# the midwest

### **Lincoln Co. Group Eyes Wind Project**

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A group of landowners in Lincoln County says it's planning to build a wind farm to power 300,000 homes.

But the  $\ensuremath{\textit{Argus Leader}}$  reports that the Dakota Power Community Wind project faces numerous challenges.

It's dependent on the Rock Island Clean Line electrical transmission line, which has a tentative completion date of 2018. And construction cannot begin until environmental, compliance and wind speed studies are completed. Other challenges include securing land rights and financing.

The group has been working with Aberdeen-based wind farm developer Dakota Plains Energy to lay the groundwork for the potential project.

Beresford Mayor and Dakota Board Vice Chairman Jim Fedderson says he can't underestimate the importance of investing in the community's future.

### 7-Year-Old Drowns At Lake Preston Pool

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A 7-year-old Sioux Falls boy died after drowning at a community pool in Lake Preston.

The Argus Leader reports that Isaaya Ayafa was at the pool with his 9-year-old brother on Friday when he was found "breathing but unresponsive." He was initially taken to a hospital in De Smet before being flown by helicopter to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, where he died on

A lifeguard at the pool says children under 8 are required to be under the supervision of someone 13 or older, but that kids sometimes slip by.

Kingsbury County Sheriff Kevin Scotting says the incident remains under investigation.

### **Woman Pleads Not Guilty In Nude Case**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A woman accused of posing naked on a Lincoln Catholic high school campus has pleaded not guilty to indecent exposure and trespassing

Omaha television station KETV reports 19-year-old Valerie Dodds entered the plea Wednesday in a Lancaster County courtroom.

Dodds is accused of making various poses on the football field at Lincoln Piux X in May then posting the photos on her adult website.

Dodds said on her site that the photo shoot was revenge against students and teachers who gave Dodds grief when she shared her plans for a career in porn.

She is scheduled to appear in court in August.

**South Dakota** 

## **Man Challenges Life Sentence**

**BY CHET BROKAW Associated Press** 

FORT PIERRE — A South Dakota man is asking to be resentenced for a slaying committed when he was 14 years old, prompted by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling

that banned mandatory life sentences without parole for juveniles

Paul Dean Jensen Jr., of Pierre, was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole after he was convicted of murder, kidnapping, robbery and other offenses for the 1996 killing of cab driver Michael Hare near Fort Pierre. Jensen, now 31, argues that his sentence is illegal under last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The Supreme Court said life sentences without parole for juveniles cannot be automatic, but it left open the possibility that judges could still sentence juveniles to life without parole after considering the circumstances of each case.

Acting as his own lawyer, Jensen filed a 28-page, mostly handwritten motion asking that his sentence be declared illegal so he can be resentenced. He also asked that a lawyer be appointed to represent him in

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said he believes that under state law the U.S. Supreme Court ruling does not apply retroactively to Jensen's case and two other cases in which juvenile offenders were sentenced to life without parole. Even if the decision does apply retroactively, Jensen's prison term is unlikely to be affected because he also is serving a life sentence for kidnapping that was set at the trial judge's discretion, he

At Jackley's urging, the Legislature this year changed the law that had required life sentences without parole for juveniles convicted of murder. In the future, judges will have discretion to impose sentences of up to life after considering the facts of each case, Jackley said.

Stanley County State's Attorney Tom P. Maher declined to comment until he files

a written response to Jensen's request. Maher, who was not the county prosecutor when Jensen was convicted and sentenced, said he is going through three boxes of records from the 1996 case.

Prosecutors said Jensen and Shawn Cameron Springer, who was 16 at the time, had Hare drive them out of town and they robbed him of \$36.48 before shooting him to death. Prosecutors said Jensen pulled the trigger. Springer was sentenced to 261 years in prison after pleading guilty to kidnapping, and a judge last month refused to reduce his sentence

In the motion filed in circuit court, Jensen said that the U.S. Supreme Court and various studies have found that 14year-olds are immature, impulsive and susceptible to pressure from others. He said 14-year-olds also are more likely than older criminals to be rehabilitated, but his mandatory life sentence would require him to die in prison.

### **Emergency Grazing, Haying In Neb. OK'd**

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The U.S. Farm Service Agency will allow emergency grazing and haying on about 900,000 acres of land in Nebraska because of the ongoing lack of forage for livestock, the agency's state director said Wednesday.

Dan Steinkruger said conditions appeared to improve at the beginning of the year, but many parts of central, western and southwest Nebraska are still much drier than normal.

Steinkruger said 54 of Nebraska's 93 counties are now approved for emergency haying and grazing on land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. About 900,000 acres in Nebraska are enrolled in the federal program, which pays farmers not to plant in soil that could easily erode or is an ideal habitat for grassland, wetlands and

The drought appeared to ease with cooler temperatures and precipitation early this year, but the state has hit another dry streak in recent

weeks that could stretch through the rest of the summer, Steinkruger said. Steinkruger said the agency issued a similar order last year, and Nebraska farmers and ranchers harvested more than 300,000 acres for forage.

We're better off this year, at least at this point, but we recognize too that July and August are typically hot and dry," he said.

Recent rain has helped

ease the drought in Nebraska, but most of the state remains dry. About 7 percent of the state, in southeast Nebraska,

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is no longer experiencing drought, according to a U.S. Drought Monitor report released last week.

More than 38 percent of Nebraska was still classified as having "extreme" or "exceptional" drought conditions, the most severe classifications on a five-point scale. The conditions were the worst in Hooker, McPherson, and western Thomas and Logan counties, in west-central Nebraska, as well as Red Willow and Furnas counties on the southern border.

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