



Scattered Showers

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Sanders' Return To Field Provides Spark For Coyotes
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Cold Harvest Facts?

Upcoming Cold Snap Leaves Farmers Wondering About Crops

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

With a cold front moving into the region this week, farmers are watching the impact on their crops, a South Dakota official says.

Daytime temperatures are forecast to plummet from a predicted high of 83 degrees today (Monday) to 53 degrees Thursday. Meanwhile, overnight lows are forecast to plunge to 44 degrees Wednesday and 38 degrees Thursday.

Crops should have received enough heat units—the accumulated degrees of warmth—to make it

through the cold snap, according to South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today.

“For most producers, the concern now is how much more heat in the fall and when the freeze comes,” he said. “Down in (the Yankton) area, most people should be OK unless something odd happens with a freeze. There are a few folks who either planted late or replanted, and they’ll lose acres. But that shouldn’t be widespread.”

Southeast South Dakota and north-east Nebraska have experienced a



Toddy

cool, wet summer, Today said. August and early September have produced warmer days, helping with crop maturity, he added.

However, conditions will reverse with the arrival of the new weather front.

“We’re watching this cold pool coming south the end of the week,” he said. “Your area (around Yankton) shouldn’t have a problem other than being cold.”

The National Weather Service (NWS) calls for the cold front allowing for additional thunderstorms.

The best chance for severe storm activity will likely occur late Tuesday afternoon and evening. Large hail and strong winds appear the largest hazards. However, locally heavy rain

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Rods Rule



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
The rods rocked, too, at Vermillion’s annual “Ribs, Rods and Rock ‘n Roll” festival, held Friday and Saturday in downtown Vermillion. The two-day event included plenty of classic vehicles like this, as well as great music and food, not to mention the South Dakota BBQ Championship.

Serving Up History



PHOTO: ELIZABETH “SAM” GROSZ
Earla Strid cuts into some kuchen to serve to members of the South Dakota 125th Anniversary Wagon Train during its stop in Tripp Saturday night. The food was only part of the Saturday’s festivities, were part of the wagon train’s 17-day journey from Yankton to Pierre. The wagon train passed through Parkston Sunday before spending the night in Mitchell. The train is set to arrive in Pierre on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Well Spoken

‘Freedom Trikers’ Carry Message About Brain Injuries

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Dan Zimmerman and Catherine Brubaker are headed to Margaritaville, even if singing icon Jimmy Buffett isn’t there to greet them at his trademark location.

Zimmerman and Brubaker left Washington State earlier this summer on a biking trek to Key West, Fla., and the Margaritaville Café. They pulled into Yankton Friday, setting a goal of finishing their 5,200-mile journey by Nov. 29.

The Phoenix natives share more than a passion for cycling—they are both recovering from brain injuries. Zimmerman suffered a stroke in 2005, the day after Thanksgiving. Brubaker suffered traumatic brain injuries caused by a 2010 assault and a 2011 head-on vehicle collision.

Zimmerman remained unresponsive while hospitalized after his stroke, which is where the Jimmy Buffett connection played a key role.

“Dan was down and out, in a coma. His family was at his bedside, feeling helpless,” said friend Bill Brown, also biking on the current trip. “The doctor said scientists believe that listening to music will stimulate consciousness. Dan was a big Jimmy Buffett fan, a real Parrot Head, so they put on Dan’s CDs—and he came to. Now, he feels a real connection to Jimmy Buffett.”

As a tribute, Zimmerman incorporated the Buffett connection into the cross-country ride raising both funds and awareness.

“When we lined up this trip, Dan asked where it was ending in Florida,” Brown said. “I said St. Augustine, and he asked if we could make it Key West and call the trip ‘Road To Margaritaville.’”

Zimmerman proudly showed off his T-shirt sporting the “Road To Margaritaville” logo. The T-shirt also bears the website address www.spokesfightingstrokes.org, promoting stroke and brain injury awareness.

Zimmerman and Brubaker have found an ally in Carson Cooper, host of “Radio Margari-



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Catherine Brubaker and Dan Zimmerman pull up in their tricycles during a weekend stop in Yankton. The Phoenix natives are respective brain injury and stroke victims, and they are using their cross-country trek to promote awareness.

taville” on SiriusXM satellite radio. They are hoping Cooper not only keeps the spotlight focused on their awareness campaign but may also connect with Buffett.

A LONG JOURNEY

For Zimmerman, the current bike ride seems light years removed from the terror of awakening after his stroke.

“My right side was paralyzed all the way. I had no voice, but I was screaming in my head,” he said. “The nurses put a journal in my hand (to write messages). I felt useless. I had forgotten how to speak. I felt trapped in my own body.”

Now, Zimmerman can perform daily tasks, although he still finds difficulty speaking and performing math skills.

He suffers from Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasis (HHT), which caused blood clots on the brain and set up his stroke. One of his two sons has HHT, spurring on this

TRIKERS | PAGE 9

Education Groups Propose A Teacher Salary Bill

By The Associated Press

PIERRE — Representatives from several statewide education organizations will go before a legislative planning committee Monday with a plan they say would increase public school teacher salaries.

Rob Monson, executive director of the School Administrators of South Dakota, will join other education officials around the state at a meeting of the Legislative Planning Committee in Pierre. He said he and his colleagues will present a draft of a bill to the committee. The bill would create a teacher enhancement fund in an effort to raise teacher salaries in the state.

The group’s goal is to bring base salaries up to a “respectable level” by using a combination of state and local dollars, Monson said.

He added that the draft of the bill is preliminary in its current form and estimated Friday that it will likely look very different if it’s able to move through the Legislature.

“We know it’s going to take a considerable amount of work to get from where it’s at to something that’s going to be palatable,” he said.

The bill proposal comes as many schools across the state report difficulties finding new teachers to replace long-term employees.

Nearly three-quarters of South Dakota school superintendents surveyed in February said they believed low pay is a big reason they are having trouble hiring and keeping teachers. The organizations that conducted the survey, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the School Administrators of South Dakota, got responses from 130 of the state’s 154 districts.

As of June, more than 30 percent of South Dakota teaching positions posted this year remained open when they probably would have been filled by the end of May in previous years, Monson said.

Monson sent out a follow-up survey for superintendents last week, which he said he expects to have the results from soon.



Rural Home Gutted

A rural home in northern Yankton County was destroyed by fire Saturday afternoon. Firefighters from Menno, Scotland and Lester-ville responded to the blaze, located about five miles south of Menno on Stone Church Road, at approximately 4:45 p.m. According to reports at the scene, an occupant in the house was cooking in the kitchen area when the fire started. One injury was reported. Firefighters were on the scene for approximately five hours containing the blaze. The Yankton County Sheriff’s Department and Yankton County EMS were also on the scene. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



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TOMORROW: City Commission, YSD Finalize Budgets

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET