



Snow Arrives

9 a.m. **26** 3 p.m. **28** | DETAILS: Page 2



Parker And Dakota Valley Win In State Volleyball Play

PAGE 6A

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Gov. Daugaard Appoints Bureau Of Administration Commissioner

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed Jeff Holden as Commissioner of the South Dakota Bureau of Administration.

Holden, the bureau's deputy commissioner since 2011, will replace Paul Kinsman, who retired last summer. Holden has been serving since that time as interim commissioner.

Daugaard says Holden has been a strong leader, and the governor thanked him for accepting the role on a permanent basis.

Holden says he's looking forward to continuing to help state agencies work effectively and efficiently.

The Pierre native joined state government in 1985 and came to the Bureau of Administration in 1999 as the director of the Office of Procurement Management.

Well Armed



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jayci Ellis of Yankton's Academy of Dance appears to be up in arms — and then some — during rehearsals this week of this weekend's performance of "Sleeping Beauty" at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Showtimes for the ballet are 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. For more on this weekend's ballet, see today's River City (page 1B).

Influence Of El Nino Settles In

Fall Characterized By Warmth, Late Freeze, Late Snow

BY ROB NIELSEN
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While snow may be falling across the Yankton area today (Friday), it may be easy to forget that this fall has been characterized by very un-fall like weather.

During Thursday's NOAA Midwest and Great Plains Climate-Drought Outlook webinar, South Dakota State Climatologist Dennis Todey said temperatures the 90-day period encompassing August through October were well above average for most of the country.

"Temperatures stand out even more strongly," Todey said. "That period ranked quite high — top 10, or, in the case of Wyoming and Colorado, the warmest August through October on record — and many of the other states coming in the much above warmer than average category."

South Dakota recorded its sixth warmest August-October time period in the 121 years records have been kept. Notably, Yankton recorded a high of 96 on Oct. 11, tying a record for the day.

Todey said the warmer period had a huge effect on the Great Plains, including pushing back the first hard freeze (temperatures dip to 28 degrees or below) for many areas.

"Not only have we been late in some of our freezes — we've been record-setting late in some cases," he said.

Many locations in northeast Nebraska reported their top-five latest hard freezes this year.

Area Braces For Blast Of Winter

From P&D Staff Reports

The Yankton area is bracing for what looks to be its first major snow storm of the season.

Yankton, Clay and Bon Homme counties in South Dakota and Cedar and Knox counties in Nebraska are under a winter storm warning for today (Friday), with more than a half-foot of snow possible.

The three South Dakota counties are under a warning from 6 a.m.-9 p.m., with a possibility of 5-7 inches of snow possible. The heaviest snow is expected to fall in the afternoon before the system moves into northwest Iowa.

Cedar and Knox counties are under a warning from 9 a.m.-midnight, with 5-8 inches possible. This may include localized heavier amounts.

Meanwhile, Hutchinson and Turner counties were still expected to be under a winter storm watch today. According to forecasts, 4-7 inches are possible.

After a terribly windy Thursday, when winds regularly gusted to nearly 50 miles per hour, winds are expected to be 10-15 miles per hour from the east, turning northeast 15-20 miles per hour. Nevertheless, that wind could create visibility issues, and travel is not recommended unless absolutely necessary if conditions persist.

To keep up with the projected storm, visit www.yankton.net.

Rail Crossings Closed, Full Removal Upcoming

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Two railroad crossings have been officially closed to vehicle traffic in anticipation of a private crossing intended to help facilitate expansion of Kolberg-Pioneer.

During a meeting of the Yankton City/County Planning Committee Thursday, Public Services Director Kevin Kuhl reported that both crossings had been shuttered, but full removal has been delayed.

"The closures are complete,"

Kuhl said. "The (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) railroad was going to try and be here this week, but they (couldn't). Functionally, the crossings are closed."

Kuhl said the crossings that were closed have minimal impact.

"There was a small, single-lane crossing over on Eighth St. just to the east of Mulberry St., and that only served one house and a piece of vacant property," he said.



ROB NIELSEN/P&D
Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson speaks during Thursday's Yankton City/County Planning committee meeting.

RAILROAD | PAGE 10A

WEBINAR | PAGE 10A

Group Fighting Hunger Needs 300 More Turkeys For Giveaway

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A statewide group fighting hunger says it still needs 300 more turkeys for its annual Thanksgiving drive.

Feeding South Dakota set a goal of 2,500 turkeys so it can provide a holiday meal for families struggling in the area. Individuals, families, businesses and churches have contributed.

In Sioux Falls, the organization will be distributing 500 turkeys, along with bags of potatoes and fixings as part of a drive-thru giveaway on Saturday. The donations will allow guests to make traditional holiday meals in their own homes.

Feeding South Dakota executive director Matt Gassen says the annual turkey drive provides an opportunity to express gratitude by giving back to others in need.

Cash donations can be made online at www.feedingsouthdakota.org.

Avera Cuts Ribbon On New Dialysis Unit

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital announced the opening of a new dialysis unit for patients suffering from kidney failure. Avera nephrologist and medical director Dr. Byron Nielsen watches as Avera's Director of Specialty Services Lisa VanHeek cuts the ribbon during the open house of the new facility Thursday.

For people who have kidney failure, dialysis is a required treatment done three times a week to do what healthy kidneys would normally do for the body, such as clean the blood, remove access waste and restore the proper balance of electrolytes.

To aid in this cumbersome process, Yankton's Avera Sacred Heart Hospital has added a new dialysis unit to its facilities, located near the front entrance on the ground floor. This process has been in the works for more than a year.

"We expanded from seven to eight unit stations," said Doug Ekeren, the hospital's president and CEO said during a ribbon-cutting Thursday. "Now when we do have a patient in the hospital that has to be dialyzed, they can be brought here as opposed to the other arrangements we had to make."

Avera's previous dialysis unit was located in the Benedictine Center. Feedback from patients about the need for space improvements led Avera to address those concerns.

"We were so crowded in the old unit," said Lisa VanHeek, director of Specialty Services at Avera. "Privacy was a huge issue. Patients were

so close together, it would be hard to talk to them about different concerns while maintaining privacy. Now we have got the space we need to keep things private."

For most patients, the dialysis treatment includes three to four hours for each visit. Avera nephrologist and medical director Dr. Byron Nielsen said he wanted to make sure that the amount of time patients spend in that unit is comfortable.

"This is an outstanding upgrade for our patients," he said. "Our folks can spend up to 500 hours a year having to come in and do dialysis. They spend a lot of time in here, so updating this and making this a really nice place for them to be is an outstanding thing for this community."

Patients will be able to begin receiving dialysis treatments in the new facility on Dec. 1. In the meantime, staff will be moving in the new machines and computer systems to prepare for patient arrival. Avera also plans on increased staff for the first week to get accustomed to the new space.

Avera currently has approximately 25 to 30 patients at a time on dialysis within the facilities. Dialysis is something patients with kidney

DIALYSIS | PAGE 10A

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TOMORROW: MMC Prepares Thanksgiving Baskets

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET