



Early Showers, PM Thunderstorms

9 a.m.: **70** | 3 p.m.: **91** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

MONDAY ■ September 9, 2013



**Yankton
Earns First
Win Of The
Season**
■ 9



Volume 139
Number 120

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

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Ricketts Joins GOP Race For Nebraska Governor

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Republican businessman Pete Ricketts expects Nebraska voters to notice a big difference between his current campaign for governor and his unsuccessful 2006 run for the U.S. Senate.

Ricketts said Sunday that he hopes voters will get to know him better this time because he won't rely on consultants from Washington D.C. and he'll apply the political lessons he has learned since losing to Democrat Ben Nelson despite spending millions of his own money.

"I'm going to run a very different race this time around," said Ricketts, who serves on the board of TD Ameritrade and runs a small firm that invests in start-up companies called Drakon.

Ricketts' father helped found the retail brokerage that became TD Ameritrade. And the Ricketts family owns the Chicago Cubs.

Ricketts is the fifth candidate in what is already a crowded GOP primary.

Ricketts plans to emphasize his business background, including the years he spent as TD Ameritrade's chief operating officer, when he talks to Nebraskans about the best ways to improve education and attract jobs to the state while strengthening rural communities.

Ricketts said the state needs to find ways to improve teaching quality and boost the performance of schools, but he didn't call for reforms limiting the power of public unions like Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker successfully pushed for in 2011.

"I would want to work with the teachers' union to come up with solutions to enhance teacher

RICKETTS | PAGE 3

Heat Impacting Yields

Soybean And Corn Crops Lagging Behind Normal Maturity Levels

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The hot, dry weather persisting in most areas of South Dakota is likely to hurt soybean and corn yields, analysts say, as the crops are less mature than during a typical summer.

Lisa Elliott, a commodity marketing specialist with the South Dakota State University Department of Economics, said the August weather has likely affected crops that are lagging behind in maturity.

The soybean markets are already anticipating lower yields, as September contracts have jumped from about \$12 to near \$14.50 during the past month on the Chicago Board of Trade.

"The market expects it to go down," Elliott said. "The question is how much will it most likely go down on those yields."

Commodity Weather Group, which tracks weather relevant to the agriculture and energy industries, lowered its South Dakota corn yield projection 4 percent from its July estimate to 146.1 bushels per acre and its

soybean yield projection 12 percent from its July estimate to 34.9 bushels per acre.

"The very dry pattern in recent weeks has taken a toll on the pod set and fill for soybeans in nearly half of the Midwest soybean belt," the group said in an Aug. 30 bulletin.

The government's crop yield projections will be updated this week when the USDA releases the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates on Thursday. The August report estimated that corn growers would

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Eyeing The Issues



Jeff Hines, the Yankton water plant supervisor, looks over the final result of seven hours of work he and other staff did on the mixer drive that broke down early Friday. That incident, as well as a broken gear earlier in the week, had city officials considering water usage restrictions. (Nathan Johnson/P&D)

Water Plant Breakdowns Nearly Lead To Usage Restrictions

City Staff Were Able To Make Repairs Before Limits Were Needed

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Two separate mechanical failures at Yankton's Water Treatment Plant No. 2 last week had city officials considering usage restrictions.

In both cases, water production at the plant was cut in half.

"With the rain we've had and the cooler temperatures this summer, we can keep up," said Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson. "If this was last year, we would have to have water restrictions. We're not putting out the water that we were last year."

Early in the week, the main scraper drive gear broke and had to be replaced, he explained.

"The last time we replaced one was 1997," Goodmanson said. "It's a part that wears out. We had that part on hand."

The repair by water plant staff was done within six hours.

At half capacity, the plant, which was built in



This gear on the main scraper drive in Water Plant No. 2 broke last week and cut the facility's production capacity in half. NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

1972, produces approximately 2 1/2 million gallons per day (MGD). Meanwhile, the older 1929 plant can produce approximately 2 1/2-3 MGD.

On Friday, the staff at the plant faced an all-too-familiar problem — a coupling on the mixer drive for one of the two main upflow basins broke. The mixer drive is used to mix chemicals and process them into the water.

It was the same issue that led to voluntary

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U.S.: Proven Link Of Assad To Gas Attack Is Lacking

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House asserted Sunday that a "common-sense test" dictates the Syrian government is responsible for a chemical weapons attack that President Barack Obama says demands a U.S. military response. But Obama's top aide says the administration lacks "irrefutable, beyond-a-reasonable-doubt evidence" that skeptical Americans, including lawmakers who will start voting on military action this week, are seeking.

"This is not a court of law. And intelligence does not work that way," White House chief of staff Denis McDonough said during his five-network public relations blitz Sunday to build support for limited strikes against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"The common-sense test says he is responsible for this. He should be held to account," McDonough said of the Syrian leader who for two years has resisted calls from inside and outside his country to step down.

Asked in another interview about doubt, McDonough was direct: "No question in my mind."

The U.S., citing intelligence reports, says the lethal nerve agent sarin was used in an Aug. 21 attack outside Damascus, and that 1,429 people died, including 426 children.

The number is higher than that, said Khalid Saleh, head of the press office at the anti-Assad Syrian Coalition who was in Washington to lobby lawmakers to authorize the strikes. Some of those involved in the attacks later died in their homes and opposition leaders were weighing releasing a full list of names of the dead.

But Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which collects information from a network of anti-government activists, says it has so far only been able to confirm 502 dead.

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Red Shines Through At Memorial Stadium

BY JEREMY HOECK
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LAWRENCE, Kan. — Though its football team was five hours from campus, the University of South Dakota was well represented Saturday in the Sunflower State.

In the face of a blue-dominated, Big 12 campus, USD — which stayed close, but ultimately lost 31-14 — had its own pockets of supporters.

"It's always fun in a sea of blue to see red shirts," a smiling USD president Jim Abbott said before Saturday's night game, in the tailgating area behind Memorial Stadium.

"That's always a welcome sight."

A total of 135 people registered for USD's Alumni Association pre-game gathering, but closer to 150 showed up at the designated tent on the hill behind Memorial Stadium, according to executive director Kersten Johnson.

USD boasts several alums in the Kansas City region, along with nearby Arkansas, Iowa and



Mark Maturi (right), the Director of Development at the University of South Dakota, talks with a pair of alums prior to Saturday's football game at Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. The University of South Dakota lost the game 31-14. For more information, see page 9. JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Neb. Army National Guard Works To Retain Soldiers

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Army National Guard is working to retain more of its soldiers as the war in Afghanistan winds to a close and deployment opportunities dwindle.

The Guard has seen an increase in soldiers who opt not to re-enlist, even as recruitment rates hold strong.

Maj. General Daryl Bohac, the Guard's adjutant general, raised the issue as a priority for the Guard in July, when Gov. Dave Heineman appointed

him as the top uniformed commander for more than 4,800 Guard personnel throughout Nebraska.

Retention rates for the Army Guard have hovered between 70 percent and 80 percent annually between 2008 and 2012, which is a higher turnover than in previous years. Both the Army and Air National Guard exceeded their annual recruitment goals this year, and the Air Guard has maintained a retention rate of more than 90 percent. But Bohac said retention for the Army Guard remains a challenge.

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