

Victim Of Aberdeen House Fire Identified

ABERDEEN (AP) — The victim of an Aberdeen house fire has been identified as 52-year-old Richard Palmquist.

Brown County Coroner Michael Carlsen tells the *Aberdeen American News* that Palmquist died from smoke inhalation and burns caused by extreme heat in the Saturday morning fire. Authorities say Palmquist was the only person in the home when it caught fire.

Firefighters were called to the home early Saturday when a neighbor reported smelling smoke. Authorities believe the fire started because a burner on the kitchen stove was left on.

Rain Helps, But Most Neb. Crops Still Parched

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Most Nebraska crops remain in bad condition because of the persistent hot, dry temperatures.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released its weekly report on the state's crops on Monday.

The USDA says only about 35 percent of Nebraska's corn crop is in good or excellent shape. That's much lower than the average of 78 percent at this time of year.

About 22 percent of the soybean crop is in good or excellent shape. That also compares poorly with the average of 76 percent good or excellent.

The USDA says even irrigators are struggling to keep up with their crops' demands for water.

Many ranchers are hauling water for their cattle because ponds have dried up. Only about 1 percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition.

Man Dies In Plane Crash In Western Nebraska

IMPERIAL, Neb. (AP) — Investigators are looking for the cause of a plane crash that killed the pilot near Imperial in western Nebraska.

The *Imperial Republican* newspaper says firefighters believe the single-engine plane crashed Saturday morning in a pasture. Authorities say 54-year-old Scot German, a farmer and rancher from Imperial, died in the accident.

The wreckage was discovered by the Imperial volunteer fire department, which was called to fight a grass fire. Officials say the plane burst into flames and started the grass fire.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Lawmaker Honored With Flags At Half-Staff

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking that all flags in South Dakota be flown at half-staff on Tuesday to honor former state Sen. George Shanard.

Shanard died Friday at age 86. His funeral is Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church in Mitchell.

The Mitchell businessman served in the South Dakota Senate from 1975-1992. He was the Republican majority leader from 1989-1992.

Gov. Daugaard's Son Saves Choking Man

PIERRE (AP) — The son of South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is being credited with saving the life of a man who choked on food in a Pierre restaurant.

La Minestra Manager Mark Mancuso tells the *Capital Journal* that Chris Daugaard used the Heimlich maneuver to clear the man's throat on Friday. Gov. Daugaard says he's proud of his son and glad that he was in the right place at the right time.

Twenty-five-year-old Chris Daugaard is an analyst for the state Public Utilities Commission.

Light Earthquake Nudges Western Neb. County

MULLEN, Neb. (AP) — A light earthquake has nudged Hooker County in the Sandhills of western Nebraska.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the temblor occurred just before 10 p.m. Sunday. It registered a magnitude of 2.7 and its epicenter was about three miles underground at a spot about 13 miles west-northwest of Mullen.

Hooker County Sheriff Lynn Nichols said Monday that his office hadn't gotten any calls about damage or any injuries.

Nebraska

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A government meteorologist warned Monday that relentless heat and drought are setting the stage for more wildfires in Nebraska.

National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Buttler said low humidity and high temperatures have created a "near critical" risk for more fires in the same areas that saw more than 50,000 acres scorched last week. The weather service in North Platte has issued a red flag fire warning for west-central Nebraska until midnight Tuesday. The affected region includes all or parts of 25 counties.

Buttler said the region missed its usual rainfall in May, June and July — the wettest summer months of the year — and the best chance to "green up" the prairie grasses and make them more fire resistant.

"It's not like eastern Nebraska, where you have a lot of corn fields and irrigated acres that are green," Buttler said. "You get a lightning strike in a cornfield, and not much is going to happen. You get lightning in a range pasture that's brown, and you're going to have problems."

The area recently endured a streak of 25 consecutive days with temperatures above 90

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CHRIS BUTTLER

degrees, the longest stretch since the Dust Bowl in 1936. Though Friday broke the streak with a high below 90 degrees, Buttler said temperatures expected to hover near triple digits for at least the next several days.

Buttler said officials were most concerned about a weak cool front forecast for Monday evening that would lead to dry lightning storms. Often, he said, clouds coming off the Rocky Mountains are too high in the atmosphere and the much-needed rain evaporates before it reaches the ground.

Weather officials issue the red flag warnings to advise firefighters about conditions of low

humidity, high winds and the chance of dry lightning.

"I can't put an exact number on how many we've issued this year," Buttler said. "But the number is way above what we normally issue in the summer time."

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Jodie Fawl said authorities over the weekend contained six wildfires near Lake McConaughy, the state's largest reservoir and a popular summer getaway. None of the most recent fires Nebraska appears to have damaged any homes, farm buildings or other structures, she said.

Fawl said two Black Hawk Helicopters and a satellite-equipped mobile response center dispatched by state officials have since returned to Lincoln.

Buttler said the dry lightning threat was expected to diminish overnight as the humidity rises, but conditions were expected to remain dry through most of the week. The region could see rain on Friday or Saturday, he said.

Overall, he said, conditions are on the pace to be worse than drought conditions that began in the early 2000s and lasted for several years.

"In 2002, we had some rain in May and early June, and then it completely shut off," Buttler said. "This year, we haven't had anything appreciable since April. And it's killing us."

Ash Borer Draws Nearer To Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A destructive beetle that would threaten Nebraska's millions of ash trees has been found in northwest Missouri, less than 100 miles from the state border.

The emerald ash borer had been confirmed near Parkville, which sits on the northwest side of Kansas City, Mo., according to the Missouri Departments of Agriculture and Conservation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

There have been no confirmed discoveries in Nebraska, said Mark Harrell, Nebraska Forest Service forest health program leader. Nonetheless, he said, the recent discovery in northwest Missouri shows that "preparing for the arrival of this very serious pest is now much more urgent."

Ash trees are used commercially for baseball bats, kitchen cabinets and other products, and dominate the landscape in parts of the Midwest. Ashes account for 25

percent to 35 percent of the trees in Nebraska, and neighboring Iowa has an estimated 88 million ash trees.

"Green ash has been one of the most popular landscape and conservation trees planted in Nebraska for the past several decades and is a major component of our natural and planted tree resources," said Harrell. "Encouraging species diversity in our tree plantings reduces the problem that any one pest" can cause, he said.

The insect is a threat to all native ash species and has killed more than 50 million trees since it was first detected in Michigan in 2002, experts have said. The ash borer has since turned up in several states, including northeast Iowa.

Mark Shour, with Iowa State Extension and Outreach, said Monday that the insect was detected in at least three trees and in a trap on Henderson Island in the Missis-

sippi River, just inside the Iowa state line.

Traps have been set up elsewhere in Allamakee County and the rest of the state. None of the bugs has shown up in Iowa since the island discovery was confirmed in May 2010.

Shour said it was good news that the bugs apparently haven't spread any farther into Iowa.

The ash borer is a beetle that's native to Asia. The adult beetles are relatively harmless and nibble on leaves, but the larvae are deadly. They drill into trees, eat through the vascular tissue and stop the flow of water. An infested tree can die within a few years, and the emerging generation of beetles moves to other trees.

The borer spreads from state to state when infested trees, logs or firewood are moved from one area to another.

Heineman: China Visit Helped Highlight Neb.

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman says his weeklong trip to China helped increase the state's visibility to Chinese officials, who are more familiar with U.S. coastal states.

Heineman said Monday that the visit helped strengthen Nebraska's relationship with China and laid

the groundwork for future business growth. But he said it's only part of a longer-term relationship that needs to develop.

The trip included several agreements between Nebraska and the Chinese government, including a "sister state" relationship between Nebraska and the Shaanxi

Province, and a new trade office in Shanghai.

Heineman says he emphasized the quality of Nebraska businesses during his talks with Chinese officials, and he made sure they knew that world-famous investor Warren Buffett hails from Omaha.

Speed, Alcohol Are Factors In Motorcycle Rally Crashes

RAPID CITY (AP) — South Dakota authorities say speed and alcohol were factors in the first two fatal motorcycle crashes of this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The state Public Safety Department says 48-year-old James Mills of New Palestine, Indiana, was killed Sunday when he crashed on U.S. Highway 14 in Spearfish. He applied his brakes, lost control and his motorcycle slid on the road.

A Minnesota man was killed Sunday on South Dakota Highway 44 when he failed to negotiate a curve and his motorcycle hit a post. His name was not released, pending notification of his family.

The annual rally officially started Monday and runs through Sunday. Officials expect more than 400,000 bikers will attend the event in the Black Hills.

OBITUARIES

Robert 'Bob' Kessler

ABERDEEN — Mass of Christian Burial for Robert "Bob" J. Kessler will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Aberdeen. The Rev. Shane Stevens will officiate. Burial in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.



Kessler

There will be a wake service Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. with visitation starting at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Robert "Bob" J. Kessler, 87, of Aberdeen, South Dakota passed away Saturday August 4th, surrounded by family at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen after a long and full life.

Robert John Kessler was born December 22, 1924, the first child born to George and Elizabeth (Sahl) Kessler at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. Bob grew up and attended Catholic school in Aberdeen. In 1940, Bob and his younger siblings, Ann and Ken, helped their parents start a small grocery store on the corner of State Street and 5th Avenue, where the family also lived.

In 1943, at age 18, Bob volunteered for the Army and served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, seeing combat in Europe throughout World War II. Following the end of the War, he marched in the Victory Parade in New York City before being discharged.

After the War, he lived for a short time in California before returning to Aberdeen to help with the family business. During his involvement and under his direction, Kessler's Grocery moved three times, finally moving to the current location.

In 1948, Bob met Kathleen Foran from New York City, while she was visiting her sister who lived in an apartment above the grocery store. He saw her walk down the stairs, rushed over from behind the meat counter, and asked her on a date. They were married later that year and had six children.

In his life, he was active, in various ways, in the American Legion, the Catholic Foresters, the Knights of Columbus, the

VFW, and was on the Board of Directors for 1st National Bank. He was also active in the early years of the Aberdeen Development Corporation and was instrumental in raising the money to purchase and develop the Aberdeen Industrial Park. Bob also opened another business, The Lumber Company, which entertained Aberdeen until the early 1990's.

He enjoyed getting to know people and had many friends in Aberdeen; Akaska; Pine Island, Florida; at Mina Lake; and any other place where he hunted, fished, or just passed through. Bob liked to entertain his friends at he and Kay's home, and he was always eager to lend a helping hand to his friends and anyone in need.

Bob was an avid sportsman and loved the outdoors. He was an "expert" hunter and fisherman and delighted in teaching these skills to his children and grand-children. He loved being a father. That passion transferred to being an enthusiastic grandfather and family gatherings always included games for all.

He was surrounded by family when he passed, as his devoted and loving wife of 63 years held his hand and sang to him. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and younger brother Ken Kessler. He is survived by his wife Kathleen "Kay" (Foran) Kessler; 3 daughters,

Ann McDonald of Pine Island, FL, Betty (Ed) Koren of Walden, NY, and Joeline Oakes of Aberdeen; 3 sons, George (Mary Kay) Kessler of Mina, Tim (Amy) Kessler of Aberdeen, and Tom (Laura) Kessler of Mina; 17 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren, with 2 that will be born this fall; his younger sister Sr. Ann Kessler O.S.B. of Yankton; and 2 nephews.

The family prefers memorials to South Dakota Kids Fishing For Freedom which provides an opportunity for children of deployed and recently redeployed Soldiers to spend a day on the water fishing with area Professional Fisherman and anglers, a meal and prizes. It's an event designed to give recognition to the many sacrifices made by our military and their families to protect our freedom. The program is directed by the South Dakota Walleye Classic Festival Committee a 501 (c) (3) Corporation. SD Walleye Classic, PO Box 202, Akaska, SD 57420.

Carlsen Funeral Home and Crematory of Aberdeen has been entrusted with arrangements. www.carlsenfh.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 7, 2012

Barabara Fleming

DENVER — Services for Barbara J. Fleming, 71 of Denver are pending at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Creighton, Neb.

Barbara died Friday, Aug. 3, 2012, in Denver.

John 'Jack' French

BULLHEAD CITY, Ariz. — John W. "Jack" French of Bullhead City, Arizona, died of coronary heart failure Friday, August 3.

Jack was born to Louis B and Dorothy (Walsh) French on September 4, 1947.

He was pre-deceased by his father.

He is survived by two sons, Devon of Phoenix and Jason of San Diego; his mother Dorothy of Chandler, Az; his Sister Emma (Laird) of Yankton, and nephews Jonathan of Miami and Robert of New York City.

A private, family burial will be held at a later date.

Memorials gifts may be directed to "Levi B., W.W. and Louis B. French Memorial Scholarship



French

Endowment" at the University of South Dakota, PO Box 5555, Vermillion, SD 57069.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 7, 2012

Garnette Perry

VERMILLION — Garnette Ruth Perry, 98, of Vermillion, SD passed away Saturday, August 4, 2012 at Sanford Vermillion Care Center.

A Celebration of Life will be 6 p.m., Friday, August 10, 2012 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. She will be buried next to her beloved husband Charles in Ridgely Cemetery at Ridgely, MO.

Garnette was born June 29, 1914 in Yankton, SD to Leatha V. Ferber and Ora McIntyre. She lived in the Yankton area, moving to Kansas City when she was 17.

She married Charles Perry in 1962 and they lived in Kansas City. After Charles' death in 1990, she moved to Vermillion to be near her sister Dorothy Larson. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Senior Center

and the Rebekah's Lodge.

Garnette enjoyed playing bingo and going to the Senior Center.

Survivors include her nephew John Larson Jr. and Extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Charles Perry, her sister Dorothy Larson and her brother Roy Peterson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to the Vermillion Senior Center.

For obituary and online condolences visit hansenfuneral-home.com.

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August 7, 2012

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