



Warm And Sunny

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Inside Today

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Yankton Bucks Take Third At State AA Golf • 8

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When The Drought Hits Home

Local Elevator Sees Effects Of Unusual Harvest Season

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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MISSION HILL — It's mostly quiet at this town's Farmers Elevator, with the usual line-up of farmers and their harvest replaced by the occasional customer.

Then again, it's anything but your usual harvest season.

Drought has gripped Mission Hill, like the rest of southeast South Dakota and neighboring northeast Nebraska. The region has been labeled as D4 — or excep-

tional — drought, the worst level. The entire area remains at least 7 inches below normal for moisture, with some sites nearly 12 inches below normal.

The drought has hastened harvest, according to Farmers Elevator manager Jay Cutts.

"I predict the harvest will be done in two to three weeks," he said.

Farmers Elevator employee Neil Kosters has heard directly from customers about the drought's toll.

"The farmers have said it's the driest they have seen," he said. "One guy said he harvested 59 acres and only got 47 bushels for the entire field. That's less than a bushel an acre."

Still, the fall harvest continues, albeit the complete opposite of normal, Cutts said.



Farmers Elevator manager Jay Cutts says this fall's drought-stressed harvest is running weeks ahead of schedule. However, the Mission Hill facility has seen some excellent yields, depending on the field's location.

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YSD Leaves Behind NCLB Law

School District Looks Ahead, Prepares For New Education Standards

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Officials in the Yankton School District (YSD) are looking forward to moving away from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and towards the new Common Core standards, already adopted by many other states.

The new standards allow schools to show themselves as being successful if they

demonstrate growth and students' test scores show improvement over time.

Kathy Wagner, director of student services at YSD, said that even with the new standards, teachers and officials in the district want to continue improving scores with students with disabilities and maintain the scores with other subgroups.

"This school year will be the first year with the new model," Wagner said. "Last September, officials started to develop the new accountability model at the state level."

She added that last year's test scores were based on NCLB, while next spring's test scores will be with the Common Core model.

The new model will also only count students one time. The NCLB model could have students counted

more than once if they fell into multiple subgroups.

All of the changes will be in place in 2014-15.

With the new standards, the state will publish a list of schools assigned into one of three categories:

- A priority school will fall into the bottom 5 percent of



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AP: Dakotas Top Nation In West Nile Virus Rate

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — An Associated Press analysis shows that South Dakota and North Dakota rank first and second per capita in the rate of West Nile virus cases.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention figures list 175 cases of the mosquito-borne illness in South Dakota, a rate of about 21 infections per 100,000 people. North Dakota has 74 documented cases, or about 11 per 100,000 people.

The per capita figure in South Dakota is three times that of the No. 3 state, Mississippi.

Two people have died from the virus in South Dakota, the worst per capita death rate in the country. There have been no deaths in North Dakota.

There have been 147 deaths reported nationwide as of Sept. 25, one of the worst-ever years for West Nile in the United States.

MMC Presentation To Celebrate Native American Day

BY DEREK BARTOS
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While most of the country will be observing Columbus Day next Monday, South Dakotans will be celebrating a different holiday — Native American Day.

In honor of the celebration, Mount Marty College this week will present "Lisa Anpetu Washte (A Very Beautiful Day)," an oral Native American presentation including original musical stories. The event will

take place from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Marian Auditorium on the MMC campus. It is free and open to the public.

"This is a good way to channel creativity and to create general appreciation and awareness," said David Kahle, event coordinator and MMC associate professor of art.

The live presentation will include traditional songs and live instrumentals in the light of Navajo and Sioux traditions, and will be performed by tribal members Sam

K. Begay and Winona Spotted Calf.

"Sam combines the traditional language with stories associated with social issues, creation, the earth and traditional values," Kahle said. "Through the use of a guitar, he disperses his stories with his own personal ballads that he has written."

South Dakota has celebrated every second Monday in October as Native American Day since 1990. In 1989, the South Dakota Legislature unanimously passed a bill proposed by Gov. George Mickelson to

change Columbus Day to Native American Day to honor the American Indian residents in the state. The following year, Mickelson and representatives from the state's tribal governments proclaimed 1990 the "Year of Reconciliation."

Since then, South Dakota residents have celebrated Native American Day by embracing and learning about the tradi-

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BALE BLAZE



These firefighters spray foam on burning hay bales on a farm northeast of Tabor Tuesday. Firefighters from Tabor, Tyndall and Lesterville helped battle the blaze, which started as a grass fire, but then moved into some trees and ultimately burned an estimated 50 bales of hay. Warm and dry conditions are expected to again create a fire hazard in the area today (Wednesday), but colder temperatures are expected Thursday. For weather details, see page 2.

County Commission Lays Out Plan To Hire Highway Superintendent

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton County Commission laid out its plan to hire a new highway superintendent Tuesday.

Highway Superintendent Alan Sorensen turned in his resignation last month. His last day will be Dec. 13.

Commissioners said Tuesday that they would like to have a replacement on the job by Dec. 1 so Sorensen can orientate the individual.

However, Commissioner Donna Freng said the hiring process should take as long as necessary.

"It's important to find the right person, even if that requires a little more time for resumes and a little more time for interviews," she said. "The Highway Department will not fall apart in a week.



Jensen

There are guys there who know how to keep it going."

A plan is being implemented to re-structure the Highway Department that would require some employees to re-apply for their positions since some job descriptions are being changed. No layoffs are planned for the department, which has approximately 44 employees.

One of the jobs getting a new description is the superintendent. Commissioner Garry Moore referred to it Tuesday as the administrative highway superintendent.

Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said that is because the job will be oriented more toward

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TOMORROW: Students Have Beef With New School Lunch Guidelines

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: **NORTH** OF 15TH STREET