

MIDWEST DIGEST

County Taking Donations For Vets Memorial

FORT PIERRE (AP) — Commissioners in Stanley County have decided to accept private donations for a veterans memorial on the courthouse grounds.

The county commission on Thursday launched a \$25,000 fundraising drive for the project, with two commissioners quickly writing checks.

The county is working with the South Dakota Community Foundation on the \$35,000 memorial. It needed to partner with a nonprofit group to raise the \$25,000 or more needed to pay for the planned memorial due to an old state law capping county expenditures on veterans memorials at \$10,000.

Commissioner David Neuharth says the county hopes to have the money in hand by Veterans Day in November.

Woman Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sentencing is Aug. 30 for a Pine Ridge Indian Reservation woman convicted of involuntary manslaughter in a traffic fatality near Wanblee.

Twenty-six-year-old Misty Randall, also known as Misty Eagle Elk, was found guilty by a federal jury on Thursday.

Randall was accused of driving drunk last Aug. 24 when her car struck and killed Jason Wilcox.

Time Is Added To Pipeline Comment Period

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Two more weeks have been added to the comment period for a draft environmental impact statement on TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

The U.S. State Department has been holding hearings on TransCanada's plan to build the pipeline from the tar sands near Hardisty, Alberta, to oil refineries in Oklahoma and Texas.

The pipeline would have an initial capacity of 700,000 barrels per day, with 200,000 barrels going to a refinery in Cushing, Okla., and the remainder to refineries in Texas. Adding pumping capacity later could boost capacity to 900,000 barrels per day.

The project includes 1,380 miles of new pipeline in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas and would incorporate part of another TransCanada pipeline under construction across Kansas.

TransCanada already is building another pipeline through North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska to deliver Canadian oil to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma.

The comment period on the Keystone XL pipeline now will end on July 2 instead of June 16, a department official said.

The department also added two public meetings on the pipeline — one in Houston on June 18, and another in Washington, D.C., on June 29.

The U.S. State Department has to approve plans for the pipeline because it crosses an international border.

Neb. Man Charged In Girlfriend's Death

LExINGTON, Neb. (AP) — A Lexington man accused of killing his girlfriend will face charges in Dawson County District Court.

A Dawson County Court judge on Thursday sent David Lastra's case on to the other court.

Lastra, who turns 27 next week, has been charged with second-degree murder and two weapons counts in the May 30 death of 21-year-old Darcey Lee.

Court documents say Lastra admitted to police that he shot Lee in the head with a 20-gauge shotgun in their apartment.

Lastra is being held in the Dawson County jail.

A public defender has been assigned to his case. A call to that office rang unanswered Friday evening.

NU Tuition To Rise 6 Percent Next Year

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Tuition at all four University of Nebraska campuses will rise 6 percent next year.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents on Friday voted to approve the tuition hike and budget for next year.

The proposed 6 percent tuition increase would follow a tuition hike for this school year of 4 percent, the smallest in a decade. The average annual tuition increase at NU's flagship campus in Lincoln over the past two decades has been nearly 7 percent.

At the same time the university is increasing tuition, it is setting aside a record amount of financial aid to help students afford the university.

The Nebraska Legislature didn't give the university system an overall funding increase this year and NU won't get one next year.

S.D. Skateboarder Struck By SUV Dies

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City police say the driver of a sport utility vehicle that struck and killed a teenage boy on a city street will not face any driving citations.

Twenty-five-year-old Mykel Walker was cited only for failing to have insurance on his vehicle.

Authorities say 17-year-old Brendon Kammerer was wearing dark clothing and in the driving lane of the street early Thursday when he was hit. He was critically injured and taken to a hospital, where he died Thursday afternoon.

Police say headlights from an approaching vehicle made it even harder for Walker to see Kammerer before it was too late.

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S.D. Supreme Court Accepts Appeal In Trial Closure

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — The South Dakota Supreme Court has agreed to consider a dispute over a circuit judge's rulings that restricted public access to records and courtroom proceedings in a trial dealing with a financial dispute among owners of a Black Hills tourist attraction.

Three news organizations had asked the high court to strike down rulings by Circuit Judge John Delaney of Rapid City, who presided in an April trial involving Bear Country USA. The trial was to determine the fair value of the family-owned business, so some family members could buy out others.

In an order issued Thursday, the Supreme Court said the judge and owners of the business have until July 26 to file written briefs in the case. Lawyers for the three news organizations will then have 15 days to respond.

The Associated Press, *Rapid City Journal* and South Dakota Newspaper Association asked the Supreme Court last month to strike down Delaney's decision imposing a gag order on trial participants and closing substantial portions of the trial and court records. They argue the rulings interfered with their First Amendment right to gather and report news and the common-law right of access to courts.

Delaney closed records and parts of the trial after ruling that financial information about Bear Country USA should be protected. Lawyers for family members involved the dispute had asked that financial information be kept confidential.

Jon Arneson of Sioux Falls, a lawyer for the news organizations, said he is glad the Supreme Court decided to hear the case.

"We believe these are very important issues," Arneson said Friday.

Lawyers for Bear Country owners were either away from their offices Friday, did not return telephone calls or declined to comment.

The trial was to determine the fair value of the business, giving co-founder Pauline Casey and three of her children a chance to buy out the shares of four other children. At the end of the trial, the judge set a value.

Lawyers for family members have argued that Bear Country's financial data amount to trade secrets that should be kept confidential to protect Bear Country's inner workings and financial dealings from competing businesses.

The news organizations contend Bear Country differs substantially from other area tourism businesses, so the trial was unlikely to reveal any trade secrets that would harm its ability to compete.



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Aug 10th

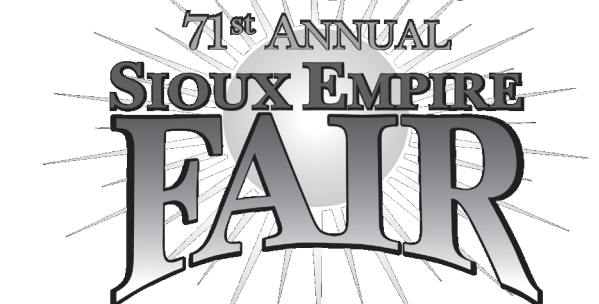


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