the midwest

S.D.: Warm, Windy Weather Concern Growers

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Crop development continues to be well ahead of averages, but warm and windy weather combined with lack of moisture is concerning some growers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop weather report that storms crossed parts of western and north central South Dakota, dropping rainfall amounts greater than an inch at several places. But much of the northeast and southeast received little to no precipitation.

Development advanced for all crops, but conditions remained relatively stable with hope for future rain.

Corn had an average height of 12 inches, ahead of the five year average of 6 inches, with 83 percent of the crop cultivated or sprayed once.

Soybeans were at 89 percent emerged, ahead of the five year average of 51 percent.

Warm, Dry Weather Puts Stress On Neb. Crops

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The recent warm, dry weather is putting stress on Nebraska's crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it lowered crop condition ratings statewide because of the lack of moisture. Farmers are responding by turning on irrigation systems where they're available.

Temperatures across Nebraska were about 4 degrees above normal on average last week.

About 70 percent of Nebraska's corn crop is in good or excellent shape. That's below the average of 78 percent good or excellent.

But the heat has helped the soybean crop develop quickly. About 97 percent of the soybeans have emerged, up from the average of 79 percent. About 64 percent of the soybean crop is in good or excellent shape.

The wheat harvest has begun in southeast Nebraska and should quickly move west across the state.

House Explosion Probe Could Take Months

MITCHELL (AP) — Investigators say it might be months before they determine the cause of a house explosion in Mitchell.

No one was in the home and no one was hurt in the June 3 blast. Mitchell Public Safety Chief Lyndon Overweg tells The Daily Republic newspaper that authorities are awaiting the results of laboratory tests relating to the rental home's natural gas system.

Investigators have labeled the explosion suspicious. The probe into the blast involves local, state and federal agencies.

Suspect Busted After Hospital Release

RAPID CITY (AP) — A man accused of stabbing a pregnant woman to death in a Rapid City parking lot in April has been arrested after being released from the hospital.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the Pennington County Sheriff's Office guarded Young around-the-clock during his stay at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Young is charged with first-degree murder and fetal homicide in the killing of 30-year-old Morgan Myers and her unborn child in a Walmart parking lot.

Young had been recovering from self-inflicted stab wounds.

Neb. Deputy Hurt After Truck Hits Cruiser

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A Douglas County Sheriff's deputy was hurt when a pickup truck hit his patrol car during a traffic stop on Interstate 80 in Omaha.

The crash happened Monday afternoon around 2:30 p.m. near the Q Street exit on westbound I-80 and slowed traffic for about two hours.

Deputy David Wintle and the driver of the pickup were both taken to the hospital after the crash. The driver Wintle had originally pulled over and Wintle's police dog were not seriously hurt.

Chief Deputy Marty Bilek says Wintle was thrown 20 feet when the truck hit the back of his cruiser.

Wintle was in serious condition when he was taken to the hospital. The truck driver, who wasn't immediately identified, was in critical condition.

More Problems For Man Busted For Gator, Pot

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha man arrested for growing marijuana and having dozens of reptiles, including an alligator, could face more legal trouble.

KMTV-TV in Omaha says 31-year-old David Randall was a noshow for a court hearing and a Douglas County judge has issued a warrani

South Dakota Blue Cloud Abbey To Close

BY DIRK LAMMERS Associated Press

BY DALE WETZEL

state said Monday.

more," Jaeger said.

counties, Jaeger said.

gious practices.

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS - Blue Cloud Abbey, a monastery and retreat center in northeast South Dakota, announced Monday it will close after more than six decades because its members are aging and new ones are not joining.

The 14 Benedictine monks who are left voted in late May to close the monastery in Marvin, which has also served as a retreat center for groups and individuals. A farewell gathering is scheduled for Aug. 5.

Abbot Denis Quinkert, in a letter posted on the monastery's website Monday, said three monks are in their nineties, two are in their eighties, seven are in their seventies, one is in his fifties and one is in his forties.

"If we were suddenly to get an influx of candidates, it would take years before they would be full-fledged monks," Quinkert said. No public liturgies will occur after Aug. 5,

BISMARCK, N.D. — Contentious

ate, North Dakota's secretary of

Al Jaeger said he hoped Tues-

day's turnout would equal that of

North Dakota's 1992 primary elec-

tions, when a Democratic fight over

the party's nomination for governor

headlined the ballot. In that contest,

As of 2 p.m. Monday, more than

Anthony Reedy, executive direc-

tor of the North Dakota Republican

steady turnout considering the bal-

tional amendments that had stirred

sides the ones concerning the Fight-

Party, said he too was expecting

lot would include three constitu-

strong debate on both sides. Be-

ing Sioux nickname and property taxes, another would make it

43,000 residents already had voted,

using absentee ballots and early

voting procedures set up in some

Attorney General Nicholas Spaeth

"If we were suddenly to get an influx of candidates, it would take years before they would be full-fledged monks."

ABBOT DENIS QUINKERT

and all scheduled retreats will be canceled. Quinkert said the monks' vote was con-

firmed by the council of the abbot president of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation. The property, which is owned by Blue Cloud Abbey, will be sold.

"I don't know how quickly we'll find a buyer in this part of the country," Quinkert said Monday. Bishop Paul Swain of the Catholic Diocese

of Sioux Falls said the news comes with sadness and a sense of loss, but also profound gratitude.

"Blue Cloud Abbey has been a welcoming

and safe haven for many searching for meaning and seeking their spiritual way," Swain said in a statement. "Countless priest retreats, marriage encounters, private retreats and spiritual counseling have taken place there, quietly, but with profound results."

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Although prayer is the most important aspect of Benedictine monastic life, the abbey says it's a life of balance and variety with prayer, reading, work and recreation. Monks have their own private rooms but gather several times daily for meals, jobs, services and prayer.

Ŏuinkert said the closure does not mean Blue Cloud has been a failure.

"Blue Cloud has been a wonderful community, and the monks have been very effective in many areas for the past 62 years," he said. The center's task over the next few

months will be to help each Blue Cloud monk settle into another monastery of his choice, Quinkert said.

Fighting Sioux, Property Weekend Fire Guts **Taxes May Boost N.D. Vote** Rockerville Home, Dakota state government appoint-**Prompts Evacuations** Republicans are deciding who their favored candidates for the U.S.

ROCKERVILLE (AP) - Lightning might have sparked a fire that destroyed a home in southwest South Dakota's Black Hills over the weekend, killing pets and prompting the evacuation of nearby residences, authorities

say. The two people who lived in the home near Rockerville southwest of Rapid City were not there when the fire broke out late Saturday, but a dog and four cats are believed to have died in the blaze, Rockerville Fire Capt. Gail Schmidt said.

Nearly 60 firefighters from several agencies responded to the fire. The Highway Patrol evacuated residents from about half a dozen houses and others left voluntarily. Firefighters focused on stopping the fire from spreading to other homes.

"We had some pretty high winds and a lot of heavy embers through the trees and through the vegetation, and a significant amount of heat coming out of

that structure," Schmidt said. Rain and hail helped lessen the threat of a wildfire, Schmidt said.

The fire captain said there was heavy lightning in the area at the time of the fire. Neighbors reported hearing booms before seeing the house and a nearby pine tree in flames.

A donation fund was being set up Monday for the couple who lost their home, according to the American Red Cross.

Other parts of South Dakota also experienced a stormy weekend. Hail and winds gusting up to 80 mph damaged homes and vehicles in central South Dakota late Saturday and early Sunday, KCCR radio reported. A storm destroyed a barn and damaged other buildings on a ranch near Dupree, and people attending a high school rodeo in the town took shelter in campers on the rodeo grounds, KELO-TV reported.

You're News! The Press & Dakotan

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AM 1450

who is leaving the Senate after 26 years in office. Republicans Kevin Cramer and Brian Kalk, who serve together on the North Dakota Public Service

U.S. House nomination.

are running for Congress faced a ate, while Pam Gulleson, a onetime Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is the De-

Two Democrats - former Bismarck state Sen. Tracy Potter and tendent of public instruction.

proposals to retire the University of House and Senate will be, while North Dakota's Fighting Sioux nickthree people are competing for two November ballot spots to run for name and abolish property taxes North Dakota superintendent of statewide were expected to boost turnout during a state primary elecpublic instruction. tion that also features competitive U.S. Rep. Rick Berg, who was races for U.S. House and U.S. Sen-

ments.

elected less than two years ago, is running against Bismarck businessman Duane Sand for the GOP's Senate nomination. Berg and Sand want to succeed Democrat Kent Conrad,

Commission, are fighting for the

Neither of the Democrats who challenger Tuesday. Former Attor-ney General Heidi Heitkamp is the Democrats' choice for the U.S. Sen-Democratic state House assistant floor leader and aide to former U.S.

Max Laird, who once served as president of the North Dakota Education Association — and Republican Kirsten Baesler were on the ballot for North Dakota superin-

prevailed over Langdon state Sen. William Heigaard, the North Dakota Senate's majority leader, when a 146,687 people went to the polls. 'I suspect (voter turnout) will be at least that much, or a little bit

mocrats' favored House candidate.

Randall was arrested in November after police and the Nebraska Humane Society seized a 2-foot alligator, a rat snake and 33 tortoises and turtles. The Human Society says the animals were living in filthy conditions. Police also found a pot-growing operation.

Randall is charged with manufacturing marijuana, harboring a non-domestic animal — the alligator — and animal cruelty.

at you have three contested maries on the Republican side, and that's helping turn out voters as well.'

Another amendment asks whether the state constitution should be changed to make it easier for state legislators to land North

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FF Tuesdav. June 12 7:40 am The Center (Tammy Matuska) 8:15 am Hy-Vee Dietician (Rachel Pinos) 8:45 am Dakota Territorial Museum (Crystal Nelson) Wednesday, June 13 7:40 am MMC 75th Anniv. (Barb Rezac, Wyatt Yager) 8:15 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

planet Heart

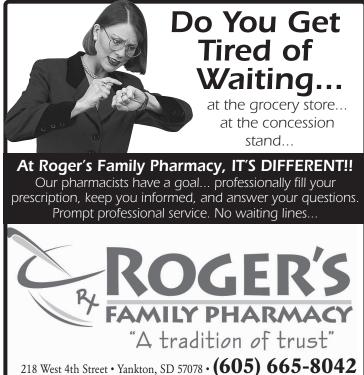
Mailbox Vandalism Costly To Lancaster County Man

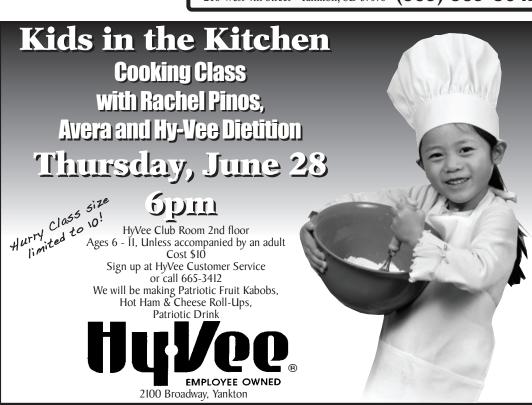
LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A Lancaster County man says vandals have forced him to replace at least 17 mailboxes since 1984.

Hubert Fox told the Lincoln Journal Star that he's spent about \$900 on new mailboxes so far. The expense would have been higher if Fox hadn't been able to fix some of the mailboxes before they were damaged beyond repair.

Fox says a vandal with a ball bat took too many mighty whacks at the current mailbox for it to be repaired, so he will have to buy another.

He says his mailbox is a target because it can't be seen from his house, so no one has been able to thwart the crimes or witness the vandals at work.





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