



Chilly, Partly Cloudy

9 a.m.: **19** | 3 p.m.: **24** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

**WEDNESDAY** ■ November 19, 2014



**Crofton's  
Arens To  
Become A  
Coyote  
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**American  
Profile**



**Chat With The P&D  
Sports Staff From  
3:30-4:30 p.m.  
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## Cold Spell Dries Up Diesel Supplies

BY JORDYNNE HART  
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While consumer gasoline continues to fall, diesel prices have soared in the area recently.

The terminals that supply diesel to the Yankton area and surrounding regions are experiencing shortages because of the combination of the sudden cold spell and the large harvest.

This has created a tremendous demand for No. 2 diesel. The high cost of diesel fuel affects trucking and farming industries throughout the state.

"We have had quite a large amount of outage of the fuel," said Rudy Gerstner, owner of Gerstner Oil Co. Inc., in Yankton. "We knew it was going to get cold and we knew we were going to need it, but the terminals didn't have it on hand as early as they needed to. They still don't."

Gerstner said that it is almost impossible to find No. 1 diesel fuel, which is the fuel needed in extreme cold temperatures. He said that if he needed No. 1 diesel right now, he would have to go to Denver to get it.

"We have had to run all over the country for it," he said. So far, Gerstner Oil has had to

**DIESEL** | PAGE 5

# Senate Nixes Pipeline

Keystone Project Rejected — But GOP Vows Replay

BY DAVID ESPO AND DINA CAPIELLO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a combustible blend of oil and politics, the Democratic-controlled Senate rejected legislation Tuesday night to force completion of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Republicans vowed to resurrect the controversial issue soon after taking two-house control of Congress in January.

The 59-41 Senate vote was one short of the

60 needed to clear the House-passed measure, and marked a severe blow to embattled Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana. While President Barack Obama and much of her party oppose the bill, the third-term Democrat had commanded control of the chamber's agenda in hopes of securing approval of the project and boosting her chances in an uphill Dec. 6 runoff election.

All 45 Senate Republicans supported the legislation to build the Canada-to-Texas pipeline.

Only 14 of 55 Democrats and allied independents joined them, a total that didn't budge despite an appeal by the Louisiana Democrat behind closed doors a few hours before the vote.

The vote was one of the last acts of this Senate controlled by the Democrats. It is expected to complete its work by mid-December.

But Republicans said a pipeline replay with the potential to spark a veto confrontation with Obama would be coming — and soon.

**PIPELINE** | PAGE 5

## Harvesting The Data



KELLY HERTZ/ P&D

These corn stalks near Chalkstone Road by Yankton are what remain following last weekend's first major snow fall of the season. Researchers are studying the impact of climate change on corn production.

# Researchers Find A Climate Of Change

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Climate change has created challenges for corn production and looks to continue in the years ahead, according to South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today.

"Basically, our climate is getting warmer and wetter," he told the Press & Dakotan. "But the warming and the additional precipitation are occurring in different times of year."

Today forms part of a team working with a \$20 million U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant. The team is in the fourth year of the five-year grant, focusing on ensuring food stability.

The study uses more than 100 researchers from throughout the Corn Belt. The institutions range from South Dakota to Ohio, including South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Today serves as the lead investigator for South Dakota. The projects are split into work for each university. The study seeks to provide science-based research. A survey also looks at farmers' attitudes toward climate change and their willingness to adapt their practices.



Today

"There is some misunderstanding of what is happening in climate change and how it affects agriculture," the climatologist said.

Today, along with Richard Moore of The Ohio State University, conducted a webinar Tuesday. They shared the study's findings so far on climate change and its impact on corn crops.

Corn is one of the key world food commodities, just behind rice, they said. Severe weather events associated with climate change are forecast to increase in number and intensity. These are predicted to increase nutrient runoff and have the potential to decrease corn crop yields.

Around three-fourths of U.S. corn comes from nine states, Moore said. Midwest farmers plant 53 million acres of corn and 44 million acres of soybeans.

Corn production has grown dramatically in recent decades, he said. Production remained steady from 1860-1940, and then production went up. Midwest soybean yields have also increased during that time.

**CLIMATE** | PAGE 11

## Siren Project Gaining Lake Area Support

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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A stalled project to install 10 storm sirens in the Lewis & Clark Lake area may be regaining some of its traction.

Paul Scherschligt, Yankton County emergency management director, told the Yankton County Commission Tuesday some neighbors in the Lake area had expressed some support for the project.

"I've got two neighborhoods that have offered up land out by the lake area," Scherschligt said. "Some of the neighbors are all in favor of it, so we're going to do a little more with that and move on. ... Since the last meeting, there have been a couple of folks that have called up and talked to their neighbors. We're kind of getting back in the locations that we used to be (looking at). We'll just have to build off of that."

Scherchligt said the goal is still to hold public meetings with area residents so the project can commence in the spring.

"We'll still have meetings around the first of the year," he said. "We want to start putting poles in the ground as soon as it thaws out."

The project was originally intended to be bid out in September. The commission rejected all bids, however, due to concerns about aesthetics and property values raised by some Lake area residents.

Commissioner Allen Sinclair said he'd like to make sure as many people are on board with the project as possible before proceeding.

"It's important that this gets done, but it's also important that we're not forcing it down somebody's throat," Sinclair said.



Scherchligt

**SIREN** | PAGE 11

## Task Force On Ag Tax Values Requests Study Of Actual-Use

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The possible effects of converting to actual use in setting taxable values for agriculture property should be studied, a state panel decided Tuesday.

South Dakota currently uses an agriculture-productivity system for determining taxable values. It relies on soil type, crop, yield and multiple years of crop prices.

Actual use would be a major change. It would benefit owners of land that has crop-rated soil but has been kept in grass.

The Legislature's task force that oversees agricultural property assessments voted 9-0 Tuesday to request \$151,000 for the study.

The economics department at South Dakota State University would perform the

work. The results would be due by June 30, 2016.

"That's what we need to know, exactly how it would affect different taxpayers," Rep. Jim Peterson, D-Reville, said.

Sen. Larry Rhoden, the task force's chairman, said information from a study is needed before the Legislature can be asked to consider actual use.

"I feel compelled to support it," Rhoden, R-Union Center, said.

The task force also made a statement by endorsing a package of possible changes in laws regarding school districts' use of capital outlay levies.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard still has a work group negotiating on the capital-outlay issue.

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## Smiling Faces

These first graders from Yankton's Beadle Elementary School try to make the musical case — unsuccessfully — that "Elephants Have Wrinkles" on their teeth, during Tuesday night's winter concert at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Students from grades 1-3 presented "The Animal Fair," performing tunes such as "Boris the Singing Spider," "Caribbean Amphibian" and "The Penguin Polka." To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net/](http://spotted.yankton.net/). (Kelly Hertz/P&D)