

Economy Improving In Parts Of 10 States

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy appears to be gaining strength in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states. The overall economic index for the region improved to 55.6 in May from April's 53.2, suggesting growth in the months ahead. The survey of bankers in the region uses indexes that range from 0 to 100, with 50 representing growth neutral. A score above 50 suggests growth in that factor in the months ahead. Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey. He says the results show the economy is improving in these rural areas that depend heavily on agriculture and energy production. Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Heavy Rains Lessen Drought In Neb.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Recent heavy rainfall has washed away or at least lessened drought conditions in swaths of Nebraska and Iowa. A report released Thursday by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln says drenching rains led to significant improvements for areas of the two states considered to be in drought. Brian Fuchs, a climatologist at the center, says overall drought reduced last week by nearly 12 percent in Iowa and about 17 percent in Nebraska. The report says western Iowa saw the greatest improvement in the state. Nebraska saw a substantial reduction in the east-central region, with a pocket now considered drought-free. Fuchs says the improvements seen within the past week are noteworthy, as changes in drought status typically occur slowly.

Couple To Challenge Gay Marriage Ban

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A newly married lesbian couple is poised to become the first to challenge South Dakota's ban on same-sex marriage following the state's refusal to grant the women a name change after they were legally married in Minnesota. The couple, Jenny and Nancy Rosenbrahn, plan to file the lawsuit next week in federal court, according to their attorney, Joshua Newville. The Minneapolis-based lawyer said Thursday he also has been talking with couples looking to file suit in North Dakota, which along with South Dakota and Montana are the only states with gay marriage bans that haven't been challenged in court, according to gay-rights advocacy group Human Rights Campaign. "Our focus right now is to get filed in South Dakota and to focus on the case in front of us in the immediate short term," Newville said Thursday, but "we are very seriously contemplating filing in North Dakota."

Teens Arrested After Crime Spree

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two North Dakota teenagers face numerous charges after a crime spree that authorities say started in the North Dakota city of Fargo and ended in the South Dakota city of Sioux Falls, where they were arrested. Sioux Falls police say the 15-year-old boys allegedly stole a car in Fargo and drove to Sioux Falls, where they held up a convenience store last week. The teens then allegedly stole another vehicle after pointing a gun at a man on Monday. That evening, a 12-year-old girl reported that two men knocked on her apartment door, threatened her with a gun and took her cellphone. The teens were arrested after pointing a gun at a police officer and unsuccessfully trying to flee. Authorities later determined that the weapon was a BB gun.

SD Proposes Steep Deer License, Tag Cuts

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A state hunting regulatory commission has proposed steep cuts to the number of licenses and tags available for many of South Dakota's deer hunting seasons to counter a shrinking herd caused by harsh winters, disease and habitat loss. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission detailed the proposed changes Thursday. They would affect the East and West Rivers deer hunting seasons, as well as the one in the Black Hills, where no antlerless licenses would be issued for 2014. "Unfortunately, the stars are aligned against wildlife here," wildlife program administrator Chad Switzer said. "Deer can't fly south in the winter." Other factors affecting the popula-

tion are the spread of epizootic hemorrhagic disease, which is transmitted by a biting midge, and the transformation of so-called shelterbelts into corn and soybean fields. Under the proposal, the East River 2014 deer season would see 19,375 any deer tags compared to 21,465 in 2013. But the most drastic cut applies to antlerless deer tags, which would be cut by almost 60 percent. The commission allowed for 29,170 of those tags in 2013, but is proposing only 10,700 for this year. Resident licenses in the East River would be cut to 26,025 from 33,265 in 2013. The West River season would have 16,075 any deer tags, a reduction of about 1,700 compared to last year. Antlerless tags, however, would be reduced by 86 percent, bringing the num-

ber to 3,885. Only 18,310 resident licenses would be available during this season, a cut of 17 percent. In the Black Hills season, only single-tag licenses are available. The proposal leaves the season with no antlerless licenses for 2014, but calls for 200 resident any-deer licenses and 3,000 resident whitetail deer licenses. Custer State Park will again have 10 any-whitetail licenses and 20 antlerless whitetail muzzleloader licenses. Changes are also planned for the 2014 archery season and in the licensing of youth deer hunters. Switzer said the changes are expected to last two to three years. The commission plans on finalizing the proposal during a gathering June 5-6 in Yankton. Public comments are being taken.

Nebraska's Online Background Check System Proving Popular

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The addition of online access to criminal records for background checks has proved popular with Nebraska residents who want to see whether a prospective employee, a neighbor or a future spouse has ever been arrested. More than a year ago the Nebraska State Patrol put its background check system online. It lets people check a name through the patrol database for \$18. The site is accessible at www.ne.gov/go/crime—report.

Patrol Lt. John Shelton told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that if the numbers keep climbing, the system will have run 40,000 checks by the end of the year — 40 percent online. In 2013 there were 37,501 name checks, with 11,688 of them online. "It's popular. Every month we see those numbers continue to climb," Shelton told the newspaper. The names are run through the patrol's criminal history database, which Shelton said contains infor-

mation from all people who are arrested and fingerprinted in Nebraska. That includes arrests in Nebraska by federal agencies, if the person detained is subsequently held and fingerprinted in a Nebraska county jail. It doesn't include information on people arrested only in other states or countries. Without the online service, a name check can take seven to 10 days. The online system will provide a result immediately if the person checked has no criminal record, Shelton said. But about 25 percent of the time, an arrest will be noted and, under state law, the information can't be released until the patrol determines what happened in the case: Was the person ultimately charged after the arrest? Prosecuted? Convicted? The system hasn't saved the patrol any money, Shelton said, because doing less work on preliminary name-based background checks has freed patrol employees to do other work.

South Dakota Board Turns To Unnamed Landmarks

BY NORA HERTEL
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names is beginning a new chapter after completing its initial mission of removing the word "squaw" from the names of features in the state, officials said at a Thursday meeting. The board was established in 2009 to correct offensive nomenclature including "squaw" and "Negro." African-American leaders have advocated keeping "negro" in place names, saying it's not offensive and preserves the legacy of black South Dakotans. "We've come a long way," said Tribal Affairs Secretary J.R. LaPlante, chairman of the board. "We've accomplished our mission."

The Legislature approved the board's final changes to offensive place names earlier this year. Now the board is taking proposals on other name changes and for unnamed geographic features. "It's kind of an expanded role for the board. People want to continue to have someone to go to with proposed changes," LaPlante said. June Hansen, vice chair of the board and a compliance officer in the Department of Transportation, agreed. She said the U.S. Board on Geographic Names wants states to have parallel boards to address issues at a local level. State board members discussed procedures at the meeting, including a new form for proposed name changes. They have rule making authority and state funding to cover travel expenses for the first time. LaPlante said that means the board can send a representative to a national conference and discuss the state's use of the Lakota language in renaming features. Board members discussed the single remaining use of "squaw" in a state feature, in Shannon County. The board cannot change the name without permission from the private landowner. Members unanimously agreed to recommend that the Oglala Sioux Tribe contact the property owner to solicit the name change. The board also agreed that it will only address the names of state geographic features, such as buttes and lakes and creeks, not the names of cities and counties.

OBITUARIES

John 'Hondo' List

John "Hondo" List, age 60, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Yankton with Reverend Dani Jo Ninke officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton. Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 16 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral service at church. Pallbearers are Mike Binder, Tim Garvey, Terry Jensen, Randy List, Brad Parker and Dan VanOsdel. John was born November 5, 1953 in Yankton, South Dakota to Ernest and Georgiann (Remington) List. He graduated from Yankton High School in 1972 and attended Black Hills State University and Yankton College. John began working for Royal Athletic Company in Yankton. On December 29, 1978, he married Julie Drozda in Schuyler, Nebraska. Shortly thereafter John started Action Lawn Service, later



List

known as H&J Lawn Service. John took pride in his successful business but most of all enjoyed the relationships he built over 30 years of serving the greater Yankton area. John had a tender heart and always tried to see the good in everyone he met. He loved his wife and children and was proud of all their accomplishments. He never missed one of his children's sporting events or activities, even if it meant showing up in his fertilizing boots. He thoroughly enjoyed playing basketball over the noon hour, Monday night football, and watching the Boston Celtics. John also enjoyed Lewis and Clark Lake and going on vacations with his family. He loved the company of his dog, Zoey, who would ride around with him as he worked. He loved the outdoors, took great pride in his work and providing for his family. He lived with a spirit of serving others, whether it be by hanging Christmas lights or providing

job opportunities for others. John is survived by his wife, Julie List of Yankton; three children: Jenny (Darrrell) Hallan of Brookings, SD, Jordan (Mariano) Cannone of Cameron, NC and Jeb List of Yankton; four brothers: Terry (JoAnn) List of Yankton, Duane (Vicki) List of Sioux Falls, Kevin (Sheri) List of Yankton and Richard (Dawn) List of Yankton; two sisters, Marilyn Jorgensen of Coleridge, NE and Carol (Chuck) Olson of Grand Island, NE; and many nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Allen Jorgensen.

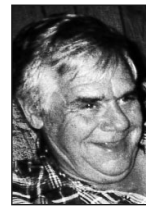
To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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May 16, 2014

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Dwight Hopson

Dwight Charles Hopson, age 62, of Wakonda, South Dakota, passed on to a higher place on Monday, May 12, 2014. He was born to the late Charles and Mary Belle Hopson, on October 6, 1951, in Colby, Kansas. Dwight attended Gem School and Colby High School. Where he participated in basketball and wrestling. He graduated Colby in 1969. He married DeLores Watson, of Brewster, KS, before joining the Army in March, 1971. To this union was born Charles David and Tebble Shay. He later married Marilyn Cranmer, of Kanorado, in October of 1978 and to this union was born David James. After being discharged from the service, Dwight became a long haul truck driver. A passion he developed as a young child while playing in and around his father's truck. He soon was traveling all over the United States working for several different firms. But after a few years decided it was time for his own business and started D&M Transport of Volin, SD. He sold his company and retired in 2009 moving to Wakonda, SD, where he took up gardening and fishing. Dwight was preceded in death by his son Charles



Hopson

David and is survived by his daughter, Tebble Hopson, of Littleton, CO; a son, David Hopson of Yankton, SD. Grandchildren, Shayne Haas, Redfield, SD; Shania Garcia, Littleton, CO; Christina Hopson, Yankton, SD; and Jaydon Hopson, Stanton, NE. He is also survived by 2 sisters and 3 brothers, Sharon Taylor of San Antonio, TX; Wesley and Kathleen Hopson of Loveland, CO; Lesley and Teresa Hopson of Bethune CO; Darren and Cheri Hopson, Cottonwood Falls, KS; and Janet Hopson, Colby KS; and Dora Hopson, his step mother also of Colby; and many nieces, nephews, Aunts and Uncles.

He will be missed by his significant other, companion and best friend of 13 years Cynthia Sorensen and her son Richard of Wakonda. Memorial services will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 19, 2014 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery at Wakonda, SD. Visitation will be Sunday, May 18, 2014 from 5-7 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene, South Dakota.

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Betty Kocer

Betty Ann Kocer, 91, of Tabor, formerly of Dante and Mitchell, died Thursday, May 15, 2014, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton. Arrangements are under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor.

John Heemstra

John Gilbert Heemstra, 93, of Yankton, died Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton. Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 22, 2014, at Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton with the Rev. James Pearson officiating. Burial will be in Westlawn Cemetery in Orange City, Iowa, with military honors provided by the Pressman-Kosters American Legion Post No. 329. Visitation is 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Thursday. To send an online sympathy card, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Clinton Pegram

Clinton Rex Pegram, 86, died on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at the Carlisle Care Center in Carlisle, Iowa, after a brief illness. Rex was born on August 12, 1927, to Benjamin and Ula (Nicholls) Pegram in Carlisle. Rex graduated from Carlisle High School in 1945. He served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1945-1946, being honorably discharged in 1946. Rex was a lifetime member of the Carlisle American Legion Post #391.

Rex is survived by his daughter Sheila (Marcel) Kramer, Crofton, NE; and three sons: Roger, Randy, Carlisle, IA, and Ron (Jenny) Pegram, Ankeny, IA; seven grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren; a brother Joe Pegram of Carlisle.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 17, 2014, at the Carlisle United Methodist Church. Burial will be at the Carlisle Cemetery with military honors provided by American Legion Post #391.

Visitation will be Friday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Peterson Funeral Home in Carlisle, IA, and will continue one hour prior to funeral.

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Leslie Kuntz
661-2647

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Good Food & A Good Cause
Fundraiser Event For
Chris & Jenni Hauger

Monday, May 19th, 2014
From 5:00-8:00 PM
Pizza Ranch, 1501 Broadway, Yankton

Staff and Board of Directors from Services Center FCU will be on hand bussing tables for tips. A percentage of net sales and tips between 5 and 8 PM will be donated to Chris and Jenni Hauger who lost their home in a devastating fire in March.

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