



Sunny And Warm

9 a.m. **45** 3 p.m. **71** | DETAILS: Page 2

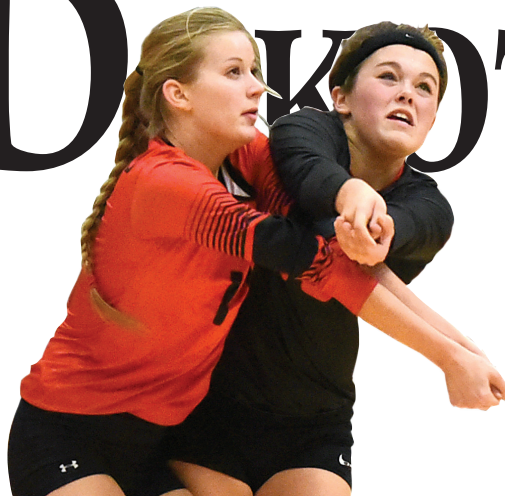
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**Volleyball:
Gazelles Swept
By Brandon
Valley Tuesday**

PAGE 7

Dry Fall Sparks Fire Dangers Across Plains



PHOTO: VERMILLION FIRE DEPARTMENT
Fire crews responded to a grass fire late Monday morning east of Vermillion less than a mile from the Highway 50 bypass near Masaba. Firefighters from seven communities — including Vermillion, Gayville, Wakonda, Elk Point, Centerville, Beresford and Newcastle, Nebraska — battled the blaze, which started in dry conditions and amid high winds. For more details, see page 2.

Prairie Wildfires Plague Five States

BY MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Wildfires burning on prairie land in five states have destroyed more than a dozen homes and killed livestock in the past few days as a region normally accustomed to crisp temperatures and even snow this time of year gets a taste of California-style drought.

Fires with volcano-like smoke plumes visible for miles around have broken out from the Rockies almost to the Mississippi River.

Ample rain during the spring and summer made matters worse by encouraging prairie grass to grow into deep, thick wildfire fuel.

"All they needed was a spark," said Kelly Allen, a National Weather Service fire program manager in Riverton, Wyoming. "Now they're finally burning. The fuel bed is almost continuous."

In Wyoming, winds drove a landfill fire across almost 16 square miles of prairie and burned 13 homes. Nobody was hurt but pets and livestock perished, left behind as some 1,300 people rushed to evacuate the rural area.

"It's a nightmare," said Daniel Clark. "I don't even know how to feel."

Clark lost his home, barn, six dogs, five cats, two horses, a cow and his wife's wedding ring. He was able to rescue two dogs and a horse before smoke forced him out of the area, he told the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

A neighbor shot one of his horses, mercifully, after it ran from the barn in flames.

Calmer winds helped firefighters begin to get a handle on the flames. They prepared to allow evacuees to return Tuesday evening.

FIRES | PAGE 12

Gifts From The Pumpkin Patch

Sertoma, Prisoners Work To Spread Halloween Cheer

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Gourd news! South Dakota's Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Yankton Sertoma Club are once again helping local elementary students turn a fall fruit into a festive learning experience.

Yankton's inmates have grown more than 1,200 pumpkins this year. Tuesday morning, representatives delivered them to every third grader in the Yankton School District.

The department started a garden in 1996 to donate the produce to local non-profit agencies. This year, more than 25,000 pounds of that same garden's produce was donated to several organizations around Yankton including: the Senior Center, the Banquet, the Contact Center, the Monastery and all Yankton Area Adjustment housing units.

"As with everything we grow in the garden and donate, we were looking for additional opportunities for incarcerated inmates to do something positive," said Bruce Fisher, case manager for South Dakota Department of Corrections. "A pumpkin patch was suggested and we ran with the idea."

A two-acre pumpkin patch was added to the garden in 2000. Since then, the patch has grown large enough to provide pumpkins for students in grades K-3 at Wakonda, Gayville-Volin, Freeman, Scotland, Tyndall, Tabor and Springfield, as well as third and fourth graders from St. Benedict's and St. John's, Mount Marty Pre-School and Human Services Center adolescents.

"Two or three inmates are selected to plant, weed, maintain and harvest the pumpkin patch each year," Fisher said. "The inmates selected have a great desire to take on the project and give something back to the community while incarcerated."

PUMPKIN | PAGE 12



Kindergartener Riley Tucker claims his big prize as Ms. Rueb's class gathers outside Beadle Elementary School Tuesday morning. Students in grades K-3 had the opportunity to choose from a variety of pumpkins grown and donated by the South Dakota Department of Corrections and the Yankton Sertoma Club. Teachers use this fall tradition as both an art project and a learning tool.

ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Rounds Staffer Gives Update On D.C. Activity

BY REILLY BIEL
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According to T.J. Nelson, a staffer of Sen. Mike Rounds in Washington, D.C., it's been a busy year for the Senate.

On Tuesday, Nelson spoke to Yankton's Rotary Club about Rounds' involvement in the Senate and the processes it goes through when attempting to solve issues and pass bills.

Nelson explained that after he took office in January, Rounds was appointed to four committees, "which was more than usual but he wanted to make sure he was addressing issues the constituents needed," explained Nelson.

Those committees included the Senate Armed Forces, Veterans Affairs, Environment & Public

Works and the EPA & Superfund Oversight. Rounds chairs the Environment & Public Works committee.

"One of the biggest themes of this session is for things to return to normal order of business," Nelson said. "It may look dysfunctional through the media, but more is getting done in Washington than in the past couple years."

Nelson noted that in 2014, there were only 15 votes on amendments to any bill, while so far this year, there have been around 200 amendment votes in the Senate. He also stated that 14 laws were signed by the president last year while this year, that number is up to 40.

Nelson said the Senate has had a productive



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Senator Mike Rounds staffer T.J. Nelson spoke to Yankton's Rotary Club Tuesday on Rounds' involvement in the Senate and issues the Senate is currently working on.

NELSON | PAGE 3

World



Officials: Jet Was Downed By Russian Missile

PAGE 10

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Workshop To Discuss Consumer Issues

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Communication technologies have enabled more and more people to connect around the world. These same lines of communication have also made it easier for some to take advantage of those users.

Identity theft, electronic scams and hacking have become increasingly problematic, but there are ways for people to protect themselves — and a series of workshops in Yankton is aiming to give people those tools.

The South Dakota Attorney General's Office, in conjunction with the Yankton County Farmers Union, are set to hold a series of workshops in Yankton Thursday covering identity theft, fraud and other consumer issues.

Alvin Novak, president of the Yankton County Farmers Union, told the *Press & Dakotan* the attorney general's office will be educating attendees on fraud dangers.

"We're going to let (the AG's office) speak," Novak said. "They're going to bring some booklets with them and talk about identity theft and fraud that's been surfacing."

Novak said current events played a part in inspiring the Farmers Union, which hosts a special workshop each month, to pursue a fraud seminar.

"There's been several things on the news about this kind of fraud and that kind of fraud," he said. "The one that tipped the scales on this were (stories about) computer hacking and how they can get into your computer and find out things about you that way. There's so much, especially from China, getting into businesses. This is a continuous thing and this is just kind of a reminder for the people to know."

He added that this isn't the first time they've invited the attorney general's office to Yankton for such a workshop, and it may not be the last.

"Many years ago, we did it," he said. "We have some kind of a program every month, and this time we just decided, 'Let's do the attorney general's office.' It would be alright (to do it again) because there's so many of these things going on. It seems like we encounter so many dishonest people, and it's too bad that we are not protected a little bit better — even if it is our own thinking."

The workshops will be overseen by Jody Swanson, supervisor with the Consumer

WORKSHOP | PAGE 3

