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**USD Falls Short
In WBI Semis • 8A**

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Yankton Urban Forestry Specialist Lisa Kortan is shown placing mulch around a tree at Memorial Park Wednesday afternoon. Kortan said the ongoing drought has placed a lot of stress on trees, and she suggests watering trees that are seven years old or less.

Forestry Specialist Fights Off Drought

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the Press & Dakotan's monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.

BY DEREK BARTOS
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At Yankton's Memorial Park Thursday afternoon, dozens of children played and several adults took a stroll through the area as they enjoyed the scenery during one of the warmest days this month.



ON THE JOB

Off in the distance, Lisa Kortan was hard at work spreading mulch around the park's trees.

As the urban forestry specialist for the City of Yankton's Parks and Recreation Department, it's Kortan's job to make sure the town's natural beauty that many were appreciating Thursday keeps its luster.

"It's a fun job," Kortan said. "It's nice to have the opportunity to work in a community that has such great parks that everyone can enjoy."

While Kortan takes pleasure in her work, she said this past year has required extra effort, as the persisting drought has taken its toll on plant life throughout the city.

Typically during the summer, Kortan, along with a seasonal assistant and a Yankton Trusty Unit inmate, will plant new flower beds and will work to maintain the landscape throughout various areas in Yankton. However, many of those projects were pushed aside last year as the city's trees and flowers needed constant watering.

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USDA:

Corn Acreage Forecast Up

Farmers Expected To Plant Most Since 1936

BY DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Farmers intend to plant 97.3 million acres of corn this year, the most since 1936, the USDA's spring planting survey said Thursday.

The overall corn acreage forecast is up slightly from last year's 97.2 million acres and reflects a shift in where the grain is grown. Acreage in some states hit hardest by last year's drought retreated, while Southern states such as Arkansas, Mississippi and

Texas are shifting cotton acres to corn.

Chad Hart, an agriculture economist at Iowa State University, said Texas is a prime example. The state is changing more than 1 million acres normally planted in cotton for corn. Farmers there are in desperate need of grain to feed livestock after two years of debilitating drought, and are betting on a corn crop to replenish feed, Hart said.

Corn remains profitable, as prices are holding strong at around \$7 per bushel because drought conditions left the grain in short supply. Corn stocks fell

10 percent from a year ago to 5.40 billion bushels, the lowest March stockpiles since 2003, the USDA said in a separate report Thursday.

Corn prices fell Thursday after the report was released, as it showed there was 7 percent more corn stockpiled than expected.

Record corn acreage is expected in Arizona, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Oregon. Iowa, the nation's leading corn producer, will plant an estimated 14.2 million acres in corn, the same as last year. And Minnesota is up 3 percent to 9 million acres.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Ann Clough of the Yankton City Finance Office and Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulson helped serve lunch at The Center Thursday as part of the City of Yankton's recognition of National March for Meals Month. A national campaign, which raises awareness and funds for the Meals on Wheels program, was actually held last week, but several city officials have been lending hands at The Center throughout the month.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Bond Scam Targeting Area Residents

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Area residents are being warned of a scam that solicits money to help out a family member in need.

Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen said this is a variation of one of the more common scams out there.

"Most of the scams that have been reported have required a certain amount of money to be wired somewhere," he said. "A lot of scams come down to parents, grandparents and other family members knowing where

their kids and grandkids are."

Paulsen said Yankton residents have recently been called by someone claiming to be their child. In a majority of these cases, the scammers have not received their money because the family members knew where their child was at the time the call was received.

"People just need to be extremely cautious," he said. "Anytime someone is asking for money to be wired, (there) should be an immediate red flag that goes up. People should think this just doesn't seem right."

Nancy Saunders, laboratory coordi-

nator at Mount Marty College, said she had a number of students say their family members have been called by the scam artists.

"This has happened twice to kids I know," she said. "Someone called an elderly person in their family and said this is their grandson, and they've been in a car accident and need money immediately to get transported for help."

The scammers asked for \$2,000 to

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Award Winners, 'Celebrities' Share Chamber Banquet Spotlight

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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This week's Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce banquet was such a special evening that Elvis Presley attended the event.

So did Beyonce, Whitney Houston, Frank Sinatra, Phillip Phillips, Lady Gaga and Tom Jones.

But while the "celebrities" entertained the full Minerva's ballroom, the real stars of the evening were the Chamber's annual award winners. The recipients were Pam Kettering, the Cornerstone Award; Kline's Jewelry, Family Business Award; and Joe Vig, the Frank Yaggie Award.

As part of its category, Kline's Jewelry advances as a finalist for the regional award presented at the annual Prairie Family Business Conference. CorTrust Bank helps sponsor the local award, and Kline's Jewelry will compete against entries from 18 cities throughout the Midwest.

The strong field of nominees made the final selection of local Chamber winners difficult, said Carmen Schramm, the chamber's member services director.

"Those honored at the banquet are individuals that unselfishly give of themselves to make our community a better place now and for the future," she said. "We are grateful for their dedication and service."

• Joe Vig has become a highly recognizable and enjoyable part of Yankton baseball games, even if the fans can't see him. He regularly announces the action at Riverside Field, challenging the fans between innings to solve his baseball trivia questions.

"You've got to have a lot of fun in life, and the trivia end of it comes naturally for me. If you're going to be a Cleveland Indians fan, you've got to like trivia," he said with a laugh. "But we joke around at the (Yankton) games, there's



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

"Elvis Presley" serenades Cornerstone Award recipient Pam Kettering during this week's Chamber of Commerce banquet — using a Las Vegas theme — in the Minerva's ballroom. Other Chamber award winners were Joe Vig with the Frank Yaggie Award and Kline's Jewelry with the Family Business Award. To view more images from the event, visit spotted.yankton.net

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RIVER CITY



**A Look Back On
Winter Images • 1B**

INSIDE TODAY



USA Weekend

* * *

Economy Expands At 0.4 Pct Rate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a slightly faster but still anemic rate at the end of last year. However, there is hope that growth accelerated in early 2013 despite higher taxes and cuts in government spending.

The economy grew at an annual rate of 0.4 percent in the October-December quarter, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That was slightly better than the previous estimate of 0.1 percent growth. The revision reflected stronger business investment and export sales.

Analysts think the economy is growing at a rate of around 2.5 percent in the current January-March quarter, which ends this week.

Steady hiring has kept consumers spending this year. And a rebound in company stockpiling, further gains in housing and more business spending also likely drove faster growth in the first quarter.

To Our Readers

Yankton school board candidate Wayne Wurth did not respond to our request to participate in our profile series on the four candidates running for the board in the April 9 election.