

Norfolk Man Arrested In Arson Case

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — A Norfolk man suspected of trying to set a house on fire has been arrested on suspicion of first-degree arson.

The Norfolk Daily News says Cory Dittman was arrested on Wednesday. Police were called late Saturday by a woman who said Dittman was pouring gasoline inside the home. Responding officers helped the woman escape through a window.

A short time later, a fire broke out. Officials say Dittman, who was inside the house, was taken into custody and taken to a hospital. He was later booked in the Madison County jail. His case isn't on the online court system, and it's unclear if he has an attorney.

S.D. Auction Declared 'No Sale' After Confusion

RAPID CITY (AP) — An auction for 40 acres of land in the Black Hills was declared a "no sale" Thursday after the man who made the winning bid realized he was bidding per acre — not for the whole parcel as he had thought.

Matthew Astin, 21, of Hermosa, bid \$2,550 during the Thursday morning auction for 40 acres of land west of Deerfield. Shortly after bidding ended, Astin realized that the bid was per acre, and he could not afford to pay the 20 percent earnest money due immediately or the \$102,000 he had actually bid, The Rapid City Journal reported on its website.

Astin, who works for a local concrete company, said he and his brothers planned to use the land for grazing.

County Auditor Julie Pearson said the auction will be rescheduled by county commissioners at a Nov. 9 meeting.

Todd McPherson of McPherson Auction and Realty, the company that handled the auction, said this was the first time he had seen such a mistake. The company has conducted auctions since 1949.

"Very rarely do you sell an acreage not by the acre," McPherson said.

Exceptions could be a one-acre property or a property with only a couple of acres that would be sold as a lot.

Auctioneer Kevin McPherson did mention during the bidding that the price was "per acre."

Walleye Limit Raised For Anglers On Lake Oahe

MADISON (AP) — Anglers on Lake Oahe next year will be able to toss twice as many walleyes into their live wells after a change by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

The limit on the Missouri River reservoir is doubled to eight walleyes a day, four of which can be longer than 15 inches. The possession limit is increased to 24, and anglers will still be only allowed to keep one walleye that is 20 inches or greater.

Biologists say above average walleye reproduction and a reduction of bait fish from the 2011 Missouri River flood has resulted in an abundance of 10-15 inch fish. The change will help reduce the younger fish currently dominating the lake.

Commissioners made the change Thursday during their meeting at Camp Lakodia near Madison.

122-Year-Old Bible Found In S.D. Time Capsule

ABERDEEN (AP) — Officials who opened a church time capsule in Aberdeen found old books including an 1890 Norwegian Bible.

The American News reports that the time capsule was put in the cornerstone of the old Bethlehem Lutheran Church in 1955. It was removed this week because the building is being demolished this month to make way for a new public library.

The Bible belonged to a man named Knute Carlson. His great-great-niece, Wendy Meyers, says his descendants in Norway will enjoy seeing the Bible.

S.D. Increases Nonresident Hunting Fees

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

MADISON — South Dakota wildlife officials decided Thursday to raise several nonresident hunting license fees next year to bring in more than \$1.1 million in additional revenue.

While officials said they were careful to keep the fees in line with those in other states, one hunting preserve owner predicted if South Dakota continues to increase the cost of licenses for out-of-staters, they'll go elsewhere. "It we stop our hunters from coming over the border, everybody loses," said Will Stone, a Gary pheasant hunting preserve owner.

Pheasant hunting has always been a South Dakota pastime, but tourism officials over the past decade have turned the season into a nationwide draw. The state's airports are awash in blaze orange this time of year, and hunters drive in from such nearby states as Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Stone said the cost of out-of-state licenses for those visiting his family preserve have jumped 950 percent during his 28 years in the business. He said even if he offers discounts

on his hunting packages, customers still complain about the high cost from the state.

"It's a mom-and-pop operation," he said. "It's designed for fathers and sons."

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission agreed to raise the fee for a nonresident 10-day small game license by \$10 to \$120, while an annual shooting preserve license will go up by \$35 to \$120. Two nonresident shooting preserve licenses are going up \$10, with a 1-day costing \$45 and a 5-day costing \$75.

Nonresident waterfowl licenses are increasing \$10, with a 10-day running \$120 and a 3-day costing \$85.

No changes were made to resident hunting license fees.

Commissioner Jim Spies, of Watertown, voted against the proposal, saying he understands the need to increase revenue, but he doesn't think out-of-state hunters should pick up the majority of the tab.

"I don't think this is right, and I think we have to look at the resident license fee real soon," Spies said.

South Dakota licensed more than 95,000 nonresident small game hunters and about 69,000 resident small game hunters last year. State Wildlife Director Tony Leif said solid

license sales have helped offset the department's rising costs, but they've gone up 18 percent since the last fee increase in 2005 and another one is needed.

Leif said the Game, Fish and Parks Department looked at budget cuts first, but there was still a gap. In raising the fees, he said, the goal was to take in enough money to pay for programs without discouraging participation in hunting and fishing.

If he thought the increases would result in dramatic drops in people coming to South Dakota to hunt, he wouldn't have supported them, he said.

Commissioner John Cooper of Pierre said some businesses that cater to nonresident hunters wonder if South Dakota penalizes out-of-staters to keep the costs low for residents. He asked Leif if a study should be done to project sales years out and raise all license fees accordingly.

Commissioners bumped the cost of an annual state park license by \$2 to \$30 per vehicle, with the fee for a second vehicle going up \$1 to \$15. Officials say the change will bring in an additional \$157,000 annually.

Group lodging fees at Shadehill, Lake Thompson, Palisades and Newton Hills also will increase.

Former GOP Sen. Hagel To Back Kerrey

BY MARGERY A. BECK AND GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Democrat Bob Kerrey got an attabooy Thursday from former Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel, who said the former senator would break the partisan "nonsense that's literally strangling our country." Republicans supporting GOP hopeful Deb Fischer in Nebraska's tight Senate race scoffed and suggested Hagel was sniffing around for a cabinet seat under President Barack Obama.

"I think at the end of the day, people are going to look at this endorsement and see it for what it is," said Republican Sen. Mike Johanns, a personal friend of Hagel's who pointed out that the former senator angered the GOP with criticism of former President George W. Bush's handling of the war in Iraq. "It's a step in his path to try to build those bone fides that he is truly an Obama person and deserves a place in his cabinet."

At a news conference later

Thursday to announce his endorsement of Kerrey, Hagel dismissed the criticism. Hagel said if he were angling for a Cabinet position under Obama, "I'd be out in Virginia or Ohio campaigning for the president, not Bob Kerrey." He demurred when asked if he would consider any future Cabinet post offer from Obama.

Nebraska is being closely watched in the broader fight for control of the Senate. Republicans must gain four seats to win the majority if Obama is re-elected, or three seats if Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney prevails.

Hagel said he was backing his former colleague as the best candidate to ease the partisan gridlock that has gripped Congress in recent years.

"We must put an end to this senseless and irresponsible partisan paralysis that has locked down our government," said Hagel, who represented Nebraska from 1997 to 2009, four years of which he served with Kerrey. "We must start working

together again for the good of our country."

Speaking at a state party gathering Thursday in Lincoln, Fischer said the Hagel endorsement wouldn't swing enough votes for Kerrey. The Valentine rancher pointed to her endorsements from major Republican figures in the state: Gov. Dave Heineman, Johanns, Nebraska's three GOP congressmen, and former governors Kay Orr and Charlie Thone.

Fischer also argued that her record is bipartisan, pointing to her work as a state lawmaker in Nebraska's officially nonpartisan legislature. She noted several measures introduced by Democrats that she helped fast-track for the good of the state.

"The record shows that I'm the one who has worked with Democrats and Republicans in the state Legislature," she said.

Asked whether the Hagel endorsement would make a difference in the election, Heineman leaned into the microphone and simply said: "No."

S.D. Drought Unchanged; Conditions Ease In N.D.

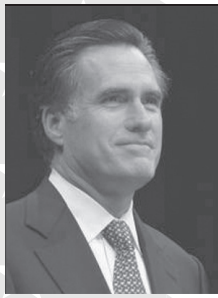
SIoux FALLS (AP) — The drought in South Dakota is unchanged over the week but conditions have eased in North Dakota for a second week.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows that about 57 percent of South Dakota remains in the two worst categories of drought, extreme and exceptional. All of the state is in some form of drought.

About 90 percent of North Dakota is in some category of drought, down from 95 percent last week. The state has no areas in extreme or exceptional drought. About 30 percent of the state is in severe drought, down from 37 percent over the week.

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