

S.D. Corn And Soybeans Suffer In Drought Year

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Production of corn and soybeans in South Dakota was down last year, during a year in which much of the state was mired in extreme drought.

The Agriculture Department says the state's corn crop totaled 535.3 million bushels, down 18 percent from 2011. Soybean production totaled 141.3 million bushels, down 6 percent over the year.

Sunflower and dry edible bean production was up in South Dakota, but production of hay, sorghum and millet was down.

7 Bullet Holes Found In Wall Of School

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say seven bullet holes have been found in an exterior wall of an elementary school in northeast Omaha.

Omaha television station KETV reports (<http://bit.ly/UL2L3w>) that a teacher found the damage to the gymnasium wall at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School last week. At least one bullet penetrated to the interior and hit a television in a utility area.

No injuries have been reported. Police say the shots likely were fired over the winter holiday break.

Madison Hospital Looks At New Facility

MADISON (AP) — The Madison Community Hospital has obtained the land it needs for a new facility and has requested the city annex the land.

City Finance Officer Jennifer Eimers tells The Madison Daily Leader (<http://bit.ly/101LkCo>) that it's not known when a decision will be made. The hospital also will need a city permit to develop the site.

The new hospital is projected to cost \$33 million. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency last fall approved a \$20.5 million loan for the project.

Body Of Elderly Man Is Found In Pond

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say the body of an elderly man has been found in a pond on the southeast side of Lincoln.

Police say a report on the body was made around 8:30 a.m. Monday. The pond is near a retirement estate, but it's not clear yet whether the man lived there.

His name and other details about his death haven't been released.

Body Found Near Abandoned Vehicle

SPEARFISH (AP) — Authorities say a 23-year-old Spearfish man was found dead over the weekend a short distance from his abandoned vehicle.

The Lawrence County Sheriff's Office says the man's vehicle had become stuck after sliding off a private road northwest of Spearfish. A snowplow operator found his body Saturday.

The man's name was not immediately released. His time of death was not immediately determined. A strong winter storm passed through the region on Friday and Saturday.

Fire Damages Tea Business; No Injuries

TEA (AP) — Officials are investigating the cause of a weekend fire that extensively damaged a southeastern South Dakota business.

The blaze Sunday afternoon destroyed a building at Sioux Falls Kitchen and Bath, near the city of Tea. No one was hurt.

Company officials say the major portion of the business's production area was spared, and the business will remain open.

West Neb. Shooting Suspect Pleads Guilty

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) — One of the men charged in connection with a drug-related slaying in western Nebraska has pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against the man accused of shooting Adam McCormick.

The *Sidney Sun-Telegraph* reports 35-year-old Billy Fields pleaded guilty to being an accessory to a felony as part of a deal with prosecutors.

Fields agreed to testify at James Custer's second-degree murder trial.

Custer is accused of fatally shooting McCormick on Nov. 3 in Sidney. Authorities have said they think the two men were arguing about \$160 in drug money.

Prosecutors say Fields and Custer's girlfriend, Amber Davis, both helped Custer flee to Big Springs after the shooting, and then provided misleading information to police.

Davis faces two misdemeanor charges, and she's due back in court on Jan. 28.

Bill Targets Rapists' Parental Rights

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Men who conceive children through a sexual assault would lose all parental rights but still might have to pay child support to the mother, under a bill in the Nebraska Legislature.

Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery introduced legislation Monday that would allow the man to keep his parental rights only if the mother gives her consent and a judge deems it in the child's best interest.

Avery says he introduced the measure after learning about the case of an Illinois woman who was raped in college. The man who sexually assaulted her later tried, unsuccessfully, to gain custody of the child.

Nebraska

Kerrey Takes New Job In Education

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Former U.S. Sen. and Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey announced Monday that he was going back into education as executive chairman of a non-profit institute.

Kerrey previously served 10 years as president of a school in New York. The announcement that he will head a nonprofit institute connected to The Minerva Project, a new university, comes about two months after the Democrat failed in his bid to return to the U.S. Senate, losing to Republican Deb Fischer.

The Minerva Project, a for-profit university, bills itself as more rigorous than Ivy League schools. With its online presence, organizers said it can admit far more students for about half of the cost of an Ivy League education.

The school, which received \$25 million in startup money last year, is the brainchild of Ben Nelson, former chief executive officer of the online photo service, Snapfish. Minerva plans to begin classes in 2015, Kerrey said.



Kerrey

Minerva will have physical locations across the country, Kerrey said, but it won't own buildings and won't field athletic teams — two ways it plans to keep students' costs lower.

"Students will study together," he said. "They won't sit in front of a screen and do all their work by themselves online."

But students also won't have to sit through classes on subjects they already know or can learn on their own, he said.

Kerrey said his new job will be part-time, based in San Francisco. He will spend some time there, but split

most of his time between New York, where his wife lives and his son attends school, and Nebraska, where he owns several restaurants and fitness centers.

After losing to Fischer in his bid to replace former Democratic U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, Kerrey has been figuring out his future.

Kerrey said he's considering invitations to become involved in two Omaha not-for-profit groups, which he declined to name.

He also is weighing whether to join the board of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the country's military medical school in Maryland.

"Navy doctors have a special place in my life; I feel like they saved my life," said Kerrey, referring to his time at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after losing part of his right leg in Vietnam. He later earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"As for whether or not I can do it ... that's hard for me to answer right now, because I don't know how much time I've got for these things," he said. "There's more opportunity to do things than I have hours in a day. I've got to be careful of doing too much."

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