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Youth Wage On Hold

Petition Signatures Are Confirmed; Matter Referred To 2016 Ballot

By The Associated Press

PIERRE — Activists who oppose a law that drops the youth minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour and legislation they say will make it harder for candidates to run for office have gathered enough signatures to put the measures before South Dakota voters in 2016.

The secretary of state's office finished review-

ing the signatures Tuesday. The two laws were approved by the Republican-dominated Legislature during the 2015 session. Because opponents were successful in gathering enough support to put the measures on the ballot, neither will go into effect as intended on July 1.

That means businesses must keep paying minor employees at the state's \$8.50 hourly minimum wage and candidates running in 2016 won't

have to navigate the new election law changes.

"I'm pleased," said Cory Heidelberger, who helped lead the push. "We've saved democracy, and we've saved the kids a buck. It's been a good week."

The laws' opponents, which included individual organizers, the state Democratic Party,

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Officials Probe Boating Incident

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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CEDAR COUNTY, Neb. — Authorities are continuing their investigation into Monday's fatal two-boat accident in the tailwaters below Gavins Point Dam.

The accident, which occurred in Cedar County, Nebraska, claimed the life of a 68-year-old Creighton, Nebraska, woman, according to the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC).

Authorities have not officially released the woman's name. NGPC spokesman Jerry Kane did not have further information as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Kane was unsure when NGPC officials would be releasing more details on the investigation and the woman's death.

Cedar County Attorney George Hirschbach ordered an autopsy on the victim. Both boats have been impounded.

Hirschbach declined to comment Tuesday afternoon on the boating accident.

"This matter is still under intensive investigation by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and, absent reports, a response at this time would be premature," he said in a statement to the *Press & Dakotan*.

The two boats collided at approximately 9:55 a.m., according to a NGPC news release. The victim was a passenger in one of the boats. She was transported to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton where she was pronounced dead.

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A New Invader



PHOTO: SAM STUKEL/GFP

Pictured here is an aquatic invasive species known as the rusty crayfish; which was discovered in June 2015 in the southeast part of South Dakota by a conservation officer who encountered an angler illegally trapping crayfish for bait from the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam. Among that illegal bait was what the conservation officer suspected to be rusty crayfish. Additional GFP samples were obtained from the area and experts confirmed the invasive species.

Rusty Crayfish Latest Invasive Species Found

BY REILLY BIEL
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The rusty crayfish used to reside only in the eastern part of the country. With human help, however, it has now found its way to South Dakota.

Last week, a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) conservation officer found an angler using illegally trapped rusty crayfish for bait on Gavins Point Dam.

Most of the rusty crayfish found had perished due to warm water conditions. The remaining crayfish were sent to South Dakota State University for confirmation of their species. Then body

We can go a long way in preventing AIS in South Dakota and Nebraska waters."

MIKE SMITH

parts, including their vertebrae, were taken as samples and preserved for educational purposes. The rest of the crayfish was later destroyed.

According to Eileen Williamson, the public affairs specialist of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), aquatic invasive species (AIS) have become a common occurrence in the area. "We take a discovery like this seriously

because Lake Yankton was essentially taken over in less than four years through invasive species," she said. "This necessitated a renovation of the lake to reestablish the natural habitat and ecosystem."

The USACE is now focused on finding ways to preserve the Missouri River as is.

"The Lake Yankton situation was unique in that it was a small body of water where something could be done," said Mike Smith, GFP AIS program coordinator. "In terms of preserving the Missouri River as a whole, the dam area has a lot of natural habitat, so there's nothing that can be

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Vermillion Voters Head To Polls

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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VERMILLION — The Special Vermillion City Election was held Tuesday to decide two issues sent to the voters.

The first issue on the ballot was an initiated measure to determine if the voters of Vermillion wish to keep a 5 percent mark-up fee on the wholesale cost of malt beverages planned to help pay for a portion of city bond debt for the Prentis Park Improvements Project.

With a vote of 445-761, the malt beverage tax ordinance was upheld. (A yes vote repealed the malt beverage ordinance; a no vote was to keep the malt beverage ordinance.)

The following is how the wards voting broke down.

Northeast Ward: 37-Yes, 71-No
Central Ward: 57-Yes, 145-No
Northwest Ward: 165-Yes, 137-No
Southeast Ward: 186-Yes, 408-No
Total Votes: 1206

The second issue on the ballot was a referred measure to decide if the voters wish to keep a new city ordinance establishing day-

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The Value Of Cooperation

State Ag Secretary Celebrates Rural Bonds As Ag Gala

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA
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South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch expressed the need to keep agriculture production a communal effort at the Yankton Chamber of Commerce 10th annual Ag Gala on Tuesday evening.

Lentsch began his speech by asking individuals in production agriculture as well as those supporting in agribusinesses to stand to be recognized at the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Center event.

"You can put a lot of things on a value sheet," he said. "You can value your equipment and you can value your land ... But you can't put a price tag on the community. We're in this journey together, as a community."

He said that agriculture production changes drastically over each decade, making it necessary to rely on others in the agricultural community to help

adapt to the advancing farm practices, market and technology.

"I think growing up, it was pretty rare to ask a neighbor for help, but we can't afford not to do that," he said. "Creation and innovation are what bonds us together so we have a future together."

Lentsch also encouraged producers to enhance their communications with their consumers.

South Dakota's agriculture is a 25.6 billion industry that produces for export more than 800 million bushels of corn and 200 million bushels of soybeans a year to developing countries such as China and India, according to Lentsch.

He mentioned South Dakota celebrating its 125th year as a state last year, and asked individuals what they will do to keep up with the

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