

Energy Company Explores Wind Farm

MITCHELL (AP) — A Minnesota-based company has received permission to test for a potential wind farm between Mitchell and Mount Vernon in southeastern South Dakota's Davison County.

The Daily Republic reports that the county commission on Tuesday approved a permit for Juhl Energy Inc. to put up a 198-foot test tower.

The test is expected to take anywhere from nine months to 1 1/2 years, with a year considered the standard for collecting data. Test tower data is needed to help secure financing for the project.

If the test is successful, the energy company hopes to build a \$40 million wind farm with up to 12 turbines.

OSHA Issues Violation Following Death

ELGIN, Neb. (AP) — A federal agency has issued a safety violation to a North Dakota-based construction company following the May death of a crane operator in northeast Nebraska.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Wednesday that its investigation into the 40-year-old man's death determined Wanzek Construction exposed workers to hazards. The agency issued one serious safety violation and proposed \$7,000 in penalties.

The crane operator was using a 90-ton rough terrain crane at a wind energy site near Elgin on May 27 when the crane slipped into a ditch, overturned and crushed him. The worker was not wearing a safety restraint.

Arnold Jelinek, vice president at Wanzek Construction, says the company's top priority is the safety of its employees. He says the company is reviewing the citation.

Military Academy Day To Be Hosted

RAPID CITY (AP) — The office of U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds is hosting an informational seminar in Rapid City next month so students can learn more about enrolling in the nation's military academies.

Rounds says his office will host a Military Academy Day on Sept. 12 on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

The seminar is hosted for students interested in attending one of the five service academies: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Those interested can learn about each of the academies and the application process.

Man Sentenced To Prison For Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 31-year-old Omaha man has been sentenced to up to 70 years for the shooting death of his estranged friend.

Kenneth Armour Jr. was sentenced Wednesday in Douglas County District Court to 50 to 60 years for second-degree murder in the Nov. 5 shooting death of 30-year-old Michael Stubbs. Armour also got 10 years for a weapons count in the case.

Investigators testified an argument that began on Facebook between the two men led to the fatal shooting in northwest Omaha. Stubbs identified Armour as the shooter before he died. Police said the two men had been friends, but had a falling out over a woman.

Armour had originally been charged with first-degree murder, but pleaded guilty earlier this year to second-degree murder in a deal with prosecutors.

3 Men Charged For Burning Church

RIDGEVIEW (AP) — Three Dewey County men are accused of burning down a church that had stood for nearly a century.

Twenty-seven-year-old Cody Yellow, 28-year-old Robert Grindstone and 28-year-old Ake Kyle Eagle Hunter are charged in federal court with third-degree burglary and arson. Each faces 30 years in federal prison if convicted. Their attorneys either didn't comment or didn't immediately respond.

The Argus Leader reports that the three men are accused in a July 19 fire that destroyed St. Basil's Church west of Ridgeview. The church was built in 1917. It no longer has regular services but still hosts weddings, funerals and an annual Memorial Day Mass.

State historic preservation specialist Chris Nelson says the church was considered a local historic landmark.

Ricketts Traveling To Western Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Gov. Pete Ricketts is set to visit western Nebraska to hear from the public at a series of town hall events.

Ricketts will meet with residents at the Bean Broker Coffee House in Chadron on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center in Alliance at 3:30 p.m. He's scheduled to visit the Petrified Wood Gallery in Ogallala on Friday at 4 p.m.

Ricketts spokesman Taylor Gage says the town halls provide an opportunity for residents to make their voices heard. Each stop is scheduled to last an hour.

Governor's Plan For Park Draws Criticism

PIERRE (AP) — Dozens of people oppose Gov. Dennis Daugaard's plan to change the look of Hilger's Gulch park in South Dakota's capital.

The Pierre park has a mile-long lighted walking trail, flower gardens and a scenic view of the Capitol building. Daugaard last month announced an initiative to replace Kentucky bluegrass with native grasses, trees and shrubs. The move will require less maintenance, reduce the use of chemical herbicides and save the state money, he said.

About 40 people criticized the plan during an hour-long meeting in Pierre on Tuesday, saying they like the park as it is and that changing it to a more native landscape also could attract pests such as snakes and skunks, the Capital Journal reported.

"People are passionate about this issue and really felt like they wanted to be heard," said Laura Schoen Carbonneau, who lives near the park and is leading opposition.

Recently retired state Bureau of Administration Commissioner Paul Kinsman attended the meeting to help explain Daugaard's proposal. He said Daugaard might be receptive to a suggested smaller pilot project as a compromise but that the governor is committed to change in the park.

"If we say, 'We just want the Gulch the way it's been' ... that's not going to fly," Kinsman said.

The park is named for John D. Hilger, one of Pierre's founders. He came from Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1880 and pushed for the city to be named for a famous French fur trader.

Law Prohibits Giving Gifts For Signatures

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota Attorney General is reminding the public that state law prohibits gifts or promises in exchange for signing initiative petitions.

So far, the Secretary of State's office has approved five initiated ballot measures and three initiated constitutional amendments for circulation.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says under South Dakota law it's illegal to exchange signature petitions for gifts, promise or loans.

Jackley says the state's former attorneys general have issued similar cautionary statements in past election cycles.

Groups collecting signatures for initiated measures, which would change state law, have until Nov. 9 to collect at least 13,871 signatures.

Those wanting to put a constitutional amendment onto the 2016 ballot must collect at least 27,741 signatures by Nov. 9.

Deployment Ceremony Held For 155th Engineer Co. Soldiers

RAPID CITY — A deployment ceremony was held for 161 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company in Rapid City, Wednesday, Aug. 12.

More than a thousand family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center's Barnett Arena to support their loved ones as the Rapid City and Wagner-based unit deploys to Kuwait for one year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Spartan Shield.

"The Soldiers of the 155th represent the best of South Dakota, and I am proud to be a part of this South Dakota National Guard unit," said Capt. David Dodson, 155th commander. "We've trained hard. We've learned to do whatever it takes to make us successful and we are prepared."

The 155th is a vertical engineer company capable of providing engineer support in the construction of base camps and facilities. The unit's mission will be to provide construction, repair and maintenance of vertical infrastructures and facilities on a base in Kuwait.

Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senators John Thune and Michael Rounds, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

"I am thankful for the sacrifice our National Guard Soldiers are making," Daugaard said while addressing the audience. "National Guard Soldiers in South Dakota are the most capable, dependable, adaptable, courageous and determined people you will



SGT. 1ST CLASS THEANNE HERRMANN/ U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

U.S. Army Spc. Trever Harrington a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company stands with his family during the National Anthem during the deployment ceremony at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center's Barnett Arena in Rapid City on Wednesday. The unit will deploy for a year to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Spartan Shield.

ever meet. They are the kind of people you want at your back, when you need someone at your back. I am grateful for your willingness to serve."

"I couldn't be prouder of this unit. I know how hard you trained to get yourselves ready," Maj. Gen. Reisch said during the ceremony. "There is no doubt in my mind you are going to go over there and perform extremely well in the coming year. I look forward to the day next year when we

welcome you back to South Dakota."

As a construction company, 155th has a wide variety of occupational specialties including carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry - services the unit has performed in a deployed environment before.

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

The 155th was the first SDNG unit to deploy after 9/11 in support of the Global War on Terror, where they helped to build up base infrastructure in Kuwait in the lead up to the Iraq war.

While deployed, it's not only the Soldiers that make sacrifices - the families share the burden as well.

"As Soldiers, we volunteered and are proud to wear the uniform. But we don't wear it alone. Parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, children and relatives ... your support for us is invaluable," Dodson said, while addressing the families. "What we experience, you experience and we thank you."

"The world is a dangerous place - full of rogue nations, rouge terrorists and evil things who do not like America," Daugaard said. "Our National Guard is part of the vanguard that defends us, and as Senator Thune put it - keeps the wolves from our door."

"We've trained as a team, we will fight as a team, we will build as a team and we will come home as a team," Dodson said. "We're ready. Let's go."

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Sunday: \$10 Buckets

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Clay Stoddard, Assistant Trainer
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