

Crews Make Progress On Crow Peak Fire In S.D.

SPEARFISH (AP) — Fire officials say crews have made significant progress on the Crow Peak Fire, which has been burning in the Spearfish area since the weekend.

The fire in western South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest was sparked by lightning over the weekend. It remains at about 130 acres, but is now 65 percent contained.

About 170 people are fighting the fire. Firefighters on Wednesday continued to strengthen and reinforce control lines around the blaze. Mop up efforts have begun on the north and east side of the fire.

Officials say three firefighters were treated for dehydration on Tuesday, but cooler temperatures provided some relief to the firefighters on Wednesday.

Second S.D. Forest Fire Threatens Homes

RAPID CITY (AP) — People in 18 homes near Rapid City have been told they might have to evacuate due to a forest fire that continues to grow.

The Dakota Fire is burning near the Dakota Point Recreation Area at Sheridan Lake, about 15 miles southwest of Rapid City. Authorities say it has reached about 300 acres in size, with 30 percent containment. Some 60 firefighters are battling it on the ground and in the air. The cause is being investigated by the U.S. Forest Service.

Sheridan Lake Road is open only to firefighting vehicles and local traffic from U.S. Highway 385 to the Spring Creek Picnic Area. Sheridan Lake remains closed to all boating traffic.

Heat Wave Doesn't Deter Tourists In S. Dakota

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AP) — The sweltering heat hasn't turned away visitors to popular attractions in South Dakota.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial spokeswoman Maureen McGee-Ballinger says visitor numbers remained steady on Tuesday, when the temperature reached 98. This ties the record.

She says memorial officials were reminding visitors to drink plenty of water and take breaks in the shade.

About 20 miles away at the Crazy Horse Memorial, Ruth Ziolkowski was celebrating her 86th birthday and the 136th anniversary of the Battle of Little Big Horn with a dynamite night blast on the mountain carving.

Rapid City reached 106 on Tuesday, shattering the previous record of 101 set in 1931.

Heat Spreads Across Nebraska Into Iowa

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The sweltering temperatures the Nebraska Panhandle endured are spreading eastward across the state and into Iowa.

The National Weather Service issued heat warnings and advisories for much of southeast Nebraska and Iowa Wednesday as temperatures neared 100.

In western Nebraska, people in Sidney and Scottsbluff could look forward to some mild relief with temperatures in the 90s after several days above 100.

The heat takes a toll on people who work outside like ranchers, farmers and construction workers.

Water Shortage Hits Salem, No Use Ordered

SALEM (AP) — Residents in the South Dakota town of Salem are being asked not to use water because of a looming shortage.

The *Daily Republic* reports that the city's water treatment plant was shut down due to what a city official believes is a problem with the plant's computer-run control system.

The city's Water Superintendent, Bill Selland, says the malfunction occurred sometime between 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Because no water is flowing through the treatment facility, the city is trying to conserve the usable water that is left and has ordered a usage ban. Selland says an electrician was at the facility Wednesday morning to examine the problem but does not know when the issue will be resolved.

Relay

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Hummel said there are many ways for community members to get involved.

"We're looking for the community to just come down and be a part of it," she said. "No one has to be on a team to walk and anyone can partake in what the teams are doing at their campsites, which helps them fundraise."

Hummel said community members can also support the survivors when they walk. Community members can also see the Luminaria along the track, which will be lit at 9:30 to light the track for the rest of the night. Hummel said Luminaria can be bought for survivors, those lost to cancer or even a caregiver of someone who

had cancer.

Community members can always volunteer, too, Hummel said.

Not only does the event support programs for cancer patients, it is also important to focus on the survivors, Gullikson said.

"When patients get the unfortunate news they go through anything from surgery to diagnosis and maybe chemo or radiation," she said. "That's almost a year's worth of their time and energy. Their life is turned totally upside down. When they're done, everybody expects that person to get back to their normal, but that doesn't happen. It's something that person lives with for the rest of their life."

That is why the event runs from late afternoon to early morning, Hummel said.

"There is symbolism behind doing the relay overnight," she said. "It represents the journey

that a survivor goes through. They first hear the word 'cancer' and then start going through the process and have to start treatments. Sometimes you see some of your darkest hours during treatment, which is represented by the night. Coming around to the sunrise and coming around the bend represents a survivor and making it through treatments and being able to celebrate that every year."

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Judge Lets Part Of Abortion Law Take Effect

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — The most controversial parts of South Dakota's 2011 abortion law will remain blocked but provisions dealing with doctors' consultations with women seeking abortions can take effect, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier issued an order saying that as of July 1, the state could begin requiring doctors who perform abortions to first assess women to determine if they have been coerced into getting abortions or are at risk of suffering psychological problems if they undergo the procedure.

However, the judge kept in place a court order that temporarily blocks provisions that require women seeking abortions to wait three days — the nation's longest waiting period — and undergo counseling at pregnancy help centers that discourage abortions.

Those provisions will remain blocked until a final decision is made in a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood that challenges the law.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said the Wednesday ruling, agreed to by all parties in the lawsuit, will begin the process of determining whether a woman is being pressured into getting an abortion.

"What this does is it at least in part achieves the legislative objective of having a doctor performing abortions make certain disclosures to better ensure it is a voluntary and informed decision," Jackley said.

Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Jen Aulwes said the organization, which operates South Dakota's only abortion clinic in Sioux Falls, will continue working to have the courts strike down provisions that would require a three-day waiting period and counseling at pregnancy help centers.

"The portions of the law that have yet to be ruled on would still require women in South Dakota to face the longest delay in the nation, and women would still be required to go to biased, nonmedical 'crisis pregnancy centers' that only exist to dissuade women who seek abortion care from a physician," Aulwes said in a written statement.

Leslee Unruh, founder of the Alpha Center, a Sioux Falls pregnancy help center, said Wednesday's ruling was a good start in providing protection for pregnant women and hopes the entire law is upheld, adding: "We stand ready to assist these mothers in their time of need."

The South Dakota Legislature passed the law last year, but Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit arguing that it placed an unconstitutional burden on a woman's right to an abortion. Schreier last year prevented much of the law from taking effect, including the three-day waiting period and the consultations with pregnancy help center.

The judge ruled that those provisions are likely to be found unconstitutional because they could violate a woman's right to choose an abortion and her right to free speech.

However, the Legislature this year amended parts of last year's law dealing with a woman's consultation with a doctor at an abortion clinic.

Planned Parenthood then amended its lawsuit to drop objections to the new language covering doctors' consultations with women. Planned Parenthood, the state and two pregnancy help centers involved in the lawsuit then agreed that the judge could allow that new language to take effect.

Supporters of the law contend the counseling at pregnancy help centers will prevent women from being pressured into getting abortions they don't want. Opponents argue the counseling sessions would be used to pressure women out of having abortions.

South Dakota Board Approves Increase In Livestock Fee

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A state board on Wednesday approved a compromise plan to raise the fee for brand inspections that are designed to prevent theft of cattle and horses in western South Dakota.

The Brand Board unanimously voted to increase the current 80-cent inspection fee to 90 cents a head, a move expected to keep the brand inspection program in the black for another three years. If a legislative review committee endorses the plan, the higher fee would take effect Sept. 1.

The board had voted in March to increase the fee to \$1, but the panel scrapped that plan when Gov. Dennis Daugaard urged the board to seek a compromise after livestock groups and other agricultural associations objected.

At Wednesday's board meeting, the 10-cent increase was supported by officials of the South Dakota Cattleman's Association, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, the South Dakota Farmers Union and the South Dakota Livestock Marketing Association.

Larry Stearns, the board's executive director, said the fee increase is needed to cover the rising costs of inspections. Brand inspectors are getting the same salary increases granted to other state employees, and the cost of traveling to inspection sites has risen with higher fuel prices, he said.

Kenny Fox, a Belle Fourche rancher, was the only person to testify against the increase, saying he believes it is premature. Fox said he believes the board will get more revenue this year because more cattle will be inspected as ranchers sell livestock to cope with a loss of grass caused by drought.

"There are a lot of cattle moving now at these livestock auctions and that's due to drought," Fox said.

The program inspects the brands on about

1.5 million head of livestock each year when cattle or horses are sold, slaughtered or moved out of the inspection area, which covers all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River.



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Dr. Maska is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training, at Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, SD; and her Rheumatology Fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. Dr. Maska is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Rheumatology.

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