

MIDWEST DIGEST

Herseth Sandlin Leads In House Fundraising

PIERRE (AP) — Democratic U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin has a big lead over her Republican challengers when it comes to raising campaign funds.

In her report for the first three months of the year, Herseth Sandlin reported raising more than \$183,000 and ending the period with \$443,000 in the bank.

The three Republicans seeking their party's nomination to run against Herseth Sandlin had less money.

State Rep. Blake Curd of Sioux Falls raised about \$140,000 and had \$186,000 on hand March 31.

State Rep. Kristi Noem of Castlewood raised nearly \$109,000 and ended with \$92,000 on hand.

Secretary of State Chris Nelson raised about \$35,000 and had \$44,000 left on hand at the end of March.

Court Hearing Set On Refinery Permit Appeal

PIERRE (AP) — A June 23 court hearing has been set in Pierre for an appeal of a state-approved air quality permit for a proposed oil refinery in southeastern South Dakota.

Three groups opposed to the \$10 billion oil refinery filed the appeal earlier. The Sierra Club and local groups Save Union County and Citizens Opposed to Oil Pollution say the permit does not address some environmental issues.

The refinery near Elk Point would process 400,000 barrels of Canadian crude each day into products ranging from low-sulfur gasoline to jet fuel. It would be the first new U.S. oil refinery built since 1976. Dallas-based Hyperion says the plant would be "the most environmentally sensitive refinery in the country."

S.D. Tribes Getting Help With Food Aid

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — American Indian tribes in South Dakota are getting some of the \$4.5 billion in federal stimulus money being awarded nationwide to boost food assistance to low-income families on and near reservations.

The Agriculture Department says the Oglala Sioux Tribe is getting \$408,766, the Rosebud Sioux \$182,590, the Lower Brule Sioux \$59,715, the Crow Creek Sioux \$50,000 and the Cheyenne River Reservation \$18,900.

The money is for the purchase of equipment and the improvement of facilities needed to provide food aid to needy families on and near the reservations.

Report: Woman Approached Outside Dorm

BROOKINGS (AP) — South Dakota State University police are investigating a report of a female student being approached by an unknown man outside a campus dorm.

But a university spokesman says details of the incident early Friday morning are different from two recent assaults on the Brookings campus.

In the latest incident, campus police say a resident assistant at Young Hall reported seeing the unidentified man about 2 a.m. No arrests have been made.

Authorities have been looking for a blue van in the investigation of two reported assaults within the past three weeks that are believed to be related. In both cases, a female student reported being accosted by a man after midnight.

Campus police have also stepped up patrols and increased video surveillance outside dorms.

S.D. Man Admits To Shaking Toddler

PIERRE (AP) — An Eagle Butte man accused of shaking a 2-year-old child and causing serious brain injury last May has pleaded guilty.

Thirty-year-old Nicholas Rivers faces up to 10 years in prison on the federal charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

Sentencing is set for July 8.

Woman Gets 10 Years In Mom's Death

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A woman who pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter in the death of her mother has been sentenced to 10 years in a South Dakota prison.

The sentence for 30-year-old Judy Lynn Carey was handed down Friday.

Prosecutors say she used a pillow to suffocate her 78-year-old mother, Elizabeth Holt, in Sioux Falls in October 2008. She was arrested after calling 911 to report her mother was unresponsive.

Petition Seeks Split Of Merged School District

RAMONA (AP) — The Oldham-Ramona school board must come up with a proposal to split the district following the validation of a petition to reinstate its pre-consolidation boundaries.

The petition calls for a public vote on re-establishing the boundaries of the separate Oldham and Ramona school districts, which were merged in 1990.

Superintendent John Bjorkman says 125 of the petition's 155 signatures were valid, more than enough to force a vote.

Under state law, the district has six months to develop a proposal outlining a split. The state would have to approve it before it goes to a vote.

Python Found In Neb. Potty Was Lost Pet

LA VISTA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Humane Society has tracked down the owner of a python found in a toilet of a La Vista hotel room.

The humane society says the owner panicked after losing the pet snake while staying at the Hampton Inn in late March and left without alerting management. The python was found Thursday morning by another guest.

The owner has not been cited. Hotel officials have declined to comment.

Omaha's Creighton Hospital Cuts 35 Jobs

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Creighton University Medical Center has eliminated 35 positions, citing financial concerns.

The cuts were announced Thursday. The hospital didn't provide specifics of the eliminated positions, but said in a statement they're in clinical and non-clinical areas.

Associated Press calls to a hospital spokeswoman for additional information were not immediately returned Friday.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

309 W. 11th Street • Yankton, SD 57078
800-249-3837 • 605-668-2168
www.tkplaceyankton.com

the Kitchen Place

- Kitchens
- Baths
- Office & more



SHOWPLACE Wood Products

Judge Says No To Mistrial In AIM Case

BY DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press Writer

RAPID CITY — Tempers flared in a 34-year-old South Dakota murder case Friday when the government's key witness described the defendant as an enforcer for a leader of a militant American Indian group that clashed with tribal and federal agents in the 1970s.

Arlo Looking Cloud took the stand for the second day in the federal trial of Richard Marshall, who is charged with aiding and abetting the 1975 slaying of Annie Mae Aquash on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Aquash, a member of Mi'kmaq Tribe of Nova Scotia, participated in the American Indian Movement's 1973 armed occupation of the Pine Ridge village of Wounded Knee, a two-month siege that included ferocious gun battles with federal officers.

Prosecutors claim Looking Cloud and two other AIM members kidnapped Aquash in Denver before one sexually assaulted and shot her in South Dakota.

Looking Cloud, who is serving a life sen-

tence for his role in Aquash's death, testified that Marshall provided the murder weapon, but he didn't tell authorities until 2008 because he was afraid of Marshall.

When prosecutor Bob Mandel asked why he feared Marshall, Looking Cloud said, "He was Russell Means' enforcer and he had confessed to a murder and he was released."

Defense attorney Dana Hanna objected and asked for a mistrial, which U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol denied after a 15-minute break. Piersol had ruled earlier that Looking Cloud could only give limited testimony relating to Marshall's 1976 conviction for murder in the death of a man he shot in a bar.

Hanna's voice turned stern when Looking Cloud returned to the stand.

"Mr. Looking Cloud, you just couldn't wait to bring Russell Means' name into this trial, could you?" Hanna asked.

The defense attorney said Looking Cloud was upset because Means, an AIM leader-turned-actor, called a news conference several years ago and named Looking Cloud, John Graham and Theda Clarke as Aquash's killers. Looking Cloud denied that. Hanna cut off Looking Cloud at the end of his questioning.

"No other questions! You're done!" he snapped.

Mandel later complained that Hanna questioned Looking Cloud "in almost a violent manner quite frankly, yelling at the witness."

The Marshall trial is another step in a case revived in 2003 when Looking Cloud and Graham were indicted for Aquash's murder. Graham, the alleged triggerman, is scheduled for trial in state court this summer.

Looking Cloud was the only witness Friday. He acknowledged years of drug and alcohol abuse and even lying to authorities but told jurors he has a good memory and was telling the truth about how Aquash was killed.

Looking Cloud testified he often mixed alcohol with drugs like LSD, heroin and methamphetamine but said his drug of choice was mescaline.

"Do you think all these drugs and alcohol help you remember things later on or did they impair your ability to remember things later on?" Hanna asked.

"I remember a lot of things," Looking Cloud replied.

Lawsuit Asks Court To Remove South Dakota Game Commissioner

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — A frequent critic of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has asked a judge to bar a commissioner from finishing his term on the panel that sets rules for hunting, fishing and other outdoors activities because he has served too long.

The lawsuit claims Tim Kessler of Aberdeen should be removed from the commission because he has served longer than the eight years allowed by state law.

Kessler, who has been on the commission for more than 17 years, did not return a phone call seeking comment Friday.

Tom Huhnerkoch, a veterinarian on Lead, said he filed the lawsuit after Gov. Mike Rounds refused to remove Kessler from the commission. In a letter to Huhnerkoch in February, Rounds said the law wasn't clear on whether the eight-year limit was for a lifetime or a single, continuous stretch.

Kessler joined the commission in 1992. He was off from January 2004 until he was appointed again in April 2005. Rounds appointed Kessler to a new four-year term last year.

The lawsuit filed this week in Pierre asks the court to clarify the law and bar Kessler from serving the rest of his term if it determines he has served longer than the law allows.

"We're going to find out what the law is," Huhnerkoch told The Associated Press on Friday. "If it's a violation, then he's got to go. The reason he's got to go is he's made some bad decisions, in my mind."

Huhnerkoch said he was particularly upset by Kessler's push last year to allow hunters to kill more mountain lions than the Game, Fish and Parks staff had proposed. The commission eventually agreed up to 40 cougars could be shot, but the season would end early if 25 females were killed. Hunters shot 24 females and 16 males last winter.

Huhnerkoch has repeatedly objected to the mountain lion hunting seasons set by the commission in recent years.

South Dakota law says no one can be on the eight-member commission for more than eight years. But if someone is first appointed to a two-year term, that commissioner can serve another two four-year terms for a total of 10 years on the panel.

The Game, Fish and Parks Department proposed a bill during this year's legislative session that would have changed the limit to two consecutive four-year terms, clearly allowing a governor to appoint someone again after the person had been off the commission for a while. A House committee rejected the bill.

Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Jeff Vonk told lawmakers then the bill was proposed because a commissioner was likely in violation of the current law, but he did not mention Kessler by name.

In his February letter to Huhnerkoch, the governor said the law allows him to remove a commissioner only for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office" and none of those apply to Kessler. Rounds said Kessler is a legal member of the commission because he has been appointed by a governor and confirmed by the South Dakota Senate.

Three governors have appointed Kessler to the commission because he is dedicated to improving South Dakota's quality of life, Rounds said in a statement Friday.

"Tim has considered resigning on several occasions for personal reasons, including a time when he was battling cancer, but he was asked to stay because of the value of his public service," Rounds said. "I want to make it clear that Tim has never asked for these appointments, but he has served separate terms on the commission at the request of governors who recognized his talents and fervor to foster great outdoor experiences in South Dakota."

Neb. Doctors Group Helping Women Who Lost Medicaid

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The University of Nebraska Medical Center's physician practice group has been providing prenatal services for about 600 pregnant women, most illegal immigrants, who recently lost state-funded care.

Carl Smith of UNMC's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology told the University of Nebraska regents Friday that the free or discounted care will cost the group about \$600,000 a year.

UNMC is part of the four-campus University of Nebraska system that is publicly funded, but the UNMC Physicians practice group does not use public funding.

The group has historically provided prenatal care for about 600 women every year, group CEO Cory Shaw said. The money to pay for that care comes from patient care fees that go to cover the health system's costs for treating uninsured patients.

"One of the conditions of being a tax-exempt organization is an obligation to provide a certain amount of charity

care," Shaw said.

About 870 illegal immigrants and 750 legal residents lost coverage March 1 when Nebraska had to eliminate its two-decade-old policy that allowed unborn children to qualify for Medicaid.

Some lawmakers tried unsuccessfully to create a new program that would allow the group of 1,600 women, and many more in the future, get the type of prenatal care lost when the Medicaid policy was nixed.

Lawmakers' efforts faltered when Gov. Dave Heineman said he couldn't support it because of his opposition to providing taxpayer benefits to illegal immigrants.

Heineman was traveling through the state Friday and could not immediately be reached for comment.

"The governor isn't yet aware of what was discussed today at the regents' meeting," Heineman spokeswoman Jen Rae Hein said. "But his position has not changed. He does not support taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal immigrants."

J&H Cleaning Services
Free Estimates
Weekend & Evening Appointments Available (605) 665-2571

Total Janitorial • 7 Days a Week
If It's Dirty...We Will Clean It!

Contract Cleaning Carpet Cleaning
Commercial/Residential Upholstery Cleaning
Floor Care Auto Detailing

Locally Owned & Operated for 15 Years




Congresswoman
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

Invites you to attend her community meeting focused on flooding and developing a long-term strategy to address this annual problem.

Monday, April 19th, 10:30 AM
American Legion Hall
921 Main Street, Centerville, SD 57014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parking Lot Sale

Yankton Mall
April 23, 24 and 25
Vehicles and accessories

Mow Down

Front lot by Home Federal on Broadway
April 24, 9am to 5pm
Try out mowers from area lawn mower dealers!