

## Fatal crash at intersection of S.D. Highway 20 and 25

One person died early Monday morning in a two-vehicle crash west of Wallace.

Clark County Sheriff Rob McGraw received the call at 4:34 a.m. Monday, March 28.

According to South Dakota Public Information Officer Tony Mangan, the accident took place at the intersection of S.D. Highway 20 and S.D. Highway 25, three miles west of Wallace, in Clark County.

A female, 24, in a 2017 Ford F150 pickup suffered fatal injuries. A 65-year old male driving a 2020

International LT625 semi-truck and trailer suffered minor injuries.

Mangan's report continued, "Names of the two people involved are not yet being released pending notification of family members."

"Preliminary crash information indicates that a 2017 Ford F150 pickup was westbound on S.D. Highway 20 when the driver failed to stop for a stop sign. The vehicle collided in the intersection

**Fatal Crash**  
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Clark County Commissioner Francis Hass appears to be learning something from a visiting official in this picture during the initial group luncheon before they split into peer groups.

## Sioux Valley Commissioners Association quarterly meeting was held in Clark

The Sioux Valley Commissioners Association (SVCA) met for their quarterly session at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Clark on Wednesday, March 23. Chris Sass, Clark County Commission Vice-chairperson welcomed the crowd and Commission Chair, Wally Knock called the meeting to order. All ten counties in the association were represented. Those counties are Lake, Kingsbury, Moody, Spink, Beadle, Deuel, Brookings, Hamlin, Codington, and Clark.

In addition to the commissioners from these counties the other elected officers of the county are also in-

vited and hold their own meetings of peers.

During the covid years of 2020 and 2021 the association suspended meetings for six sessions for safety since they make a sizable gathering when they meet.

These meetings provide opportunities for peers in different South Dakota jurisdictions to share ideas, experiences, and other useful information that might help them solve problems in their home areas.

South Dakota legislators were present as well, and were given an opportunity to address the crowd and take questions.



## The Stinky Cheese Man performance is this weekend

The Clark All School Play will be presented on April 2 at 7:00 p.m. and April 3 at 4:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Gym.

Though the characters may be familiar, each of your favorite storybook fables is uproariously derailed in this adaptation of Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's quintessential children's book of fractured fairy

tales. Everything from *Chicken Little* to *The Gingerbread Man* gets a complete makeover. Fun music and witty narration accompany the likes of ineloquent giants, sassy barnyard animals, colossal cow pies, and enough stinky cheese to go around.

For more play practice pictures turn to page 6.

## Decline in freshwater mussels an indicator of poor river and stream health in South Dakota

Julie Bolding  
*South Dakota News Watch*

Nestled in the silt, sand or fine gravel of South Dakota's rivers and streams live some of the state's least appreciated yet most ecologically important creatures — freshwater mussels.

Their names spark the imagination: Fatmucket, White Heelsplitter, Higgins Eye, Round Pigtoe, Giant Floater, Plain Pocketbook, Fawnsfoot.

Usually hidden beneath the water's surface, mussels do the quiet work of filtering water in South

Dakota's rivers and streams, helping other aquatic species such as fish thrive. They are a natural food source for otters, ducks, herons and fish.

Many species of these critical members of freshwater ecosystems may be vanishing within South Da-

kota. Recent surveys of the state's 14 major river basins — comprising the first comprehensive assessment of living mussel species and their population sizes in South Dakota

**Freshwater Mussels**  
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Miss Boomgaarden and her high school senior helpers assist the kindergarten students to transplant growing young flowers to larger containers. They each got to take their own two re-potted plants home at the end of the day.

## Kindergarten students visit C.H.S. greenhouse

The greenhouse at Clark High School is still shiny new and just got it's floor wet for the first time late this winter. Going into spring time, Miss Matti Boomgaarden, the agriculture teacher, is excited to finally be using it. The kindergarten

class, with help from several high school students, was busy re-potting two young flowers each from small starter flats into larger two inch individual pots to take home. Young greenhouse, young flower plants and young students; what

better start? For her startup phase, Boomgaarden's program received around 1000 donated plants from

**Greenhouse**  
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## Drought concerns continue with 2022 Spring climate outlook

Laura Edwards  
*SDSU Extension State Climatologist*

The climate outlook for the spring season has increased concern for drought to continue in South Dakota. On March 17, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed two-thirds of the state in either moderate or severe drought. The climate outlook, released the same day, has odds leaning toward warmer and drier than average climate for most of the state through June 2022.

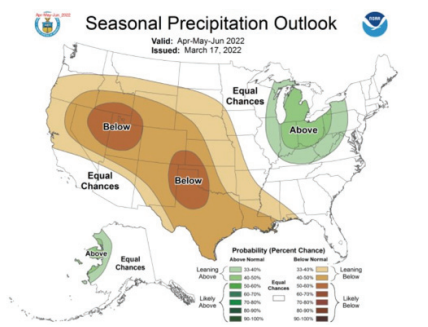
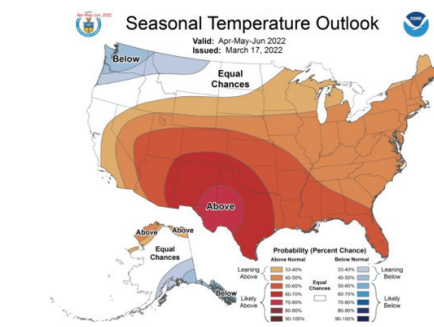
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center released their official April temperature and precipitation outlooks, as well as seasonal outlooks for 3-month periods through the remainder of 2022.

Precipitation in April is leaning towards drier than average for most of the state. However, the northern South Dakota border has equal chances of drier, wetter or near average precipitation for the month. South Dakota is at the northern edge of a large area in the Central and Southern Plains with odds leaning toward drier than average throughout April.

Similarly, the months of April through June have an increased likelihood of drier than average conditions across the state. These conditions are particularly concerning as these three months comprise about 40 percent of annual precipitation, depending on location in the state.

"For farmers and ranchers, dry conditions during this time could certainly have a large impact on farm operations and decisions throughout the year," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension State Climatologist.

The current drought in central and western South Dakota has been ongoing since mid-2020. Many areas are



carrying soil moisture shortages from the previous dry years, and stock ponds and surface water for both human and livestock uses are lower than average for this time of year. Spring season moisture is critical for re-growth of grasses in pastures and hay fields that provide feed later in the year and over the next winter season. Therefore, South Dakota's farmers and ranchers will need to rely on spring rainfall more this year than a typical year.

For temperatures in April, South Dakota straddles a line between an area favored for colder temperatures in the north and warmer temperatures in the south. As a result, southern South Dakota is slightly favored to have warmer than average temperatures in the month ahead, with the northern counties holding equal chances of warmer, colder or near average temperatures.

The three-month outlook for the months of April, May and June tells a very similar story, with all but the northwest region of the state leaning toward warmer than average temperatures for this period.

The NOAA outlook indicates even more concern ahead for drought in the upcoming summer season. For the months of June, July and August, there are even higher probabilities of

warmer than average temperatures and dry conditions across South Dakota. Drought can increase in coverage and intensify quickly under dry and hot conditions throughout the summer season.

"Now is the time for farmers, ranchers and others to prepare for drought and plan ahead for what they can do in the event of worsening conditions," said Edwards.

Drought resources for farmers and ranchers are available on the SDSU Extension website.

For more information, contact Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension State Climatologist, at 605-626-2870 or Laura.Edwards@sdstate.edu.

WEATHER				
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
March 22	49	32	0	
March 23	46	31	0	
March 24	38	30	0.01	
March 25	48	28	0.02	
March 26	47	18	0	
March 27	32	11	0	
March 28	36	13	0	
2022 precipitation to date	0.66			
2021 precipitation to date	2.35			