

SD Corn Crop Showing Good Progress

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Federal officials say the corn crop is showing good progress in South Dakota, although more rain is needed to meet yield potential.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop report that corn silking was at 69 percent, behind last year's 78 percent but ahead of the 45 percent average.

Topsil moisture supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 24 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Pasture and range conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 59 percent good and 13 percent excellent.

Winter wheat turning color was at 99 percent, compared to the average of 100 percent. Spring wheat turning color was 90 percent, slightly above the 89 percent average.

Trial Set For Man In Daughter's Death

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of killing his 2-year-old daughter is to stand trial this week.

Authorities allege that 35-year-old Mario Contreras, of Waubay, shook Aleeya Cook so violently in January 2012 that he killed her. He has pleaded not guilty to murder, voluntary manslaughter and other charges.

The *American News reports* that jury selection is to begin Tuesday in federal court in Sioux Falls. The trial is scheduled to run the rest of the week. Contreras could face life in prison if convicted.

Judge: Man Who Torched Home Insane

BOX ELDER (AP) — A judge has ruled that Box Elder man was insane when he torched his mobile home last year.

Authorities say 30-year-old Joseph Hodges dripped gasoline down a hallway before lighting the fire while his girlfriend and her ex-husband were still in the mobile home. There were no injuries.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Circuit Judge Janine Kern on Monday found Hodges not guilty by reason of insanity.

The ruling came after testimony earlier from two psychiatrists.

S.C. Woman Gives Birth To Quintuplets

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A Sioux City woman has given birth to quintuplets at an Omaha hospital.

Bianca Garcia had a Caesarean section Thursday, and on Monday the four girls and one boy were under close watch in the neonatal intensive care unit at Methodist Women's Hospital.

Jose Garcia says he feels good but his wife is tired. She was on bed rest for more than 10 weeks before the babies were born at 28 weeks, or about three months premature. A team of 35 doctors and nurses delivered the babies.

The babies were about 2 pounds each. They're named Marah, Christobal, Arleth, Jimena and Rosalyn.

The couple has two sons, ages 9 and 7.

Dr. Brady Kerr says the babies "primarily need to grow." The last quintuplet birth in Nebraska was in 2009.

Money Dedicated To Buildings Upkeep

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota has increased funding for maintenance of state buildings, but not all legislators agree with the move.

Lawmakers have dedicated \$4.7 million toward state building maintenance this year, a big increase from annual budgets that used to be about \$1 million or \$2 million. Bureau of Administration Commissioner Paul Kinsman tells the *Argus Leader* newspaper that the additional money is welcome, because he's got a repair and maintenance backlog of about \$50 million.

Many Democrats say education also is severely underfunded. Sen. Billie Sutton of Burke says building maintenance and repair is important, but education and health care should be higher priorities for any extra money the state has.

Some Rally Bikers Get Early Start

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in western South Dakota doesn't begin for another week, but some bikers already have embarked on their journey to the Black Hills.

Dale Abbott, who has traveled from Indiana to South Dakota, told KELO-TV in Sioux Falls that he is going to Sturgis for the first time.

"I've heard during the week is really crazy, so we want to go pre-week and see what it is like and go out and visit Mount Rushmore and some other places around here," he said.

The rally, which is in its 73rd year, draws hundreds of thousands of people to western South Dakota annually. Businesses in the eastern part of the state benefit, as well.

"We're still getting some of the same customers coming back that we saw 30, 35 years ago," said Jim Entenman with J&L Harley Davidson in Sioux Falls. "It is really pretty cool."

The rally runs from Aug. 5-11.

Dormitories Open For Homeless Youths

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — Dorm rooms once targeted for demolition in central Nebraska have reopened with a new purpose: serving homeless youths.

The *Grand Island Independent* reports that the Maryland Living Center opened on Monday. Five youths are expected to move into the transitional living facility, which includes 12 apartments for youths and one for an on-site facility manager.

Each apartment comes furnished with items provided by families, businesses, churches and service groups in Hastings.

Linda Addison, executive director of the Hastings Housing Development Corporation, secured a federal grant to buy the property for \$100,000. The grant also includes \$1.4 million to renovate the building, which was built in 1908.

One two-bedroom apartment was outfitted with matching linens and a shower curtain, a colorful bed spread, pillows and flower vases. The family that adopted the room, Sam and Lois Guest, also donated money for potted plants, magazines and kitchen tools.

Dead Animal Jolts Mitchell's Crazy Days

MITCHELL (AP) — The Crazy Days shopping promotion lived up to its name in Mitchell when a dead longhorn slid from the bed of a pickup truck and onto the city's Main Street.

Police Sgt. Michael Koster tells *The Daily Republic* newspaper that the person hauling the carcass on Saturday removed it from Main Street by hooking it to a chain and pulling it onto a side street.

The grisly scene was noticed by shoppers and shopkeepers busy with the Crazy Days promotion, and someone called the authorities.

The driver was cited for having an unsecured load.

Liam, Emma Top Neb. Baby Names In '12

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — State officials say the names Emma and Liam were given to more Nebraska newborns than any others chosen last year.

The state Department of Health and Human Services released a list Monday of the most common names for children born in 2012. Topping the list for boys were the names Liam (153), William (134), Mason (123), Jackson (114) and Owen (106).

For girls, the names given most often were Emma (157), Olivia (138), Sophia (129), Harper (106) and Ava (89).

A spokeswoman says the names were released on the department's Twitter account, @NEDHHS.

South Dakota

SFPD Downsizes Weaponry

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Sioux Falls police are exchanging power for accuracy when it comes to the weapons they carry, going against a statewide trend.

Over the next year, the police department in South Dakota's largest city will be going from .40-caliber Glocks to 9 mm pistols. The change is prompted by an in-house study that showed pistols are more accurate and can carry two more bullets than the Glocks, Police Chief Doug Barthel told the *Argus Leader* newspaper.

"When it comes to determining what kind of guns we carry, accuracy is by far the most important factor," he said. "We'd much rather have them put more rounds on target than have something with a little bigger caliber but not necessarily hit on time. It's safer for the public in an unlikely shooting event."

A recent attorney general's study of 61 police departments in the state found that only three use 9 mm pistols — down from 12 in 2001. Forty-three departments use .40-caliber guns, up one from 2001.

Minnehaha County switched from the 9 mm to .40-caliber guns in 2008, and Capt. Paul Niedringhaus said officers are happy with the results.

"We're very satisfied with (the .40-caliber pistol) capabilities and the same with the officer's ability to handle the gun," he said. But "everyone's situation is different. You could talk to 10 different agencies and might get 10 different opinions."

The Sioux Falls Police Department hasn't

efit Communities In Schools of Los Angeles. It is being offered on the charitybuzz.com website.

Buffett says he'll teach the auction winner the proper way to eat a bonbon during the half-day tour. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate has owned See's Candy since 1972, and he spends hours munching on See's treats while answering questions at Berkshire's annual meetings.

Buffett did not immediately respond to questions about this new auction Monday.

For more than a decade,

Buffett Auctions Off Tour Of Candy Factory

BY JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Billionaire Warren Buffett is auctioning off an all-you-eat tour of the See's Candy factory in California to benefit an education nonprofit there.

Bidding had already reached \$30,000 by Monday, but it remains to be seen whether the final price of this auction will rival the annual auction of lunch with Buffett which routinely tops \$1 million.

The online auction that runs through Aug. 13 will ben-

the only time Buffett auctioned off a chance to meet with him was the lunch auction that helps fund the Glide Foundation's efforts to help the poor and homeless in San Francisco.

The winner of this year's lunch auction paid \$1,000,100. That's a bargain compared to the previous five years when the winning bids all topped \$2 million, including the record 2012 bid of \$3,456,789.

This new See's Candy auction could affect bidding on the lunch auction. But then again, the winners of the lunch

auktion are guaranteed more time to talk with Buffett, which could help keep that event more valuable.

The lunch auction winners get to spend several hours asking Buffett questions about business, philanthropy and life.

The fine print on the candy auction site promises only a meeting with Buffett where the winner can take a picture with the renowned investor and get something autographed, so the candy tour may not offer nearly as much opportunity to learn from Buffett.

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