



State 'A' Teener Play Opens In Tabor • 8

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## USDA Drops Corn Estimates

### USDA Estimates Expect 10.8 Billion Bushels Of Corn To Be Produced — The Least Since 2006

BY JIM SUHR  
AP Business Writer

ST. LOUIS — A deepening drought in the nation's farm states has cut further into this fall's harvest, with farmers now expected to pull from their fields the lowest corn yield in more than a decade. But American farmers are still expected to produce their eighth-largest harvest ever, and while there's sure to be a rise in prices at the grocery stores, there's little risk of a failed harvest that

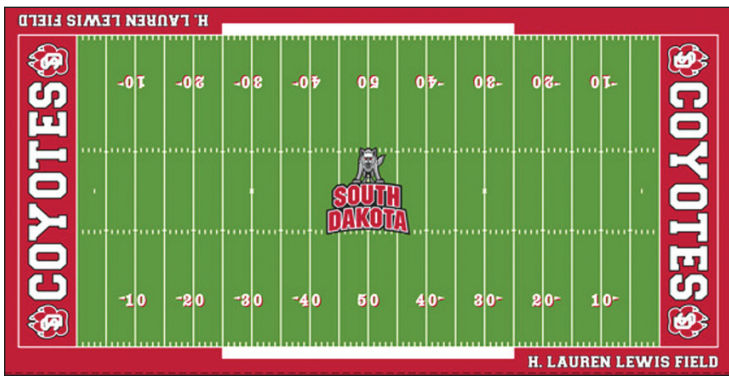
would lead to shortages on the shelves. The U.S. Agriculture Department predicted the nation's biggest harvest ever in the spring, when farmers planted 96.4 million acres of corn — the most since 1937. But it cut its estimate a month ago and again Friday, saying it now expects the nation to produce 10.8 billion bushels, the least since 2006. If that estimate holds, the federal government says it will be enough to meet the world's needs and ensure there are no shortages. But experts say

food prices will almost certainly climb as corn is a widely used ingredient found in everything from cosmetics to cereal, colas and candy bars. The drought stretching across the U.S. from Ohio west to California is deepest in the middle of the country, and major farm states like Iowa and Illinois are seeing conditions get worse each week. Farmers credit advances in seed technology that have produced hardier, more drought-tolerant corn for any harvest at all. "I have to be honest with you, I'm totally stunned we have corn with green stalks and leaves after going through weeks of 105-degree temperature," said Garry



KELLY HERTZ/P&D This corn shows the impact that this summer's hot, dry weather has had on fields throughout a large swath of the nation. The Agriculture Department has lowered its forecast for corn yield, as many corn-producing states are experiencing drought conditions.

CORN | PAGE 16



## Installation Of New Turf At DakotaDome Under Way

From the Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — Workers this week began the somewhat tedious task of installing a new AstroTurf field at the DakotaDome on the USD campus in Vermillion. This new surface replaces the artificial turf that had been in place on the Dome's gridiron for years. "The new AstroTurf field at the DakotaDome will give us an overall improvement in the football program and with our facilities," said Saylor. "It will also provide us with a new and improved level of safety and performance for our student-athletes, as well as demonstrate our commitment to the program." Senior Associate Athletic Director David Herbster was heavily involved in the decision-making process. "We looked at numerous options," said Herbster. "We chose AstroTurf because of their breadth of experience and the facilities the product has been installed in. Our confidence in their body of work was extremely important. Also important were price and customer service. We felt like AstroTurf provided us with exactly what we needed." Herbster visited several facilities, but was sold when he visited the indoor practice facility at the University of Kansas. The Jayhawks had the same kind of system that USD was looking for. "When we saw the field at Kansas, we knew we wanted to have that in the DakotaDome," said Herbster. The surface will be AstroTurf PureGrass, a tufted nylon product that provides exceptional, all-around performance. PureGrass was designed as a premium, multi-purpose, extra-plush turf with a high fiber density. The PureGrass system at the DakotaDome will not contain infill and is designed to be a portable system, which will rest on an 8mm pad.

TURF | PAGE 14



DAVID LIAS / PLAIN TALK

Workers carefully roll out a section of AstroTurf onto an 8mm pad that they had sprayed with adhesive just moments before. The new turf being installed in the USD DakotaDome is AstroTurf PureGrass, a tufted nylon product that provides exceptional, all-around performance. PureGrass was designed as a premium, multi-purpose, extra-plush turf with a high fiber density.

## YSD Buys Into Online Program Revolution

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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The Yankton School District (YSD) continues to get on board with the increasing popularity of online programs at schools to help supplement students' learning experiences inside the classroom. The elementary schools in the district offer students two programs: SuccessMaker and Reading Counts. The middle school offers IXL — Math and Accelerated Reader. The high school has Programmed Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations (PLATO) for the Alternative Learning Center and Virtual High School for students to do the courses online, but must pay a fee in order to do so. The South Dakota Virtual School provides expanded course offerings to students through online studies. In addition it gives students the opportunity to take more Advanced Placement (AP) courses, the ability to study highly specialized subjects or receive more specific remedial instruction in certain subjects. Yankton Middle School principal Todd Dvoracek said the programs have had a big impact on students. "There are not a lot of online programs offered at the middle school, but the programs we do have are strictly supplementary," he said. "They don't drive our instruction, they supplement the curriculum." For the 2011-12 school year, there were 133 school districts and school systems in the state that participated in the Virtual School program. There are also 24 AP courses and 82 credit recovery courses offered through the online program. He added that the teachers use the programs for all levels of students; and the programs currently in place are all cost-effective and kids can use them both at home and in the classroom. "Students enjoy using the technology of the online programs here," Dvoracek said. "They can also log on at home on their computers, iPads or iPods." Despite the successes of the programs at the middle

ONLINE | PAGE 14

## U.S. Attorney Vows War On Synthetic Drugs

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Johnson

K2. Spice. Snow Leopard. Those products are marketed different ways, but U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says synthetic drugs share a common trait — they can cause permanent harm to users. "It's a combination of chemicals that mimic (cocaine), LSD, Ecstasy and marijuana," Johnson said. "These drugs can cause strokes, heart attacks, delusions, brain damage and psychiatric episodes. It's a growing problem in South Dakota and the U.S." Johnson, the top federal prosecutor in South Dakota, spoke this week in Yankton to the local Rotary Club. He also spoke with the *Press & Dakotan* about the growing problem with synthetic drugs. The products are marketed as everything from ladybug attractant and potpourri to de-

odorant and sexual stimulants, Johnson said. Synthetic drugs are also popularly sold as bath salts, he said. "They are selling bath salts by the gram," he said. "If you're buying your bath salts by the gram, you know there's something wrong." Johnson vowed to crack down on synthetic drug dealers. Businesses selling synthetic drugs can expect authorities to pursue them under both state and federal laws, Johnson said. "We have the potential to take your whole store," he said. "We will do everything we can to shut down your operation." The South Dakota Legislature passed a law this year, cracking down on synthetic drugs. Authorities applauded the tougher law but admitted chemists and businesses often alter a product so it falls outside the banned substances. In that case, the federal analog drug statutes are helpful in prosecuting cases, Johnson said. The federal laws cover products similar in nature to illegal substances, he said. "If it's not listed as an illegal narcotic, it can still be illegal," he said. "The federal statutes say that, if a chemical is designed with a substance similar to narcotics and its effect is the same on the user as an illegal drug, then it can be considered illegal." The new state laws, combined with federal statutes, are helping with the war on drugs, Johnson said. However, he admits prosecuting synthetic drug cases remains very challenging. "This is much more difficult (to prose-

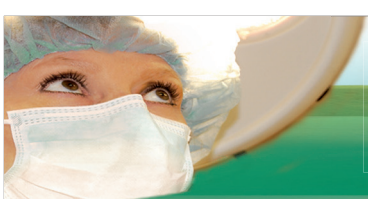
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## Vermillion Native Enjoys Olympic Energy While Living In London

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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For Vermillion native Brian Brown, the Summer Olympic Games are literally unfolding outside his front door. Most Americans needed to make travel and lodging arrangements, as well as secure a coveted ticket for events, to attend the Summer Olympics in London. The quadrennial event wraps up its 17-day run with Sunday's closing ceremony. But Brown moved from New York to London in 2005 to work in the financial district. For the past two weeks, he has enjoyed the Olympics atmosphere without taking off from work or leaving home. "(I) have been able to at least vicariously experience the festivities of the summer," he told the *Press & Dakotan* in an email interview.

OLYMPICS | PAGE 14



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YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET