

Storm clouds can be seen behind the farm near Trinity Church on Church Road at Highway 94 in St. Charles county on Monday.

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Weather woes worry Missouri farmers

Storms delay planting, maybe for the season

BY TIM BARKER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

It's safe to say this summer is not being kind to Missouri farmers.

A seemingly endless string of storms, showers and cloudy days has conspired to keep large tracts of farmland virtually unworkable.

And much of it may simply go unused this year.

Greg Sharpe, who farms northwest of Hannibal, has been in the business for some 35 years. This year, he said, is among the worst he's seen.

He went into the season planning to lay down 500 acres of corn and 300 acres of soybeans. So far he's managed to plant just 200 acres of corn.

"I don't have any beans planted at the moment," Sharpe said. "There are areas

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Noranda cuts dividend, ponders reverse split

BY JACOB BARKER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Noranda Aluminum has hired Morgan Stanley and Co. and is exploring "strategic alternatives" in the face of low aluminum prices and a plummeting stock price.

The announcement could signal trouble for a company that buys so much electricity from Ameren Missouri that it affects the price paid by other St. Louis utility customers.

The news sent Noranda tumbling. The shares fell 26 cents, or 21 percent, to close Thursday at 97 cents.

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Lawsuit accuses SSM surgeon of botched surgery

BY SAMANTHA LISS
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

A neurosurgeon employed by SSM Health has been accused of operating on the wrong part of a patient's brain, causing permanent injuries.

The lawsuit, filed May 26 in St. Louis County Circuit Court, accuses Dr. Gregory Bailey of removing healthy brain tissue instead of a tumor during a surgical procedure at St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights.

Bailey, according to the lawsuit, was to have performed a "left temporal

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ACCELERATOR SEEKS SPORTS STARTUPS

Founders seek to raise \$10 million and invest in five firms this fall



Tim Hayden (left) and Art Chou, co-founders of Stadia Ventures.



DAVID NICKLAUS
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The sporting goods business, Art Chou says, is starting to resemble the pharmaceutical business.

Rather than spending money to create new products, big companies increasingly let small startups do the innovating. Buying the startup is cheaper than investing in research and development.

For that model to work, though, entrepreneurs need to get their ideas in front of deep-pocketed companies. Corporate executives need to be confident that they're seeing all of the best deals.

Chou, a former Rawlings Sporting Goods executive, hopes to make those

connections through a new sports-business enterprise called Stadia Accelerator.

Like other accelerator programs, it will combine a venture-capital-like investment with a period of intensive mentoring and business development. Stadia will be based in the T-Rex building downtown, where it will join a stable of accelerators managed by Cultivation Capital.

Chou thinks Stadia will find plenty of entrepreneurs who have invented a better golf club or fishing lure or a way of analyzing fitness data.

"You have investors who understand and invest in sports," he said. "You have companies that need innovation and you have entrepreneurs, but right now there's nothing to put those three together."

His co-founder at Stadia is Tim Hayden, director of St. Louis University's

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Sia's Italian Ice growing sales



PHOTOS BY DAVID CARSON • dcarson@post-dispatch.com
Containers of Sia's Italian Ice cool in the freezer at the company's store in Des Peres on Wednesday. Sia's started out as food truck but is rapidly expanding.

This month, Sia's signed with three distributors to expand company's reach in the Midwest

BY LISA BROWN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Less than three years after Sia's Italian Ice's food truck began rolling around the region, the frozen fruit treat maker expanded by opening a retail store this year. With new distribution deals in place, Sia's now is eyeing growth at more restaurants, schools and grocery stores throughout the Midwest.

Barth Holohan, 43, says Sia's began as a way to promote Continuum, a business he founded to provide nursing, transportation and other home care services to seniors.

His initial idea was to take a pushcart loaded with Italian ice treats to golf tournaments and other events to promote Continuum. Instead of a pushcart, he decided instead to start a food truck in May 2013 and make Sia's a standalone business.

The treats quickly gained a following. The fat-free, non-dairy products — made with fruit, purified water and sugar — have about 55 calories for a 4-ounce serving and are attractive to those seeking lower-calorie, gluten-free options, Holohan said.

Holohan's entrepreneurial drive is in his genes. His great-grandfather founded Falbo Cheese in Chicago in 1904.

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Barth Holohan is the owner and founder of Sia's Italian Ice



Emily Strohschein, 4, of Des Peres, enjoys some lemon-flavor Sia's Italian Ice.

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