

### 3 Arrested For Valley Springs Meth Lab Fire

VALLEY SPRINGS (AP) — Minnehaha County authorities say a garage in Valley Springs that burned was a methamphetamine lab, and three people have been arrested.

No one was hurt in the Friday blaze that heavily damaged the garage and sent smoke into the attached living quarters.

The two men and one woman who lived there have been arrested on several drug-related charges. The *Argus Leader* reports that bond for the two men, 26-year-old Reynaldo Ortega and 24-year-old Joseph Reinke, was set at \$25,000 cash.

A 26-year-old woman was released without bond under the condition she submit to weekly drug testing because police believe she did not have a role in cooking the meth.

### S.D. Sees Weekend Rains After Dry March

RAPID CITY (AP) — South Dakota is welcoming some much-needed moisture.

The National Weather Service says rain fell throughout the state over the weekend after a record-breaking dry March. Some areas got 1 1/2 inches or more.

Rapid City Fire Department Lt. Brent Long tells KEVN-TV that the moisture will help slow the spread of any Black Hills wildfires.

The weather in eastern South Dakota on Sunday included thunderstorms that brought rain and hail and also spawned funnel clouds. Some of them reportedly touched down but there were no immediate reports of damage. KELO-TV reports winds uprooted a tree and sent it crashing into a house in Sioux Falls, but no one was hurt.

KGFX radio reports that Pierre, Aberdeen, Watertown and Sisseton all set rainfall records for the date on Sunday.

### Omaha Man Sentenced For Letting Mom Starve

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha man who let his 66-year-old mother starve to death has been given 21 to 66 months in prison.

Forty-four-year-old Robert Rogers had pleaded guilty to manslaughter after prosecutors agreed to drop a felony charge of abuse of a vulnerable adult. Omaha television station KETV says Rogers was sentenced on Monday.

Connie Rogers was found dead in her home last May. Her son, who was her primary caregiver, was charged in July.

Prosecutors believe Connie Rogers died in her feces-ridden bed and was dressed in clean clothes and moved to a couch in the living room. She weighed 70 pounds.

### S.F. Man Gets Prison For Firearms Offense

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been sentenced to more than six years in prison for owning a firearm while a convicted felon.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 31-year-old Marckus Ray Drake pleaded guilty in January to possessing a 9 mm pistol after earlier being convicted of a felony.

District Judge Karen E. Schreier sentenced Drake to six years and three months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

### Judge Orders R.C. Woman To Avoid Minors

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City woman accused of having sex with a 14-year-old boy and possessing child pornography has been ordered to stay away from minors and alcohol.

Twenty-eight-year-old April Solles has been charged with rape and sexual contact with a child under 16.

She also faces two counts of possessing, manufacturing and distributing child porn.

KOTA reports that a judge banned Solles from contacting minors — with the exception of her son — at a hearing Monday.

Authorities say the complicated case began unfolding late last year after Solles' 1-year-old girl died from a head injury. A 14-year-old boy is charged in juvenile court with second-degree murder in the death. Prosecutors haven't said if he is the same boy connected with the rape case.

### South Dakota

## Warm Weather Boosts Fishing Licenses

### Sales Numbers Show A Big Increase

BY DIRK LAMMERS

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has sold more than twice as many annual resident fishing licenses than it did at this point last year thanks to an unseasonably warm spring.

The department had issued 18,917 annual resident licenses as of March 27, outpacing the 7,867 sold by that date in 2011 by more than 140 percent.

GF&P spokesman Chuck Schlueter said many people have been buying early to take advantage of the good fishing now, but officials hope the strong sales continue through summer.

"We would give almost all the credit to that change in weather

and how pleasant the weather's been," Schlueter said. "Fishing's been good, but fishing was good last year, too."

Employee John Andrus said business has been brisk at Captain Norm's bait shop and convenience store in Yankton, with nearly 13,000 South Dakota permits and almost 6,000 Nebraska licenses sold in March.

Customers were reeling in plenty of walleye earlier and now are landing catfish, drum and white bass during their outings, Andrus said.

"They're definitely catching a lot of fish," he said.

Annual South Dakota resident combination licenses, which include fishing and small game hunting, have outpaced last year's sales by more than 42 per-

### Nebraska

## Small Bills Become Low-Profile Laws

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Despite all the hot-button issues this year, lawmakers and Gov. Dave Heineman have approved a few low-profile measures that could affect the lives of ordinary Nebraskans.

Lawmakers will end their session Wednesday with new laws designed to protect bicyclists, require hospitals to offer flu shots to patients during winter months and give customers the chance to buy liquor on Sunday mornings. Also, some Nebraskans will have more options for broadband service.

All of the measures were approved with little controversy, as lawmakers spent their time debating child welfare reforms, tax policies and a multimillion-dollar investment in university medical facilities. Lawmakers will spend their final day trying to override Gov. Dave Heineman's vetoes of a city sales tax bill and a proposal that would restore prenatal care coverage for the unborn children of illegal immigrants.

The bicycle bill by North Platte

Sen. Tom Hansen — which sailed through the Legislature, 45-0 — will require motorists to keep a safe distance of at least 3 feet when passing bicyclists and personal mobility scooters. Violators would face a traffic citation and a \$500 fine.

Hansen introduced the bill after several residents in his district were struck by vehicles, including a music teacher who was jogging and two bicyclists. One of the cyclists, Levern Walter, was killed in a hit-and-run collision last year. The other bicyclist, Martin Cordes, was flown to a Denver hospital last year with a broken pelvis, arms, ribs and back.

"We need to share the road, and we need to make Nebraska a more bike-friendly state," Hansen said. "In town, we have the sidewalks — not a problem there. But it's out in the country that people are walking and biking for exercise."

Hansen said he had bicyclists from Omaha, Lincoln and Washington, D.C., calling his office when news of the bill was published on several blogs.

A measure by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett would lift the statewide ban on Sunday morning al-

**"We would give almost all the credit to that change in weather and how pleasant the weather's been. Fishing's been good, but fishing was good last year, too."**

CHUCK SCHLUETER

cent so far this year. The department also noticed a bump in non-resident one-day, three-day, annual and family fishing licenses, with sales of each more than doubling.

Schlueter said annual fishing license sales have been fairly steady over the past five years, peaking in 2009 at 59,427 and declining by about 700 each of the past two years.

Officials said they're excited by the early trend this year.

"We've had some cold wet springs several times over the last few years," Schlueter said.

cohol sales, and put the decision in cities' hands. Currently, Nebraska cities can allow the sale of beer and wine, but not liquor, between 6 a.m. and noon on Sundays. The bill would still allow cities to limit sales, if they choose.

Another bill would allow Nebraskans to switch broadband service providers if they live near the boundary of a coverage area and are unhappy with their service. Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, the outgoing chairwoman of the Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, said she wanted to give broadband users more choices.

"It allows consumers to look for another carrier if they're not getting the services they want," Fischer said. "... A lot of the issues in my committee are pretty technical, so most people don't pick up on them. But that was a big one, and it should help a lot of Nebraskans."

Fischer said she introduced the bill because the state's coverage areas allowed some Nebraskans to use high-speed broadband with one provider, while their neighbors on the other side of a coverage boundary had no access to services.

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