



Partly Cloudy

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Cross Country Meets Take Place Around The Area • **8**

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Yankton Tennis Goes 1-1 In Home Finale • **8**

f t w v VOLUME 138 NUMBER 122

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢ 8 38894 00002 4

# Afghanistan 'End Game' Is Off To Shaky Start

As US Troop 'Surge' Ends, Setbacks Are Piling Up

BY ROBERT BURNS  
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — The end game in Afghanistan is off to a shaky start. Just as the last U.S. "surge" troops leave the country, trouble is breaking out in ways that go to the core of the strategy for winding down the U.S. and allied combat role and making Afghans responsible for their own security. At stake is the goal of ensuring that Afghanistan not revert to being a terrorist haven.

Nearly two years after President Barack Obama announced that he was sending another 33,000 troops to take on the Taliban, those reinforcements are completing their return to the United States this week. That leaves about 68,000 American troops, along with their NATO allies and Afghan partners, to carry out an ambitious plan to put the Afghans fully in the combat lead as early as next year.

But the setbacks are piling up: a spasm of deadly attacks on U.S. and NATO forces by Afghan soldiers and police, including three attacks in the last three days; an audacious Taliban assault on a coalition air base that killed two Marines and destroyed six fighter jets; and a NATO airstrike that inadvertently killed eight Afghan women and girls.

Tensions over the anti-Islam movie produced in the U.S. that ridicules the Prophet Mohammad also spread to Kabul, where demonstrations turned violent Monday when protesters burned cars and threw rocks at a U.S. military base.

Those events help the Taliban's aim of driving a wedge between the Americans and their Afghan partners. They also show that the Taliban, while weakened, remains a force to be reckoned with, 11 years after the first U.S. troops arrived to drive the Taliban out.

The extra troops began moving into Afghanistan in early 2010, pushing the total U.S.

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# Deer Deaths On The Rise



PHOTO COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA GF&P  
This deer, photographed by Conservation Officer Brian Humphrey near Parker, shows the classic signs of hemorrhagic disease. The symptoms include bulging eyes, foaming mouth, swollen lymph nodes and sloughing of hair on her back. The disease, caused by a virus, has hit the white-tail deer population of southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska particularly hard.

Number Of Deer Killed By Virus Surging, Hitting Deer In The Region Hard

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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The number of white-tail deer believed to have died from a virus has surged in recent days, hitting the region hard, according to a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks game warden.

"We have seen a late surge the last three weeks. And from what I have been told, it's going to get worse," said Conservation Officer Sam Schelhaas of Yankton.

Most of the dead deer are suspected victims of a hemorrhagic disease, either epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or a similar disease known as "blue tongue." The diseases, caused by two separate viruses with similar clinical signs, are common in white-tailed deer and are typically detected

in late summer or early fall.

"We're seeing a lot of deer dying right now," Schelhaas said. "The first few calls were isolated here and there. Now, in talking to officers in other counties, some of the bigger landowners are finding 10 and 12 dead deer on their property. Hutchinson County has really been hit. They have had a lot of deer deaths."

Hutchinson County has reported the heaviest losses in southeast South Dakota, which in turn has seen the largest outbreaks this year.

Both EHD and blue tongue are spread by a biting midge and cause extensive internal hemorrhaging. The cases usually end with the first frost.

Many deer exhibit no clinical signs and appear perfectly healthy. Other deer may have symptoms such as respiratory distress, fever and swelling of

the tongue.

Besides the activity in southeast South Dakota, Schelhaas has heard of a spike in numbers for northeast Nebraska. Husker State officials announced Friday that EHD is suspected in the reported deaths of more than 2,200 deer this year. The outbreak could be one of the worst in decades.

The dead deer are generally found in the vicinity of water, Schelhaas said. They may show bleeding from the eyes, nose or mouth.

"You're finding these deer either in or on the banks of rivers or at stock dams," he said. "It's good for people with isolated stock dams to drive out and look around."

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# Lulu Now Loving Life, New Home And Family

Abandoned Dog Now Has New Home, Family

EDITOR'S NOTE: In July, the Press & Dakotan did a story on Lulu, who was then called Lucy, after she was found abandoned north of Yankton. This is an update on the progress she has made in the last two months.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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It's been more than two months since a lost, suffering dog named Lucy — who has since been re-christened Lulu — was found abandoned north of Yankton.

When a Yankton woman discovered her at the intersection of highways 46 and 81, Lulu was covered with fleas and had scabies.

The Press & Dakotan visited Lulu in early July while she was in quarantine at the city pound. Understandably, she looked sick and miserable huddled up in a corner of the cage.

Yankton Animal Control Officer Lisa Brasel, who



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D  
In July, Lulu was afflicted by fleas and scabies and had to be quarantined at the city pound (left). In the photo taken last week (right), she has been nursed back to health by Dakota Animal Rescue and has now been adopted.

is also a co-founder of the non-profit Dakota Animal Rescue (DAR) that took Lulu in, said at the time that it was one of the worst cases she had seen.



LULU | PAGE 12

## Sen. Johnson Fractures Arm After Falling

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Dakota Sen. Tim Johnson says he fractured his right arm at the shoulder after falling in his U.S. Senate office last week.

Johnson says he is doing well and will be in his office on Tuesday.

Johnson's wife, Barbara, fell while running last month and fractured an arm and a wrist.

Barbara Johnson jokes that she knew her husband was sympathetic about her recent injuries, but he didn't need to sustain his own injury to show how he felt.



Johnson



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