

MIDWEST DIGEST

Rushmore Plans To Combat Pine Beetles

KEYSTONE (AP) — The National Park Service has finalized a plan to deal with the infestation of mountain pine beetles at Mount Rushmore National Memorial and will be implementing it within the next few months.

The plan includes some thinning of the forest, protecting of scenic vista trees, prescribed fire and treatment of green infested trees to contain the spread of the insect.

Park officials say the goal is to protect the memorial from wildfire and slow the spread of the pine beetle, while protecting some of the old growth forest of the memorial.

Water Floods Basement At Dakota Wesleyan

MITCHELL (AP) — Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell has been forced to relocate 16 offices after a basement was flooded by broken water pipes over the weekend.

The offices in the Rollins Campus Center included financial aid and the campus nurse.

Vice president Lori Essig says furniture and damaged carpet have been removed and heaped in a commons area. Offices have been moved into free spaces on campus, including upstairs at the library.

Essig says officials feel fortunate that the flooding didn't happen earlier when students were still on campus.

More Spring Snow For S.D.'s Black Hills

RAPID CITY (AP) — Parts of South Dakota's Black Hills have received half a foot of snow or more from a weather system in the Great Plains, but it isn't likely to stick around for long.

The National Weather Service on Wednesday posted a winter storm warning for the Black Hills and the foothills and a winter weather advisory for the southwest.

Steve Tremarchi with the weather service office in Sioux Falls says warmer days are coming. He says high temperatures on Thursday are expected to be back in the 40s and 50s.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

S. Dakota Ex-Con Executed In Texas

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A South Dakota parolee convicted of helping fatally beat and rob an Army officer before setting fire to his body 12 years ago was executed Wednesday in Texas.

Kevin Varga, 41, was upbeat and smiling as the lethal drugs were delivered into his arms.

"I know I took someone very precious to you," he told the parents and friends of David Logie as they watched through a window. "I wish what was torn from you was not."

He said he loved them, asked them for forgiveness but said he didn't require it "because God has forgiven me."

"I hope you find peace," he said.

He turned his head toward his mother, who watched through a window in an adjacent room, and told her he would "go to sleep and wake up with Jesus."

"This is the only way God could save me, Mom," he said.

After thanking the warden, a chaplain and God, he uttered a loud sigh as the drugs began taking effect.

"Oooh! Thank you Jesus," he said. "I'm going, Mom."

He was pronounced dead seven minutes later, at 6:19 p.m.

Varga's lethal injection was carried out after his court appeals were exhausted and a clemency request rejected by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

"We took our best shot," said his lawyer, Robin Norris.

Billy Galloway, 41, Varga's former cellmate in South Dakota and his partner in Logie's 1998 slaying was set to die Thursday in the same chamber. Like Varga, Galloway's appeals were exhausted.

Prosecutors said weeks after their parole from a South Dakota prison, Varga and Galloway and their two girlfriends drove south from Sioux Falls on Sept. 1, 1998. Over the next week, the group robbed and killed a man in Wichita, Kan., before doing the same to Logie, 37, an Army major from Fayetteville, N.C., behind a building in Greenville, about 50 miles east of Dallas.

Varga and Galloway were convicted of capital murder in Logie's death, and none of the four were tried in the slaying of the Kansas man, 48-year-old David McCoy. Venus Joy Anderson, Varga's 17-year-old girlfriend at the time of the killings, served a reduced seven-year prison term in Texas in exchange for her testimony. Deanne Bayless, Galloway's then-30-year-old girlfriend, is serving 40 years for Logie's murder and isn't eligible for parole until 2018.

Varga, a native of Kalamazoo, Mich., had been paroled from South Dakota in May 1998 after serving about half of a 10-year term for grand theft. Galloway, originally from Onondaga, N.Y., was paroled a month after his cellmate. He'd served time for theft, parole violation and attempted robbery.

Anderson testified Varga concocted a plan where she and Bayless would offer men sex then blackmail them. As part of the scheme, Varga and Galloway would come out of hid-

ing, ambush their victim and rob him, she said.

Anderson testified Varga beat McCoy with a metal pole and kicked him, and that he and Galloway were disappointed their victim was carrying only \$80. McCoy's body was found wrapped in sheets in Galloway's SUV, which was abandoned a few blocks from where the slaying occurred.

The four took McCoy's car to Texas, where they planned a similar attack, Anderson said. She and Bayless propositioned Logie, who was in town on business, at a Holiday Inn bar in Greenville. When they went to a deserted area behind a building, Galloway and Varga showed up. Police said a hammer and bloody tree limb were found near Logie's battered body, which the four dragged into some woods and set on fire.

The four took Logie's car to San Antonio, where they were arrested.

Attorney Toby Wilkinson tried convincing a jury at a trial in 2000 Varga was not a participant because there was little blood on him.

"There's no doubt he was there," Wilkinson said. "If Kevin helped in the beating, there would have been blood everywhere. But when he participates in the Wichita murder, and he stays with these people, then I think your average person says he deserves what he got because he knew what they were going to do and didn't leave."

Varga's lethal injection was the eighth this year in the nation's most active capital punishment state. He and Galloway were among at least 10 Texas inmates with execution dates in the coming weeks.

Jury Awards \$800,000 In 1989 Slaying

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The estate of a Nebraska woman slain 20 years ago was awarded \$800,000 Wednesday after a two-day jury trial in a wrongful death case.

Steven Jacob, the man convicted of killing Melody Hopper, was ordered to pay the sum to Hopper's family members.

Jacob was convicted in 1990 of two counts of first-degree murder in the August 1989 deaths of Hopper, who was his former girlfriend, and Hopper's boyfriend, James Ehernton. Both were shot multiple times with a semiautomatic weapon in their northeast Lincoln home.

Ehernton died at the scene. Hopper died five days later after identifying Jacob as the assailant.

Police have said Jacob shot the pair in a jealous rage. Jacob and Hopper had dated, but she ended the relationship.

The Nebraska Supreme Court threw out Jacob's first conviction in 1993, ruling that Hopper's deathbed statement should not have been allowed because police did not ask her if she knew she was going to die.

Jacob was retried and convicted in 1994 of first-degree murder in Hopper's death and second-degree murder in Ehernton's. He received two life sentences.

Two days after the shootings, Hopper's mother, Margaret "Peg" Schlichtman, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Jacob in the state court.

A civil court judgment of \$734,704 was returned against Jacob in April 1992 after the first criminal trial. The state Supreme Court overturned the award on a technicality.

Out On The Town

WANTED Area BBQ Enthusiasts

To Participate in Rib Cook-Off June 26 in Freeman, SD

\$75 entry fee due June 15. Late entries \$150.

Prizes: 1st - \$400, 2nd - \$300, 3rd - \$200, 4th - \$100, 5th - \$50.

People's Choice Award - Gas Grill

Contact Vernetta Waltner, 605-321-7351 or vwaltner@freemanacademy.org, or www.freemanacademy.org/ribsatheranch.html for complete rules and information

ANIMAL FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Riverside Park, Yankton

TAILS & TRAILS BENEFIT WALK

Registration 9:30am • Walk 10am

PET CONTESTS (Following the Walk)

Best Costume, Best Trick, Pet-Owner Look-A-Like, Most Unusual PLUS Demonstrations, Food, Vendors & Great Raffle Items! Donations Welcome!

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS! Big Dog Sponsors: Sally & Terry @ Lewis & Clark Realty, Johnson, Miner, Marlow, Woodward & Huff Prof LLC; Cool Cat Sponsors: BAR Truck, Trailer & Equip Sales, Stockmen's Livestock; Playful Pup Sponsors: S.D. Magazine, Ferdig's Transmissions, Stecker Eye Care Center, Hy-Vee, Masonry Components, Yankton Paint & Decorating; Praty Kitty Sponsors: Ruppert Travel, Doug, Becky & Bella Urness, First Chiropractic Center, Floor Tec, Gregg's Automotive, Master-Tech Auto Clinic, Avera Sacred Heart Health Services.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, DONATIONS WELCOME

ALL PETS WELCOME - BUT MUST BE ON A LEASH PLEASE!

Visit us online at www.heartlandhumansociety.net

steak Dinner & Auction

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - 403 Broadway

Saturday, May 15 Dinner: 6:30pm Live Auction 7:30 pm

Serving Grilled Sirloin, Baked Potato, Beans, Coleslaw, Garlic Toast, Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Ice Cream & Drinks

Steak Dinner: \$10 Advance; \$15/Door

Kids Meal: \$5 Advance; \$7/Door

Call 605.665.7415 for tickets

Supplemental funds by Thrivent Financial

Silent Auction Items	LIVE Auction Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabela's gift cards Many gift baskets Gift Certificates Food Gifts Housecleaning Artwork American Girl Party Private Dance Lessons Many, Many More! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadwood Cabin Pkg Husker Game Tickets 5 Antique Quilts Concert Tickets Beat Rides Handmade Quilt Dinner Packages Wii Fit Many, Many More!

*Jake Hoffner, Missouri River Flight

MAY 14, 15, 16

Idle Hour Theatre

Tripp, SD

Fri. 7:30 PM • Sat. 7:30 PM • Sun. 4 PM

Students '2.00 Adults '4.00

VFW Post 791
209 Cedar

Thursday

4-7pm - Hamburger/
Pizzaburger & Fries \$5.00

6-7pm - Domestic Beers
\$1.00

Friday

Fried Chicken
or Menu
Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday

Veryl Hahn
Serving from Menu
5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm

Happy Hour M-F 4:30-6:00

Chislic Served Last
Wednesday of Each Month

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Shaw Laminat offers beveled, distressed and extremely textured options giving your flooring the appearance and feel of true hardwood, wood grain and all.

DESIGN TIP:
In a long, narrow hall, it will seem shorter if you paint the end wall a dark color and the corridor walls a lighter one.

Brunick Furniture

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1100 W. Cherry St., Vermillion, SD
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PEACE Academy of Dance 2010

Our Seniors

Saturday, May 15 • 2PM • 7PM

Sunday, May 16 • 2PM

Yankton High School Summit Activities Center Theatre, 1801 Summit St.

Tickets For Reserved Seating On Sale at

The Academy of Dance

1902 Broadway
605.665.7729

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Haiti Relief efforts.

Registration for Summer Classes with Riverboat Days Performances Now in Progress Call Today!

Photo courtesy of Kevin Arts Photographics

Schwan's

FUNDRAISING TRUCKLOAD SALE

MAY 15TH

10AM TIL 1PM

Riverview Reformed Church

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schwansfundraising.com

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\$2 "Two-sdays" Pints, Wells & Domestic

Wednesday
Wing Wednesday 30¢ Per Wing
Ride On Down For "Budweiser Bike Night"
\$1.50 Bud & Budlight Bottles

Thursday
Nachos Night 1/2 Price Nachos
1/2 Price Mexican Beer
Ladies Night Lakeside Drink Specials

Friday
"Dock"tails \$5 Dock Drinks 5-9pm

Saturday
The Captain Is In! \$3 Captains 5-9pm