

NE Seeks Applicants For Talent Program

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — State officials are seeking business applicants for a new program that connects students to Nebraska's manufacturing and technology sectors. The Department of Economic Development is accepting applications through Aug. 7 at 5 p.m. Gov. Pete Ricketts proposed the initiative in the budget he submitted to lawmakers in January.

The program authorizes financial assistance of up to \$125,000 each to two eligible businesses per year during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years.

Qualifying businesses are those in the manufacturing sector or those in need of high-skill information technology professionals. At least one business must be in a county with a population of less than 100,000.

Grant recipients will work with schools to engage students in hands-on career exploration and workplace learning opportunities.

Hospital Receives \$6.9M Gift To Expand

HEBRON, Neb. (AP) — Thayer County Health Services in Hebron has received a \$6.9 million gift for its new rehabilitation and wellness center.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports the gift comes from the estate of Hebron native Glenn Korff. According to hospital development and marketing director Rita Luongo, Korff's parents played key roles in getting the hospital built in 1968.

The money will be used to build the new center on the north side of the hospital. The total cost of the hospital's renovation and expansion project is \$14.8 million.

Luongo said the remaining costs will be covered by the Foundation for Thayer County Health Services' capital campaign and through local bank financing.

4th Man Takes Plea Deal In Slaying

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A man has taken a plea deal for reduced charges in the August slaying of a Lincoln man during a botched home invasion robbery.

Online court records say 20-year-old Joshua Carr pleaded no contest and was convicted Thursday of manslaughter, attempted robbery and use of a firearm. He'd originally been charged with first-degree murder.

Carr also pleaded guilty to an unrelated robbery charge. His sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 20. Carr also is known as Joshua Nootenboom-Carr.

He and three other men were charged after the Aug. 30 killing of Maurice Williams.

Records say 23-year-old Derick Lewis, of Alton, Illinois, pleaded guilty Tuesday to robbery conspiracy. In April 23-year-old Jason Holmes and 26-year-old Michael Nevells pleaded no contest and were convicted of being accessories to robbery.

Paroled Killer Convicted Of Sex Assault

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (AP) — A man paroled after serving 41 years for murder has been convicted of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl in southeast Nebraska.

Laddie Dittrich was arrested on Nov. 23, accused of groping the girl at a rural home in Otoe County. A jury convicted him on Thursday.

Dittrich was one of three men convicted in 1973 of the slaying of Omaha trucking company official John Wisotzky. Police said the men chased down Wisotzky after he got into an argument with a prostitute over money, beat him and then stabbed him with a bayonet.

In April 2013 the Nebraska Pardons Board commuted Dittrich's sentence of life in prison without parole to 80 years to life, which allowed Dittrich to seek parole because he'd already served more than half of the 80-year minimum.

TD Ameritrade Suffers Trading Hiccups

NEW YORK (AP) — Technical issues interrupted trading for some investors using TD Ameritrade.

Spokeswoman Kim Hillyer said in an email that the problems, which she described as limited, were caused by a software update that was done overnight. The issue was resolved Friday at about 10 a.m. Eastern, she said.

The halt in trading at TD Ameritrade Holding Corp. comes two days after the New York Stock Exchange shut down for nearly four hours because of problems associated with a software upgrade on the exchange's computers.

It has been a tremendously volatile week of trading and message boards lit up during the Ameritrade outage.

SD Hutterite Colony In Legal Dispute

ABERDEEN (AP) — A South Dakota Hutterite colony and a Montana company are fighting in court after a business partnership to build and market energy-efficient homes ended.

Billings, Montana-based ATechBuilder Corp. alleges in a lawsuit that Brentwood Colony and its ProComm Builders company continued to use ATechBuilder's technology and marketing program after the two stopped working together in 2012.

The American News reports that ATechBuilder is seeking unspecified money damages.

The Hutterite colony and its building company deny the claims and have filed a countersuit. No trial date has been set. ATechBuilder Corp. has an office in Aberdeen.

12-Year-Old Suspect Remains In Custody

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A judge has ordered a 12-year-old suspect in a deadly Omaha shooting to remain in a youth detention center.

The boy had his first court appearance Friday, with prosecutors saying he is a member of one of Omaha's most violent street gangs. His pretrial hearing was set for July 21.

The boy is one of three suspects charged with first-degree murder in the June 29 slaying of 31-year-old Jamymell Ray. Prosecutors say Ray was shot when the boy and two teens lured him and another man to a park on the premise of a marijuana deal.

The youngest suspect was arrested Tuesday in Minneapolis. The other two suspects, ages 15 and 17, were arrested in Omaha last week.

The Associated Press generally does not name juveniles accused of crimes.

Workers' Compensation Ruling Reversed

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Supreme Court has reversed a workers' compensation court ruling favoring an employee hurt during a company party.

The case stems from a 2010 cookout Aurora Cooperative, which owns grain elevators in southeast Nebraska, held for its customers in Ong. A co-op employee, John Jacobitz, was injured in a fall from the back of a pickup during the cookout while helping move a grill to a company shed.

The workers' compensation court based its finding for Jacobitz on the fact that "the co-op received a substantial benefit from Jacobitz's attendance." But the Nebraska Supreme Court said Friday that the standard for whether an employee is entitled to benefits when injured at a social event tied to employment is "a substantial direct benefit," not merely a "substantial benefit."

Tribes Votes To Banish Meth Dealers

EAGLE BUTTE (AP) — The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe plans to dis-enroll and banish for life anyone convicted of dealing, making or trafficking methamphetamine on the reservation.

The *Argus Leader* reports the tribal council this week voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in an effort to confront the tribe's growing meth problem.

Intergovernmental affairs coordinator Remi Bald Eagle says the tribe wants to get help for users, but wants to banish traffickers.

The resolution says meth has caused increases in murder, suicides, assaults and other crimes.

Black Hills To Be Marketed To China, Germany And UK

RAPID CITY (AP) — Officials are planning to market the Black Hills region of western South Dakota to China, Germany and the United Kingdom.

State and regional tourism officials are working with Brand USA — a public-private partnership aimed at promoting international travel to the U.S. — on the \$7,000 effort, the *Rapid City Journal* reported.

Crews on Monday will begin three days of filming Black Hills attractions including Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, Rapid City museums and art, and Deadwood's historic Main Street, said Brianne Maciejowski, a spokeswoman for Brand

USA. People from the United Kingdom, Germany and China will host the videos, touting the destinations in their native language, she said.

"South Dakota is a very unique place with an interesting combination of attractions, from Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse and Native American culture to a Western feel that is the heart of America," Maciejowski said. "We believe that will appeal to the international visitor."

South Dakota Tourism Secretary James Hagen said that when he and his associates saw the \$7,000 cost of partnering with Brand USA, "We said, 'Hallelujah, we can do this.'"

"I give a lot of credit to Brand USA,

because its partners around the country range from New York City and the state of California to the state of South Dakota," Hagen said. "They know we have a limited budget, and the fact they give us this opportunity with a price point that's affordable is incredible."

The partnership will enable millions of potential international visitors to learn about the attributes of western South Dakota, said Michelle Thomson, president and CEO of the Black Hills, Badlands & Lakes tourism group.

"This is putting South Dakota and the Black Hills on the worldwide map," Thomson said.

Wildlife Service Says No Plans To Close Booth Hatchery

SPEARFISH (AP) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no plans to close the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in South Dakota or move the archives to another location, an agency official said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013 proposed closing the D.C. Booth hatchery and several others across the country due to budget woes. Congress that year eventually ordered that no hatcheries be closed, but Fish and Wildlife last year said it was again con-

sidering moving the archives to its National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia.

"There are no plans to close D.C. Booth or move the archives," Mountain-Prairie Region Acting Assistant Director Jeff Fleming told the Black Hills Pioneer Thursday.

Fleming's comments followed the addition of an amendment this week to an Interior Department appropriations bill that would prohibit funds from being used to close the hatchery whose future has

been in doubt since 2013.

The House unanimously adopted the amendment offered by U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., and is expected to vote on passage this week.

"As one of the oldest fisheries in the country, the D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery is a critical piece of living history," Noem said in a statement. "It's disappointing to think we may lose it because of irresponsible bureaucratic decisions."

Noem told the Pioneer that she believes Fish and Wildlife is still considering closing

the hatchery, though she did not indicate why. Fleming said "there are no plans to close D.C. Booth or move the archives."

The 119-year-old hatchery listed on the National Register of Historic Places produces as many as 30,000 rainbow trout for lakes and streams in the Black Hills each year. It also serves as an American fisheries archive, preserving records and artifacts for educational purposes. More than 150,000 people visit each year.

Woman Gets \$75K In Suit Against Crime Stoppers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A jury has awarded \$75,000 to a Lincoln woman in a lawsuit that accused police and the local Crime Stoppers organization of libel and slander.

A posting on the Crime Stoppers website had claimed 26-year-old Shayla Funk used someone's stolen credit card to withdraw cash from an ATM, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported. A video had shown Funk withdrawing cash from her own account in April 2013, but because of an incorrect time stamp on the video, the bank had given police video of the wrong person.

Funk sued the Lincoln-Lancaster County Crime Stoppers Inc. and the Lincoln Police Department, claiming that they libeled her by calling her a thief in posts on the Crime Stoppers website and slandered her in two television segments.

A jury at trial was asked to consider whether Crime Stoppers' work with the police qualified as a joint venture and made them liable for it, too. The jury determined that it did and awarded Funk the \$75,000 on Wednesday afternoon.

An attorney for the defendants said he was disappointed in the result, but respects the jury's decision.

Funk on Monday said she wouldn't have questioned Crime Stoppers before the posting.

"I would've just assumed (people shown on the site) were guilty as well," she said.

Now, she said she feels like she's always doing damage control on characterization of her actions.

She said she left her job after being put on unpaid leave for three weeks when someone saw the video. She said that even two years later, when she goes back to her hometown, people still joke, "Hide your credit cards, Shayla's here."

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Welcomes Clay Baylor To The Winning Team

Lewis & Clark Realty, Inc. is proud to welcome Clay Baylor to their sales team. Clay has an extensive background in over 18 years of sales, retail management, and sole proprietorship of his own business. Clay is originally from Missoula, MT and has lived in Yankton for 15 years. He is known for his work with a computer repair service which he has operated in Yankton for the past 10 years. Clay is committed to the same great service and trust worthiness in his new role as a real estate agent as he was in his previous careers.

Clay is looking forward to working with you for all of your real estate needs. You can reach Clay on his cell at (605) 760-9716 or email him at cbaylor48@gmail.com.

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