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Drought Worsens In Region

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The worst U.S. drought in decades got worse in parts of the nation's midsection, further frustrating ranchers and growers of winter wheat in Kansas and Oklahoma, a drought-tracking consortium's update showed Thursday.

The U.S. Drought Monitor's latest map showed that 60 percent of the land in the lower 48 states was experiencing some degree of drought as of Tuesday, down less than a percentage point from the previous week. Nearly one-fifth of the contiguous U.S. remained in extreme or exceptional drought, the two worst classifications.

But the stubbornly dry conditions intensified in Kansas, the top U.S. producer of winter wheat. Thursday's update, put out by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, showed that the expanse of that state in extreme or exceptional drought climbed roughly 6 percentage points, to 83.8 percent.

Three-quarters of hard-hit Oklahoma — another key winter wheat state — is mired in the two highest forms of drought, up 8 percentage points from the previous week. The Oklahoma Mesonet, a statewide network of environmental monitoring stations, said that 18 of its stations recorded less than one-tenth of an inch of rainfall in October, while 66 measured less than an inch.

"The combination of warm and

DROUGHT | PAGE 2A

THREE FOR ALL



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Alex Robertson, 22, and the rest of his Canistota teammates hoist the Class 9A championship trophy after routing Warner 52-8 on Thursday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Deubrook Area defeated Howard 25-22 in the class 9AA finals. Colome played Harding County in the night game. For complete coverage of all three games, and for previews of today's games, turn to page 7A.

Yankton Co. May Modify Its Burn Ban

Proposed Change Would Allow Some Fires

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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The Yankton County Commission plans to approve additions to the burn ban today (Friday) allowing limited burning under certain circumstances.

The commissioners meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Yankton County Government Center to canvass the general election results. At that time, they also plan to approve the burn ban changes.

Rather than rescind the ban, the commissioners plan to allow burning in a particular instance if the local fire chief or designee gives prior approval to the request. The burning could occur only during daytime.

Chairman Bruce Jensen told the Press & Dakotan that today's passage of the burn ban additions would provide a quick, flexible solution.

"By taking this action, we don't have to wait two or three weeks (until the next commission meeting)," he said. "When this is passed and signed Friday, it goes into effect immediately. We can amend the burn ban without creating a new policy."

With today's changes, county residents could burn this weekend if precipitation falls as forecast.



Scherschligt

However, Jensen remains cautious about rescinding the ban given the extreme drought. Some officials predict the drought could last into next spring.

"Even if we have one inch of snow, it wouldn't be enough to soak in," Jensen said. "We need 2 to 3 inches of rain."

The commissioners discussed the burn ban during Thursday's regular meeting. They tabled action until the rough draft was presented today in final form.

The commissioners said they had received numerous requests from county residents to lift or at least modify the burn ban, in effect since last summer.

Yankton County passed the ban because of the historic drought and extreme fire conditions. The county, like the rest of southeast South Dakota, remains in exceptional drought, the worst category.

Yankton has received 9.66 inches of precipitation since April 1, or 12.91 inches below normal, according to

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DAKOTA DUNES NORTH SIOUX CITY TIMES

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This is NOT our publication.

Lincoln County Union TIMES

Are You Ready for Election Day?

The front page of this week's Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times took issue with a special election publication put out by the Union County Republican Party that the owner of the Times said looked too much like his newspaper, causing customer confusion. Party chairman State Sen. Dan Lederman said the party publication looked "completely different." (Courtesy image)

INSIDE TODAY

USA WEEKEND

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USA Weekend

RIVER CITY



'Skyfall' Rates Among 007's Best Films. 7B

Mead Project Moving On

As Project Continues To Move Forward, The Next Step Is To Replace The Tiles On The Building

BY DEREK BARTOS
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With the roof restoration phase for the historic Mead Building renovation nearing completion, the Yankton County Historical Society (YCHS) is making plans for the next step of the project.

Renovations on the 103-year-old building and future home of the Dakota Territorial Museum began this summer. Since then, Stonebrook Roofing has removed the historic ceramic roof tiles and completed most of the repairs to the underlayment. The tiles, which have been conserved, are expected to be replaced within the next few weeks, according to Dakota Territorial Museum Director Crystal Nelson.

"We're pretty pleased with the progress of the roof restoration," Nelson said. "We've managed to stay on task, and we expect to be done with the roof by Christmas."

With the roof nearly complete, the YCHS is now turning its attention to the repair or replacement of the nearly 250 windows on the three floors and basement of the building.

To pay for the restoration of the windows, the YCHS is offering "naming rights" to individuals who donate money for the cost of the repairs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Work is expected to begin soon the refurbishing nearly 250 windows on the historic Mead Building on the former Human Services Center campus. The Yankton County Historical Society is offering "naming rights" on the windows in order to raise funds for the project.

"People have the opportunity now to purchase a window," Nelson said. "They can put their name on it, or they can purchase a window for a Christmas gift, or they can have it dedicated to someone."

MEAD | PAGE 3A

Newspaper And Party Feud Over Publication

BY DEREK BARTOS
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NORTH SIOUX CITY — An election mailer sent out earlier this week to District 16 residents has caused confusion among readers of a local newspaper and conflict between the newspaper's publisher and the local Republican Party.

The Union County Republican Party released a mailer Monday that included information and support for several election candidates. The publication, called the Lincoln Union County Times, featured a nameplate with a font and design similar to the Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times. This has confused numerous readers of the Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times, according to



Lederman

Bruce Odson, the publisher of that newspaper.

He said he has since received many calls from subscribers wondering whether the publication was an endorsement by his newspaper.

"The comments that we received from many people was that there was mass confusion," he said. "We got calls saying, 'I can't believe you did that,' and I explained it wasn't us."

The Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times published a story on

NEWSPAPER | PAGE 2A

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