

S.D. Redistricting Committee Meets

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A panel of state lawmakers that will draw new boundaries for South Dakota's legislative districts is meeting in Pierre on Thursday.

The 15-member Legislative Redistricting Committee eventually will recommend a plan to a special session of the Legislature in late October.

South Dakota's 35 legislative districts are redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts reported by the U.S. Census.

The committee on Thursday will hear reports from the Sioux Falls and Rapid City subcommittees and schedule meeting dates for the Native American Redistricting Subcommittee.

Storm Soaks Sioux Falls, Cars Float

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls is drying out from a storm that dumped nearly 6 inches of rain on the city.

The *Argus-Leader* reports that the record rain came in just over two hours on Wednesday morning.

Police say they received reports of downed trees, flooded intersections and popped man-hole covers throughout the morning.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says cars were floating on some flooded streets.

The heavy rain also forced the city to release raw sewage into the Big Sioux River on Wednesday to prevent sewer backups and damage to the existing infrastructure.

Lightning also was a staple during the storm in the Sioux Falls area and was blamed for a house fire.

Omaha Man Thwarts Theft, Blocks Getaway

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A north Omaha businessman has thwarted the theft of a truckload of iron and steel by blocking the getaway route with a log and knocking out the suspect.

John Hammond says he spotted the would-be burglar loading the metal into a truck at his excavating business about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. He says he told the man to stop but was refused, so he used his tractor to move the large log into the truck's path.

Then, Hammond says, he hit the man, knocking him down.

Police identified the suspect to KETV-TV as 39-year-old Bobby Cahill. He was being held Thursday in the Douglas County jail on charges of theft and trespassing.

A message left Thursday for an attorney listed for Cahill wasn't immediately returned.

Decision On Hyperion Expected In Sept.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A state environmental board considering a Texas company's request to extend the construction start deadline for a \$10 billion oil refinery planned for southeastern South Dakota will make its decision in September.

The Board of Minerals and Environment finished hearing testimony from supporters and opponents on Thursday.

The board says it will listen to closing arguments and issue a decision on Sept. 15.

Hyperion's refinery north of Elk Point would process 400,000 barrels of Canadian tar sands crude oil each day into low-sulfur gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and liquid petroleum gas. It would be the first new U.S. oil refinery built since 1976.

The company wants 18 months to start construction from the date a final permit is issued.

S.D. Soldier Killed Laid To Rest

RAPID CITY (AP) — Army Staff Sergeant Lex Lewis of Rapid City was buried at Black Hills National Cemetery.

The 40-year-old Lewis was killed July 15th when insurgents shot at his unit in Farah Province.

The recipient of a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Combat Action Badge, Lewis was a cavalry scout with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

KOTA-TV reports that a group of onlookers and Rapid City firefighters overlooked the funeral procession. Lewis' body was carried from Calvary Lutheran Church to its final resting place at Black Hills National Cemetery on Thursday.

Lewis was in his first month of his third war deployment to the Middle East. His previous two deployments were to Iraq,

Holder: End Domestic Violence Against Native Women

RAPID CITY (AP) — Standing before nine tribal flags in Rapid City, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder urged Congress to pass legislation designed to combat domestic violence against Native American women.

The nation's chief law enforcement officer on Wednesday vowed his personal commitment, as the father of two girls, to end the "shocking and unacceptable" scourge of domestic violence, according to a story published by *The Rapid City Journal* on Thursday.

"Too much is at stake. Too many lives are at risk," Holder said at the conclusion of a daylong session on public safety in

tribal communities. "To me, no challenge is more important than protecting women and girls in Indian tribal communities."

Portrayed by Holder as a "robust government to government" dialogue, the listening sessions with tribal leaders from South Dakota were attended by more than 30 U.S. Attorneys and their staffs as part of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and its Native American Issues Subcommittee, which is chaired by Brendan V. Johnson, the U.S. Attorney for the South Dakota District.

Holder's Department of Justice wants to close legal gaps in the prosecution of do-

mestic violence offenders on reservations.

Those cases often overwhelm law enforcement agencies on the nine reservations in South Dakota and the proposed legislation would, among other things, allow tribal courts to prosecute non-Native perpetrators who are charged with abusing their Native wives or girlfriends on a reservation.

Nationwide, more than 50 percent of married Native women have non-Native husbands, Holder said. The Justice Department reports that one-third of all Native women will be raped in their lifetimes, that three out of five have been assaulted by a

spouse or boyfriend and that they become murder victims at a rate 10 times the national average.

The proposed law, in addition to giving tribal police more authority to stop domestic violence when and where it occurs, would also strengthen criminal sentences for certain acts of domestic assault.

Holder met privately with tribal leaders before his public remarks, and he responded to complaints about inadequate funding of the Tribal Law and Order Act, passed one year ago, by acknowledging that "significant challenges and serious obstacles remain."

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