

MIDWEST

Power Outage Planned For Area

HURON (AP) — Some southeastern South Dakota communities along the Highway 37 and Highway 50 corridors will be without power for about an hour Tuesday while NorthWestern Energy installs a replacement transformer.

The outage will begin at 11 a.m., affecting the communities of Lesterville, Utica, Springfield, Avon, Running Water and Kingsburg.

NorthWestern Yankton Area Manager Brad Wenande says equipment failed over the weekend and caused several outages in the area. The planned outage will ensure that crews can safely install a replacement transformer in the Tripp Junction Substation.

3 Arrested In Meth Lab Case

ALLIANCE, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say three Alliance men face drug charges after methamphetamine and lab equipment were found during a search of two homes.

Court records say 21-year-old Oscar Herrera, 38-year-old Manuel Herrera and 39-year-old John Corson were taken into custody Friday.

Records say the Herreras were arrested on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and possession of an exceptionally hazardous drug with intent to deliver.

Corson faces allegations of possession of an exceptionally hazardous drug with intent to deliver, possession of ephedrine to make methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A jail spokesman says all three remained in custody Tuesday.

Their attorney, Dave Eubanks, said he could not immediately comment.

Most Violent Crime Decreases In S.D.

ABERDEEN (AP) — The FBI says most violent crime dropped in South Dakota last year but the number of rapes increased.

The Aberdeen American News reports that FBI statistics show the number of murders, robberies and aggravated assaults fell from 2008 to 2009.

The FBI says there were 21 murders in South Dakota in 2009, down from 26 the year before. Robberies dropped from 120 in 2008 to 111 in 2009 and aggravated assaults decreased from 1,042 to 931 during that time.

The number of rapes rose from 432 in 2008 to 445 in 2009.

Neb. Hog Number Drops 5 Percent

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Federal officials say Nebraska had 5 percent fewer hogs and pigs on Sept. 1 than it did a year earlier.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday that the state's total inventory of hogs and pigs was 3.15 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago but up 2 percent from June 1 this year.

The national inventory of hogs and pigs was down 3 percent from a year ago, to 65 million head.

The Nebraska breeding inventory dropped to 370,000 head, down 3 percent from last year.

USDA: Rain Hindered Neb. Harvest

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Recent rain has made it hard for eastern Nebraska farmers to continue harvesting their crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday that the eastern third of the state received the most rain last week, which slowed field work.

But in western Nebraska, where little rain fell, winter wheat seeding is nearly 90 percent done. Statewide, about 69 percent of the winter wheat crop has been planted.

About 81 percent of the state's corn crop rated in good or excellent condition, and about 10 percent of the corn crop has been harvested. Both those figures are better than last year.

About 76 percent of the soybean crop is in good or excellent condition. That's similar to last year at this time.

Report: Indian Health Service Hired Criminals

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The federal Indian Health Service has hired convicted criminals, failed to stop employees from stealing narcotics and allowed workers to take paid leave for more than a year while being investigated for misconduct, a federal investigation has found.

The investigation disclosed years of mismanagement that have led to poor patient care, long-term vacancies and other problems at the Aberdeen Area of the Indian Health Service, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

In one case, an employee at a Rapid City, S.D., pharmacy stole large quantities of Vicodin and Tramadol, narcotics that are used for pain relief, and resold them for cash. The IHS pharmacy lacked basic security controls, such as security cameras or requiring two people to count inventory, the report said.

The report by the inspector general's office at the Health and Human Services Department was submitted to Congress Tuesday as part of an investigation by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Gerald Roy, deputy inspector general for investigations, told the panel that the Aberdeen office was chronically mismanaged, with employee misconduct and even

theft of drugs routine. In at least two cases, employees who had been convicted of crimes were rehired by the health service in the same region where the crimes were committed.

The chairman of the Indian Affairs panel called the report distressing and said the Aberdeen office "appears to me to be completely dysfunctional."

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said he was stunned to learn that the region's deputy director had been placed on paid leave for undisclosed reasons for more than a year. The official has stayed home, at taxpayer expense, while allegations against her are investigated, said Charlene Red Thunder, director of the Aberdeen region.

Dorgan called that unacceptable and said it was impossible to believe that a private-sector employee would take such a long leave while being paid. "Not on your life!" he said.

Red Thunder and Yvette Roubideaux, director of the Indian Health Service, said they were working to correct problems at the agency.

"We are starting to hold more people accountable," Roubideaux said, noting that five service unit

directors have resigned or been fired in the past two years.

"We have a serious problem at Aberdeen," Roubideaux told Dorgan. "The Aberdeen area must do a better job."

The Aberdeen office serves more than 100,000 Indians on reservations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. The region includes nine hospitals, eight health centers, two school health stations, and several smaller health stations and satellite clinics.

2nd Teen Dies After Rollover Crash

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A second teenager hurt in a rollover crash on I-90 earlier this week has died.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol said Tuesday that 19-year-old Johnathan Pike of Ellsworth Air Force Base died late Monday at a Sioux Falls hospital.

Another passenger in the car that crashed early Monday near Vivian, 17-year-old Kenneth Rodriguez of Pierre, died at the scene.

The car's driver, 15-year-old Jessica Forbes of Rapid City, was hurt but her injuries aren't believed to be life threatening.

The Patrol says Forbes lost control of the vehicle she was driving on Interstate 90. The vehicle hit a ditch and rolled.

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