

Watertown PUBLIC OPINION



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Clear, frost?
 Low Tonight: 32 High Tuesday: 62
 Tomorrow's forecast on Page 2A

Farm groups focus on EPA

Congress working to regulate programs

By **TERRY O'KEEFE**
Public Opinion Staff Writer

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is getting a lot of attention from farm and ranch groups these days.

With Congress working on legislation that will fund and regulate EPA's programs for fiscal year 2010, which begins Thursday, the groups are joining farm-state lawmakers in pushing for programs that benefit the growth of biofuels industries and don't put unnecessary restrictions on livestock and other related operations.

Last week, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., joined Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, to introduce an amendment to an appropriations bill that will call for a "time out" before EPA implements a theory that U.S. biofuel production causes changes in land uses around the world.

Known as indirect land use change, the theory charges production of ethanol and other renewable fuels from food stocks in this country causes other countries — such as Brazil — to strip more land for food production to make up for the consumption of biofuel producers.

In particular, corn use for ethanol and soybeans for biodiesel fuel have come under hard scrutiny. If implemented, the theory would be used as part of the calculation of carbon emissions related to biofuels production and could mean they do not qualify as low carbon fuels.

The formula proposed by EPA also includes other factors farm groups have criticized and Friday, the National Farmers Union (NFU) sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson outlining that group's concerns.

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Inside

ESD Golf



Arrows earn runner-up finish. Page 1B

Arrows Roll



Fifth-ranked Watertown downs No. 4 S.F. O'Gorman. Page 1B

Hat Trick



Summit earns third straight ECC crown. Page 1B

Calendar

- Tuesday**
- The Codington County Commission will meet at 9 a.m. in the Courthouse.
 - Watertown High School will have parent-teacher conferences from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Civic Arena. Multi-district teachers will also be available to speak with parents.

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Recycling this week:
Plastics, metal cans, cardboard



Chili cook-off champions



Public Opinion Photos by Wayne Hammond

Mills Property Management took first-place honors in the annual chili cook-off at Bramble Park Zoo Saturday. Shown above preparing the winning entry are (from left) are Jared Brink, Todd Voight and Steve Beckler. Mills was followed by Doc's Bar. **Shown at right** are team members Dave Dahl and Paul Foust being assisted by Lincoln Elementary School sixth-grader Zach Foust.

Codington County Republicans took third place in the judge's category. First Congregational United Church of Christ won people's choice followed by Northland Building Center and Real Estate Professionals. Showmanship winners were Great Plains Lutheran High School, followed by Real Estate Professionals and Big Stone Bunch and the S.D. Army National Guard was the 'Shoon 'N Holler' (hot) winners followed by First Congregational United Church of Christ and Codington County Republicans.

For another photo from the event, please see Page 4A.



Balloons released prior to Alzheimer's Association benefit walk



Public Opinion Photo by Wayne Hammond

The customary balloon release marked the beginning of the 4th annual Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk outside Jenkins Living Center Saturday morning. For another photo from the event, please see Page 4A.

Health gamble

More people are playing the odds

NEW YORK (AP) — Call it a health care gamble: the decision by some people to opt out of health insurance, paying cash for routine care while playing the odds that an accident or catastrophic illness won't plunge them into financial ruin.

President Barack Obama's goal of requiring everyone to carry health insurance has drawn a great deal of skepticism from this group. Many pay far less for health care than they would on premiums, and doubt that insurance would even cover them if they needed it.

It's unknown how many of the nearly 50 million uninsured in the United States voluntarily go without coverage. Researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies the uninsured, said most are young, generally healthy adults who are self-employed or in relatively low-wage jobs that do not offer insurance coverage and don't pay enough for workers to afford individual policies.

"Income is key and most of the uninsured have low incomes," foundation researcher Karyn Schwartz said. "If you look at your budget and think you can't afford it or can afford it if you eat
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More school?

Plan would curtail summer vacation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Students beware: The summer vacation you just enjoyed could be sharply curtailed if President Barack Obama gets his way.

Obama says American kids spend too little time in school, putting them at a disadvantage with other students around the globe.

"Now, I know longer school days and school years are not wildly popular ideas," the president said earlier this year. "Not with Malia and Sasha, not in my family, and probably not in yours. But the challenges of a new century demand more time in the classroom."

The president, who has a sixth-grader and a third-grader, wants schools to add time to classes, to stay open late and to let kids in on weekends so they have a safe place to go.

Please see **SCHOOL**, Back Page

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