



TODAY'S DEAL: \$20 GIFT VOUCHER FOR \$10 TO MERLE'S FOOD AND DRINK

LIVE ONLINE AT 6 A.M.: www.journalstar.com/todaysdeal. Help Desk 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: 402-473-2690



PLENTY TO PONDER

Topics, names to consider as another Husker fall camp begins Saturday.

SPORTS | C1

RIBFEST PREVIEW

The 16th Annual Capital City Ribfest starts Thursday.

GROUND ZERO

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

www.JournalStar.com

Ranchers' suffering continues

Vilsack declares 76 Nebraska counties disaster areas as Congress enters recess.

By ART HOVEY Lincoln Journal Star

A year ago, Nebraska became a cow sanctuary for grazing herds trucked away from parched pastures in Texas, Oklahoma and western Kansas.

Headed into the last full month of summer in 2012, much has changed.

As of Thursday, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack had declared 76 of Nebraska's 93 counties, including all of the Sandhills, disaster areas.

And as Congress failed to agree on

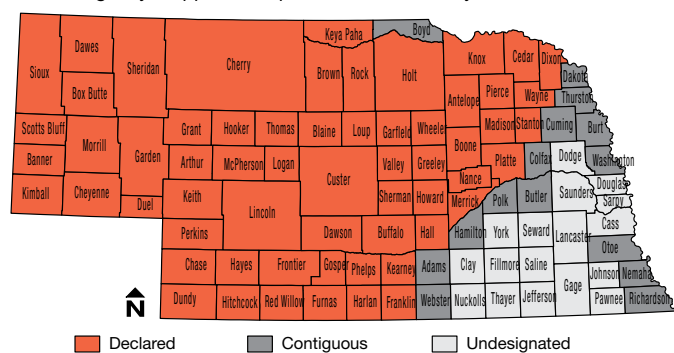
a \$383 million relief package ahead of a long recess, Mike Mahony and the rest of the management at the Ericson Spalding Livestock Market were much more focused on a special Saturday cattle sale.

Consignments "due to the heat" were pushing toward 2,500 two days before the auction chant.

"There were definitely some cattle that moved north," Mahony said of the events of last year, "but with the drought now, I think we've flushed them all out."

See DISASTER AREAS, Page A2

The latest action by U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack leaves only Lancaster County and a handful of others in Nebraska off the list that allows farmers and ranchers to apply for emergency disaster loans. Nebraska's Farm Service Agency mapped the updated area Thursday.



Source: Farm Service Agency and USDA SHEILA STORY/Lincoln Journal Star

PAGE A2: Ongoing drought driving deer into urban areas.

Heat hurting some, helping others

Wildlife suffering from drought while state park attendance is up.

By JOANNE YOUNG Lincoln Journal Star

Boom and doom.

The effects of the heat and drought on the state's wildlife and outdoor recreation could be described as both good news and bad.

It depends if you're a fish out of water or the big bird getting an easy meal because the fish had bad luck.

With rivers drying up, fish are suffering. Nebraska Game and Parks crews have verified at least several dead pallid sturgeon, an endangered fish, said Daryl Bauer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission fisheries outreach program manager.

Hot and dry conditions also have contributed to an earlier and perhaps more widespread outbreak of a virus - epizootic hemorrhagic disease - that kills deer. A biting insect spreads it.

In the two previous years, not as many deer have been infected, so many don't have immunity to the virus, said Bruce Trindle, Game and Parks wildlife disease program manager.

People have reported a number of dead deer, especially along the Platte River, Trindle said. They seek out water because of a high fever.

Fish are not faring much better. From west of Kearney to Columbus, there essentially is no Platte River, Bauer said.

"You may find a little trickle in some stretches of that, but nothing to support fish," Bauer said.

See WILDLIFE, Page A2

LANCASTER COUNTY SUPER FAIR



Photos by ERIC GREGORY/Lincoln Journal Star

Daryl's Racing Pigs dash through their course Thursday as the Lancaster County Super Fair gets under way. BELOW: Four-year-old Laynee Price walks Patriot toward the rest of the Star City Llama and Alpaca Club's entrants on the grounds of the Lancaster Event Center.



AND AWAY THEY GO

The Lancaster County Super Fair kicked things off Thursday at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th Street and Havelock

Avenue, with events such as Daryl's Racing Pigs, Ag Adventure Land and the Midway Carnival.

To find highlights from Friday's events, see Page B2, or visit www.lancastereventcenter.com/superfair for more information.

For more photos, visit JournalStar.com.

Peace envoy to Syria announces resignation

Kofi Annan blames violence on the ground, lack of unity at the U.N.

By ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY and JOHN HEILPRIN The Associated Press

BEIRUT - Kofi Annan announced his resignation Thursday as peace envoy to Syria and issued a blistering critique of world powers, bringing to a dramatic end a frustrating



ANNAN

six-month effort that failed to achieve even a temporary cease-fire as the country plunged into civil war.

Annan also had harsh words for the Syrian regime, saying it was clear President Bashar Assad "must leave office."

As the violence escalated on the ground, rebels used a captured tank to shell a military air base near Aleppo - one of the

Inside/A3

- Rebels give inside account of fighting in Syrian capital. Execution video damages claim to high moral ground in uprising.

first known uses of heavy weapons by the insurgents.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Annan blamed the Syrian government's intransigence, the growing militancy of Syrian rebels and a divided Security Council that failed to forcefully back his effort. Since he took on

the job, Russia and China have twice used their veto power to block strong Western- and Arab-backed action against President Bashar Assad's regime.

The White House said Annan's resignation highlighted the failure of Russia and China to support action against Assad and called the regime's continued violence against its own people "disgusting."

"It is impossible for me or anyone to compel the Syrian government and also the opposition to

See SYRIA, Page A2

Business/A4: United Steelworkers reaches tentative contract deal with Veyance.

Table listing various sections and page numbers: Advice, Births, Bridge, Business, Calendar, Classified, Comics, Crosswords, Horoscope, Jumble, Local, Lotteries, Movies, Nation, Obituaries, Opinion, Sports, Television, World.

BUSINESS WEATHER

Dow -92.18 12,878.88 Nasdaq -10.44 2,909.77

96 70 Details, B6

CONTACT US

Delivery and subscriptions, Newsroom, Classified ads, Retail ads, Toll-free.

Copyright 2012 Lee Enterprises Inc. 42 pages



6 18134 00002 7 MON-SAT \$1.00