



Mostly Sunny, Cold

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



**State AA
 Volleyball
 Preview**

PAGE 7

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A Lucky Little Girl

Volin Toddler Survives Two Bouts With Bacterial Meningitis

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VOLIN — Hailee Woods receives Botox treatments, but it isn't for wrinkles. In fact, she's not even in grade school yet.

The 4-year-old girl receives the muscle-relaxing treatments on a regular basis to relieve leg pains. She suffers the discomfort as a result of two bouts with bacterial meningitis in her first year of life.

Jennifer Woods said her daughter should receive relief with the upcoming treatment.

"Hailee has spastic cerebral palsy in

OUR TOWNS
Yankton County

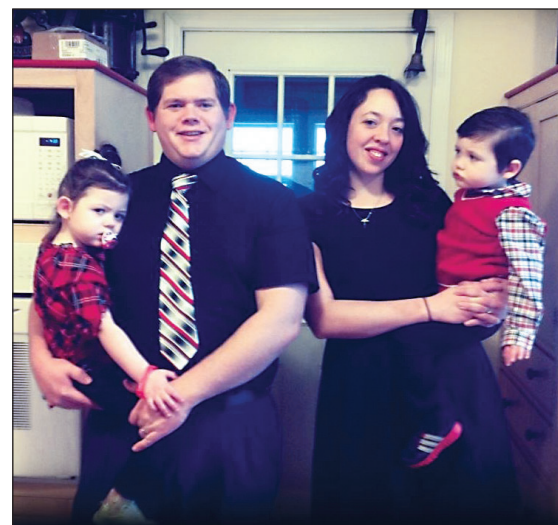
her legs, and they get really tight," Jennifer said. "They need to do the injections every three months, or her body starts to build immunities and it becomes pointless."

Jennifer and her husband, Bryan, live on a Volin farm with Hailee and their 2-year-old son, Hunter. Bryan works for the City of Sioux Falls, where his parents now reside. Jennifer, a stay-at-home mom, is taking online courses for her nursing degree at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Jennifer believes her experiences with Hailee will serve her well in her nursing career.

"Nursing will be a really good field for me," Jennifer said. "I'll have a special insight because I've been on the other side. I know what it's like to be that mom with a sick child in the hospital."

Hailee's bacterial meningitis is more difficult to treat than the viral kind, Jennifer said. Meningitis is most common among infants and college students, she said. The disease is often mistaken as the flu, and many younger patients die a



COURTESY PHOTO
 The Woods family of rural Volin includes (from left) Bryan Woods holding 4-year-old daughter Hailee and Jennifer Woods holding 2-year-old son Hunter. Hailee survived two meningitis bouts in her first year of life and continues to make progress.

LUCKY | PAGE 11

On A New Beat



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dan Thompson is pictured walking one of his new beats, the Yankton High School hallways. Recently hired as the district's school resources officer, Thompson plans to be a resource not only for the school but for the students at both YHS and the middle school.

Thompson Takes On Teaching Role As YSD's School Resource Officer

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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For retired S.D. Highway patrolman Dan Thompson, retirement just wasn't setting well with him. Honey-do lists completed, he was looking for a way to stay active and connected to the community he has called home and raised his children in.

So, when he heard about the school resources officer (SRO) position at the Yankton School District (YSD), he knew he had found a new challenge.

"I am retired," he said. "I worked out at the state parks during the summer because I knew I couldn't just quit. When that ended in September, I got all my stuff done at home and I sat there and said, 'I can't do this.' I heard about the SRO position, so I got a hold of (YSD superintendent) Dr. (Wayne) Kindle, who I have known for many years, and asked on the status of the SRO. We talked back and forth, he asked if I was interested in the SRO position and we went from there." Kindle said the working relationship the school

has had with Thompson in the past made this an easy choice.

"The Yankton school district has worked with Officer Thompson for many years as a deputy sheriff and most recently as a highway patrol officer," he said. "He will be a fantastic addition to our staff at both high school and middle school. Officer Thompson knows how to deal with tough situations, building relationships and being proactive regarding school safety."

Because Thompson is a certified law enforcement official, getting the program up and running has been done relatively quickly following the position's approval at the October school board meeting.

"I just completed two and a half weeks of training at the Police Department because the PD is also paying my salary," he said. "I am a Yankton police officer. Because of that, I had to be brought up to speed on

OFFICER | PAGE 13

Landowners Hope For Pipeline Decision

BY JOSH FUNK
 Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — While a proposed oil pipeline linking Canadian producers to the U.S. Gulf Coast is still in limbo, Nebraska landowners who signed deals with the company that would build it are free to spend what they received — no matter what happens.

Roughly 400 of the 515 Nebraska landowners along the route of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline have signed easement agreements with TransCanada, and can keep the money regardless of whether the project first proposed in 2008 ever comes to pass.

"I think it should have been built a long time ago," said Ronald Weber, who agreed to let the pipeline cross his land in northeast Nebraska. "I kind of think it's going to take a change in presidency to get this thing built."

Weber said he thought TransCanada treated him well and paid him a fair price — roughly equal to the appraised value of the land that would be affected by the pipeline.

A measure passed the U.S. House but fell short this week of the votes it needed in the Senate. Republican leaders in Congress have promised to hold another vote in January when the GOP takes control of the Senate.

The pipeline has attracted opposition from environmentalists and some landowners because of concerns that it could contaminate underground and surface water supplies, increase air pollution around refineries and harm wildlife. Many supporters say those fears are exaggerated, and that the pipeline would create jobs and ease American dependence on Middle East oil.

Randy Thompson, one of the Nebraska landowners who sued to challenge the process the state

Keystone XL Pipeline



Source: Reuters
 Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

used to approve TransCanada's route, said he's not sure this week's vote has major implications for the project overall. But he hopes it will prompt more people to learn about the pipeline.

"I think ultimately it's going to boil down to the president making a decision, and I feel confident he will veto it," Thompson said.

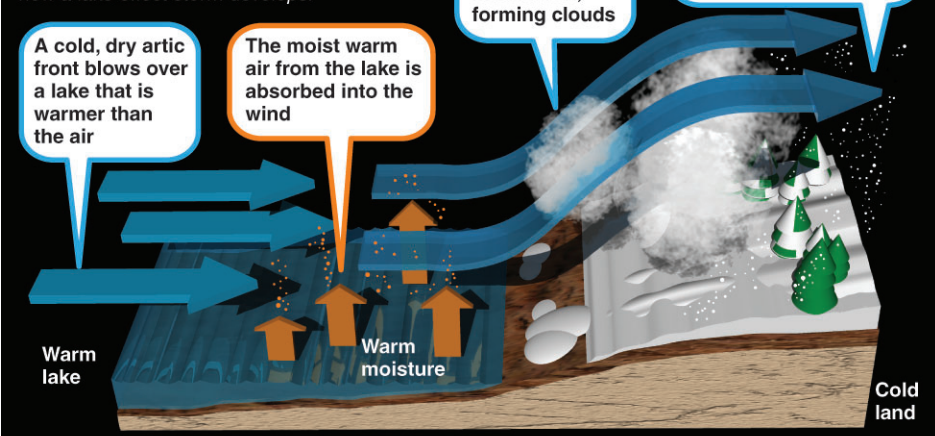
The original Keystone XL project was split into two pieces, and the southern section between Oklahoma and the Gulf Coast is already operating. That segment didn't need presidential approval because it doesn't cross an international border.

The pipeline segment that still needs President Barack Obama's

PIPELINE | PAGE 13

Lake effect snow machine

A fierce storm swept off the Great Lakes and buried western New York state under as much as 6 feet of snow, killing at least six people and stranding motorists in cars overnight. Here is how a lake effect storm develops.



7 Dead In Epic New York Snow Storm

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
 Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Homeowners opened their front doors to find themselves sealed in by sheer walls of white. Shovelers turned walkways into head-high canyons. A woman gave birth in a firehouse after the snow prevented her from reaching the hospital.

Even for Buffalo, a place that typically shrugs at snow, this was an epic snowfall, the kind of onslaught folks will be telling their grandchildren about.

The Buffalo area found it-

self buried under as much as 5 1/2 feet of snow Wednesday, with another lake-effect storm expected to bring 2 to 3 more feet by late Thursday.

"This is an historic event. When all is said and done, this snowstorm will break all sorts of records, and that's saying something in Buffalo," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said during a visit to the city.

The storm came in so fast and furious over Lake Erie early Tuesday it trapped more than 100 vehicles along a 132-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway, which remained closed Wednesday. People were marooned at

homes, on highways and at work. Residents who can handle 6 inches of snow as if it were a light dusting were forced to improvise.

Tom Wilson, of West Seneca, split a Salisbury steak frozen dinner with co-workers and tried his best to get some rest when he was stuck 36 hours at his warehouse job.

"I slept on a pallet. Then I slept on some office chairs, and then I went back to the pallet," he said. "Then I found some sponges to lay on. I found one pack of

STORM | PAGE 13