

‘Capital For A Day’ Will Include Social

PIERRE (AP) — Madison’s chance to be the honorary South Dakota Capital for a Day this month is approaching quickly.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s office said Thursday that activities for the Aug. 19 celebration will include a community social gathering with the governor.

Community members who attend can to speak with the governor.

The activities also include a Main Street walk and tours around town. First Lady Linda Daugaard is scheduled to read stories to children at the Madison Public Library in the morning.

There will also be a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate 50 years in business for Rosebud Cabinetry & Lodging Furniture.

16 Neb. Counties Added To Declaration

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — 16 Nebraska counties have been added to the federal disaster declaration issued by President Barack Obama in June.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency says state officials were notified Friday. The declaration came in response to severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding that hit the state between May 6 and June 17.

The counties added to the declaration are Adams, Arthur, Box Butte, Clay, Dawes, Fillmore, Hamilton, Hayes, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson, Seward, Sioux, Wayne and York.

The declaration allows federal emergency money to be used in assisting state and local government agencies and some nonprofits. The president’s initial declaration only named 12 counties.

Mixed Verdict For Office Petition Case

RAPID CITY (AP) — A judge says a Black Hawk woman violated federal regulations last spring while gathering petition signatures at a Rapid City post office.

69 year-old Roberta Helmerick was ordered to pay \$225 in fines and fees but will not serve any jail time.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Daneta Wollman found Helmerick not guilty Thursday on a second charge of impeding or disturbing the public.

Helmerick was arrested April 15. She was part of a group of petitioners attempting to gather signatures to force a public vote on a proposed plan to raise property taxes to help schools. Post office officials called police after repeatedly asking petitioners to move away from the building’s entrance.

The petition drive succeeded. Voters soundly defeated the proposal on June 2.

Hearing To Decide Location Of Trial

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A hearing is underway in Sioux Falls to determine whether a teenager charged with murder should be tried as a juvenile.

Conner Hanson is charged in adult court despite being 17 years old in January, when 18-year-old Anthony Gabriel was shot and killed after a fight over a woman.

Prosecutors allege Hanson fired shots at Gabriel’s car after a pursuit through Sioux Falls. Gabriel died from a gunshot wound to the head. Hanson has pleaded not guilty.

Nineteen-year-old Robert Montes also was charged in the killing. He pleaded guilty Monday to being an accessory and is expected to testify against Hanson.

Winnebago District Pushes Back School

WINNEBAGO, Neb. (AP) — A school district in northeast Nebraska has pushed back classes by about two weeks due to delays in an ongoing construction project.

The Winnebago Public Schools district’s superintendent, Dan Fehringer, told the Sioux City Journal on Wednesday that work hadn’t progressed far enough to finish enough classrooms before school was scheduled to start on Monday.

He didn’t say why construction was behind schedule. Construction work includes renovation of the old gymnasium into a theater and revamping the industrial shop.

The school year is now tentatively set to begin on Aug. 31 for students, and the district has revised its school calendar to fit the later start date.

“It’ll go a few days longer in May,” Fehringer said, adding that the last day of school has been moved back about a week to around May 27.

Summer vacation comes to an end this week for a number of other schools in Nebraska and neighboring South Dakota. In Iowa, a new law requires that classes start no earlier than Aug. 24.

Police Chief Pushes For Higher Wages

BELLE FOURCHE (AP) — The police chief in Belle Fourche (foosh) says he would rather have fewer but better-paid officers on the force.

Chief Scott Jones this week offered to surrender one of 11 officer positions to allow for higher salaries for the remaining officers. The Black Hills Pioneer reports that the offer came as city leaders are beginning work on a new budget.

Jones says he needs 11 officers but that it’s been difficult to retain officers because of low wages. He says police wages in comparable communities are much higher, and he hasn’t had a full staff since 2013.

SF Summer Camp Prepares Kids For A Future In Gaming

BY PATRICK ANDERSON
Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS — It starts with designing and selling video games, but Aiden Worshek’s end game is building an all-powerful robot.

First, he needs to know how to program computers. And the whole video game design thing has proven to be tricky.

“I haven’t really made one,” said the fourth-grader. “It’s so hard.”

The ambitious 10-year-old from Luverne, Minn., is attending a video game-making summer camp in downtown Sioux Falls, learning the skills he needs to complete his master plan.

Students learned a stripped down version of programming at Gaming Bootcamp, a weeklong crash course in digital game development.

Campers use a point-and-click interface to create or modify games, instead of tinkering around with lines of code and stressing out about tiny syntax errors that can easily complicate things for any programmer.

“The concepts are there,” Bootcamp co-creator Josh Stroschein told the Argus Leader. “They don’t have to get hung up at the point of actually writing the code.”

The weeklong camp is the first of its kind in Sioux Falls. Stroschein and his

partner Will Bushee also co-created Code Bootcamp, a 12-week program for adults interested in learning web design.

The Conquest 2 program used by students has allowed them to create block-breaker games and a game similar to the mobile hit Angry Birds. They also modified the first stage of the old Nintendo classic, Super Mario Bros.

Each time, the kids’ creativity takes over and leads to outlandish and unique game creations, including an Angry Birds stage that automatically spawns thousands of pigs, Bushee said.

“They just went all over the place,” Bushee said.

Aron Nelson, 15, tried to create some video games on his own before coming to camp, but learning from the experts has opened the door to greater opportunities.

Nelson feels like he has a better understanding of the art of video game making, thanks to the hands-on lessons and daily quizzes on animation loops, object spawning and adjusting the heads-up display.

“You have a mentors and a teacher to help you out when you’re stuck,” Nelson said.

Nelson will be a ninth-grader next year at Lincoln High School, but he’s already hoping his newfound prowess with making video games can be channeled into a career.

High Courts Declare Assault Convictions For Same Attack OK

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Convicting a person under different degrees of assault for a single attack does not constitute double jeopardy, the Nebraska Supreme Court said Friday in a ruling that drew a vigorous dissent from one justice.

It’s the first time the state’s high court has addressed whether prosecutors can convict a defendant of first-degree assault and second-degree assault when the offenses arose out of the same act.

The ruling came in the case of Joshua Ballew, 27, who was convicted of two counts each of first-degree assault and second-degree assault for the stabbing of two men at a Lincoln party in March 2012 following an argument. Ballew was also convicted of two weapons-use counts and sentenced to 10 to 22 years for each of the six convictions.

He appealed, arguing that convicting him of two separate assault counts for each stabbing amounted to double jeopardy, which forbids multiple punishments for the same offense.

The high court rejected that argument, reasoning that its rulings in two previous cases allow a person to be convicted of different degrees of the same offense. Writing for the majority, Justice Lindsey Miller-Lerman also indicated that state law regarding the crime of assault is ambiguous.

“We do not read this statute as showing a clear

indication of legislative intent that the crimes ... define a single offense merely because one offense is denominated as ‘assault in the first degree’ while the other is denominated as ‘assault in the second degree,’” Miller-Lerman wrote.

Justice William Connolly dissented, saying the law is not ambiguous and even if it were, judicial rules require such ambiguities to be resolved in the defendant’s favor.

“Notably, the majority cites no case in which an appellate court has upheld convictions of two separate degrees of the same crime for the same act,” Connolly wrote.

Connolly also broke with the majority on a separate argument, saying that Lancaster County District Judge Stephanie Stacy was wrong to keep Ballew from presenting evidence that witnesses in the case had given inconsistent statements.

“A witness’ prior inconsistent statements are admissible as impeachment evidence,” Connolly wrote. “I would reverse the judgments of conviction and remand the cause for a new trial.”

Stacy was named to the Nebraska Supreme Court on Friday by Gov. Pete Ricketts.

The Nebraska Attorney General’s Office did not immediately respond Friday to a request for comment.

Several calls to the office of Ballew’s attorney, Jessica Milburn, rang unanswered Friday.

County Judge Named To Neb. Supreme Court

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lancaster County judge with more than two decades of legal experience will become the second woman in state history to serve on the Nebraska Supreme Court, Gov. Pete Ricketts announced Friday.

Judge Stephanie F. Stacy of Lincoln is his first appointee for an open seat on the state’s highest court. She replaces Justice Kenneth C. Stephan, who retired July 1.

Stacy has been part of the Lancaster County District Court since 2011. Before that, she was a partner at a Lincoln law firm and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nebraska College of Law.

“Her expertise and judicial temperament will continue to be an asset to the people of Nebraska and now also to our state’s Supreme Court,” Ricketts said in a statement.

Stacy earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated with distinction from the university’s law college in 1991.

Stacy has presided over a variety of criminal, civil and domestic cases, appeals and constitutional challenges. Since February, she has served as one of two judges who oversee Lancaster County’s adult drug court. Stacy was appointed from the first judicial district, consisting of Lancaster and Seward counties.

Last year, she struck down a state law that allowed former Gov. Dave Heineman to approve a route for the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The state appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court, which narrowly upheld the law but left an opening for opposing landowners to file a new claim.

With Stacy’s appointment, the court now has three registered Republicans, three registered Democrats and one registered nonpartisan. Stacy is a registered Republican, while Stephan is a registered Democrat who was appointed by former Gov. Ben Nelson.

The first woman on the high court was Justice Lindsey Miller-Lerman, who was appointed by Nelson in 1998 and is still serving.

Upcoming Opportunities!

The following special promotions/sections are coming in the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan:

- **Labor Day Salute**, deadlines August 31, publishes September 4
- **Bridal Directory**, deadlines, August 31, publishes September 3
- **YHS Homecoming**, deadlines September 8, publishes September 15
- **Citywide Rummages**, deadlines September 4, publishes September 9 and 12
- **Heritage Edition**, deadlines September 16, publishes September 28
- **Home Improvement**, deadlines September 17, publishes September 24
- **Health & Medical Directory**, deadlines September 23, distribution starts October 23



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