

Fires

From Page 1

“These people left and didn’t call it in,” Nickles said. “It would have been considered an accident, but since they fled the scene and didn’t report it, we’ll be looking at criminal charges and restitution for the fire department.”

Earlier in the evening, farm equipment sparked a brush fire just west of State Lake.

The Yankton Fire Department was called around 6 p.m. to an area west of the lake, also known as Beaver Lake, along 302nd Street.

“It was running pretty fast through the hills,” Nickles said.

The Lesterville Fire Department was also called to assist in the effort.

Nickles estimated the fire burned 40-50 acres. A windrower is believed to have struck a rock and sparked the fire.

Firefighters had the blaze under control within about an hour.

At approximately 11 p.m. Tuesday, the Lesterville Fire Department received a call from a residence a half-mile west of the community.

“People were shooting fireworks, and one of their canisters tipped over and shot the fireworks into the grass,” said Lesterville firefighter Paul Scherschligt.

Some small patches of fire were put out by the property owners, but he stated that the wind fanned a blaze in the ditch along the county road to the point that the fire department had to be called.

Firefighters were on scene for about 15 minutes for the small grass fire, Scherschligt said.

On Wednesday, the Yankton Fire Department received a call around 3:30 p.m. of a fire approximately nine miles west of Yankton.

“That was caused by a burn pile from two months ago,” Nickles said. “The fire had been smoldering under the dirt and finally sparked out because of the wind and caught the grass on fire.”

He said damage was done to some fence posts and hay.

Firefighters were on scene about two hours.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Nickles said the Yankton area is still listed as being in a moderate fire danger zone. He believes it is quickly approaching a high fire danger rating and encourages residents to be careful.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](#)

AP Survey: Next President Faces High Unemployment

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A majority of economists in the latest Associated Press Economy Survey expect the national unemployment rate to stay above 6 percent — the upper bounds of what’s considered healthy — for at least four more years.

If the economists are correct, the job market will still be unhealthy seven years after the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009. That would be the longest stretch of high unemployment since the end of World War II.

And it means the job market and the economy — President Barack Obama’s main political threats — would remain big challenges in either a second Obama term or President Mitt Romney’s first term.

“The election isn’t going to be a miracle cure for the unemployment rate — that’s for sure,” says Sean Snaith, an economics professor at the University of Central Florida. He thinks unemployment, which is 8.2 per-

cent now, won’t drop back to 6 percent until after 2016.

Economists consider a “normal” level to be between 5 percent and 6 percent.

The economists surveyed by the AP foresee an unemployment rate of 8 percent on Election Day. That would be the highest rate any postwar president running for re-election has faced.

The survey results come before the government reports Friday on hiring during June. Fears about the economy escalated after U.S. employers added just 69,000 jobs in May, the fewest in a year and the third straight month of weak job growth.

The AP survey collected the views late last month from 32 private, corporate and academic economists on a range of issues. Among their views:

— The economy will continue to grow only slowly. The average forecast for the April-June period is that GDP grew at an annual rate of 2 percent.

That’s down from a 2.4 percent forecast in April. The economists think the rate in the final

six months of the year will be just 2.3 percent. That’s too weak to bring the unemployment rate down.

— Monthly job gains will average 139,000 the rest of this year — barely enough to keep up with population growth and prevent unemployment from worsening. In their forecast in April, the economists predicted average monthly job gains of 189,000.

— The one step Europe could take that would boost confidence in its financial system quickly would be a bailout program like the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, that Congress approved in 2008 to rescue U.S. banks after the financial crisis hit.

— The biggest threat to the U.S. economy is the tax increases and spending cuts that will take effect Jan. 1 unless Congress reaches an agreement. Many economists and the International Monetary Fund have warned that these measures would push the economy off a “fiscal cliff” and back into recession.

County

From Page 1

Commissioner Donna Freng concurred with Sinclair, adding that the process should be done as soon as possible.

“I don’t see any reason not to put it out for bids,” she said.

Jensen said the decision of

whether or not to go through a sealed-bid process will be voted upon at the next commission meeting.

In other business Tuesday, the commission:

- told Yankton County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt that he is allowed to respond to other emergency situations in the state if called upon to do so. As a firefighter, he was recently asked to assist with the wildfire in the western part of the

state. He would be paid for his time. Therefore, the commission said he could take time off from the county without pay to assist with the effort;

- discussed the possibility of a drought declaration or a burn ban; and
- held an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

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5-7pm – Hamburger/
Pizza Burger & Fries \$5.00

Friday

Brats/Baked Beans/
Potato Salad 5:30-8:00

Saturday

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Regular Menu 5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30

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Scheduled Entertainment

Music Starts at 9PM

July 5.....Lug Nuts
July 6.....Onward Etc.
July 14.....Mike & Jay
July 16.....Becca Hofmeister
July 21.....Evan Jones

304 W. 3rd, Yankton

No Chicken Buffet

July 4 & 11

Chicken Buffet Will Be Back on July 18

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Start with a summer cocktail:
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