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Weather Service Confirms Tornado Hit

ABERDEEN (AP) — The National Weather Service has confirmed that a tornado touched down near Grenville in Day County last week.

KŴAT radio reports the storm on Friday night damaged shelterbelts, crops and one residence in northeastern South Dakota.

The weather service says the damage was consistent with an EF Zero tornado, the weakest classification of twisters with wind speeds of 65 to 80 miles an hour.

SD First Lady Hosting Book Walk

PIERRE (AP) — The first lady of South Dakota is holding her third annual book walk for children at the governor's mansion this week.

Children and adults will join First Lady Linda Daugaard on Wednesday evening to read portions of "One Duck Stuck" and "The Little Engine That Could."

Children in junior kindergarten through the second grade are invited to attend, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Older children will read the "The Little Engine That Could" by Watty Piper along Capitol Lake while younger attendees will read "One Duck Stuck" by Phyllis Root as they walk along the mansion's driveway.

Daugaard says the book walk is an opportunity to encourage children to read and give them a chance to get out and exercise.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. CDT.

Patrol Striking Out At Recruiting Women

ABERDEEN (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol wants to hire more women, but women apparently are unaware or aren't interested.

The patrol has been hosting recruiting seminars for women throughout the state but has gotten off to a slow start: No one showed up to an event it hosted in Aberdeen this week.

Cortney Paul is one of South Dakota's six female troopers, compared with the 168 men on the force. She told the Aberdeen American News blamed the non-turnout on short notice and a lack of publicity for the event.

Paul said another seminar may be slated later in Aberdeen. Other seminars are planned in Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The seminars are an opportunity for interested women to learn more about joining the Highway Patrol.

Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, told KCCR radio that it's the first time the patrol has tried such a recruiting effort.

The number of women in law enforcement is on the rise and the South Dakota Highway Patrol realizes the important role female troopers already play within our organization," Price said.

The patrol expects to have several openings within the next year.

Man Charged In Fatal Shooting Of 2

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man has been charged in the deaths of two people in Omaha who police say were sitting in

a parked car when the suspect opened fire on them. The Omaha World-Herald reports 24-year-old Akeem Jones was charged Monday with two counts of first-degree murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony. Prosecutors say Jones had been looking for Johnnesha Brown and Stephen Arps before shooting them on Nov. 4.

A preliminary hearing for Jones, who was denied bail Monday, has been set for Aug. 14.

It wasn't immediately clear if Jones has an attorney.

Man Admits To Pimping A Woman

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A Milwaukee man has been sentenced to 10 months in prison after he admitted to pimping a woman in southeast South Dakota.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier has also ordered the 23-year-old Jaquon Duckworth to follow his prison time with two years of supervised release. Duckworth pleaded guilty to a transportation for prostitution charge in April.

Duckworth was arrested at a hotel in Sioux Falls in June 2014. Federal authorities say Duckworth posted ads online and accepted phone calls to arrange meetings for commercial sexual activity.

Authorities say Duckworth later admitted that he traveled

Nebraska Government Cash **Reserve Remains Healthy**

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska state government has maintained a healthy cash reserve and a general fund balance that is above the minimum required by law, a legislative analyst said Wednesday.

In response, members of the Legislature's Tax Rate Review Committee decided that no changes were needed to the state income and sales tax rates this year.

Fiscal office director Michael Calvert told the committee the reserve "remains healthy," with a projected balance of nearly \$729 million. The state's general fund is projected to have \$289 million remaining at the end of the current two-year budget cycle, which is \$17.2 million above the

minimum required by law. "Cash flow is not an issue for us," Calvert said.

The cash reserve balance accounts for roughly 16 percent of the total revenue the state is expected to collect annually during the current two-year budget period.

An expected upgrade to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the Nebraska Capitol will reduce the cash reserve to \$708 million in the next budget period, which runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

The Nebraska Department of Revenue reported this month that the state collected roughly \$10 million more in revenue than projected during the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30. Tax collections for the year totaled about \$4.3 billion, which was 2 percent higher than the official state forecast.

The committee is comprised of Speaker of the Legislature Galen Hadley of Kearney, Appropriations Committee Chairman Heath Mello of Omaha, Revenue Committee Chairman Mike Gloor of Grand Island and Executive Board Chairman Bob Krist of Omaha.

Committee members meet after the legislative session to review the state's financial situation and decide whether to petition the governor for a special session to balance the budget.

"If this were Kansas, God help us, we would be doing that," Krist said, referring to that state's budget problems after large tax cuts were approved. "But this is Nebraska.'

Man Gets 9 Months In Jail In Friend's Shooting Death

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — A 19-year-old Nebraska man will serve jail time for fatally shooting his best friend while handling a gun, including spending the next two anniversaries of his friend's death behind bars.

Andrew R. Marty, of Fremont, was sentenced Tuesday to nine months in jail after being convicted of manslaughter and third-degree assault in the January death of 19-year-old Kevin Michael Kennebeck. He could be released in 22 days, followed by 30 months of intense probation, after being credited for time served, the Fremont Tribune reported.

But the judge ordered that Marty spend the next two anniversaries of Kennebeck's death in jail.

Authorities say Marty and Kennebeck were hanging out with two other friends at an apartment on Jan. 25 when Marty pulled out a gun. He eventually pointed it in the direction of Kennebeck, and the weapon discharged.

Holding back tears, Marty said he hoped the Kennebeck family could forgive him someday. He recalled being friends with Kennebeck for years, including bowling together when they were children.

"We were being two stupid 19-year-olds," Marty told the judge. "I haven't been able to look at myself since then."

Dodge County Attorney Oliver Glass didn't ask for a specific jail term.

"Certainly based on the evidence, this was not an intentional act," Glass said prior to sentencing. "This was two 19-year-old boys doing something stupid. One of them is no longer with us.

Marty's attorney, Leo Eskey, said the shooting was a tragedy that Marty will carry with him for the rest of his life. Eskey said the first thing Marty told him when he visited him in jail was, "I wish it was me instead of my best friend."

"Sending him to the Nebraska Department of Corrections will serve no purpose," Eskey said. "He started his punishment the moment the gun went off, and it will not end.'



from Milwaukee to Sioux Falls with a woman to have her engage in prostitution.

Duckworth is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Police Investigate Aberdeen Stabbings

ABERDEEN (AP) - Aberdeen police are investigating stabbings in the southwest part of town that injured two men. The Aberdeen American News reports the incident was

reported Tuesday afternoon.

Police say the men were taken to separate hospitals in town.

Their conditions were not reported and no arrests were made, pending the investigation.

Group Pushing For Urban Chickens

PIERRE (AP) — A group is asking people to sign a pledge of support to allow residents of South Dakota's capital city to keep chickens on their property.

KCCR radio reports the Greater Oahe Action League is holding a public meeting on Aug. 27 in Pierre to get comments on the issue of urban chickens.

City commissioners last year defeated a proposal to allow residents to keep up to six hens — but not roosters, which crow

Opponents worried about possible noise and smell issues and the effect on property values.

Chicken advocate Anne Lewis says the current draft of the ordinance calls some changes, such as larger setbacks from neighboring residences.

USDA Aid Sought For Nebraska Growers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's governor has asked federal authorities to bolster a sagging market by buying 25 million pounds of great northern beans.

Gov. Pete Ricketts said in a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture earlier this month that such a purchase for federal food programs would help growers and processors deal with an oversupply. The oversupply has been blamed on a strong U.S. dollar that made the beans more expensive globally; the West Coast dock workers strike; disruption by the Islamic State of transportation routes to the Middle East; and the Russian trade embargo.

Dean Keener is president of the Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association, and he says the requested federal purchase wouldn't fix the problem but would help clear inventories to make room for the 2015 harvest.

Officials Say Child Care Center Is Safe

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Parents have been told the Lincoln federal building poses no dangers to children enrolled in the child care center there.

U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse had voiced concerns last week when he learned that an internal audit showed the National Soil Survey Center laboratory in the building was not in compliance with safety and fire codes.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that Allison Azevedo with the General Services Administration and Soil Service Center director John Hempel met Tuesday with about 20 parents. Azevedo told them that all safety issues regarding storage of radioactive and flammable materials were resolved as soon as the survey center learned of them. She says the children "are in no imminent danger of anything associated with the lab.'

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