

YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS &  
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67th Year With The Brothers Four**  
**RIVER CITY**

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## Pedestrian Dies In Accident

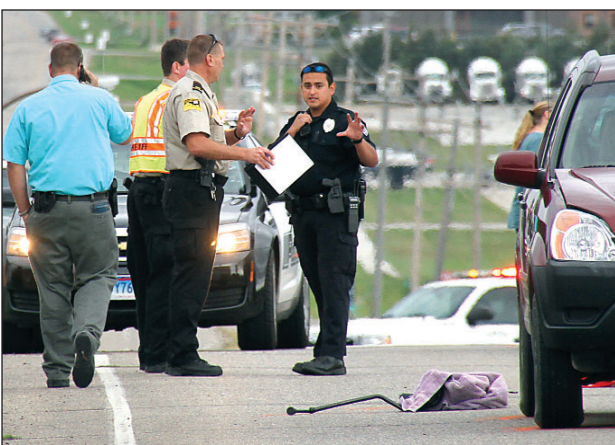
BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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An 81-year-old Viborg woman was killed Thursday afternoon when she was struck by a vehicle near 15th Street and West City Limits Road in Yankton.

According to the Yankton County Sheriff's Office, a 15-year-old Yankton male was driving a Honda CRV south along West City Limits Road when he struck two females who were crossing the street for a nearby garage sale.

Eleanor Shane died at the scene.

Margaret Wrigg, 57, also of Viborg, was taken to the



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**Yankton Police Officer Javier Murguia (right) and Lt. Clint Clites of the Yankton County Sheriff's Office have an exchange at the scene of an accident in Yankton Thursday that left a pedestrian dead.**

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## Drought Still Affecting Region

### S.D., Nebraska Show Worsening Conditions

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Despite a wet spring and some timely summer rains, the region continues to show signs of last year's harsh drought.

Those conditions were reflected in Thursday's report from the U.S. Drought Monitor, based at the University of Nebraska. Both South Dakota and Nebraska show a worsening situation.

During Thursday's national conference call, Kentucky state climatologist Stuart Foster pointed out an expansion of drought in the nation's heartland.

"The drought monitor for the week ... calls for continuation of drought in most of the central and western Plains," he said. "We are (seeing) the intensification of drought conditions in portions of the Midwest."

According to the drought monitor, all of southeast South Dakota stands abnormally dry. The affected region includes Charles Mix, Douglas, Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Yankton, Turner, Clay, Union and Lincoln counties.

In northeast Nebraska, Knox and Cedar counties show a mixture of abnormally dry conditions and moderate and severe drought. Dixon County is listed as mostly affected by severe drought.

The forecast for the remainder of the year calls for drought to persist or intensify, according to the Climate Prediction Center.

Drought conditions continue to impact a large portion of the upper Missouri River Basin. In response, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has continued its drought conservation measures.

In a news release, the Corps pointed to the lingering impact of drought conditions.

August runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City was 107 percent of normal. However, the calendar year runoff forecast remains below normal at 23.1 million acre feet (91 percent of normal).

The recent lack of rainfall and much above-normal temperatures have impacted crops and ecosystems in the region, according to Foster.

"With the heat wave in the Midwest, after a very cool summer, we ended up with a situation of warmer-than-normal temperatures, with high temperatures 6 degrees above average and night-time lows 11 degrees above average in the Central Plains and Midwest," he said.

"During the last 30 days, much of the Midwest and Great Plains was running 3, 4 and as much as 8 degrees above normal."

The Climate Prediction Center's 8- to 14-day outlook calls for warm temperatures throughout most of the

**DROUGHT** | PAGE 11A

## 'It Takes Your Breath'

### Sapa Employee Gets New Outlook After Diagnosis At Company Health Day

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A year ago, Roger Kubal attended the Health and Safety Day at Yankton's Sapa Extrusions believing he was a healthy 40-year-old.

Now, he is a cancer survivor, and Kubal will tell anyone who will listen that his life may very well have been saved that day in September 2012.

"I'm not one to go to the doctor," he told the *Press & Dakotan* during an interview Thursday at Sapa's fourth annual Health and Safety Day, "but last year I got a cardiovascular screening."

During that process, which Sapa offered to all of its more than 400 employees free of charge, medical personnel found a suspicious spot on Kubal's thyroid gland.

"When they got my tests back a couple of weeks later, they suggested that I get it looked at," Kubal said.

Further investigation revealed he had thyroid cancer.

"My doctor was crying when she came in to tell me," Kubal recalled. "It takes your breath (to hear you have cancer). You don't know what is going to happen. You don't



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**Roger Kubal, the maintenance manager at Sapa in Yankton, learned he had thyroid cancer at a company-sponsored Health and Safety Day last year. He is now cancer-free.**

know how bad it is. We all know someone who has died from cancer, so of course that's the first thing that pops into your head: How long do I have? How bad is it?"

Although the doctor was hoping to only have to take out half of the thyroid, the entire gland had to be removed.

"They checked around for more cancer in the lymph

nodes and didn't find any," Kubal said. "After that, I had to take a radiation pill and be quarantined for about a week."

After undergoing further tests, he was told he was free of cancer.

"That's a weight lifted off you," Kubal said. "My sister, Karen Frick, fought cancer for a long time before it went into

remission. I was lucky. We caught it early and got all of it. A single radiation treatment was all I needed."

He said the experience changed his outlook on life.

"I'm 41 and could have kicked the bucket already," Kubal stated. "I live a little

**SAPA** | PAGE 3A

**SDSU/Nebraska**

## Yankton Natives Work To Help Huskers



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Willie Jones (shown here) and Erik Spencer are currently two Yankton natives on the Nebraska football staff helping the Huskers prepare for Saturday's game against South Dakota State. Jones is an assistant strength coach and Spencer is a student athletic trainer.**

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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For as long as he can remember, Erik Spencer has been a diehard Nebraska football fan.

"I saw my first game in 1997 when I was just 5 years old," the 2010 Yankton High School graduate said. "I watched the Huskers beat up on the Akron Zips."

Little did Spencer know that, years later, he would be working with the team he grew up admiring.

When Nebraska and South Dakota State take the field Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Spencer — along with 2002 YHS grad Willie Jones — will be one of two Yankton natives assisting the Huskers on the sidelines. Spencer is a student athletic trainer and Jones is an assistant strength and conditioning coach.

A senior majoring in athletic training, Spencer joined the staff in May. His duties involve helping with injury prevention and care.

"It's been really good being exposed to all the different aspects of athletics at the college level," Spencer said. "I've learned a hundred times more doing this on a daily basis compared to learning in the classroom."

Entering his fifth season on the Nebraska football staff, Jones assists in the day-to-day operations of the strength and conditioning aspects of the program, including weight lifting, speed training and some administrative work.

While the two don't get to work together much, they said they do get to see each other often at practice and workouts, and enjoy sharing their hometown connection.

"(Erik) keeps in touch back home so it's nice to ask him how things are going," Jones said. "It's kind of nice to have that tie and that bond, and to be able to talk about the way things use to be back home in Yankton."

"We especially like to talk a lot of smack to the Watertown kids that are on the staff," Spencer added with a laugh.

With South Dakota State coming to town, the two men's connection to their home state will come into play Saturday, as well.

"It'll be pretty sweet because there's quite a few guys that I played high school football against that play for the Jackrabbits, and seeing them on the field at Memorial Stadium is just going to be crazy," Spencer said.

**HUSKERS** | PAGE 11A

**INSIDE**



**USA Weekend**



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