

South Dakota

Biologists Want Repellent As Tool For Pheasant Management

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks wants a pesticide that federal regulators haven't approved yet to become part of the state Wildlife Division's pheasant management plan.

Anthraquinone sickens birds by disrupting their digestion systems. The pesticide is applied to seeds before they are planted.

The purpose is to change birds' behavior by making them ill after they eat the treated seeds or the young plants from those seeds.

Various states started using the repellent during the past decade to protect crop fields against geese, blackbirds, sandhill cranes, crows and, in South Dakota's case, pheasants.

The states received emergency exemptions from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. South Dakota was one of them.

EPA now has the manufacturer's application for registration to allow general sales. Arkion Life Sciences, based in Delaware, produces the Avipel-brand seed treatments.

Approval is expected in time for 2016 corn planting, according to Tom Gere, agronomy services manager for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

U.S. approval would run counter to action by the European Union. EU members

removed anthraquinone from their list of authorized pesticides in 2009.

Researchers linked the chemical to organ problems in mice and rats including cancer.

U.S. manufacturers also use the chemical in other ways, such as industrial dyes on various products including some pizza boxes.

The chemical after it is applied to seeds isn't apparent to the human eye.

Researchers at South Dakota State University reported anthraquinone can be seen at the UV end of the light spectrum by pheasants and geese, when it is on young plants growing from seeds that were sprayed or dusted with it.

Geese that previously became ill from it turned away when they came upon it again, according to one study involving soybean plants in Day County.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture received a series of special emergency exemptions from EPA starting in 2008 for use on corn and later on sunflower seeds.

Several SDSU research projects studied the effectiveness of anthraquinone in crop fields in various parts of eastern South Dakota including the area of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department used federal funds to pay for the SDSU studies.

The department's Division of Wildlife is updating its pheasant management plan this fall.

One of the proposed changes would specifically refer to anthraquinone as a repellent for reducing crop damage by pheasants.

GFP's pheasant specialist is Travis Runia at Huron. The senior upland game biologist cited the 2009 study by SDSU graduate student Emily Hodne-Fischer. She found anthraquinone was effective at reducing pheasant depredation on planted corn seeds.

"The irritant is consumed in a sub-lethal dose," Runia said in an email Thursday. "We rely on the EPA approval process to assure there are no unintended impacts to wildlife and humans."

Asked whether he had seen evidence of pheasant mortality associated with anthraquinone, he replied, "No."

Anthraquinone also might become a tool for repelling geese from soybeans. SDSU faculty members conducted research in the past year using a federal grant channeled through GFP.

GFP spent \$446,972.83 in 2014 specifically on damage management involving Canada geese.

That included \$179,200 in Day County alone.

The EPA exceptions for South Dakota involving anthraquinone covered corn and sunflowers.

However, the sunflower exception was pulled in 2013 when the company focused on treatment for corn and rice.

Feds Right In Exercising Oversight Of Eb-5 In SD

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE, — U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds said Thursday that the federal government is right in exercising its oversight of an investment-for-visa program pioneered in South Dakota when he was governor.

His comments came in response to questions about a federal notice that the state's participation in the EB-5 visa program, which allows wealthy foreigners to invest in projects in exchange for green cards, could be terminated.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services determined that South Dakota's regional center for the program isn't promoting economic growth and said administrators have failed to submit required information to the agency, according to a late September notification.

Rounds said Thursday during a conference call with reporters that he hasn't seen

the notice, but he believes the concerns raised in the report occurred when the regional center was run by a private firm or after he left the governor's office in 2011.

"I simply haven't looked at it," he said. "I haven't seen anything on it that suggests that I should respond to anything on that. If they've got questions on it that they need to have information on it, it's fair for them to ask those questions, but I haven't seen them."

However, September's notice cited a lack of credibility impacting the regional center's ability to promote economic growth, including allegations of mismanagement of the program that occurred during Rounds' time as governor, as part of the agency's intent to terminate the regional center.

The state has until the end of the month to respond to the notice that the agency intends to terminate South Dakota's participation.

The senator said the program created thousands of

jobs in South Dakota. But he said he hasn't taken a position on whether the federal EB-5 program should be renewed by Congress.

Congress gave the program a short-term extension until mid-December. Peter Joseph, executive director of the Association to Invest in the USA, an EB-5 trade association, said in a statement that there are five bills under consideration to re-authorize the program.

Many of the questions raised in a Citizenship and Immigration Services inquiry into the South Dakota regional center, detailed in the notification, concern the management of the program under Joop Bollen, who oversaw the program as a public employee and as part of SDRC Inc., a private company that he founded.

SDRC entered into a contract in 2009 with the state to manage the program.

Rounds said in November 2013 that it was a strategic decision to separate the state from the regional center roles

of marketing the projects to investors and overseeing the financing, since the EB-5 money was from private investors going to private companies.

South Dakota ended its contract with SDRC in 2013, and administration of the program went to the state. There haven't been any new EB-5 projects since the state took over.

Bollen has declined to comment about the notice.

Rounds served as South Dakota's governor from 2003-2011. The management of the program, which began in South Dakota in 2004, became a distraction for Rounds during his Senate campaign last year and was a major issue in the race. A beef packing plant approved as part of the program called Northern Beef Packers, which was pitched in response to Rounds' South Dakota Certified Beef initiative, went bust.

Rounds went on to easily win the Senate seat in 2014.

State Can Do More To Help Foster Kids Live Normally

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's foster care system can do more to ensure that foster children get to play sports, attend school dances and enjoy other normal childhood experiences, according to a report released Thursday.

Such experiences are important to their development, but the report presented to lawmakers by a child advocacy coalition said the system has created barriers which make it difficult for foster children to live like most other kids.

"It turns out that being allowed to be a kid is very important to becoming a healthy

adult," said Sarah Helvey, child welfare director for the group Nebraska Applesed. "But for years, many foster kids have faced bureaucratic barriers to these growing-up experiences."

The obstacles include safety rules — such as background checks for sleepovers and travel restrictions — as well as fears that foster parents could face penalties if an unattended teenager gets in trouble.

The cost of activities, disagreements with foster parents and a lack of transportation were also cited as factors.

Foster children who were surveyed reported that they were prohibited from trying out for cheerleading, going on field trips or having senior portraits

taken.

The report was based on input from more than 300 stakeholders in Nebraska's foster care system, including current and former foster children, child welfare advocates, foster parents and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Child advocates urged lawmakers to adopt the recommendations of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, a federal law passed last year to promote safety and a sense of normalcy for foster care children.

The Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee convened the hearing Thursday to hear public input on the issue.

Jennifer Rodriguez, execu-

tive director of the San Francisco-based Youth Law Center and a former foster child, said foster children should have a support system while being allowed to make mistakes.

The report recommended that Nebraska law make clear that children in care have a right to participate in age-appropriate activities.

It also suggested creating a grievance procedure for children who feel their wishes aren't being heard, and requiring Nebraska's juvenile courts to provide oversight to ensure that caregivers are giving children a chance to participate in activities. The state should also clarify the rights of foster parents, the report said.

OBITUARIES

Marcella Kolda

Marcella E. Kolda, age 90 of Yankton passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 24 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton with Rev. Robert Wullweber officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 23 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 6:30 p.m. Rosary followed by a 7:00 p.m. Scripture Service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. To send an online con-



Kolda

lence, go to www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com.

Pallbearers will be grandchildren: Eric Kolda, Clint Kolda, Bridgit Kasch and Jason Kolda and great grandchildren, Aaron Kasch, Kyle Kolda, Elizabeth Kolda, Noah Kolda and Brandon Kasch. Honorary pallbearers will be Maynard Hamberger and Lorraine (Hamberger) Rehurek.

Marcella Emma was born September 18, 1925 to Adolph and Emma (Pesek) Hamberger in Tyndall, SD. She married Donald Kolda

on February 26, 1946 and they had two sons, Duane in 1949 and Larry in 1953; four grandchildren: Eric Kolda, Clint Kolda, Bridgit (Kolda) Kasch and Jason Kolda; five great grandchildren: Aaron Kasch, Elizabeth Kolda, Brandon Kasch, Kyle Kolda and Noah Kolda.

Marcella enjoyed being with her family and traveling with Donald. In her later years as age crept in, she enjoyed riding her mobility scooter on the bike paths of Yankton. The locals soon learned that Marcella had the right of way.

May she rest in the arms of our Lord and be with her husband, Don (dearly missed for the past 33 years). May they also be fishing together, a pastime

she truly cherished.

Marcella is also survived by her brother, Maynard Hamberger of Yankton and sister, Lorraine (Hamberger) Rehurek of Tyndall, SD and many nieces and nephews.

Marcella was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; her parents, Emma and Adolph Hamberger; her sister, Clara (Hamberger) Walz; brothers: Emil, Clarence, Lawrence, Donald, Vern and Elmer.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
October 23, 2015



Bill Sees

Bill Sees, 67, of Irene died Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015, at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Chris Savoy

Christopher N. Savoy, 50 of Wynot, Nebraska, died

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, at his residence.

Funeral services will be on Monday, Oct. 26, at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church in Wynot with the Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will be at a later date.

Visitation will be on Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will continue on Monday at the church one hour prior to services.

Monastery Holiday Fair



Saturday, October 24th • 9:30am-2:30pm
A variety of items created by the sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery
• Aprons • Towels • Wall Hangings • Baby Items
• Christmas Items • Stained Glass Nativities
• Jewelry • Jams & Jellies • Homemade Bread
• Caramel Corn • Cards • Doilies • Blankets
• Dishcloths • Healthy Snacks

All this and so much more at the Holiday Fair!

Sacred Heart Monastery
1005 W. 8th St., Yankton, SD (605) 668-6000

Bag Of Rusty Rifles, Shotguns Found

HICKMAN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a canvas bag of muddy, rusty firearms has been found in southeast Nebraska's Lancaster County.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that a Winwater employee found the bag in a dry waterway on Monday. The waterway is about 1½ miles west of Hickman.

Sheriff Terry Wagner says none of the weapons had been reported stolen. Deputies are trying to find out who owns the guns.

The bag contained five shotguns, three conventional rifles and one black powder rifle.

Black Hills Approves \$100M Wind Farm

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP) — Black Hills Energy has won permission to build a \$100 million wind farm complex in southern Colorado under a deal which should keep customers in Pueblo from having to pay for the project for a decade.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission approved the project in Huerfano and Las Animas counties on Wednesday after initially finding in April that the project was too expensive.

Since then, The Pueblo Chieftain reports that the contractor lowered its construction cost. Rapid City, South Dakota-based Black Hills also reached a preliminary agreement with state and local officials that essentially guarantees that ratepayers won't pay for the project in its first 10 years.

Black Hills says the farm will be used when it's cheaper to use wind-generated power than electricity from natural gas.

Ex-Treasurer Gets Probation For Theft

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A former Omaha union local treasurer has been given five years of probation for embezzling from the union.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that Richard Molczyk also was ordered to pay more than \$13,000 in restitution. He was sentenced on Monday in U.S. District Court in Omaha.

Prosecutors say Molczyk stole from United Transportation Union Local 493 over five days between April 23, 2013, and July 22, 2013.

In April Molczyk pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement after prosecutors dropped four other counts.

Voters To Decide Fate Of \$8M Library

ABERDEEN (AP) — Aberdeen residents will get a chance to vote on a proposed \$8 million public library.

The American News reports that a petition drive collected more than 1,500 signatures, and only 783 were needed to force an election on the project the City Council approved about three weeks ago.

The financing plan for the library includes \$5.9 million in city funds and \$2.1 million from the Alexander Mitchell Public Library Foundation. Some people question the cost.

Library Board Vice President Tom Guhin says a quality library is "a necessary part of the community."

The election was not immediately scheduled.

Councilwoman Steps Down For New City

SCOTTSBUFF, Neb. (AP) — A Scottsbluff city councilwoman is stepping down from her elected post to become finance director of the Nebraska Panhandle city.

Liz Hilyard will begin her new job on Monday. She's been on the council since being appointed to fill a vacancy in December 2013.

A city news release listed among Hilyard's qualification her CPA certification and her certification as a senior professional in human resources. Hilyard holds a master's in business administration and has taken courses in governmental and nongovernmental accounting.

City Manager Rick Kuckkahn says in the release that, when looking for new employees, "we certainly want them to contribute in their area of expertise but also expect a broader view of city services. Liz brings all of this and more to the table."

Assessor Pleads Not Guilty To Thefts

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — A January trial has been scheduled for a former Dodge County assessor charged with thefts.

The Fremont Tribune reports that Brittny King, of Snyder, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to two counts of unauthorized use of a financial transaction device and two counts of theft. The charges are all misdemeanors. The trial is set to begin Jan. 28.

King was arrested Sept. 2, shortly after resigning as assessor.

Court records say King used a county-issued credit card on two occasions to buy fuel for her personal vehicle.

SD Company Takes On Projects In Kuwait

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company has assumed responsibility for construction projects in Kuwait.

The 155th recently took over mission responsibilities from the California Army National Guard's 315th Engineer Company to improve survivability, remodel and complete new construction of base infrastructure in the U.S. Army Central area of operations in Kuwait.

So far, the 155th has constructed multiple concrete pads for emergency phones, a gazebo and completed many small repairs around the base. The 154 members of the Rapid City and Wagner-based unit have a wide variety of occupational specialties, including carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry.

This is the second mobilization for the 155th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2002-2003.

Suspect Concert Ticket Fraud Arrested

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha authorities say a woman wanted in a fraudulent ticket scheme involving Taylor Swift concerts has turned herself in.

Police say 42-year-old Samantha Graeve was arrested Wednesday and has been charged with theft by deception. Authorities say the Omaha Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority made a theft by deception report alleging that a former employee had printed and sold about 200 unauthorized tickets to the musician's concerts on Oct. 9 and Oct. 10 at the CenturyLink Center.

Authority spokeswoman Kristi Andersen said the total face value of the tickets was about \$25,000. The authority's board voted earlier this week to reimburse the scam's victims.

Graeve was a premium seating manager before she was fired June 22. Anderson declined to comment on why Graeve was fired.

It wasn't immediately clear if Graeve has an attorney.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Keith Wahl 11:00 AM, Friday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton

Erna Amanda Jungclaus 10:30 AM, Friday
St. John's Lutheran Church Yankton

Joseph A. Becker 10:30 AM, Friday
Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church Wynot

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE Yankton 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC. Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton 402-254-6547