort

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE shauna.marlette@yankton.net

A proposed \$4.175 million opt-out by the Yankton School District was soundly defeated by a margin of 4,356 (66 percent) to 2,244 (34 percent) Tuesday.

The issue, which had divided the community for nearly three months, drove people to the polls in large numbers, as 6,600 of a potential 11,688 cast their ballots in election for a turnout of 56.6 percent.

"The people won. The people spoke big time," said Charles "Murph" Murphy, chairman of the Yankton Citizens For Sustainable Education (YCSE) group. "There were a lot of negatives in the campaign and this shows that people like the truth. We stuck with the issues and people appreciated that."

Both sides said the number of people that cast their vote in the election was crucial.

"It is important that people got to vote and say how they really felt," said Butch Becker of YCSE.

Jon Flom, a member of the Yes! For Kids (YFK) committee said, "Any election where you get more than 50 percent turnout is a good thing. When you are campaigning for an election, you never know how many are going to turn out. The fact is, more people turned out to vote against the opt-out than for it."

Another opt-out opponent, Rick Althoff, said the results validated the work those opposed to the opt-out did during the campaign.

"I appreciate the wisdom of people who have common sense," he said. "I am totally appreciative that there are a lot of people with good wisdom and common sense. At the same time, we have a lot of work ahead of us in the district to allow us to become the pride of the Dakotas."

In a press release issued by YCSE after the results were released, the group encouraged the Yankton School Board to listen to the people of the community.

"Listen to the voters and set about finding real and substantive ways to cut their operational costs," the release said. "Come back with spending/expense credibility, then genuinely engage the community's active participation in evaluating the FY2012 budget. ... Meanwhile, we'll continue paying

OPT-OUT | PAGE 11



KELLY HERTZP&D Voters at the Yankton Mall are shown casting their ballots Tuesday during the Yankton School District opt-out referendum. The turnout was reported heavy, as was the absentee ballot participation.

Tripp-Delmont OKs Opt-Out By 5-1 Margin

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

TRIPP — By a 5-to-1 margin, Tripp-Delmont school patrons have resoundingly voted to continue opting out of the state property-tax freeze.

The school district's voters approved the opt-out 458-91 — an 83-17 percent margin — in Tuesday's special election, according to business manager Sherry Hansen.

As a result, Tripp-Delmont will continue its opt-out of \$300,000

annually for another seven years, Hansen said. The district is in the final year of the current seven-year opt-out, with the extension starting with the next budget year.

T-D | PAGE 11



PHOTO COURTESY TERRY SORENSEN Recent graduate Anna Sorensen has ended her Creighton High School career on a perfect note — she scored the maximum 36 on her ACT college-entrance exam. Only 16 Nebraska seniors attained the perfect score.

Sorensen Uses Head, Heart

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

CREIGHTON, Neb. — By racking up a perfect score on her college-entrance exam, Anna Sorensen showed she could use her head.

But this week, the recent Creighton High School graduate is also using her hands and her heart.

Sorensen is a young woman on a mission — literally. She is spending the week on a mission trip with her church, helping inner-city residents in Los Angeles.

"I really like serving others, and I would guess (this reflects) my relationship with God," she said.

Sorensen also gives thanks to God for her perfect ACT score, rarely achieved by those who take the exam.

Sorensen received statewide attention this spring as one of only 16 Nebraska students from the Class of 2011 to rack up the highest possible composite score of 36 on the ACT exam. In addition, a Lincoln student recorded a perfect 2400 on the SAT college entrance exam.

OUR TOWNS

Knox County

Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy honored Sorensen during a special assembly at the Creighton school. She was one of only three Nebraska students outside Omaha or Lincoln to earn the perfect mark. She graduated valedictorian in a class of 27.

"They told me about (Sheehy's visit) about a week before," she said. "It was a 20-minute school assembly. That was cool."

The lieutenant governor gave a short speech, talking about the uniqueness of Sorensen's ACT achievement. Creighton High School principal Jeff Jensen then offered

HEAD | PAGE 5

INSIDE TODAY



S.D. State Golf Tournaments Wrap Up Tuesday

SEE PAGE 8

Rising Water To Force 'Aggressive' Dam Releases

From P&D Staff Reports

With winter snowmelt and spring rains inundating the upper Missouri River Basin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials warned Tuesday that "aggressive water releases" will be made from Missouri River mainstem dams in the coming weeks.

"There's no good news," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Corps' Missouri River Basin Water Management Division in Omaha, Neb. "Water releases are fore-

cast to reach 85,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) out of Garrison and Oahe dams because of steady rain and an above-normal mountain snowpack."

Farhat said that the Corps is approaching the top of the gauges at all three upper basin dams — Fort Peck, Garrison and Oahe.

"Basically, there is little or no storage left in our reservoirs," she said.

Oahe Dam at Pierre will see stages not seen since the dam was constructed. The record release from Oahe Dam prior

to this event was 59,300 cfs in 1997.

At Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, Farhat expects flows to reach 75,000 cfs by June 1 — 5,000 cfs above the record set in 1997 — with additional increases to the 80,000-85,000 cfs range likely by early June.

It's uncertain how long the increased releases will continue, but it could be several weeks.

South Dakota officials began alerting residents along the Missouri River Tuesday to prepare for significantly higher

water levels.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered the State Emergency Operations Center activated effective today (Wednesday) to assure a coordinated response to the increased flows on the river.

The State Office of Emergency Management is coordinating preparation and response to the higher water levels with other state agencies and the Corps of Engineers, as well as with county, city

WATER | PAGE 5

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OBITUARIES 3 | REGION 3 | LIFE 5 | COMICS 6 | WORLD 7 | SPORTS 8-9 | CLASSIFIEDS 10-11 | MIDWEST 12

TOMORROW: Joplin Disaster Hits Home For Yankton Natives

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET