



Cloudy, With Rain Likely

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A Light Defiant

Paris Attack Stirs Fears, But Strengthens Resolve

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Since Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris, Fernande Bitsos has spent nearly all her waking hours glued to her television and computer.

The Yankton woman, who grew up as a French citizen in Morocco, has sought any information about the safety of her family living in Paris.

"When I first heard the news (of the terrorism), I learned which district (of Paris) the shooting started. I thought, 'Oh, my God! That's where my sister used to live!'" said the petite, 85-year-old Bitsos, still showing shock.

She continued listening to 24-hour news, learning whatever she could about the attacks.

In the meantime, she sought to make contact with her 84-year-old sister.

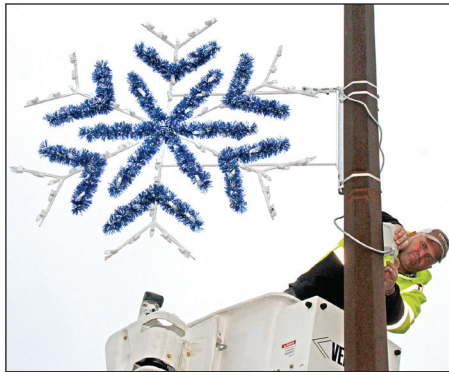
Bitsos, a Catholic, turned to her faith as the crisis unfolded. "I went to the church and said a prayer," she said.

Eventually, Bitsos learned her sister and husband were safe in their Paris suburb. So was her niece, a secretary in a law office.

"I reached my sister by telephone, but she could only talk for a couple of minutes," Bitsos said. "I have been talking with her (through

PARIS | PAGE 16

On the third day of national mourning, the Eiffel Tower was lighted in the national colors after going dark Monday in Paris. (Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times/TNS)



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Bob Ryken of the City of Yankton installs one of the new snowflake holiday lights on a pole along Broadway Monday. The city has purchased several new items to upgrade its Christmas decorations.

New Lights To Make Most Of The Season

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

After 25 years, the City of Yankton's holiday decorations have gotten an upgrade.

Yankton Parks & Recreation Director Todd Larson told the *Press & Dakotan* that the old decorations had generally outlived their usefulness.

"Between wires and bulbs — they had the old incandescent bulbs — there was a lot of repair work each year before we put them back up," he said. "We'd have to bring them into the shop, test them and things like that. They'd just seen better days."

Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson told the *Press & Dakotan* that this prompted the city to look at new options.

"We have been discussing new Christmas decorations for some time," Nelson said. "As some will remember, the trees, angels and bells that were used on Broadway were starting to show their age."

Larson said it had reached the point where the city was left with only a small number of working decorations.

"We maybe only had 18 lighted decorations anymore," he said, adding that several old pieces were beyond repair.

The new decorations include 60 blue-and-white snowflake lights, 20 48-inch evergreen sprays, 36 20-foot garland pole wraps and 32 banners to go along with the snowflake lights. The lights are all LED lighting and the decorations have an expected lifespan of 15 years. Additionally, the city has also bought a trailer to store the items in, whereas the old decorations relied on donated storage space. In total, the new lights cost \$33,000 from the 2015 budget.

Nelson said the city initially budgeted to buy half of the lights, but then the thinking changed.

"This has been talked about for a couple of years," she said. "A portion of the decorations

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Legislators Consider Different Process For Setting State Government's Budget

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Legislature in its 2016 session might end the practice of waiting until the last possible hours to pass state government's budget.

Leaders from the House of Representatives and the Senate who serve on the Legislature's Executive Board began discussing potential changes Monday.

They might set the revenue estimates in February, rather than wait for the final week of session in March.

They also might make changes to the current year's budget in mid-February when the session is just at its

halfway point.

Mid-February is also when they might make major policy decisions for the coming year, such as increases in employee salaries and compensation to Medicaid services providers.

The Joint Committee on Appropriations might even set aside two weeks near the end, so the legislators can deliberate, department by department and even division by division, how much should be allocated.

That would replace the recent practice of wading through a long list of amendments in one or two harried days.

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Tune Time At The SAC

Top high school and middle school musicians from around the area were in Yankton Monday for the Region I Honor Band Festival. The daylong workshop concluded with a public concert Monday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Students from 15 South Dakota schools took part in the event. Conductors for the concert were Jeff Peabody (middle school) of Columbus, Nebraska, and Shane Macklin (high school) on Morningside College. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



A Global Success

A Group Of Yankton Archers Travel Abroad To Represent America Through Competition

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
alissa.woockman@yankton.net

They go for the competition, but they came back with medals.

The Yankton Hot Shots Junior Archery team selected a group of six female compound archers, ages 12-16, to participate at the Binational Games in Tijuana, Mexico, earlier this month. Three of the six young ladies came back with five medals.

Archer Kellie Geigle (14) earned one bronze medal in the 17th subdivision, Shelby Lindner (14) earned one bronze medal in the 15th subdivision and Hannah Bartos (14) earned two silver medals and one bronze medal, also in the 15th subdivision. The rest of the team members included Danielle Herrlain (15), Gabrielle Keiser (15) and Josie Jensen (13).

This is the second year the Binational Games have been held. It is designed as a training ground for young



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton's Junior Archery team represented the US earlier this month at the Binational Games in Tijuana Mexico. Members from included (from left to right): Danielle Herrlein, Gabrielle Keiser, Shelby Lindner, Kellie Geigle, Hannah Bartos and Josie Jensen.

athletes to test their skill, build their competitive experience and interact with young athletes in their discipline.

"It's not just the shooting part," Yankton archery coach

Josahan Jamie-Santacruz said. "It's the training — preparing for the event, the travel, dealing with the jetlag, settling into a new place, finding their

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