

South Dakota Forest Fire 60 Percent Contained

RAPID CITY (AP) — A forest fire in South Dakota's Black Hills was 60 percent contained Tuesday morning after an operation the day before aimed at eliminating brush that could further fuel the blaze.

A helicopter crew dropped fire-starting spheres the size of ping-pong balls on unburned areas Monday to starve the fire. The size of the Coal Canyon Fire on Tuesday was stable at about 5,200 acres, or about 8 square miles.

About 450 fire crew members remained on the scene Tuesday, patrolling the fire perimeter and putting out hot spots. Some were to be released from duty, but the return to their home bases in South Dakota and other states was delayed by a separate fire sparked by lightning overnight, said Brian Scott, a spokesman for the fire management team. The new fire was much smaller, about 9 acres.

Lightning last Thursday sparked the Coal Canyon blaze that killed one firefighter and injured four more. A funeral for Trampus Haskvitz, 23, was being held Tuesday in Hot Springs.

Having more than half of the fire contained didn't necessarily mean all of the danger had passed, Scott said. But, he added, "our level of confidence went up."

Only 30 percent of the fire was contained before Monday's helicopter operation.

Gay Rights Group No Longer Invited To Event

RAPID CITY (AP) — A South Dakota gay rights group has been told it's no longer welcome at an event sponsored by a national faith-based ministry.

The *Rapid City Journal* says (<http://bit.ly/qYu330>) Black Hills Center for Equality was initially told by a local National Convoy of Hope volunteer it could have an HIV prevention and education booth Saturday at a community event for low-income residents. It would have included the distribution of free condoms.

Convoy of Hope officials say the local organizer made a mistake in accepting the application and cited "divergent core values" between the two organizations.

Center of Equality spokeswoman Patti Martinson calls the decision unfortunate and disappointing. She says she doesn't know what Convoy of Hope's core values are, but says her group is about helping people.

S.D. Row Crops Boosted By Good Weather

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A week of favorable weather in South Dakota has boosted the development of row crops such as soybeans and corn.

The Agriculture Department also says in its weekly crop and weather report that the harvest of fall-planted winter wheat has virtually wrapped up, on pace with the long-term average. About two-thirds of the spring wheat crop is in the bin, behind the average pace.

Cooler temperatures have improved cattle and sheep conditions, which are rated about 90 percent good to excellent.

Former Nebraska Student Sentenced For Killing Roommate

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) — A former Chadron State College student accused of fatally stabbing his roommate and injuring another man in 2008 was sentenced to as many as 70 years in prison Tuesday after pleading guilty to second-degree murder and other charges.

It was Joseph Hotz's second chance in the case, after the Nebraska Supreme Court ordered earlier this year that he get a new trial.

Hotz, 28, of Rushville, was convicted in 2009 of second-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder and four other felony counts in the slaying of Kenneth Pfeiffer of Sebastian, Fla., and the attack on the other man.

Authorities said Pfeiffer was stabbed more

than 50 times in December 2008. Hotz also entered another home and, armed with two knives, confronted a resident and threatened to kill him, according to a police affidavit.

Hotz's attorneys had argued that hallucinogenic mushrooms had left Hotz delusional, thinking Pfeiffer was part of a plot to kill him.

Hotz was initially sentenced to 42 to 125 years in prison.

On appeal, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that Hotz was not entitled to an insanity defense because he voluntarily took drugs that he knew would impair his mental state. But the court found that the lower court judge had given Hotz the impression that ju-

rors would be instructed to consider insanity. So, a new trial was ordered.

Chadron radio station KQSK (<http://bit.ly/qLSCN4>) reported Tuesday that Hotz pleaded guilty in Dawes County District Court to second-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder and a weapons count and was sentenced to 35 to 70 years.

In exchange for his pleas, prosecutors dropped three other counts of weapons use and making terroristic threats.

With credit for more than two years already served, Hotz should be eligible for parole in 2026, the radio station reported.

His mandatory release would come in 2044.

North Dakota Official OKs Measure To Ban Limits On Farming, Ranching

BY DALE WETZEL
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — Supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment that would restrict regulation of North Dakota farming and ranching may begin gathering the 27,000 signatures they need on petitions to put the idea on the ballot, Secretary of State Al Jaeger said Tuesday.

The amendment would add two sentences to the North Dakota Constitution: "The right of farmers and ranchers to engage in modern farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state. No law shall be enacted which abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology, modern livestock production and ranching practices."

The amendment's supporters need to get signatures from at least 26,904 North Dakota voters by next Aug. 8 to put the measure on the November 2012 ballot. The minimum number represents 4

percent of North Dakota's population, as counted in the 2010 census.

Eric Aasmundstad, president of the North Dakota Farm Bureau, which is backing the proposal, said the organization planned to hold regional training sessions for petition carriers. Aasmundstad is chairman of the initiative's sponsoring committee.

"It's just a long process," he said Tuesday. "We're going to be putting our nose to the grindstone."

Aasmundstad said the group hopes to reach its goal in late July 2012, after the close of the North Dakota State Fair. This year's fair was canceled because of Souris River flooding.

The National Conference of State Legislatures said no state has a constitutional amendment similar to what the Farm Bureau is proposing. Skeptics say its wording, which Aasmundstad said is deliberately broad, could be used to block reasonable regulation of agriculture.

Nebraska University Using Pay-By-Phone Parking Service

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Instead of digging into their pockets or purses to fill a parking meter at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, students and others can pay for metered parking via cellphone.

To use the RingGo service, people must first sign up at www.myringgo.com.

Payments are made over cellphones and charged to credit or debit cards.

The university director of parking and transit service, Dan Carpenter, told the Lincoln Journal Star (<http://bit.ly/pHeDr0>) in a story published Tuesday that reaction has been positive.

"Most definitely the students will adopt this, but it's also nice for faculty and staff," Carpenter said.

The service is available on both Lincoln campuses, at all 391 university parking meters, and at the 17th and R streets parking garage. The service also

is offered at 48 more unmeted spaces.

Parking costs \$5 per day or \$1 per hour. RingGo charges 30 cents for each transaction and 10 cents if users want text messages sent to alert them when the time they paid for is about to expire.

The meters don't change: They'll still show time's up. But before a parking ticket is issued, Park and Transit Services workers will check a RingGo database to see whether the parker has paid for the privilege.

Carpenter said about \$50 a day was spent through RingGo in June at the university, then nearly \$100 a day in July, with many repeat users.

The big test comes this weekend, when students return to campus for fall semester.

"That explosion in the number of users will judge the success of this service," Carpenter said.

OBITUARIES

Catherine Rollag

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Catherine Starr Rollag, age 67, of Springfield, Missouri, and formerly of Yankton, South Dakota, died Saturday, August 13, 2011, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

Mass of Christian Burial is 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with Reverend Dan Smith officiating. Burial will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. and a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Catherine was born September 5, 1943 in Hudson, South Dakota to Richard and Edna (Foley) Starr. She graduated from Yankton High School and then attended Southern State College in Springfield, South Dakota. Cathy first worked for DeKalb Seed Corn for a few years. Then she worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company which was owned by AT&T. Cathy worked with AT&T for over 30 years and her job moved her to Omaha, Chicago, Denver and finally Atlanta. While living in Atlanta, she mar-



Rollag

ried Donavon Rollag on April 17, 1992. After her retirement from AT&T in 2001, they moved to Springfield, Missouri. Cathy enjoyed visiting with her friends and always kept close contact with them.

Cathy is survived by her husband, Don Rollag of Springfield, Missouri; mother, Edna Starr of Yankton; two brothers, Jimmy (Karen) Starr of Yankton and David Starr of Centerville; many nieces and nephews; and a special cousin, Mary Brown.

Cathy was preceded in death by her father, Richard B. Starr; and brother, Richard J. Starr.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 17, 2011



Virgil Schmidt

MENOMINEE, Neb. — Virgil Schmidt, age 78, of Menominee, passed away unexpectedly Monday, August 15, 2011.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee, NE with Rev. David Fulton and Deacon Marcus Potts officiating.

Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a wake service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in the St. Boniface Cemetery, Menominee, NE.

Pallbearers are Bruce Pick, Terry Rasmussen, Tim Foxhoven, Mike Rasmussen, Danny Lammers, Willard Schmidt, Ronny Zimmerman, Troy Schmitt. Honorary Pallbearers are Cordy Rasmussen, Allen Bonertz, Donald Zimmerman, Quinten Tramp Sr., Richard Hoebelheinrich, Gerald Zavadi, Darrell Loecker and Franny Mueller.

Virgil was born on May 20, 1933 to Theodore and Mary (Meyer) Schmidt in Yankton, SD. Virgil was raised on the farm near Menominee which was established by his grandparents. He attended grade school in Menominee and High School in Yankton. Virgil and Donna were married on December 27, 1960 and continued to farm on the property where he grew up.

Virgil was involved in the community, belonging to the Foresters, Knights of Columbus, and serving on the Saint Boniface parish council. He truly cared for people, and would al-



Schmidt

ways help anyone in need.

He loved the country, farming the land and the majesty of God's creation. This appreciation was evident in his favorite hobby: hunting both in the mountains and in Nebraska pasture lands. He enjoyed raising and working with horses, and spent much of his time supporting his children and grandchildren competing in 4-H Rodeo.

Virgil loved old westerns, cookies, ice cream and most of all he loved his family, his wife, children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Schmidt of Menominee, NE; son, Randy (Sherry) of St. Helena; daughter, Tammy of Denver, CO; grandson, Matthew of Yankton, SD; grandchildren, Lakyn, Taylor and Cole of St. Helena, NE, great grandchildren, Abigail and Connor of Yankton, SD; sisters, Laguardis Bonertz of York, NE, Anna Mae Zimmerman of Tabor, SD and Imogene Tramp of Crofton, NE.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Brenda; mother, Mary Schmidt; father, Theodore Schmidt; grandparents, Joseph & Anna Schmidt, Nicky & Gertrude Meyer; brother, Stanley and sister, Darlene.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 17, 2011

Roland Vogel

WAGNER — Funeral services for Roland "Jack" Vogel, 83, of Wagner are 11 a.m. Friday, August 19, 2011 at St. John Lutheran Church in Wagner. Burial is in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery, rural Armour.

Visitation will be 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 18th, followed by a 7 p.m. Prayer Service at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner.

Roland "Jack" Clifford Vogel was born February 8, 1928 at Delmont, SD, the son of Otto and Lydia (Fisher) Vogel and grew up on a farm. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran church near Armour/Delmont. He died Sunday, August 14, 2011 at the Community Memorial Hospital in Wagner, SD. Jack attained the age of 83 years, six months and six days.

Jack married Arlene Pietz on December 21, 1948. He started farming in 1948 and worked on the construction of the Ft. Randall dam for a time while farming. He retired from farming in 1977. He then went into the plumbing business running Vogel Trenching until retiring in 1990.

Jack was a member of the Yankton Antique Auto Association and he and his friend Hazel always took part in the Labor Day Parade in Wagner. He was also a member



Vogel

of St. John Lutheran Church in Wagner.

Jack restored many 2 cylinder John Deere tractors and will be remembered for his love of John Deere tractors. Jack also enjoyed polka and a good rodeo.

Thankful for having shared his life are his two children: Cynthia and husband Ray Johanneson of Lake Andes and Tim and wife Judy Vogel of Omaha, NE; six grandchildren: Doug, Cheryl (Williams), Dan, and Brian Johanneson; Melissa (Schaefer) and Derek Vogel; 12 great grandchildren; three sisters-in-law: Ruth Vogel of Monroe, Frances Vogel of Sioux Falls, and Marlene Carlson of Duluth, MN; and best friend, Hazel Kneebone of Elk Point.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters: Adella Schimke, Fern Johnson and an infant; and seven brothers: August, Leslie, Rudy, Otto, Howard, Gerald and an infant.

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Virginia Bratton

TEMPLE, Texas — A memorial service for Virginia G. Bratton, 65, of Temple, Texas, and formerly of Olivet, will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland. Pastor Michael Hecht will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland.

Visitation will be held from 10:30 a.m. until time of service at the church. The family will be present to greet visitors from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Virginia died on Monday, Aug. 15, 2011 at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

Arrangements are under the direction of Goglin Funeral Home of Scotland and online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Thank You

We want to thank all our relatives and the many friends who sent flowers and cards to help us celebrate our 60th Anniversary. All your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Bill & Alice Lynch

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