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PLAIN TALK

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Fair Play



Beauty co-existed with bent-up cars during the Clay County Fair in held in Vermillion Aug. 9-11. Highlights included 4-H Achievement Days, the 2012 Miss Clay County Fair Junior Princess and Princess Contest, and the 43rd Annual Clay County Fair Demolition Derby. The pickup of Pat Gregg of Vermillion bursts into flames during Friday night's demolition derby. Tomalyn Peckham, daughter of Kathy Peckham of Vermillion, is crowned Miss Clay County Fair Princess at Friday afternoon's pageant held at the fairgrounds. Signe West, daughter of Liv and Jerami West of Vermillion, models an outfit during the Clay County Fashion Review, held Saturday afternoon. Theme of the show was "Vote for Fashion!"

Photos By David Lias



A big gift for USD: Sanford Health announces \$20M donation

By **Jeremy Hoeck**

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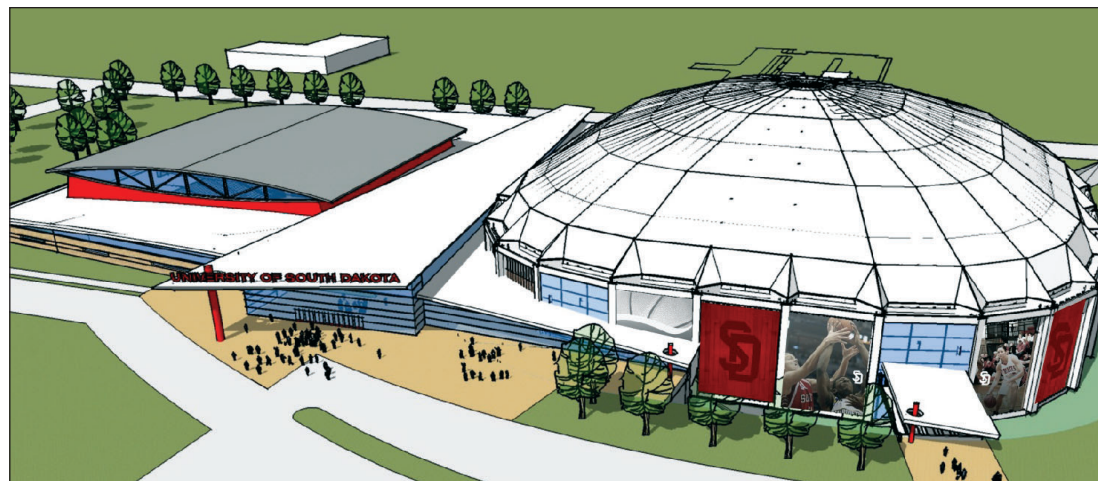
A new athletic arena at the University of South Dakota took a major step forward Wednesday thanks to a donation from Sanford Health that covers nearly half of the proposed \$50 million endeavor.

In the first publicly-announced donation to the project, Sanford's \$20 million gift should kick-start a fundraising effort to construct the 6,000-seat basketball and volleyball arena, according to athletic director David Saylor.

"It's the catalyst for what we see is an amazing future," Saylor said Wednesday while on the road for a fundraising trip to California.

"We'll be working hard with our donors to get this done." Aside from the gift, Sanford Health will continue to serve as the exclusive sports medicine provider for USD for the next 15 years — a partnership that started in 2005. As part of Wednesday's announcement, Sanford will also support student scholarships and university faculty.

Saylor said he has no unofficial



The University of South Dakota announced a \$20 million gift from Sanford Health Wednesday that will be used to eventually build a proposed \$50 million athletic arena. The new athletic arena would be built on the south side of the DakotaDome and be connected to the current facility.

(Courtesy image)

timetable on the arena project, but said he has additional donations totaling \$9 million, with a portion pledged to the outdoor track facility.

"We don't have to raise all of it right away for all the projects. When we get money raised for one project, we'll start building," he said.

That day cannot come soon

enough, Yankton native Jeremy Kudera said. An orthopedic surgeon at Yankton Medical Clinic and former USD men's basketball standout, Kudera is on the Howling Pack board of directors.

"It's great to be able to see the funding going in the right direction — something they really needed to jump-start things," he said. "An arena like this is a long

time coming. The dome is a great place to play basketball, but when you're talking Division I, you need to keep pace.

The new facility, which will be connected to the south end of the Dome, would include a home for basketball and volleyball, as well as practice courts, coaches and

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Installation of new turf in DakotaDome under way

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



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.

Photo by David Lias

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