

Vacation Home Burns At Lake Mitchell

MITCHELL (AP) — Flames that tore through a home on the north side of Lake Mitchell weren't controlled in time to save the house.

The fire, in the 100 block of North Harmon Drive, engulfed the vacation house Monday morning. No one was hurt.

KSFY-TV reports that firefighters battled for hours. Neighbor Rick Mann describes to the station sky-high smoke billows and an orange glow emanating from the house.

Mann says that even distant neighbors could feel the heat.

KSFY reports that the home is owned by Dennis Brakke of Mitchell and Rodney Brakke of Omaha, Neb. Neither was in the house when the fire broke out.

Man Shot Under Bridge In Lincoln Monday

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln police say a man who was shot as he was sleeping under a pedestrian bridge may have been mistaken for someone else.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* says police say 35-year-old Jason Lassen was shot at least four times early Monday. Capt. David Beggs says Lassen underwent surgery and is expected to survive. Lassen has no permanent address.

Beggs says investigators believe the shooter mistook Lassen for someone else. No arrests have been reported.

Police say another man who was also sleeping under the bridge was awakened by gunshots around 5 a.m. He went to a nearby convenience store and called police.

When he returned to the bridge, Lassen was gone. Police found him about a block away.

Ex-Hospital Worker Accused Of Taking Meds

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — A former worker at a Kearney hospital has been arrested for allegedly taking prescription medications.

The *Kearney Hub* says 42-year-old Robin Scheele is charged in Buffalo County Court with obtaining possession of a controlled substance by fraud. She was arrested last week and was released on \$2,500 bond. Online court records don't list an attorney for Scheele. A court hearing is set for Feb. 27.

Scheele is accused of taking 20 Adderall pills from the hospital's pharmacy in September. Adderall is typically used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and sleep disorders. The theft was discovered after an audit.

Scheele was questioned after an internal investigation and was later fired.

Nebraska Lawmaker Seeks Longer Term Limits

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska state senator wants longer term limits for lawmakers.

The *Hastings Tribune* reports that Sen. Tom Carlson, of Holdrege, says he'll propose changing state law to allow senators to serve three, four-year terms instead of the current limit of two, four-year terms.

Carlson says he'll introduce a bill during the legislative session that begins Wednesday.

Carlson represents District 38 in south central Nebraska. He has served five years in office and has three years left.

Carlson says term limits bring new ideas and new energy. But he also says by the time a lawmaker learns the process and understands the issues, it's time to leave.

Owners Of Burned Bar To Reopen By July

FORT PIERRE (AP) — The owners of a Fort Pierre bar that burned down on Christmas Eve say they plan to rebuild and reopen by July.

A wood-burning stove is believed to be the cause of the Dec. 24 blaze at Dudley's Valley Tap, which doubled as the home of brother and sister owners Sam Williamson and Jill Pfeiffer.

KGFX radio reports that First National Bank locations in Pierre and neighboring Fort Pierre are accepting donations for Williamson and Pfeiffer.

Williamson tells KCCR radio that the outpouring of help from the community has been overwhelming. He says the bar will continue to host league play for activities such as darts and pool when it reopens.

South Dakota Cat Case Gets Complicated

RAPID CITY (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks officials are deciding whether a Harding County ranch hand can keep a mountain lion he killed while doing chores on another rancher's land.

The president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation wonders if Shannon Secrest of Buffalo should get a ticket rather than the cat.

Secrest told wildlife officers he discovered the lion in a tree last November when his dogs began barking, and he shot it. He wants to mount it, but officials are trying to iron out several matters in the complicated case including whether Secrest properly killed the cat out of season.

Game, Fish and Parks tells the *Rapid City Journal* that it's unlikely Secrest will get a ticket. But he also might not get the cat. Secrest declined comment.

Neb. Senator Eyes Casino Gambling Bill

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — Nebraskans might get another chance to vote on casino gambling if a state senator from Columbus introduces a bill this year to put the issue on the ballot.

State Sen. Paul Schumacher tells the *Columbus Telegram* he may sponsor a constitutional amendment to allow gambling, so Nebraska won't continue losing gambling revenue to neighboring states that allow casinos. The 2012 legislative session begins on Wednesday.

But the idea faces long odds because Nebraskans have rejected several gambling proposals over the past decade.

Groups that oppose expanded gambling in the state have successfully argued that the social costs of gambling outweigh any tax revenue benefit. The nonprofit group Gambling with the Good Life led opposition to a number of gambling measures because of concerns that increased gambling would bring increased crime, gambling addiction and other social ills.

Schumacher said the state can't afford to continue losing millions of dollars in tax revenue. He estimates that Nebraska might gain \$60 million to \$120 million in tax revenue through casino gambling.

"If we're short on money, right now that money is going to Iowa and South Dakota," Schumacher said.

Last year, state lawmakers grappled with a projected \$1 billion budget deficit and approved a budget that cut state agency spending but didn't raise taxes. The budget outlook has improved for Nebraska this year because of strong farm income and relatively low unemployment, but Schumacher thinks gambling should be an option in the state.

Decision 2012

Candidates Dash Across Iowa

BY MIKE GLOVER AND DAVID ESPO
 Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The White House their goal, Republican presidential hopefuls raced across Iowa on Monday in a final, full day of frenzied appeals for support in precinct caucuses that open the 2012 campaign. "It is the race you make it," an upset-minded Rick Santorum told voters soon to pick a winner.

In the race's final hours, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney predicted victory and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich all but forecast his own defeat.

From Sioux City in the western part of the state to Davenport in the east, the six presidential hopefuls hustled through 23 fast-paced campaign events combined. That and the \$13 million or more already spent on television commercials was evidence enough of the out-sized importance Iowa holds in the race to pick a Republican opponent for President Barack Obama next fall.

Romney had one eye on his GOP rivals and another on Obama as he argued he is in the best position of all to capture the White House. The president has been "a great divider, the great complainer, the great excuse giver, the great blamer," said the former Massachusetts gover-



CHRISTOPHER GANNON/MCT

Republican candidate Rick Santorum, riding a timely surge in the polls, campaigns at a cafe in Polk City, Iowa, Monday.

nor, who is making his second try for the nomination and has been at or near the top of the Iowa polls since the campaign began.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul flew into the state accompanied by his son, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, and urged supporters to "send a message tomorrow night that echoes not just around Iowa but ... around the world." Many in the audience of about 300 chanted "end the Fed," a reference to the Texan's pledge to abolish the nation's central bank as

a first step toward repairing the economy.

Most polls in recent days have put Romney and Paul atop the field in Iowa, with Santorum in third and gaining ground. More than a third of all potential caucus-goers say they could yet change their minds.

"Do not settle for less than what America needs to transform this country. Moderate candidates who try to appeal to moderates end up losing," Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, said in

Rapid City Twin Babies Born In Different Years

RAPID CITY (AP) — When they grow up, a set of newborn twins in South Dakota will be able to tell people they were born in different years.

Kylee Anthony was born a minute before midnight on New Year's Eve, and brother John Jr. was born three minutes into 2012, the *Rapid City Journal* reported.

Parents John Sr. and Jolene Anthony lay claim to having the last baby of 2011 as well as the first baby of 2012 in Rapid City.

"We could go buy a lottery ticket right now," John Anthony said.

John, 29, a car salesman, and Jolene, 26, a store assistant manager, were married nearly three years ago. Each has older children, and they had been hoping to have children together. Ultrasounds showed they were having twins,

but with a due date of Jan. 20 and a scheduled induction planned for Jan. 9, the couple never expected the babies to arrive with such New Year's fanfare.

Kylee was born at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces. John Jr. was born at 12:03 a.m. Sunday, measuring 19 inches and weighing 5 pounds, 12 ounces.

Twins don't run in either parent's family, and the Anthonys took the double stroke of good fortune as a sign that their family and relationship are on the right track.

"If there's any sign you could have that you're with your soul mate," John Anthony said, "what better sign from God?"

In neighboring Minnesota, another set of twins was born in separate years: Beckett and Freya Humenny were born at 6:40 p.m.

New Year's Eve and 12:26 a.m. New Year's Day, respectively, according to the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

The nurses at Hennepin County Medical Center threw confetti to celebrate the new year and the extraordinary birth event.

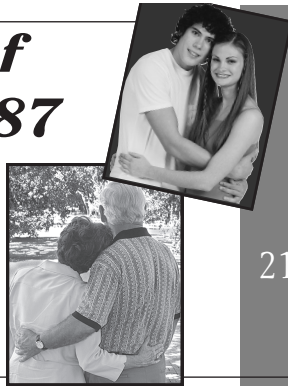
"It was a party when she came

out," said their mom, Stephanie Peterson, 30, of Wayzata, Minn. There will come a time, she said, when Beckett will probably tease his sister that she's a year a younger, but "I'm excited that they will have two birthdays."



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THURSDAY'S IN JANUARY
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