

Week Of Rain Boosts Soil Moisture In SD

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A week of rainy weather has boosted soil moisture for South Dakota farmers getting their crops in the field. The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop and weather report that much of the state got an inch or more of rain over the past week, but about three days still were suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture supplies in the state are now rated 79 percent adequate to surplus, up from 72 percent a week ago. Subsoil moisture supplies are rated 80 percent adequate to surplus, up from 78 percent. More than half of South Dakota's spring wheat crop is now in the ground, along with one-fourth of the corn crop. Planting of soybeans has just gotten underway.

Transcripts Ordered In Children Lawsuit

RAPID CITY (AP) — A federal judge in South Dakota has circumvented other judges' reluctance to order transcripts of hearings involving Native American children by instructing the court reporters who recorded the hearings to produce the transcripts. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/1qbqoGL>) reports that Chief U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken ordered the court reporters to produce the transcripts by June 1. Viken issued the order as part of a lawsuit filed by some parents who are challenging the procedures state officials used when removing children from their homes. The parents' lawsuit claims courts and officials disregarded provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act by holding improper hearings before removing children from homes for 60 days. The 1978 federal law came after Congress found high numbers of Indian children being removed from their homes.

Mountain Lion Kills Calf In Nebraska

BREWSTER, Neb. (AP) — Officials say a mountain lion has killed livestock in Nebraska for the first time since the predator re-emerged in the state in 1991. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission officials confirmed that a mountain lion was responsible for the death of a calf last month near Brewster. The rancher reported the kill on April 2 after finding the carcass had been dragged about 60 yards and fed upon. An analysis of animal droppings found nearby confirmed that a mountain lion killed the calf. The property owner was granted a 30-day hunting license to kill the mountain lion if it returns to his property. Game and Parks officials say livestock losses are more common in western states with larger lion populations.

VFW Burglary May Be Tied To Others

HURON (AP) — Authorities say the recent burglary at the Veterans of Foreign Wars facility in Huron may be connected to the burglaries of safes at a bar and a casino last year. KOKK-AM reports that police are investigating the burglary of the VFW in the Huron Mall. Authorities believe the incident happened between Friday night and Monday morning. Public Safety director Gary Will Jr. says the incident may be tied to the burglaries at the Happy Jacks Casino and Scoreboard Bar and Grill in October. The station reports that an undisclosed amount of money was in the VFW's safe when it was taken.

Bus With No Students Hits 2 Houses

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A school bus with no students aboard crashed into two houses in Sioux Falls. The incident happened shortly after 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. Crews shut off natural gas to one of the houses because of a leak. Police say the bus hit one house, then crossed the street and crashed into another house. The 66-year-old driver told authorities he blacked out and doesn't remember anything. He was taken to a hospital to have a head injury checked. He wasn't immediately identified. No one in the houses was hurt. Twenty-six-year-old Kara Avery was in a room near a bedroom where the bus came to rest. She tells the *Argus Leader* that she initially thought the noise was thunder — until she smelled burning rubber and oil.

SD Panel OKs Agency Rule Changes

BY NORA HERTEL
Associated Press

PIERRE — A South Dakota panel approved rule changes in multiple state departments Tuesday, including an official extension of a 65 mph zone on Interstate 90 between Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base. The legislative Rules Review Committee also reviewed policy for the South Dakota Investment Council and seven departments. Some of the changes cleared up repetitive or obsolete rules. Others, such as those with Game, Fish and Parks, support larger changes. Game, Fish and Parks rules will affect the state's management of wildlife. State agencies must now submit their rule changes to the secretary of state. They take effect 20 days after filing. A rundown of the changes:

TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation has amended a speed zone designation for Interstate 90. Bill Nevin, an attorney for the department, said the signs for the speed limit change are already in place, but the department needs to update the official rules. Nevin said the in-

terchange is the busiest entrance to the Air Force base, just east of Rapid City.

GAME, FISH AND PARKS

Once the changes take effect, several state properties will no longer be designated "refuges." Tony Leif, director of the Division of Wildlife, says refuges are not as important for wildlife management as once thought. The department also altered rules governing big horn sheep hunting in the state. The changes limit the areas in which hunters can seek these animals. The state is working to expand the herd and counteract the effect of a disease that's lowered the population count. "It seems kind of precise," Leif said about the boundary changes in the rules. "But when it comes to sheep management, it is precise." He said the sheep population needs a lot of "full curl" or large rams for reproduction. The department will increase the possession limits for sand hill cranes and mourning doves in their hunting seasons. The parameters for elk hunting will change this season as well. The department is working on an elk management plan for the end of the year. "What we want to do with this rule

change is continue the growth of elk but slow that growth," Leif said.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The panel also approved a new conflict of interest policy for the Board of Minerals and Environment. The board operates under the Environmental Protection Agency, which required the establishment of such a policy in the U.S. Clean Air Act. One of the new rules requires a board member to withdraw from a hearing if closely related by blood or financial ties to someone involved. Another rule requires board members to disclose other relationships that could be considered a conflict. Committee Chair Rep. Timothy Johns, R-Lead, approved this change and the others presented. "I like the (new) rules as they're written because they address direct conflict and the appearance of impropriety," Johns said. The board meets again June 3. It will consider changes to the Game, Fish and Parks rule on preference points, which hunters will be able to buy to improve their chances of being drawn for a hunting license in future years.

Hypothermia Ruled Cause Of Reservation Death

BY BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — An autopsy has concluded that a woman found dead in an unheated home during a propane shortage on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in the Dakotas froze to death. The body of Debbie Dogskin, 61, was found Feb. 4 in a Fort Yates mobile home with an empty propane fuel tank. Authorities had speculated that she died from the cold — the overnight temperature had dropped to 1 degree below zero — and the official cause of death has now been listed as "systemic hypothermia due to expo-

sure to cold temperature," according to Sioux County Sheriff Frank Landeis. Authorities are still awaiting results of toxicology tests that will show if Dogskin had drugs or alcohol in her system, the sheriff said. Landeis referred other questions about the investigation to Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officers in Fort Yates, who referred the questions to the BIA's regional office in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jeremiah Lonewolf on Tuesday said he was not authorized to speak about the matter and referred questions to Nedra Darling, a BIA spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., who did not im-

mediately respond to a request for comment. Dogskin died while the 3,600-square-mile reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border was dealing with propane costs that had soared well above the \$3.50-per-gallon mark at which Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II said the fuel starts becoming unaffordable for residents of the reservation. Many people there are on fixed incomes and unemployment runs as high as 20 percent. The cost increase was due to a nationwide shortage caused by supply disruptions, a late harvest last fall and a winter cold snap. With about 5,000 homes on the reservation relying on

propane for heat, the Standing Rock tribe declared a state of emergency, which it lifted in early March when the shortage began easing. Authorities have not speculated on why Dogskin was in the home, which she did not own. Her family members told The Associated Press in February that she was house-sitting for a friend and likely felt a responsibility to stay in the home despite the cold. Tribal officials in February said they would be investigating why the home Dogskin was in had no propane. Archambault did not immediately respond to telephone and email requests for comment on Tuesday.

Report

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where rising sea levels could worsen damage from storm surges.

WATER WOES

Water scarcity will hamper the region's energy production. Competition for water to cool electric plants and to drill for oil and natural gas using hydraulic fracturing will intensify. Marginal lands will become deserts, while the rain that does fall will often come during storms that will increase

flooding, degrade stream quality and erode topsoil. Dwindling municipal supplies will cause problems in fast-growing cities, primarily in Texas.

AGRICULTURE

In the northern Plains, expected increases in winter snowfall and spring rain may help crops during the early growing season, although some fields may be too wet to plant. Longer growing seasons may allow cultivation of second annual crops. But pest insects that previously died off in winter will increasingly survive, and winter crops that leave dormancy too soon will be vulnerable to spring freezes.

Farming will be hit hard in the central and southern Plains, as rainfall declines and higher temperatures increase evaporation. Demand for irrigation will rise, and the Ogallala and High Plains aquifers will be further depleted. Livestock will suffer from heat and feed grain production may slump.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Birds, fish and mammals will be affected by changes in seasonal lakes and wildfires. Changing temperatures will affect mating behavior and predator-prey relationships, while increasing carbon dioxide levels could make the grasses and leaves

that animals eat less nutritious. Clashes may increase between those favoring development and land fragmentation against advocates of conserving prairie and other habitat for troubled species such as the sage grouse.

ADAPTATION A NECESSITY

Communities and states are inadequately prepared for a hotter, drier and stormier Great Plains, largely because many government officials have yet to take the threat seriously. Opportunities abound for conservation and climate-sensitive development, such as protecting native grasslands and restoring wetlands.

OBITUARIES

Lorene 'Deloris' McKissock

Lorene "Deloris" (Mensch) McKissock nee Haisch, age 89, of Menno, passed away Monday, May 5, 2014 at the Good Samaritan Center, Sioux Falls, SD. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2014 at the Aisenbrey-Opssahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, SD with Rev. Leon Schulz officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m., Thursday and continue until the time of the service at the memorial chapel. Pallbearers: Dan Huber, Richard Pedde Jr., Darren Walz, Dan Grupe, Chad Nelson, and Roger Mensch.



McKissock

Deloris was the daughter of Emmanuel and Sarah (Eckert) Haisch, born June 19, 1924 in rural Menno, SD. She was baptized and confirmed in the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Deloris attended country grade school and Menno High School. On November 18, 1942, Deloris was united in marriage to LeRoy Mensch by the late Rev. W. E. Korn, to this union were born four children. Deloris and LeRoy enjoyed their life together on the family farm northeast of Menno. Deloris was a lover of animals and always kept a beautiful flower garden. De-

loris and LeRoy had a great love of Ball Room dancing at the Arkota Ball room in Sioux Falls. After LeRoy's passing in 1973, Deloris moved to Yankton where she met and married Mac (Gerald) McKissock on June 17, 1989. Mac passed away in 2002. In 2007, Deloris moved to Sioux Falls and lived with her daughter, Dorothy, followed by recent years under the loving care of the Good Samaritan Home of Sioux Falls. Leaving to mourn: Her three children, Janet (Derald) Huber, Loveland, Colorado; Dorothy Pedde, Sioux Falls and David (Bubbles/Glenda) Mensch of Sioux Falls. With the love of 8 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren; brothers-in-law: Ray Mettler of Menno and Lyle (Loila)

Mensch of Avon and sisters-in-law, Lois (Albert) Simek of Avon and Hulda Mensch of Menno. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, LeRoy Mensch and Mac (Gerald) McKissock; her son, Charles LeRoy; her son-in-law, Richard Pedde; sisters, Irene (toddler) Haisch and Velma Mettler, brother, Harlan and sister-in-law, Thelma Haisch, sister-in-law, Loraine Wipf, brother-in-law, Ivan Wipf and brother-in-law, Laverne Mensch. Yankton Press & Dakotan May 7, 2014



Tasha Anderson

Tasha Nichole (Goeden) Anderson, born in Yankton on December 22, 1989, daughter of Julie (Habeck) Derby and Kerry Goeden passed away on April 29th after a short courageous battle with cancer. Tasha went to the Irene Wakonda High School where she was involved in many school activities and graduated in 2008. She went on to college to pursue an Interior Design degree, but found the ocean was calling her name, so she moved to Charleston, South Carolina area where she met the love of her life, Jeremy. Soon afterward, a beautiful little redhead daughter Harper Rae was born. Tasha was still making plans on continuing her education, but this time to become a dental hygienist so she could be home with her family more. Tasha lived for her family (and her dog Bear). She loved the beach and listening to the ocean. She had a smile that lit the room and she was always up for a little bantering! She never lost her wit, her sense of humor, or her smile — She will be greatly missed!

Those impacted by this loss are Tasha's husband Jeremy and daughter Harper Rae, parents Julie (Bryan) Derby and Kerry (Elizabeth) Goeden, brothers Daniel, Levi, and sister Cassi, special friend Katie, her Graduating Class of 2008, Grandparents Robert and Karen Habeck, Connie and George Wathier, Uncles Clint (Melissa) Habeck, Ron Goeden, and Aunt Dawn Hurney as well as her in laws Susan (Bill) Harmon and Jeffrey (Lori) Anderson. Other grandparents include Bob and Viv Derby, Irene and Don Zacher, Myrtle Tyler, and David and Ruth Anderson as well as many cousins who were like brothers and sisters to her. A celebration of life service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 10, at the Faith United Lutheran Church rural Volin, SD. A visitation will begin at 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 9 with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. all at the Wakonda school gymnasium. Visit hansenfuneralhome.com/. Yankton Press & Dakotan May 7, 2014

Shorty Schmoldt

Mass of Christian Burial for Shorty Schmoldt, 90, of Bloomfield, Nebraska, will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 9, 2014, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Bloomfield. The Rev. Michael Schmitz will be Celebrant, with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery. Military Honors will be conducted by VFW Post 4996 and American Legion Post

249, both of Bloomfield, and the Legion Riders. Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Thursday at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Bloomfield, with a 7 p.m. Wake Service. Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements. Shorty died Sunday, May 4, 2014, at the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Society in Bloomfield.

Cleon Graber

Cleon Graber, 88, of Freeman died Monday at the Tieszen Memorial Home in Marion. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 10, 2014, at the Salem-Zion Mennonite (North) Church of rural Freeman. Visitation will begin at 4 p.m., with the family present from 5-7 p.m., on Friday at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman.

June Davies

June E. Davies, 85, of Garden City, Kansas, died Saturday, May 3, 2014 at the Garden Valley Retirement Village in Garden City. Garnand Funeral Home in Garden City is in charge of arrangements. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. at Garnand Funeral Home with Rev. Terry Major officiating. June was born June 8, 1928 in Beresford.

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