

Progress In Fighting 25-Acre Fire In S.D. Park

CUSTER (AP) — Authorities say they're making good progress in fighting a small fire in the Custer State Park in western South Dakota's Black Hills. The Bear Gulch fire covered more than 25 acres Sunday. Fire manager Lance Elmore says he expected the fire to be fully contained late Sunday. It's located about 1 1/2 miles northeast of Center Lake in Custer State Park. Sparks from a road grader set off the fire Friday. Fifty firefighters were battling the fire Sunday in rugged country that's thickly forested with Ponderosa pines. No buildings were threatened by the fire and no injuries were reported.

UNL Helps Build New App For Farmers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A new computer application developed by Nebraska and Minnesota scientists will help farmers scout for a major corn pest. Researchers at the University of Nebraska and University of Minnesota say the app will make it easier to scout for western bean cutworms, which can reduce corn yields. University of Nebraska Lincoln extension educator Wayne Ohnesorg says scouting this year is nearly over because of the hot and dry conditions. But he says now is a good time to download the app and practice for next year. The free app is available in the iTunes store. It allows users to store their scouting history and review the information without internet access. Ohnesorg says it can be downloaded to smartphones, iPads and other computers.

I-90 In S.D. Being Named 'Purple Heart Trail'

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota stretch of Interstate 90 is being renamed as the "Purple Heart Trail." The Purple Heart is a decoration given to wounded soldiers. The designation will apply to Interstate 90 in South Dakota from the Wyoming border to Minnesota. South Dakota's Transportation Commission recently approved a request for the designation. Forty-five states have named parts of their highways as Purple Heart Trails. Ceremonies are scheduled Tuesday at the Valley Springs rest area, near the South Dakota/Minnesota border, and the Spearfish rest area near South Dakota's border with Wyoming.

S.F. Rail Yard Removal Project Bugged Down

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A project to remove a Sioux Falls railroad switching yard and open prime downtown land for development has been plagued by delays and spending overruns, a newspaper reports. South Dakota Sens. John Thune and Tim Johnson included \$40 million for the initiative in federal highway legislation in 2005. City officials celebrated the possibility of opening 16 acres of property on the east bank of the Big Sioux River for development. Since then, however, little progress has been made, the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* reported Sunday. Federal officials refused to pay some of the project's fees for a city consulting contract that a financial review deemed to be "vague, poorly written and improperly administered."

Fish

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Flammang said weekend rain improved some of Iowa's rivers and lakes, but temperatures were rising again and straining a sturgeon population that develops health problems when water temperatures climb into the 80s. "Those fish have been in these rivers for thousands of thousands of years, and they're accustomed to all sorts of weather conditions," he said. "But sometimes, you have conditions occur that are outside their realm of tolerance." In Illinois, heat and lack of rain has dried up a large swath of Aux Sable Creek, the state's largest habitat for the endangered greater redbreast, a large bottom-feeding fish, said Dan Stephenson, a biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "We're talking hundreds of thousands (killed), maybe millions by now," Stephenson said. "If you're only talking about game fish, it's probably in the thousands. But for all fish, it's probably in the millions if you look statewide." Stephenson said fish kills happen most summers in small private ponds and streams, but the hot weather this year has made the situation much worse. "This year has been really, really bad — disproportionately bad, compared to our other years," he said. Stephenson said a large number of dead fish were sucked into an intake screen near Powerton Lake in central Illinois, lowering water levels and forcing a temporary shutdown at a nearby power plant. A spokesman for Edison International, which runs the coal-fired

plant, said workers shut down one of its two generators for several hours two weeks ago because of extreme heat and low water levels at the lake, which is used for cooling. In Nebraska, a stretch of the Platte River from Kearney to Columbus in the east has gone dry and killed a "significant number" of sturgeon, catfish and minnows, said fisheries program manager Daryl Bauer. Bauer said the warm, shallow water has also killed an unknown number of endangered pallid sturgeon. "It's a lot of miles of river, and a lot of fish," Bauer said. "Most of those fish are barely identifiable. In this heat, they decay really fast." Bauer said a single dry year usually isn't enough to hurt the fish population. But he worries dry conditions in Nebraska could continue, repeating a stretch in the mid-2000s that weakened fish populations. Geno Adams, a fisheries program administrator in South Dakota, said there have been reports of isolated fish kills in its manmade lakes on the Missouri River and others in the eastern part of the state. But it's unclear how much of a role the heat played in the deaths. One large batch of carp at Lewis and Clark Lake in the state's southeast corner had lesions, a sign they were suffering from a bacterial infection. Adams said the fish are more prone to sickness with low water levels and extreme heat. But he added that other fish habitat have seen a record number this year thanks to the 2011 floods. "When we're in a drought, there's a struggle for water and it's going in all different directions," Adams said. "Keeping it in the reservoir for recreational fisheries is not at the top of the priority list."

Gunman Kills 6 In Sikh Temple Attack In Wisconsin

Suspect Killed In Shootout With Police

BY DINESH RAMDE AND TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

OAK CREEK, Wis. — An unidentified gunman killed six people at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee on Sunday in a rampage that left terrified congregants hiding in closets and others texting friends outside for help. The suspect was killed outside the temple in a shootout with police officers.

Police called the attack an act of domestic terrorism, but did not provide any details about the gunman or suggest a possible motive. Oak Creek Police Chief John Edwards did not say whether he specifically targeted the Sikh community.

During a chaotic few hours after the first shots were fired, police in tactical gear and carrying assault rifles surrounded the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin with armored vehicles and ambulances. Witnesses struggled with unrealized fears that several shooters were holding women and children hostage inside.

One of the first officers to respond to frantic 911 calls seeking help was shot several times as he tended to a wounded victim, and was in critical condition along with two other victims Sunday night, authorities said.

"We never thought this could happen to our community," said Devendar Nagra, 48, of Mount Pleasant, whose sister escaped injury by hiding as the gunman fired in the temple's kitchen. "We never did anything wrong to anyone."

Edwards said the FBI will lead the investigation because the shootings are being treated as domestic terrorism, or an attack that originated inside the U.S. He said authorities would not say any more about their investigation until Monday morning, including the names of those killed.

But it appeared the investigation had moved beyond the temple, as police and FBI agents focused on a neighborhood in nearby Cudahy. Authorities would not comment on the activity, which included evacuating several homes.

Jatin Der Mangat, 38, of Racine, said his uncle Satwant Singh Kaleka, the temple's president, was one of those shot, but he didn't know the extent of Kaleka's injuries. When he later learned people had died, Mangat said "it was like the heart just sat down." "This shouldn't happen anywhere," he said.

Edwards said the gunman "ambushed" one of the first officers to arrive at the temple as the officer tended to a victim outside. A second officer then exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who was fatally shot. Police had earlier said the officer who was shot killed the suspected shooter.

Tactical units went through the temple and found four people dead inside and two outside, in addition to the shooter.

The three wounded were being treated at an area trauma center. Greenfield Police Chief Bradley Wentlandt, who assisted the investigation, said the police officer had surgery and is expected to survive.

Gurpreet Kaur, 24, of Oak Creek, said her mother and a group of about 14 other women



MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT
A woman looks on near the scene of a shooting at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wis., Sunday.

were preparing a meal in the temple kitchen when the gunman entered and started firing. Kaur said her mother felt two bullets fly by her as the group fled to the pantry. Her mother suffered what Kaur thought was shrapnel wound in her foot.

"These are people I've grown up with," she said. "They're like aunts and uncles to me. To see our community to go through something like this is numbing."

Many Sikhs in the U.S. worship on Sundays at a temple, or gurdwara, and a typical service consists of meditation and singing in a prayer room where worshippers remove their shoes and sit on the floor. Worshippers gather afterward for a meal that is open to community members, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Kaur said she spent the afternoon serving as a translator between law enforcement and survivors at a nearby bowling alley. Police investigators kept witnesses inside the bowling alley's basement into the evening.

"We don't even know who's downstairs," Ravi P. Singh, 25, of Greenfield, said after going to the bowling alley to see if he could get more information about what had happened.

Sixteen-year-old LeRon Bridges, of Oak Creek, works at the bowling alley said police brought people from the temple over in two armored trucks. At one point, about 50 to 60 people were at the bowling alley, including police officers questioning witnesses and paramedics treating victims' wounds, he said.

"They were just hysterical," Bridges said. "There were kids. One big load came out of the truck."

Sikhism is a monotheistic faith founded more than 500 years ago in South Asia. It has roughly 27 million followers worldwide. Ob-

servant Sikhs do not cut their hair; male followers often cover their heads with turbans — which are considered sacred — and refrain from shaving their beards. There are roughly 500,000 Sikhs in the U.S., according to estimates. The majority worldwide live in India.

The Sikh Temple of Wisconsin started in 1997 with about 25 families who gathered in community halls in Milwaukee. Construction on the current temple in Oak Creek began in 2006, according to the temple's website.

Sikh rights groups have reported a rise in bias attacks since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The Washington-based Sikh Coalition has reported more than 700 incidents in the U.S. since 9/11, which advocates blame on anti-Islamic sentiment. Sikhs don't practice the same religion as Muslims, but their long beards and turbans often cause them to be mistaken for Muslims, advocates say.

Police in New York and Chicago issued statements saying they were giving Sikh temples in those cities additional attention as a precaution after the shooting, which also came two weeks after a gunman killed 12 people at movie theater in Colorado.

Valarie Kaur, who chronicled violence against Sikh Americans in the 2006 documentary "Divided We Fall," was returning to her home in New Haven, Conn., after speaking at a White House conference Friday when she heard about the shootings.

Even though the gunman's motives were a mystery Sunday, Kaur said the shootings reopened wounds in a community whose members have found themselves frequent targets of hate-based attacks since Sept. 11.

"We are experiencing it as a hate crime," she said. "Every Sikh American today is hurting, grieving and afraid."

Street Vendors Getting A Jump On Sturgis Bike Rally

STURGIS (AP) — Street vendors, police and body artists are getting a jump on Monday's start of the annual Sturgis motorcycle rally, a conclave that draws thousands of bikers to western South Dakota.

Chad Krog, of Marshall, Minn., is setting up at his first rally. He says he'll be selling food and lemonade, and he's hoping hot weather will help to sell juice.

"The fresh-squeezed lemonade is really, really good. And it's going to be hot so it's usually a pretty good seller," Krog said. "We've got lots of lemons."

Almost a thousand vendors set up at last year's rally, and they rang up \$12.5 million in sales. Krog says

he's hopeful the number will be larger this year, and he's got some prime space at the end of Main Street.

"It sounds like it could be really interesting," he said. "We'll just have to go with it."

Tonya Stevenson, who was taking a break from her job as a car dealer in Tacoma, Wash., to serve drinks at the Knuckle Saloon during the rally, was working shirtless Saturday, her chest covered by body paint showing an orange corset with black trim.

Stevenson said she's worked wearing body paint at the rally for three years. The awkwardness of going shirtless goes away after a few

minutes, she said.

"It's one week out of the year I don't have to wear a bra," Stevenson said. "It's fun, and I make money."

Stang Sievers, the artist who painted Stevenson's corset, said he has painted at the rally for five years. He charges about \$50 for each job, and normally paints about 80 people, he said.

Kent Mortimer, a Sturgis business owner, hired body artist Pashur House to paint the chests of two of his female employees, and to paint store advertisements on their backs.

"They're bringing people into the store like the Pied Piper bringing in rats," he said. "Guys are very easy to please."

One woman told the *Rapid City Journal* that topless women painted with street art can make \$350 daily on tips during the rally by posing for photos.

Aside from bikers, the Sturgis rally pulls in extra law enforcement officers, many of whom have been coming back for years. The South Dakota Highway Patrol has averaged about 270 arrests each year for drunken driving alone.

"We hire people from eight different states," said Jim Bush, the Sturgis police chief. "We don't even advertise for this, it just comes from word of mouth. ... It's not unlike the bikers. It's kind of a reunion thing. It's like that with the cops too."

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