

Thunderstorm Helps Slow Black Hills Fire

RAPID CITY (AP) — An overnight thunderstorm slowed the advance of a wildfire in southwest South Dakota, bringing some respite Monday just hours after an air tanker fighting the blaze crashed, killing at least one crew member.

The White Draw Fire north of Edgemont was holding steady Monday at about 6.5 square miles, with about 30 percent contained, fire spokesman Brian Scott said. The Sunday evening storm didn't bring much rain but high humidity caused grasses to burn slower, and fire activity was "really subdued," he said.

Fire crews on Monday were trying to hold and improve lines that were built Sunday, Scott said. A shift in the wind helped crews build fire lines in areas that burned the previous day, he said.

"A little bit here and a little bit there we'll burn, but hopefully not a lot today," Scott said Monday.

No people or livestock had been harmed by the fire that was sparked by a vehicle Friday afternoon in the Edgemont area, about 80 miles southwest of Rapid City. However, an Air Force C-130 plane belonging to the North Carolina National Guard crashed while fighting the fire Sunday.

Capt. Ruth Castro, a spokeswoman for U.S. Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, said the plane was flying from that base. David Eaker of the Great Basin Incident Management Team said six people were aboard, but no other information was immediately released.

Heat Causing Declining S.D. Crop Conditions

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Crop development is still ahead of the five-year average in South Dakota, but crop conditions are continuing to decline due to a lack of moisture.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop and weather report that warm and dry conditions dominated much of the state again. The combination of high temperatures, lower relative humidity and more water usage for crops are causing potentially stressful crop situations across the state.

Corn had an average height of 43 inches, ahead of the five year average of 26 inches, with 80 percent of the crop cultivated or sprayed twice.

Soybeans were at 29 percent blooming, ahead of the five year average of 8 percent.

Nebraska Crops Running Ahead Of Schedule

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's corn, soybean and wheat crops are all ahead of schedule because of the warm spring, but the recent triple-digit heat is hurting the quality of those crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday that the temperatures last week registered 3 degrees above normal in the northeast and 9 degrees above normal in the Panhandle.

As a result, soil moisture levels are only about 21 percent adequate instead of the average of 85 percent adequate or surplus.

The corn crop is about 11 days ahead of average with 25 percent of the corn in the pollination stage. About one quarter of the soybean crop is also blooming.

The wheat harvest is about three weeks ahead of schedule and 69 percent complete.

WNV Found In Mosquitoes In 2 S.D. Counties

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota officials have detected the West Nile virus in mosquitoes in Brookings and Brown counties, the first detections of the season.

The Health Department is urging state residents to not become complacent about the virus that can lead to serious and even fatal illness. State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says people should get in the habit of protecting themselves through such means as limiting exposure to mosquitoes, eliminating standing water and using bug repellent.

The peak West Nile virus period in South Dakota is July through early September. South Dakota has reported nearly 1,800 cases including 26 deaths since the first case in 2002.

Nebraska

Wildfire Rolls Through Sandhills

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A wildfire in Nebraska's manmade national forest has burned through an estimated 1,000 acres and left emergency crews struggling in rugged, sandy terrain.

Officials by late Monday afternoon had contained 50 percent of the blaze at the Nebraska National Forest, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service reported. The fire, one of 11 reported after a dry lightning storm Saturday, is in the Sandhills at the Bessey Ranger District in the north-central part of the state.

Tim Buskirk, a district ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in Nebraska, said strong winds and high temperatures have complicated efforts to contain the fire, which started around 1 p.m. Saturday. Buskirk said crews the firefighters have struggled to reach the fire about 22 miles southeast of Halsey, which is only accessible through one-lane gravel roads.

Buskirk said crews have had to swap their trucks for ATVs, or walk alongside the fire to keep it contained. Back-up crews arrived from federal agencies in Montana and South Dakota, and Buskirk said a team from California was on its way.

"The terrain in and around the Sandhills is obviously sandy," Buskirk said. "It's tough to get

around it in a truck. You throw in a hand-planted forest, trying to get around stumps and things like that, and it makes things difficult."

Buskirk said he was pleased with Monday's progress and plans to open Natick Campground and its horse corrals soon, with ATV trails open by the weekend.

He said if the situation holds, up to five fire engines and other fire specialists may be released on Wednesday morning.

The 142,000-acre national forest is divided into two ranger districts: The Bessey Ranger District in the rolling, prairie-grass-covered Sandhills in north-central Nebraska, and the Pine Ridge Ranger District in far

northwest Nebraska. The 105-year-old, hand-planted forest was the largest of its kind in the nation, and second only to a manmade forest in South Africa.

Meanwhile, at least 10 other weekend blazes were reported in Blaine, Logan, Thomas and McPherson counties. Officials said all of those blazes are contained, but they're now worried about Fourth of July fireworks.

To combat the forest fire, patrol teams worked Monday to reinforce the perimeter, digging a new fire line in high-risk areas. Temperatures in the region were forecast to reach 100 degrees, with 22 percent relative humidity and south winds

between 7 and 17 mph.

Buskirk said smoke from the fire is clearing, and the main Bessey campaign complex and Nebraska State 4-H Camp were open. Several other campgrounds remained closed, as were all ATV trails.

Tinder-dry conditions throughout Nebraska haven't helped. Gov. Dave Heineman declared a state emergency due to the drought, allowing state workers to help with emergency situations that arise and freeing up resources for the effort. The declaration also gives greater flexibility to the Nebraska National Guard and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to use resources.

Midwest Business Conditions Index Falls in June

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A nine-state Midwest and Plains economic survey index fell for the second straight month in June.

A survey report released Monday for the Mid-America Business Conditions Index says it dropped to 57.2 last month, compared with 57.6 in May. The index was 60 in April.

In the survey any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below 50 suggests decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the businesses that were surveyed are still benefiting from healthy farm income and exports, but the activity is slowing. Global economic problems are pushing export orders into negative territory.

A quarter of the managers surveyed say the biggest hurdle in the next year is implementation of health care reform.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

FINDING BALANCE.

depression
2 out of 3 women complaining of depression have a hormone imbalance

low sex drive
7 out of 10 women complaining of low sex drive have a hormone imbalance

hot flashes
8 out of 10 women complaining of hot flashes have a hormone imbalance



Pharmacy Specialties will help you find balance again.

Learn more about Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement at a FREE Seminar & Luncheon

Thursday, July 12th • Noon-1pm
Minervas, 1609 E. Hwy. 50, Yankton

Presenters: Cheri Kramer, Pharmacy Specialties, Inc.
Brandi Pravecek, CNP, Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital

Soup and salad luncheon will be provided.
RSVP to Jill Sprakel 664-5300 by July 9th.

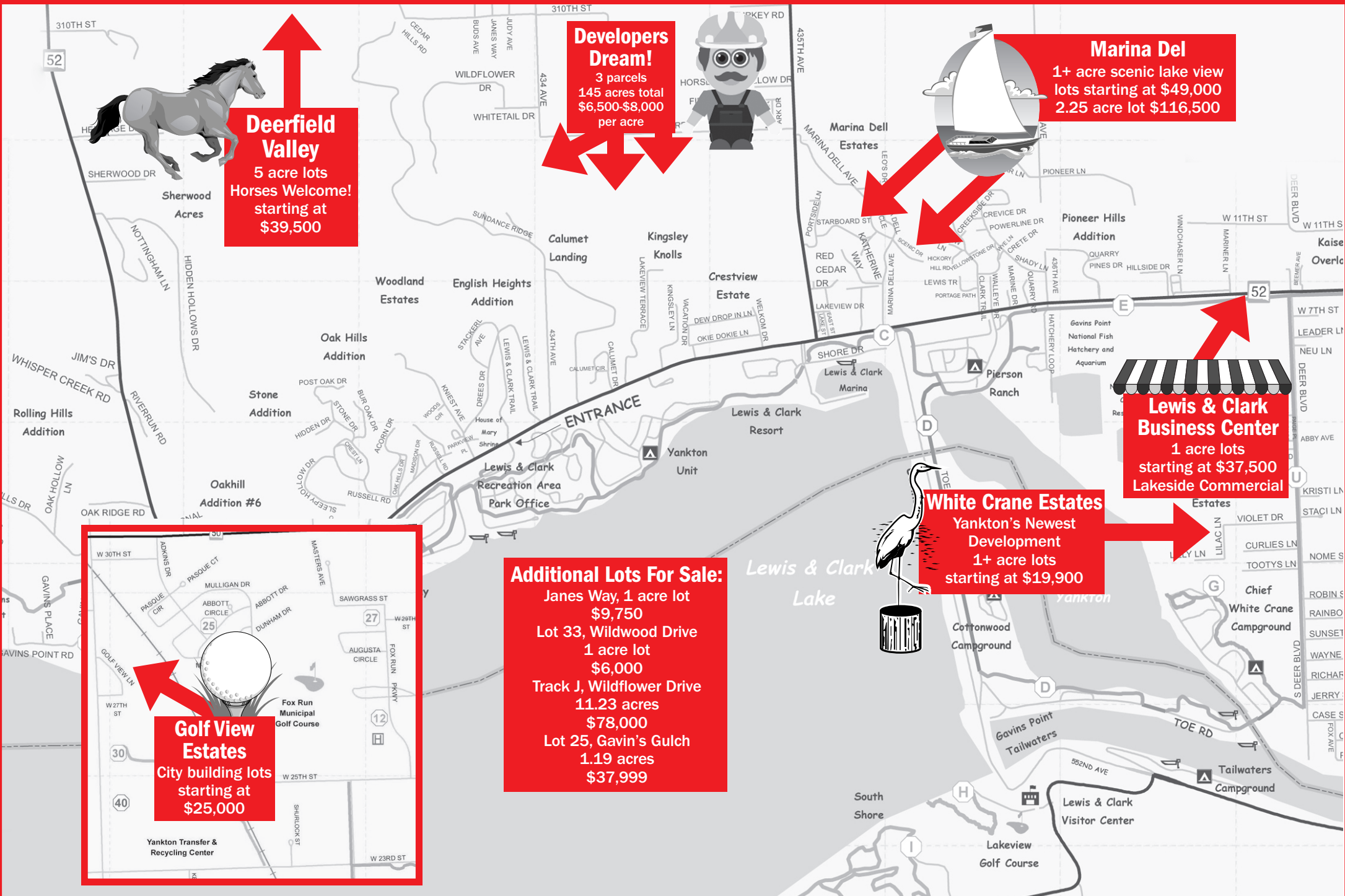


LEWIS & CLARK
Specialty Hospital
2605 Fox Run Parkway, Yankton, SD
605-665-5100 • www.lewisandclarkspecialty.com



Pharmacy Specialties, Inc.
2333 W. 57th St., Ste. 107
Sioux Falls, SD • 605-334-1672

Lots Of Lots For Sale!



Deerfield Valley
5 acre lots
Horses Welcome!
starting at \$39,500

Developers Dream!
3 parcels
145 acres total
\$6,500-\$8,000
per acre

Marina Del
1+ acre scenic lake view
lots starting at \$49,000
2.25 acre lot \$116,500

Lewis & Clark Business Center
1 acre lots
starting at \$37,500
Lakeside Commercial

White Crane Estates
Yankton's Newest Development
1+ acre lots
starting at \$19,900

Additional Lots For Sale:
Janes Way, 1 acre lot \$9,750
Lot 33, Wildwood Drive 1 acre lot \$6,000
Track J, Wildflower Drive 11.23 acres \$78,000
Lot 25, Gavin's Gulch 1.19 acres \$37,999

Golf View Estates
City building lots
starting at \$25,000



Sally & Terry
Broker Associates
660-5352, 660-6679
www.SallyandTerry.com



Lewis & Clark Realty, Inc.
www.yanktonareahomes.com

Carol & Denny
Broker Owners
661-7653, 661-1588

