



**Mostly Cloudy**

9 a.m.: **19** | 3 p.m.: **35**  
FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2

**'Nutcracker Ballet'  
Set For Holiday  
Performance**  
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**75¢**



**Inside**



## Winter Forecast Cools Down

**BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**  
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The Great Plains no longer appears headed toward a much warmer winter, according to two South Dakota State University climate specialists.

Officially, the region stands a 58 percent chance of seeing the warm Pacific Ocean current known as El Nino, said South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today.



**Today**

"There is a 50 to 60 percent chance of getting an El Nino this winter," he said in a phone conference. "At this point, the El Nino seems to stay on the weak side."

Even a strong El Nino likely wouldn't carry an immediate impact on agriculture, he said.

"El Nino peaks in the winter-time. Overall, the impact on agriculture during winter remains relatively small," he said. "There could be some impacts if El Nino carries over into the growing season."

The winter climate outlook, released Thursday, no longer shows increased likelihood of above-average temperatures in South Dakota for the coming season, said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

**CLIMATE** | PAGE 11A

## Game, SET, Match



**Watertown's Sydney Dale gets the set during her teams match against Harrisburg Thursday during the opening round of the South Dakota Volleyball AA tournament being held at the Yankton Summit Center. The Arrows won the match 3-0, 25-15, 25-19, 25-20 and move on to face Sioux Falls Roosevelt tonight (Friday) for the right to move on to the state championship match.**

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

## Seven Communities To Get DOT Grants

**BY BOB MERCER**  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Transportation Commission awarded access grants to seven South Dakota communities Thursday to help with larger projects.

They are Arlington \$200,000; Burke \$200,000; Groton \$200,000; Ipswich \$183,500; Menno \$55,800; Sully County for a road in Onida \$81,000; and Wessington Springs \$200,000.

The grants total \$1,120,000 and will be used toward \$3,724,673 of work. The largest project is \$1,443,000 planned by Wessington Springs.

The Jerauld County seat was hit by a tornado earlier this year.

"It's been very helpful statewide," Transportation Commission chairman Bob Benson of Winner said.

Normally \$1 million is available through the Department of Transportation program. But two similar programs for agri-business and industrial park projects didn't use their full \$1 million this year, so some money could be shifted, according to administrator Laurie Schultz.

"There's a lot of flexibility using state funds," she said. "They're very popular."

The community access program is for cities with populations smaller than 5,000. It reimburses for up to 60 percent of the construction costs.

**GRANT** | PAGE 3A

# Obama Spurns GOP

## President Unveils Expansive Immigration Orders

**BY JULIE PACE**  
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Spurning furious Republicans, President Barack Obama unveiled expansive executive actions on immigration Thursday night to spare nearly 5 million people in the U.S. illegally from deportation and refocus enforcement efforts on "felons, not families."

The moves, affecting mostly parents and young people, marked the most sweeping changes to the nation's fractured immigration laws in nearly three decades and set off a fierce fight with Republicans over the limits of presidential powers.

In a televised address to the nation, Obama defended the legality of his actions and challenged GOP lawmakers to focus their energy not on blocking his actions, but on approving long-stalled legislation to take its place.



**Obama**

"To those members of Congress who question my authority to make our immigration system work better, or question the wisdom of me acting where Congress has failed, I have one answer: Pass a bill," Obama said, flexing his presidential powers just two weeks after his political standing was challenged in the midterm elections.

As Obama addressed the nation from the White House, immigration supporters with American flags draped over their shoulders marched on the street outside carrying signs that read, "Gracias, Presidente Obama."

Despite Obama's challenge to Republicans to pass a broader immigration bill, his actions and the angry GOP response could largely stamp out prospects for Congress passing comprehensive legislation under the current administration, ensuring that the contentious debate will carry on into the 2016 presidential campaign.

Republicans, emboldened by their sweeping victories in the midterms, are weighing responses to the president's actions that include lawsuits, a government shutdown, and in rare instances, even impeachment.

"The president will come to regret the chapter history writes if he does move forward," Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican who is soon to become the Senate majority leader, said before Obama's address.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who has refused to have his members vote on broad immigration legislation passed by the Senate last year, said Obama's decision to go it alone "cemented his legacy of lawlessness and squandered what little credibility he had left."

The president spent months trying to gain a House vote on the Senate bill, frustrating immigration advocates and some Democrats who wanted him to instead take action on his own. While Obama had long insisted that his powers to halt deportations were limited, the White House began

**ORDERS** | PAGE 11A

## Martinus Lutheran Church In Utica Celebrates A New Place To Worship

**BY JORDYNNE HART**  
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Martinus Lutheran Church, near Utica, is worshipping in a brand new church just in time for the holidays.

The church started services in the new structure this month, but will celebrate with a dedication service on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. A catered meal will follow the service.

"We are inviting the congregation, friends, families, neighbors — everybody is welcome," Pastor Dean Schroeder said. "When is the last time a church has been built in the rural areas of Yankton county? It just doesn't happen. We have just been so excited

about our new church that we want everyone to come."

The new church was built to become more "senior friendly" for members in the congregation.

"Handicapped accessibility was a huge issue," Schroeder said. "We wanted people to be able to worship for as long as they can."

The age of the old church was also an issue.

"We didn't have hot water in the old church until about five years ago," said church trustee Paul Mutschelknaus.

"We would put a little ten gallon water heater under the cupboard and would heat water in a tea kettle."

Mutschelknaus said that the church also shared its home with flies, bats

and occasional snakes.

"There was no way we could seal up the building," Schroeder said. "It is because the church is a tall structure on the hill. For awhile the bats where really bad. We even had one in service fly out years ago."

Mutschelknaus said that his wife, who helped clean the church, was bitten by a bat in the church once.

Schroeder said that it became a real issue.

"It was time for an upgrade," Mutschelknaus said.

The size of the church was also a problem.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**Martinus Lutheran Church near Utica will be holding a dedication of their new facility at a service this Sunday at 3:30 p.m. followed by a catered meal. All are welcome to attend the celebration. Pictured are the old church with the new church in the background.**

**CHURCH** | PAGE 2A

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