



Sunny And Warm

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## PRELUDE TO PIONEER DAY

Yankton High School celebrates its annual 'Pioneer Day' homecoming festivities today (Friday) with a parade at 2:30 p.m. and the football game against Aberdeen Central at 7 p.m. at Crane-Youngworth Field.

ABOVE: Yankton homecoming royal court dance around the burning 'Y' as fellow YHS students look on after coronation at Yankton High School on Thursday evening.

RIGHT: Amber Tacke, left, and Jase Likness were named the Yankton High School Pioneer Princess and Prince during the YHS Coronation ceremony, held Thursday at the Summit Activities Center.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



## ABC News Sued Over 'Pink Slime' Coverage

BY KRISTI EATON AND GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Beef Products Inc. sued ABC News, Inc. for defamation Thursday over its coverage of a meat product that critics dub "pink slime," claiming the network damaged the company by misleading consumers into believing it is unhealthy and unsafe.

The Dakota Dunes, S.D.-based meat processor is seeking \$1.2 billion in damages for roughly 200 "false and misleading and defamatory" statements about the product officially known as lean, finely textured beef, said Dan Webb, BPI's Chicago-based attorney.

The lawsuit filed in a South Dakota state court also names several individuals as defendants, including ABC news anchor Diane Sawyer and the Department of Agriculture microbiologist who coined the term "pink slime."

The company's reporting "caused consumers to believe that our lean beef is not beef at all — that it's an unhealthy pink slime, unsafe for public consumption, and that somehow it got hidden in the meat," Webb said before the company's official announcement.

ABC News, owned by The Walt Disney Co., denied BPI's claims.

"The lawsuit is without merit," Jeffrey W. Schneider, the news station's senior vice president, said in a brief statement Thursday. "We will contest it vigorously."

The 257-page lawsuit names American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., ABC News, Inc., Sawyer and ABC correspondents Jim Avila and David Kerley as defendants. It also names Gerald Zirnstein, the USDA microbiologist who named the product "pink slime," Carl Custer, a former federal food scientist, and Kit Foshee, a former BPI quality assurance manager who

was interviewed by ABC.

Richard McIntire, a spokesman for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, declined to comment and attempts to reach Foshee were unsuccessful.

The Food Integrity Campaign, a whistleblower advocacy group that has worked with Foshee, said in a statement Thursday that Foshee was fired from BPI because he refused to participate in the company's "misrepresentation of the product's safety to the USDA and to consumers."

"Thanks to ABC News, Kit Foshee and other whistleblowers shared their concerns about BPI," said Amanda Hitt, the group's director and former counsel to Foshee after he was fired. "Doing so took enormous courage for

LAWSUIT | PAGE 15A

## Rain Eases Drought In Midwest

Severe Areas In Neb. Hold Steady

BY JIM SUHR  
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Recent rainfall came too late to help to the nation's withered corn crop already being harvested in many parts, but it kept drought conditions from worsening in several key Midwest and Plains states and should help other crops still maturing in the fields.

The U.S. Drought Monitor released its weekly map on Thursday that showed the area of Nebraska deemed to be in extreme or exceptional drought — the two most severe categories — held steady during the seven-day period ending Tuesday, at 97.4 percent. Kansas remained unchanged, at 88.34 percent, and Illinois showed little change, coming in at 6.67 percent.

The latest report came a day after the U.S. Department of Agriculture slightly lowered its estimate for the nation's average corn per acre yield, pegging it at its lowest point since 1995. With the U.S. enduring its worst drought in decades, corn and soybean prices have soared this summer amid worries of tighter supplies of the commodities. Major corn users — livestock farmers, the ethanol industry and other countries importing it — will be forced to negotiate their level of use, a sort of market rationing that takes place in years of low supply.

Thursday's drought update showed two-thirds of Iowa, which grows more corn than any state, are now in extreme or exceptional drought. While the area deemed in exceptional drought, which is the most severe designation, remained the unchanged at 2.4 percent of

DROUGHT | PAGE 2A

## Residents Warned Of Drought-Related Stress

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Although it's been a tough summer for area farmers, a local mental health official said his organization has seen no uptick in cases due to drought-related stress.

"I don't think there has been anybody that has called or come in for services yet because of the drought," said Dr. David Dracy, a psychologist with Yankton's Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health.

Still, he said that doesn't mean issues won't arise in the fall harvest season.

"(Farmers) don't expect income until November," said Dracy, who was a farmer before entering his current profession. "I'm sure some of them have anticipatory anxiety, but it isn't really affecting their pocketbook yet."

"I think really where we're going to see issues arise is in the secondary businesses that depend on agriculture," he added. "I think what we'll see is food prices going up and less business

"I think what is most significant about drought is that it is such a long-term, extended event that we often do not realize the build-up of stress and anxiety."

LORI LINCOLN

on Main Street. There will be less pickups bought and less equipment because farmers don't have expendable income and don't need deductions."

Dracy said that if drought conditions persist into next year, he expects more stress-related issues to surface.

"Luckily, we've had several good farm years, so one bad year isn't so bad," he stated. "It's what happens next year. If we don't have some moisture in the fall, we'll have some real anticipatory

STRESS | PAGE 14A

### INSIDE TODAY

**YACA Kicks Off 66th Season With John Denver Tribute Concert**  
**RIVER CITY**



## MMC Seeks Input For New Education Program

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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After over a year of planning and tweaking, Mount Marty College's new Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (M.Ed.) program is set to have open houses to further develop the curriculum and enhance the direction of the program.

The college's goal is to carry a program that is consistent with the school's Benedictine liberal arts traditions and designed specifically for teachers who

are already in the classroom and wish to stay there, MMC President Dr. Joseph Benoit said at a press conference to introduce the program this winter. Such a program is different from most other Master of Education degrees, he said.

"What we're setting out to do here, and what the education faculty have developed with a program, is one that takes a classroom teacher and helps them become an even better classroom teacher, which is what our faculty are re-

MMC | PAGE 15A



ANDREW ATWAL/P&D

Drs. Nicholas Shudak and Deborah McCuin have been planning the MMC Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (M.Ed.) program for over a year. They are set to take input from teachers and perspective students on the program at their first open house scheduled for Sept. 27.

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**TOMORROW:** New Yankton Area Arts Director Gets Opportunity To Give Back

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