

Baby Rescued From Drowning In Creek

RAPID CITY (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in western South Dakota say a Good Samaritan rescued a 1-year-old baby who fell into a creek as the child's mother lay unconscious nearby.

The rescue happened around 8 p.m. Monday at Rapid Creek. The Rapid City Police Department says the person who reported the incident was able to remove the baby from the water and officers later determined the child was doing well.

Police say officers found a 34-year-old Rapid City woman lying on the sidewalk near an empty stroller. As officers attempted to wake up the woman, they noted a strong smell of alcohol. Eventually, officers were able to wake her up and arrested her on a felony child abuse charge.

The woman is in custody at the Pennington County jail. It's unclear whether she has an attorney.

Woman Pleads Guilty To Violating Law

PIERRE (AP) — A Harrold woman who lived for more than a decade with an outstanding arrest warrant has pleaded guilty to a felony for violating election law.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Tuesday that 54-year-old Janice Howe is scheduled to be sentenced in October.

Jackley says Howe was arrested in July on an outstanding warrant, which was issued after she was charged in 2002. A spokeswoman for the Attorney General's Office didn't immediately provide more details of the arrest.

Court documents allege Howe in 1999 forged signatures on petitions for a constitutional amendment and lied about personally witnessing people sign the petitions.

Authorities say organizers paid for each signature gathered.

Howe's guilty plea is for a single felony count of perjury. Howe's attorney didn't answer a phone call seeking comment.

Fire At Coca-Cola Facility Ruled Accident

MITCHELL (AP) — Public safety officials say a fire at the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Mitchell has been ruled accidental and is not suspicious.

Mitchell's Department of Public Safety says the blaze that started about 2 a.m. Tuesday originated near an ice maker. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters had the blaze contained about 5:30 a.m., though crews remained on scene to fight hot spots.

Cy Chesterman is president of Iowa-based Chesterman Company, which owns the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Central South Dakota. Chesterman tells *The Daily Republic* the facility in Mitchell employs about 30 people and is trying to service its customers. Employees worked in temporary offices Tuesday.

The facility's roof partially collapsed and a thunderstorm moved through the area during the day.

The value of the damage wasn't immediately clear.

Suspect In Slaying Held Without Bond

LEAD (AP) — A judge in western South Dakota has ordered that the suspect in a Monday evening slaying be held without bond.

Lawrence County Magistrate Eric Strawn on Tuesday denied bond for 44-year-old James L. Rogers Jr., who is facing a first-degree murder charge. Police in Lead arrested Rogers in connection with the slaying Monday.

Law enforcement authorities are withholding the victim's identity pending positive identification and notification of next of kin. Authorities would not release details of the incident.

Chief Deputy Paul Hansen with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office says an autopsy has been scheduled for Wednesday. He says the case is being investigated by the Lead Police Department, the sheriff's office and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

Dakotafest Opening Day Cancelled

MITCHELL (AP) — Weather conditions Tuesday have forced the organizers of Mitchell's annual farm show Dakotafest to cancel the event's opening day.

Samantha Castro is a marketing manager with the organizer IdeaAg Group. She tells *The Daily Republic* that the threat of severe weather, including the possibility of lightning, led to the cancellation of Tuesday's planned kickoff.

This is the 20th anniversary of Dakotafest. Around 30,000 people attend the three-day show that includes hundreds of exhibitors offering a variety of agricultural equipment and services.

The show will reopen at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Schlaffman Farm. Castro said she expects that the same number of attendants will show up at the event over the two days it will last.

The National Weather Service forecast shows mostly sunny skies Wednesday in Mitchell.

Panel On Sex Abuse Of Children Considers Training Requirement

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A state panel working to combat sexual abuse of children in South Dakota began consideration Tuesday about whether to ask the Legislature to require training in mandatory reporting for people in professions that often deal with young people.

The Jolene's Law task force looked at the on-line program used in Arkansas as a possible model for South Dakota. Several panel members said there could be small amounts of federal funding available within the budgets of several departments of state government.

"It is kind of a big issue," said Casey Murschel of Sioux Falls. A former state legislator, she is part of several advisory groups working with the task

force. She said the committee researching mandatory reporting supports a training requirement.

Murschel said that as a minimum people in school settings should be required to receive training.

Roxanne Hammond, a policy attorney for the state Legislative Research Council, told the task force the Arkansas program offers a TV training video that can be tailored to the profession and an Internet portal.

"This is one of the things that could be an easily achievable goal for this group," Hammond said.

TateWin Means, a task force member from Pine Ridge, suggested that training in mandatory reporting could be more effective if it becomes a condition for professional licensing and certification and if it aligns with tribal law or state law.

The task force didn't take a formal vote on whether to recommend the training requirement but the chairwoman, Sen. Deb Soholt, said the outline is taking shape.

"We're going to move forward in that direction, and more to come at our next meeting," Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, said.

The task force did vote to endorse a proposal for a new Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment that would be located at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

The state Board of Regents last week made the center one of its budget request priorities to the governor for the 2016 legislative session. The regents are seeking \$210,725 in base funding and authority for a new position for a center director.

A handful of task force members unofficially gave the proposal their backing earlier

this summer so the plan could be presented to the regents. The center would be part of USD's School of Health Sciences, whose dean is Michael Lawler.

Jay Perry, a member of the regents central staff, said Lawler supports the plan. Perry said Mike Rush, the regents' new executive director, is aboard after receiving a briefing from Soholt.

"We're all on the same page and want to see this go forward," Perry said.

Soholt said the center would be involved in work throughout South Dakota.

"There have been preliminary conversations already with the executive branch making sure this is positively looked at through the governor's budget as this rolls forward," she said. "I would share the preliminary conversations have been very positive."

Nurse Embeds In Colony Life To Transform Care

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

OLIVET (AP) — A spaghetti dinner with people in prairie dress and a church service in German is all in a day's work for Kerri Lutjens.

The 33-year-old nurse, who doesn't speak German, has spent the past few years gaining the trust of several communities of Hutterites, a deeply religious people with ancestral ties to the Amish who live in insular farming communities in the Plains, Upper Midwest and Canada.

Although she provides a broad range of care to the eight South Dakota Hutterite colonies she serves, Lutjens has paid particular attention to vaccinating children in these communities and preventing outbreaks like one in Ohio last year in which 383 people, most of them unvaccinated Amish, got the measles.

In the first seven colonies that welcomed Lutjens, the combined rate of children with up-to-date vaccinations has gone from about 13 percent since she started administering vaccines in 2013 to well over 90 percent today. Her work hasn't gone unnoticed: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently

lauded Lutjens' vaccination success, noting the cultural sensitivity she has shown along the way.

"They're their future. They're going to keep their colony going," Lutjens said of the children she treats. "So if we can instill those values as little people, we're going to have a much healthier colony in 20 years."

In traditional Hutterite colonies, the women wear ankle-length dresses and black head scarves and the men serve as the providers, working mostly in agriculture or building homes on the colonies. Like the Amish, the Hutterites aren't averse to vaccinations, but because they live in remote areas and go into town infrequently, getting their children vaccinated hasn't been routine.

"They're not anti anything," Lutjens said. "They just have a different way of going about things."

Hutterite colonies are spread across the Great Plains of the U.S. and southern Canada and the majority of American colonies are centered in Montana and South Dakota. Along with the Mennonites and Amish, the Hutterites are descended from Anabaptists and trace their roots back to the Radical Reforma-

tion of the 16th century.

Unlike the Amish, those in the Hutterian Brethren Church embrace technology, using cellphones, cars and trucks — and modern medicine. Residents of Lutjens' colonies still seek medical treatment at local hospitals and clinics, but she provides much of their initial care.

Lutjens said her personal interactions are the key to earning these communities' trust.

Hoping to establish ties with an eighth colony, she attended a communal dinner this spring to explain what she could offer to residents. She then joined them for their nightly church service in German, which is the primary language in many colonies and which many Hutterites learn before learning English.

"That's what makes it work," she said. "It's a very personal relationship. Each person has a name, and you try to figure that out, and you try to figure out the connections between the colonies."

With the help of a physician's assistant, Lutjens sets up shop in a different one of the eight colonies she treats nearly every day.

School

From Page 1

Morrill provided the following defense statement:

"I have worked to provide and support the best education possible for students, (and I) have held community meetings to discuss the best way to provide quality education now and in the future. I support the community's right to vote on any long-term plan, (and I) have worked to maintain ethics and integrity within the board and have kept students as our priority." After each side submitted a

statement, Fischer drafted the petition. As principal circulator, Fuchtmann had 30 days to collect the required 165 valid signatures.

Fuchtmann collected 180 valid signatures, and the recall election was scheduled, Fischer said.

"For early voting, we got around 57 ballots, which was not as many as I had anticipated," Fischer said.

The canvass board meets at 8:30 a.m. today (Wednesday) at the Knox County Courthouse in Center, Nebraska. The canvass board includes Fischer and her deputy, Rhonda Surface, along with two Knox County registered voters who do not reside in

the Creighton school district.

Fischer also used individuals from outside the Creighton school district in creating the three-person counting board and the four persons working the polls. She received some calls asking about the people working the election.

"They are people from another area of the county, so they are completely unassociated with the (Creighton) school," Fischer said.

She declined to release the names of the workers to the *Press & Dakotan* until after the election.

Fischer used the same process of non-resident poll workers for two Verdigre, Nebraska, recall elections — one

for the school and one for the fire district.

Using the outside poll workers, and not releasing their names beforehand, has worked well in past elections, Fischer said.

"It helps the poll workers so they don't have any undue stress from the parties involved in the recall," she said. "It's been well received."

Morrill is the only current Creighton school board member who has faced a recall election so far, Fischer said.

Tuesday's elections results will become official after today's canvass, she said.

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