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# PLAIN TALK

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Volume 126, Issue 29  
USPS 657-720



Friday, July 22, 2011 **75¢**

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## Heat Wave!



Bill Lane offers some advice to one of his young students during swimming lessons Wednesday morning in the city swimming pool at Prentis Park. The pool has been one of the most popular places in Vermillion, as temperatures have soared to triple digits nearly every day for the past week.

(Photo by David Lias)

## Triple digit temps common this week

By Travis Gulbrandson

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It feels just like a heat wave. Because it is one.

For more than a week now, an area of land reaching from Texas to the Dakotas has seen temperatures remain steadily in the 90s, with heat index values well into the 100s.

Although Todd Heitkamp, meteorologist with the National Weather Service (NWS), said the area could see a slight cool-down in the middle of this past week, it will be a while yet before southeast South Dakota residents see any major relief.

"The temperatures are going to be at or above normal for this time of year into the weekend," he said.

On Tuesday, NWS data showed that while the Vermillion area had a high temperature close to 99 degrees, the heat

index values showed as high as 115.

The next day's high was pegged at 101 degrees, with heat index values as high as 118.

For their part, the NWS has released excessive heat warnings throughout the week, beginning last Friday.

"This time of year, usually when we get this type of weather, it's just kind of like putting a lid on a pressure cooker," Heitkamp said. "It's just going to keep all the heat in place and it's just going to regenerate day after day and really never get a chance to pop that lid off until we get a cold front that sweeps through."

Although heat levels such as these can be downright miserable, Heitkamp said, they are not foreign to South Dakota. At this time last year, the average temperature

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## Just sit back:

## DakotaDome getting new permanent seats

By Jeremy Hoeck

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The 32-year-old DakotaDome is undergoing yet another facelift.

In an effort to replace the aging and cracking seats inside the facility at the University of South Dakota, new red seats will continue to be installed this week in plenty of time for the football season this fall.

The "long-awaited" endeavor, which has been on the university radar for the past seven years, will feature mostly chairback seats, according to David Herbster, USD senior associate athletic director.

"When we did a lot of the renovations in the Dome a few years ago, the seat phase of the project was originally slated for around that time," Herbster said. "But it kept getting put off for budgetary reasons and other priorities."

"It's no secret that this has been a long-awaited project."

Every section will have chairback seats, except for the upper portions of sections B and H (located along the 10-yard-line) which will feature bleachers.

"We originally looked at doing just the middle three sections, or the middle five sections and putting bleachers in the rest," Herbster said. "But with the current changes, we wanted to keep a consistent level of chairback seats."

The newly-painted red seat brackets have all been installed and some of the seats were put into place last Friday, July 15, and the goal is to have them attached by the end of this month.

Gone will be the days of cracked seats causing problems for fans, Herbster said.

"This was a very timely project, because those seats were the original ones put in the Dome when it first opened," Herbster said. "They were fiberglass and some were cracking in the corners. It was one of those things where people either loved them or hated them."

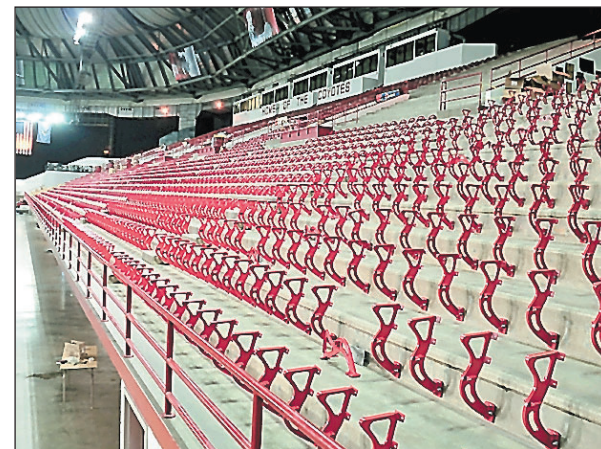
To that end, those people who have called to reserve season tickets have expressed their support for the changes, according to Brad Simons, coordinator of Ticket Operations and Sales.

"I think people have been pretty pleased hearing that we're getting new ones," Simons said. "The old ones were outdated and pretty ugly, to be honest. These new ones will be much cleaner and more comfortable, and you want people to be comfortable during a three-hour game."

The DakotaDome seats 10,000 fans for football and the Coyotes have averaged 7,600 fans per game since coach Ed Meierkort took over in 2004.

As part of USD's future plans for the Dome, which was approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents three weeks ago, ongoing renovations will include increasing the seating capacity to 16,000 for football.

Donations from the Howling Pack - USD's booster club - members helped offset the costs for the seating project, as did small increases in ticket prices. Season tickets for the 2011 football season are \$90, an increase of \$5 from last fall, but the price includes an additional home game.



The familiar fiberglass seats that had been inside the DakotaDome in Vermillion since the building was opened in 1979 are being replaced with new red chairback seats in most sections. New red seat brackets, pictured here, were installed last week and the remaining seats will be put in place this week.

(Jeremy Hoeck/P&D)

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## Kids receive hands-on experiences at science camp

By Huma Sheikh

Like previous years, the 10th Lawrence Brothers Science Camp this year became a place for kids to do hands-on science.

Thirty middle school kids entering seventh, eighth and ninth grades participated in the 10th Lawrence Brothers Science Camp held at the University of South Dakota. The week-long camp started Sunday, July 10 and ended Friday, July 15, and was focused on the theme "Light and Vision." Students got hands-on experience in a variety of activities like building a robot and programming it to seek out a light source and doing experiments with ultraviolet beads, investigating bird's eyes and watching birds, and studying the effects of polarizing light.

"The purpose of the camp is to engage kids in fun science activities. The camp stimulates interest in science for kids by giving them opportunities to experiment with science. The camp also gives them a chance to see what the college is like," said Sally Stoll, camp coordinator and Vermillion seventh grade science teacher.

Fifteen male students and 15 female students participated in the camp. The students came from 18 different schools from Chicago, IL, Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

"The camp has grown, and kids are coming from all over the place. We offer scholarships and each year we have a lot of students coming for free," said Stoll. The camp is supported by a grant from Battelle to the University of South Dakota Foundation for \$15,000 each for five years. That five year period ends in 2011. Other sources of funding for future years are being sought.

In addition to Stoll, six undergraduate honors students acted as counselors for the camp. They were Kevin Cwach, Renita Goetz, Ashley Lynch, Steffani Donahoe, Tyler Bloch and Nahuel Telleria. SD BRIN Information Specialist Mark Maxon was in charge of photography and taught kids how cameras work.

Kevin Cwach, 22, who has been the camp

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Campers inspect a view camera at the Lawrence Brothers Science Camp in Vermillion last week. Pictured are Jade Nelson, Rebecca VandeBraak, and Jacob White.

(Photo by Mark Maxon)

## Robert Kyte arraignment set for Aug. 5

By Travis Gulbrandson

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An arraignment has been scheduled in the case of the Burbank man who allegedly beat his neighbor's dog to death with a hammer.

Robert Kyte is scheduled to appear in the Clay County Courthouse at 9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 5.

According to a criminal complaint filed with the First Judicial Circuit in Clay County on Tuesday, July 12, Kyte has been charged with Intentional Damage to Property in the First Degree.

Because of the value of the dog, the

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