

### Marketing Campaign Draws Job-Seekers

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A workforce development campaign in South Dakota that sells the state as being better than the planet Mars is generating traffic to the state's workforce website.

The focus is a video about Mars. The final graphic reads: "South Dakota. Plenty of jobs. Plenty of air." Officials say it's a light-hearted approach to getting young people interested in moving to South Dakota, using the trending topic of colonizing Mars.

It's been lampooned by late night talk show host Jimmy Fallon. But the *Argus Leader* reports that since May 1, the state's workforce website has been visited more than 15,000 times.

Many visitors are from North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Governor's Office of Economic Development Marketing Director Mary Lehecka Nelson says officials are pleased with the results.

### Rape Charges Against Man Dropped

ABERDEEN (AP) — Prosecutors are dropping charges against a Columbia-area man accusing of raping a girl over a period of eight years.

The *American News* reports that a statement from the Brown County State's Attorney's Office says the charges are being dismissed in the interest of the victim and that the decision was made in consultation with the victim's family.

Authorities alleged that 55-year-old Thomas Kline abused the girl in her home, in his home and in a church, beginning when she was 8 or 9. He earlier pleaded not guilty to 16 felony counts and had been scheduled for trial next month.

Prosecutors still have the option of re-filing charges against Kline in the future.

## Court Gives Woman New Shot At Discrimination Lawsuit

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A former eye clinic worker should get a shot at convincing a jury that the clinic discriminated against her based on a perceived disability, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

Cindy Marshall's lawsuit says EyeCare Specialties of Lincoln fired her in 2012 because it saw her as disabled after learning she had entered into substance abuse treatment prior to her employment. Marshall also said clinic officials discriminated against her because of medical conditions that make her hands tremble and cause marks that look like bruises on her skin.

Marshall was required to cover the marks on her arms while at work, even

though they were not open sores, and to lay out her medications where other employees could observe them, her lawsuit said.

The clinic countered that Marshall was fired for poor job performance. A Lancaster County judge last year sided with the clinic and dismissed Marshall's lawsuit, saying she failed to prove she was discriminated against and even if that had been the case, the clinic had established legitimate, nondiscriminatory reasons for firing her.

But on Thursday, the high court said Marshall presented a written reprimand showing the clinic had punished her for failing to bandage "sores" on her arms and that a jury should be allowed to decide whether the clinic discriminated against her.

"Such evidence can be construed as

direct evidence that EyeCare Specialties perceived Marshall to have a disability," Justice William Cassel wrote for the high court. "At this stage, the only question is whether this evidence was sufficient to create a genuine issue of material fact as to whether EyeCare Specialties terminated her employment for that reason. We conclude that it was."

An attorney for the clinic, Shawn Renner of Lincoln, declined to comment on the opinion.

Marshall's lawyer, Joy Schiffermiller of Lincoln, said her client is looking forward to having a jury decide the case.

"I think it's hard for people to lose their jobs when they feel they've been treated unfairly," Schiffermiller said. "It's humiliating and painful, and juries can best decide what's fair."

### Hall County Loses Bid To Raise Fee For Housing State Inmates

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — State officials have rejected Hall County's effort to raise its daily fee for housing state prisoners, but another county offer is headed their way.

In his proposal last month, county corrections director Fred Ruiz sought \$93 a day, an increase of \$5 from the current \$88 a day, and sought a guarantee of 90 state inmates a day.

"The state flat rejected it completely," he told the Hall County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

The Grand Island *Independent* reports that the state countered with an offer of \$88 a day for 82 state inmates.

The county board voted after Ruiz's report to offer the state a rate of \$88 per day for 82 beds and offer to provide space for 14 more inmates for \$75 a day each. Officials

said that if the state accepts the one-year proposal, Hall County would receive an estimated \$2.6 million for 82 inmates a day and an additional \$383,000 for housing 14 more inmates at the lower daily rate.

Hall County began taking in the state inmates in June 2014, helping the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services ease its problems with overcrowded prisons.



## Be Safe – Use Caution With Fireworks

Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July. But fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. To help you celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips:

- 1) Always read and follow label directions.
- 2) Have an adult present.
- 3) Buy from reliable sellers.
- 4) Use outdoors only.
- 5) Always have water handy.
- 6) Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- 7) Light only one firework at a time.
- 8) Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
- 9) Never give fireworks to small children.
- 10) If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- 11) Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can.
- 12) Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- 13) Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- 14) Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- 15) The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- 16) Stay away from illegal explosives.

## Sparklers pose a safety risk, too

Fireworks tend to be most prevalent during the summertime. Elaborate pyrotechnic displays may be part of Independence Day celebrations or other special events. Individuals also may set off fireworks to light up the night skies for private parties.

Although parents will warn children against going too close to fireworks, many do not share the same apprehension about sparklers. Sparklers are thin metal rods that have been dipped in a special, flammable pyrotechnic substance and allowed to dry. When lit, a sparkler will throw off, as the name implies, sparks of twinkling light until the sparkler is extinguished. Sparklers can be dangerous.

A sparkler can reach 3,662 F (2,000 C) when lit. That is 20 times the boiling point of water, a level of heat that is enough to melt steel. In fact, three sparklers burning together can generate the same amount of heat as a blow torch. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says roughly 240 people visit the emergency room every day in the month of July with fireworks-related injuries.

Common sense should prevail whenever anyone is handling sparklers. If children are allowed to hold sparklers, it should only be under close adult supervision. Other safety tips can help ensure events where sparklers are being used remain injury-free.

Sparklers should be stored in cool, dry places until they are used.

Leather gloves can protect hands while sparklers are being lit and held.

Do not light and hold more than one sparkler at a time.

Sparklers can stay hot for a while after they have been extinguished. Put the hot end down into a bucket of water when finished.

Sparklers may not be legal where you live. Know the laws before purchasing sparklers or other fireworks.

Children under the age of five should never be given sparklers to hold, nor should adults hold a lit sparkler while holding a baby. Glow sticks are safer alternatives for young kids.

Hold sparklers at arm's length to avoid burns.

Do not bring sparklers to public events, as sparklers amid large crowds can pose a safety risk.

Do not wave or run with lit sparklers.

Sparklers may seem like safe alternatives to more traditional fireworks. But it's important to exercise caution with sparklers, especially when young children are nearby.



## Be Smart – Don't Drink & Drive

Aside from legal consequences of drinking and driving in the form of a ticket or loss of license, impaired driving can result in property damage, injury or even death.

With this in mind, we would all like to remind you to be smart when drinking. Drink in moderation and monitor the amount of alcohol you have consumed. Designate a sober driver

at the beginning of the night and give that person the keys. If no one is capable of driving, have some money ready for a taxi ride home. If you are drinking at a friend's home, ask for a place to sleep until you are sober. By staying at a friend's house, you will limit their liability in the event of your accident and keep a potentially unsafe driver off the road. When you go for your next drink, just remember that you're not the only one that may pay for the consequences for your decisions.

These community-minded advertisers would like to wish everyone a fun and safe Independence Day!

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