

RIBBON CUTTING



Amy Christensen prepares to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of her boutique The Blue Monarch on Thursday afternoon.

Alan Dale/The Plain Talk

Sale this weekend to support HHS

YANKTON — Heartland Humane Society will hold a rummage sale Friday and Saturday with all proceeds from the sale to go to HHS to help cover animal care costs and raise money for their new facility expansion.

"Some various items we will have include pet accessories, household items and some miscellaneous stuff," Kerry Hacecky, the HHS' executive director, said. "It's definitely a sale worth checking out."

The rummage sale will run 12-6 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday.

It will be held in the big garage at the new location, 3400 East Highway 50 in Yankton.

"We are downsizing some of our inventory," Hacecky said. "With the move to a new location we have some items we don't need anymore — both pet and household items — including a washer and dryer, dog kennels, linens, and room dividers."

This type of activity is not commonly held by the HHS.

"We do not generally do rummage sales," Hacecky said. "Merely we are trying to find new owners for some things we don't envision needing anymore with the new shelter."

For more information, contact HHS at 605-664-4244 or visit www.heartlandhumanesociety.net.

Heartland Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves Yankton and Clay Counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people. Visit Heartland Humane Society online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net.

- Alan Dale, The Plain Talk

National Park Service dedicates new trails

The recently constructed Mulberry Bend Hiking Trail dedication will take place Saturday, September 13, 2014. Missouri National Recreational River — northeast Nebraska's and southeastern South Dakota's local unit of the national park system — invites everyone to this dedication, which then provides an opportunity to take a ranger-guided "walk in the woods". Hikers will experience unique flora and fauna, including 150-year old bur oak trees, and two vista points with sweeping views of the wild and scenic Missouri National Recreational River (MNR).

The event will begin at 1:00 pm, Saturday, September 13, at the Mulberry Bend Overlook, on the Nebraska side of the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge connecting South Dakota Highway 19 and Nebraska Highway 15. MNR Superintendent Rick Clark and Biologist Lisa Yager will welcome visitors with short presentations, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"A great deal of hard work and collaboration has gone into the completion of the Mulberry Bend Hiking Trail and we are excited to announce that the trail is open for the public to enjoy. In honor of the trail dedication, we are pleased to offer several guided hikes on September 13," said Lisa Yager.

Ranger-guided walks are scheduled for 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 pm to introduce the public to the new trail system and the natural resources and history of the Mulberry Bend area. The trail is considered moderately difficult due to steep inclines and potential uneven footing. Sturdy shoes, such as hiking or athletic shoes, are recommended. The trail length, including both vista point spurs, is three-fourths of a mile.

The park's unique Mobile Ranger Station, a visitor center on wheels, will be at the event from 1:00 to 4:00 pm with exhibits, activities, and ranger programs for all ages. Water will be provided.

people in this room, and the passion of the people that work on this team we were able to create some very beautiful interactions and experiences for everyone." Moko said that Google was very excited about the partnership. He said that this is a step in the right direction because Google's goal is to gather information and make it useful and accessible for all.

South Dakota Secretary of Tourism James Hagen said that he thinks that this will inspire people to come and see that exhibits first hand.

"There is no question that this technology will reach millions around the world," Hagen said. "Now people who won't be able to get here will see these photos in a virtual way. Sometimes people ask if it is actually working against us to do that. But it's just the opposite." Moko said that he thinks it's an incredible opportunity got people to really recognize

Anytime Fitness undertakes remodel

By Alan Dale

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It was time for a change and it wasn't going to happen anytime without taking the initiative.

So three-plus months ago, Anytime Fitness, 838 East Cherry Street, began an overhaul of its look and went about making the club a bit more snappy.

Instead of running on a treadmill facing a wall, now members can look out a large, wall-length window, and take in the sights and movements outside.

What was once a darker mood has now become brighter, popping with life and the movement of getting into shape.

"The new ownership was the big change," club manager Adam Ernesti said. "They really want to put something new into the business. We want to pretty much redo the whole club."

The majority of the remodel is complete, but the task of striving for near perfection isn't as they still have to put in two flat screen televisions, a projector for the new classroom, and wrap up the finishing touches on a new bathroom, Ernesti said.

"We made the gym a whole lot bigger so you can move around more," Ernesti added. "I think everybody loves it. We are signing up new members. They like it because it's clean and brand new."

Anytime Fitness member Grant Nielsen wouldn't argue.

"I love it because there is a lot more space, it's open and with the



Anytime Fitness' remodel makes quite a bright impression on the club's customers.

Alan Dale / The Plain Talk

classroom opening up it will be interesting to see what they have to offer," Nielsen said. "There is a lot more space in the free weight area. It's not as crowded as it used to be."

He also appreciates the ability to move around. "The machines were packed in and everything has its own area," he said. "I tell people from work to come join up."

One big, nationwide push from Anytime Fitness will come Oct. 7 when any new member can sign up for \$1 on that day. Ernesti said that the average sign-up cost is \$90 so the opportunity is a "huge" one for anyone interested.

"When I first joined I was just looking for a place to work out,"

Ernesti said. "After I came here I started talking to the other members and we have created a community here. Like Grant, he'll come in and he will talk to me every time he comes here. My goal as a manager is to make everyone feel comfortable."

Simply put, Anytime Fitness should be about being a good experience...anytime.

"I am trying to make it comfortable for everyone and develop a friendship among the members," Ernesti said. "Other gyms you see everyone is thrown together, packed in there, and there is no room to get on to machines."

For more information about Anytime Fitness contact 605-624-9250.

Area farmers brace for cold snap's impact

By Randy Dockendorf

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With unseasonably cold weather hitting the region, farmers are watching the impact on their crops, a South Dakota official says.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has forecast lows of 35 degrees tonight (Friday) and 45 degrees Saturday night.

The southeast region should fare well despite the potential for frost and cooling, said Extension specialist Connie Strunk with South Dakota State University (SDSU).

"If the cold doesn't take the corn, we are looking at a pretty phenomenal crop," she said. "If the corn is hurt by the cold, we suspect light test weight."

The harvest shapes up to be a banner year, Strunk said.

"Crop projections are average to better than average," she said. "Where flooding occurred, those field averages have been lowered. But the areas which weren't affected are looking really good."

The region has also bounced back from dry conditions earlier this year, Strunk said. The latest rainfall saw Vermillion receive 1.52 inches Tuesday night, according to the NWS.

"The drought set some things back," she said. "But the rain we caught in August is expected to have helped and should bring those field averages back up."

Crops should have received enough heat units — the accumulated degrees of warmth — to make it through a cold snap, according to South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Todey.

"For most producers, the concern now is how much more heat in the fall and when the freeze comes," he said. "Down in (the Vermillion) 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 northeast Nebraska have experienced a cool, wet summer, Todey said. August and early September have produced warmer days, helping with crop maturity, he added.

However, conditions will reverse with the expected arrival of a new weather front, he said.

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

The NWS calls for the cold front allowing for additional thunderstorms.

The seasonal change raises new concerns about heat units and growing-degree days. A growing-degree day isn't the same as a 24-hour day. Instead, the figure measures crop maturity between planting time and the first killing frost. For example, corn develops faster during warmer temperatures and slower during cooler temperatures.

The sum of these "heat units" for each calendar day of the growing season provides a figure ranging from 2,300 to 3,000 in South Dakota, according to Extension officials. The figure helps pin down the maturity period or rating of corn.

Growing degree days are calculated by subtracting a base temperature from the average of the maximum and minimum temperatures for the day, Strunk said.

The base temperature represents what is needed for the organism's growth, she said.

"Limits are usually set on the low and high daily

temperatures so only temperatures that result in additional growth rate are considered," she said. "The minimum temperature in the GDD (growing-degree days) calculation (for corn) is set at 50 degrees since very little growth occurs at temperatures below this. Because the growth rate slows under conditions warmer than 86 degrees, it's used as the maximum temperature."

Vermillion's season consists of approximately 3,000 growing degree days. The figure is based on May 2 planting and the Oct. 19 average date for the first killing frost, when the temperature drops to 28 degrees half the time.

According to the NWS, last Saturday's heat unit readings were running 111 growing degree days ahead of normal for Norfolk, Neb., and 7 growing degree days ahead of normal for Sioux Falls, the closest reporting stations for Vermillion.

Looking ahead, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is forecasting a banner harvest for the Husker State. Corn and soybean progress are near average with slightly more than 70 percent of both crops in good to excellent condition.

"Dryland and irrigated yields are likely to be well above average at a majority of sites," the report said. "While the risk of an early-killing frost is high at northern locations in the Corn Belt, the projected yield impact has diminished during the last two weeks due to warmer temperatures."

The cool, wet summer could lead to crop moisture issues, according to Laura Edwards with SDSU Extension.

"Our long-term trends in the fall season show later freeze dates and wetter climate for September through

November," she said. "This could mean that high moisture crops may be a concern this harvest as delayed growth and maturity has been reported across the cropping areas this year."

A cold snap doesn't necessarily mean an early freeze, Edwards said.

"As for the most popular question: Will the hard freeze occur?" she said. "It's too early to say for sure, but we don't expect it anytime in the next couple of weeks."

With about 10 days remaining for summer, 2014 will already go down as one for the record books, Todey said.

"Your summer (for the Yankton reporting station), from June through August, had five days at 90 degrees or above," he said. "That's the second lowest number on record after 1992."

Most of the summer remained cooler than normal for the Yankton reporting station, Todey said.

"The summer average temperature was 70.7 degrees, the 16th coolest on record," he said. "Oddly, the August temperature was right close to average at 72.5 degrees, just 0.4 degrees below average."

The summer also produced high rainfall totals, Todey said.

Yankton recorded 18.16 inches of precipitation this summer, third most behind 2010 and 1944. In addition, Yankton recorded 4.45 inches in August, the 22nd wettest on record and 1.48 inches above average.

With the moisture, the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor report shows no dry or drought conditions in southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.plaintalk.net

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such as the oldest cello in existence, the Amati "King," The "Harrison" Stradivari violin and the earliest and still playable harpsichord.

The website allows the viewers to get so close in the picture that you may get a better view then you would in the actual museum. At the official launch, Google spokesperson Wolete Moko who also is a musician that plays the saxophone, demonstrated to the crowd amazing quality of Google's photography of two new features on the website yesterday: The King Cello, and the many NMM historic saxophones. The audience was in awe.

"We are incredibly proud of this," Moko said. "With Google's great technology, the passion of

the gem that South Dakota truly has.

"It's a gem of this institution and a gem to our organization. You will look at the Google Cultural Institute and see exhibits like the original saxophones from the person who is actually the founder of saxophones. As someone like myself who has played the saxophone for 14 years now, I'm just floored." After the NMM closed their doors to the public Friday evening, the Google street view trolley mapped out the museum. This will give

online viewers a chance to virtually walk through the exhibits to either map out their visit or explore and learn about the exhibits from afar.

USD student senior Erin Mathisen thought that the NMM teaming up with Google was a great idea.

"I believe this is an important advancement for the NMM," Mathisen said. "A well designed website with high quality photos paired with the ability to tour the building with google maps really provides a service to

society." To see some of NMM's collections along with other world wonders, go to www.google.com/culturalinstitute.

Insurance: The biggest risk is not having any.



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