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Pierre Teen Charged With Murder In Shooting

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Authorities say two 16-year-old boys argued over a past paintball incident before one fatally shot his friend in the chest with a semi-automatic shotgun.

Dalton Williams of Pierre was found lying in the entryway of the accused shooter's house about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday

with a gunshot wound to the chest. Paramedics rushed the Riggs High School sophomore to a nearby hospital but Williams died from the injuries.

The boy accused of shooting Williams is a high school classmate. Police Chief Bob Grandpre says he was arrested on a first-degree murder charge and is being

held in the Hughes County Shelter Facility.

Hughes County State's Attorney Kelly Marnette says the boy is being charged as an adult.

The boy's attorney did not immediately return a telephone message seeking comment.

SCOPING OUT THE TOYS



Amanda Johnson (left), executive director of Keep Yankton Beautiful, and Mary Robb, public services assistant for the City of Yankton, distributed gently-used toys to families in need Wednesday at the Yankton County Contact Center. A toy collection for the giveaway is held each year in advance of Christmas.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

More Work Needed On City Sign Ordinance

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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An effort to update the City of Yankton's sign ordinance after more than 30 years has become a more complicated project than officials expected.

According to Community Development Director Dave Mingo, who is overseeing the drafting process with the assistance of the city Planning Commission, legal developments in the field have necessitated more of an overhaul than was first anticipated.

"There are a number of court cases dealing with signs that have changed how

ordinances look, in general," Mingo stated. "The net impact of what you see driving down the street, as far as regulating permanent signs, won't really change that much based on our discussions. It's just a matter of the language that's adopted to govern them that will change quite a bit."

Revision of the sign ordinance began in the spring with the Planning Commission reviewing the document and input being gathered from the public.

The sign ordinance was first implemented in 1958 and underwent revisions in 1976 and 1979.

The changes recommended to the ordinance earlier this year had three main

objectives:

- Streamline the permitting process through a series of regulated exemptions, making the process more user-friendly;
- Reduce some of the less desirable types of signage and thus help with the overall image of the community; and
- Modernize the language, including the addition of language that reflects current technology.

Banners are one example of where changes are being proposed. Under the new rules, banners couldn't be tied to fence posts driven into the grass of front

SIGNS | PAGE 11

Lawmakers Undecided About Gun Legislation

Bill Would Allow School Staff To Have Firearms In School Buildings

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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District-18 lawmakers are reacting to proposed legislation that would allow teachers, staff and custodians to have firearms in the school buildings.

The bill, proposed by Rep. Betty Olson of Prairie City in the wake of the Connecticut school shooting, would not mandate school officials to carry weapons, but would authorize them to bring them into the building.

Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D. Yankton) said more guns will not stop the violence.

"If you play that out, I just don't think it's really the solution," he said. "If you arm a teacher, are you going to arm postal clerks? Are you going to arm ticket takers at the movies? Preachers at church? Bartenders? Where does it stop?"

Although Bernie Hunhoff said the bill would not solve current problems, he said there might be certain circumstances where it would make sense to allow school officials to have access to firearms.

"If the school officials deemed it was a good idea for their school, I trust they would make a good decision," he said. "I wouldn't want them to be compelled to do it, and I don't think this bill will do that, but there are some rural school districts where the nearest policeman might be an hour away. That would make more sense than in an urban area."

Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R. Yankton) said she has not decided whether she supports the bill or not, but said there are many factors that need to be considered before there can be any solution.

"This was a horrendous episode



Hunhoff



Hunhoff

for everyone, and we're looking for immediate fixes," she said. "This new legislation, I don't know if it's the answer, but we're going to have to solve this problem and we've got to look at the comprehensive aspects. There are a lot of issues — such as access, stability and even bullying — that all need to be addressed to fix a bigger problem like this."

If the bill is brought forth in Pierre, Bernie Hunhoff said he might be involved in it, but the issue is much bigger than gun control.

"We need to figure out why we have so many young males who think the solution to their anxiety and conflicts are to pull the trigger," he said. "It's a complicated problem that I believe has to deal with Hollywood movies and violent video games."

"It has to do with mental health services and it has to do with money and gun manufacturers, and it has something to do with the availability of guns."

Jean Hunhoff said mental health legislation is just as important as any other legislation right now, and may require looking at existing policies to find the answers to the current problems.

"People who are experiencing atypical problems, we need to figure out how to reach out to them," she said.

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SPORTS

USD Drops Moorhead State
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dec. 20
5 shopping days to Christmas

Hornstra To Retire After 34 Years With YSD

BY DEREK BARTOS
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When pregnant and parenting teens have needed help with learning how to raise their children, Mary Ellen Hornstra has been there, teaching parenting classes at night.

When microwaves first hit the market and few people knew how to use them, she was there, teaching adults how to use the new technology.

She has also been there at Yankton High School, every day, teaching students life skills.

As Hornstra prepares to retire in January after 34 years with the Yankton School District — 30 of which were spent teaching family and consumer science — she

looks back fondly on her days as an educator, knowing that she taught her students lessons that would last a lifetime.

"I was teaching skills for everyday life," Hornstra said. "Everything from nutrition and food preparation, parenting, financial responsibility and consumerism are all taught in what we called home economics when I started teaching."

She said she still gets letters and emails from former students about the impact she has had on their lives.

"They tell me I've touched their lives in some way or that they use what I taught every day," she said. "That gives me a warm feeling in my heart."

A Yankton High School graduate, Hornstra left the city after school and taught in



Mary Ellen Hornstra is retiring next month from the Yankton School District after 34 years. She spent 30 of those years teaching "skills for everyday life," she said. "Nutrition, foods, parenting — those things were really important to me, as they are to every person, so to be able to teach life skills was amazing to me."

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

five other communities in states around the country, including Minnesota, Texas and Washington. When it was time for her and her husband Eu-

gene to raise their family, she knew the best place to do so was her hometown.

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Garretson Man Dies From Injuries Received In Accident

From P&D Staff Reports

VERMILION — A Garretson man died of injuries received in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 29 just north of the Vermillion exit on Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Justin Charles Wehde, 27, was a passenger in a 2010 Ford E35 armored van being driven northbound by Andrea Martin Jacobson, 33, of Sioux Falls. The van went out of control on the icy roadway, entered the median and rolled across the southbound lanes into the west ditch.

Jacobson was wearing a seatbelt. She suffered serious but non-life threatening injuries.

Wehde was taken to a Sioux City, Iowa, hospital, where he died later from injuries received in the crash.

It was the third traffic death in Union County Tuesday. All three were due to icy conditions.

Matthew Charles Thompson, 26, of Sioux Falls, was riding in the vault of the van. He was thrown from the vehicle as it rolled and received serious but non-life threatening injuries. Thompson and Jacobson were taken to a Vermillion hospital.

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