



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138 NUMBER 6

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 12 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢ 8 38894 0002 4

May Day!



The arrival of May looked nothing like mid-spring Wednesday as Yankton received 2 inches of snow — the first time measurable snowfall has been recorded here on May 1. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

May Snowfall Prolongs Winter, Again

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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As the old joke goes, what a fine winter we're having this spring. Wednesday — May 1, or May Day — was greeted with snowfall and freezing temperatures in Yankton, which continues the wintry weather in the middle of spring.

The National Weather Service (NWS) recorded 2 inches of snowfall at Yankton. Other area snowfall reports included 1 inch a half-mile northeast of Marion, along with traces near Gayville and Tabor and at the Yankton airport.

The NWS reported 6 inches of snowfall two miles south of Beresford. The reading was part of a band of more persistent heavier snow that set up from around Beresford through Rock Valley, Iowa, earlier Wednesday morning.

The region's May snowfall continues the unusual cold, snowy and wet weather conditions experienced in April. But those conditions are far from normal in historical terms, according to NWS meteorologist Mike Gillispie of Sioux Falls.

"Looking at the records, Yankton has only had measurable snow twice in May, in 1944 (with 3.2 inches) and 1945 (with 0.5 inches)," he said.

"In Vermillion, measurable snow was reported in May in 1947, 1935, 1911, 1965 and 1938. The record for Vermillion is 4.0 inches in 1947."

In addition, Sioux Falls has had measurable May snow in 1944, 1943, 1954, 1976, 1968 and 1967, Gillispie said.

But Wednesday's 1.5 inches of snowfall in Sioux Falls ranks as the

third most snow on a day in May, behind only the 3 inches in 1944 and the 2 inches in 1943.

May snowfall is even rarer in parts of Nebraska, according to the NWS bureau in Omaha. A chance of measurable snow was forecast for Wednesday night. If it occurred, it would mark the first measurable May snowfall in 46 years in Omaha and Lincoln and the first time in 59 years in Norfolk.

As for southeast South Dakota, any additional measurable snow received Wednesday night was expected to be confined mostly to areas east of a line from Vermillion to Luverne, Minn., Gillispie said.

Temperatures are predicted to rebound slightly through Saturday with mainly upper 40s to lower 50s, warming to the upper 50s Sunday and then the upper 60s to mid 70s for the first half of next week.

"We could see some more rain Friday night through Sunday afternoon, but we are not expecting any more snow (after Wednesday night)," Gillispie said.

Snowfall wasn't the only precipitation to hit the region this week, as the area also received rainfall and sleet.

The 24-hour precipitation received in southeast South Dakota by 9 a.m. Wednesday included:

- 1.09 inches near Elk Point;
- 0.96 inches west-southwest of Tabor;
- 0.68 inches near Parker;
- 0.65 inches near Gayville;
- 0.61 inches north of Tabor;
- 0.58 inches at Centerville;

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Three More Arrests In Boston Bombing

Trio Accused Of Removing Items From Suspect's Dorm Room

BY DENISE LAVOIE AND BRIDGET MURPHY
Associated Press

BOSTON — Three college friends of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev were arrested and accused Wednesday of trying to protect him by going into his dorm room and getting rid of a backpack filled with hollowed-out fireworks three days after the deadly attack.

The three 19-year-olds were not accused of any role in the bombing. But in a footnote in the court papers outlining the charges, the FBI said that about a month before the tragedy, Tsarnaev told two of them that he knew how to make a bomb.

Azamat Tazhayakov and Dias Kadyrbayev, both of whom came to the U.S. from Kazakhstan, were charged with conspiring to obstruct justice by concealing and destroying evidence. Robel Phillipos, who graduated from a Cambridge high school with Tsarnaev, was charged with lying to investigators about the visit to Tsarnaev's room.

According to the FBI account, just hours after surveillance camera photos of the Boston Marathon suspects were flashed around the world April 18, Tsarnaev's friends suspected he was one of the bombers

More arrests

Three students have been arrested and are suspected of aiding Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, after he allegedly committed his crimes.



and removed the backpack along with a laptop from Tsarnaev's room at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

One of them later threw the backpack in the garbage, and it wound up in a landfill, where it was discovered by law enforcement officers last week, authorities said. In the

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Events Aim To Bring Residents Closer To Nature

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Two events taking place during this weekend's full slate of area activities will allow residents to not only observe, but also preserve, the beauty of nature.

The third annual South Dakota Birding Festival at Fort Randall will take place Friday through Sunday, while the 10th annual Missouri River Cleanup will be held Saturday.

Other events this weekend include the Missouri River Watershed Festival (previewed in Tuesday's *Press and Dakotan*) and the fourth annual Yankton Spring Geocaching Event.

Bird enthusiasts will begin gathering Friday at the Fort Randall area near Pickstown for the birding festival, which gives individuals the chance to see hundreds of bird species from South Dakota and other parts of the country.

"It's a chance to see a lot of interesting birds," said Mike Bryant, wildlife refuge manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "A lot of them are migrating right now, so you never know what oddities you might find mixed in with some of the more common birds."

Birds observed and photographed at past festivals include: the bald eagle, green heron, hooded merganser, stilt sandpiper, whip-poor-will, eastern screech owl, red-bellied woodpecker, great-crested flycatcher, bell's vireo, palm warbler, american redstart, oven-bird, rose-breasted grosbeak and Bobolink.

The festival also offers numerous

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Benoit: MMC Has Had An 'Incredible Year'

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Mount Marty College President Dr. Joseph Benoit held a presidential forum Wednesday afternoon to discuss in general terms the accomplishments of the institution during the past year and its goals for the future.

Reviewing dozens of Mount Marty College (MMC) press releases issued in the last year, Dr. Joseph Benoit set the stage Wednesday afternoon for talking about where the institution has been and where it is going.

"This has been an incredible year at the college," the MMC president told the faculty assembled for what was billed as a "Presidential Forum." "Thank all of you for making this a great college."

Benoit said the goal of his hour-long presentation was to talk about elements of the private, Catholic, Benedictine liberal arts college in the big picture without getting bogged down in too many details.

Slides of the year's press releases included speaker appearances, scholarship recipients, art exhibits and new academic programs — snapshots of what makes MMC a successful institution of higher learning, according to Benoit.

Looking ahead, he outlined the multi-year process of renewing MMC's accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

"We are well on our way to being able to address this," Benoit stated, also thanking faculty for their involvement in the review.

Visioning is currently taking place to complete a strategic plan for MMC. The next steps will be planning and implementation.

also



Mount Marty College Athletic Hall Of Fame Induction Set For Sunday • 7

As new ventures are undertaken, Benoit noted there may be decisions to make regarding the reallocation of funds or securing new money.

Money can be secured from alumni and other interested stakeholders, he predicted. However, it will be up to the college to make a compelling case for why an investment in the institution is important.

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Fourth Annual Geocaching Event Slated For Yankton

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

The SWAG (stuff we all get) is in place, the DNF (did not find) items have been found and hopefully nothing gets muddled.

All of the above acronyms will be used frequently this weekend, May 3-5, at the fourth Annual Yankton Geocaching event, which will kick off with a pre-gathering at the Argo Hotel & Steakhouse in Crofton on Friday night.

"We expect about 100 people for our three-day event," said Marlin Braun, one of a team of geocaching experts organizing the GPS-seeking outdoor enthusiasts. "We expanded the event thinking when the event is longer, it keeps people around the area

longer and that's good for everyone — great for commerce, gas and food."

Yankton organizers Will and Shirley Ganglers started geocaching back in 2009 when they went on a bus tour and found the driver to be a geocaching aficionado. They came back home, started talking with their son about the new "hobby" and dug right in. (A recent project they undertook is placing new geocaches along the 240-mile Shannon Trail. They don't want to reveal the sites yet but invite geocachers to watch for more news and publication soon.)

"Geocaching has become very popular, especially since the arrival of smartphones now. With just the right app, a smart phone can be a GPS locator and the growth spurt for caching is amazing," said Ganglers.

He estimates between the Crofton and Yankton

area, there may be as many as 400 geocaches.

Geocaching is a 21st century treasure hunt game that appeals to technology lovers because a handheld GPS is needed to find the treasures. The treasure can be any variety of trinkets hidden in containers out in nature, fencelines or ditches, places easily accessible by the public looking for them. The geocaches can be located by a set of GPS coordinates.

Since the birth of Geocaching back in 2000, Braun said there are almost a million and a half geocaches world-wide with 4 million cachers on the hunt.

Cachers are invited to log on at the geocaching site and describe their geocaching hunt. They usually

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