

SD Bill: Military Training Counts For Licenses

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature has given final approval to a bill allowing military training and experience to count toward getting state licenses or certifications in civilian occupations. The Senate voted unanimously Monday to pass the measure, which was approved earlier by the House. The bill will become law if signed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Senate Democratic Leader Jason Frerichs of Wilmot says 36 state regulatory agencies require that people get a license or certificate before entering a profession or occupation. The bill would allow state agencies to pass rules permitting people seeking licensing or certification to get credit for the training and experience they received in the military. Military veterans would still have to pass any examination required for entry into a profession or occupation.

Neb. Woman Dies 4 Days After Car Accident

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln Police say that a 76-year-old woman died four days after a pickup truck slammed into her car. Lincoln Police Officer Katie Flood said Monday that Maurine Mumma of Lincoln died Sunday morning. She was involved in an accident in south Lincoln last Wednesday. Mumma tried to make a left turn across Nebraska Highway 2 at 40th Street on Wednesday afternoon. The westbound truck driven by 41-year-old Cleon Finnell, of Raymond, tried to stop but couldn't. No citations were issued. Mumma suffered a catastrophic brain injury in the wreck. Mumma's 16-year-old granddaughter, Amber Nieman, was also hurt in the crash. Nieman remained hospitalized Monday, but she was recovering. Finnell was treated and released from the hospital last week.

4 Family Members Killed In Wreck Mourned

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Neighbors say they're heartbroken over the fiery weekend wreck that killed a Sioux Falls couple and two of their children. James and Julie Vollmer and two of their children, Alyssa, 16, and Caleb, 13, died Saturday in a one-vehicle crash west of the city on Interstate 90. Authorities say James Vollmer was driving a 2005 Ford Explorer that entered the median, crossed over a dry creek bed and struck an embankment. The family leaves behind a daughter, who was away at college. Neighbor Tammy Klein says the Vollmers were the first people she met when she moved. She was hauling her belongings off the moving truck when the Vollmers swept her away to a Fourth of July party. "Nicest neighbors I've ever met," Klein told the *Argus Leader*. Klein described the neighborhood as a "tight-knit community." She said the Vollmer's surviving daughter baby-sat for her before going off to college. "It breaks my heart to know that she's alone," Klein said. Alyssa and Caleb Vollmer were students at Sioux Falls Christian Schools, where students, faculty and parents gathered Sunday afternoon to mourn "lost classmates and lost friends," Superintendent Jay Woudstra said. Woudstra tells KELO-TV the parents were "salt of the earth." Alyssa Vollmer was a basketball player at Sioux Falls Christian Schools, and officials have rescheduled the Region 3A Championship game from Thursday to Saturday because of a scheduled prayer service Thursday and funeral set for Friday, KJAM reported. Authorities said the victims were wearing seat belts and alcohol wasn't a factor. The wreck's cause is under investigation.

Sturgis May Add 2nd Liquor Store For Rally

STURGIS (AP) — Participants at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally should find shorter lines to buy booze. That's because the lone liquor store is looking to add a satellite location during the popular event. The Sturgis City Council has proposed an ordinance to allow the second location for the city-owned store, which is the only place in town that is allowed to sell packaged liquor. Tom Ferguson, manager of Sturgis Liquor, tells the *Rapid City Journal* he has seen some rally week customers come through the front door and turn around and leave when they see the crowds. Says Ferguson, "At times during the rally, we feel like sardines in a can here."

Onida Man Killed When Tree Falls On Him

ONIDA (AP) — An Onida man was killed when he was struck by a tree that was being cut down. Sully County Sheriff Bill Stahl tells KCCR and KGFX that 78-year-old Wayne Rawstern was killed Monday morning when the cottonwood tree fell on top of him. Rawstern was helping a neighbor and two other people cut down the large tree in a vacant lot when the accident happened. Rawstern was pronounced dead at the scene. No one else was hurt.


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South Dakota

Senate Panel OKs Athletic Board

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — Despite Gov. Dennis Daugaard's opposition mixed martial arts events, a South Dakota House committee on Monday endorsed a bill that would create a state athletic commission to regulate boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts. Daugaard has said he opposes the bill because it would legitimize mixed martial arts fights, which he says are so violent they don't deserve to be called sport. But the Commerce and Energy Committee unanimously voted to send the bill to the full House. The Legislature passed a similar law in 2009, but that expired last year because former Gov. Mike Rounds and Daugaard never appointed any commissioners. Daugaard has said the previous measure was flawed because appointed commissioners could have been personally liable if the commission was sued. However, the governor's legal counsel, Jim Seward, told the committee that Daugaard has pledged to appoint the commission if the Legislature passes this year's bill over his objections, as long as the bill includes a change made Mon-



J. Hunhoff

day at the governor's suggestion. That change would require the governor to appoint the commission's five members. A version passed earlier by the Senate would have allowed legislative leaders to appoint four of five. Daugaard a month ago blasted the bill, saying it's "absurd and ridiculous" to call mixed martial arts a sport. "The way one wins in those contests is by beating up your opponent, bloodying them, kicking, scratching, punching," the Republican governor said in January. "I don't support in any fashion anything the state would do to legitimize this kind of behavior. I think it's a sad commentary on what our culture allows in some areas." But supporters of the bill said Monday that a commission is needed to oversee boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts because unregulated professional matches now are often conducted without proper rules, referees, testing, medical personnel and other measures to protect the fighters.

"It's a very safe sport. It just needs to be regulated," said David Martin, a Sioux Falls lawyer who represents two dozen mixed martial arts fighters. Supporters also said creating a commission would allow nationally recognized boxing and mixed martial arts matches to be held in South Dakota. Paul Hunhoff of Yankton, who recently started fighting in mixed martial arts events in nearby states, urged lawmakers to pass the bill, saying regulations would allow more South Dakotans to take part in the sport. He said regulations would ensure fighters are tested, examined by doctors, covered by insurance and paid as promised. "When proper precautions are taken, it's no more dangerous than any other sport," said Hunhoff, the son of state Sen. Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton. The senator, a nurse, said South Dakota needs to regulate mixed martial arts to encourage safe fights. "Let's give them, our youth, an opportunity to participate in their sport and achieve their dream," Sen. Hunhoff said.

Bill Would Let Neb. Lawmakers Approve Gambling

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska lawmaker floated a measure Monday that would give the Legislature the power to approve and regulate casino gambling with voters' consent. Sen. Paul Schumacher of Columbus said Nebraska loses an estimated \$300 million to \$400 million in tax revenue that goes to border states that allow gambling, including three near the state border in Iowa. "Whatever problems that are associated with gambling are here, but none of the revenue to treat

the problems," Schumacher told the Legislature's General Affairs Committee. "That is uncontroverted. What is also uncontroverted is we can't do anything about it." The constitutional amendment proposal would place the question before voters in the November 2014 general election. By itself, the proposal wouldn't authorize gambling. Instead, it would give future Legislatures the power to authorize and regulate games of chance. Lawmakers could use the revenue as they see fit, but unused

money would be divided three ways. Fifty percent of the revenue would go toward K-12 education, 49 percent into health care programs and 1 percent to a compulsive gambling treatment fund. The proposal drew immediate opposition from anti-gambling groups, who say the promise of education and health care funding is a ploy to win favor with voters. "We believe it removes the power from the people, and it is in an attempt to override what Nebraskans have spoken loudly on," said Pat Loontjter, director of Gam-

bling with the Good Life. Some lawmakers questioned the group's assertions. "In your view, we as state senators should respect the will of the people, provided that the will of the people agrees with you," said Sen. John Murante, of Gretna. "If people go to the polls and say yes on this, then their vote was bought. But if they vote and agree with you, then they're the fountain of wisdom and we should respect what they have to say. I don't think you can have it both ways."

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