

1 Person Killed In Nebraska Crash

HOOPER, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say heavy fog contributed to an eastern Nebraska crash that left a Hooper man dead.
West Point radio station KTIC reports that the crash happened around 6:15 a.m. Friday on Highway 275 just south of Hooper.
The Dodge County Sheriff's Office says a car was trying to cross the highway when it was hit by a westbound semi-trailer.
The name of the man killed has not been released pending notification of his family.
All lanes of traffic on the highway were rerouted for more than three hours after the crash.

Neb. Woman Imprisoned For Sex Crime

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — A Grand Island woman originally given probation for having sex with her teenage stepson is going to prison.
The 28-year-old Hampton woman on Thursday was sentenced to four to six years. The Associated Press is not naming the woman in order to protect the identity of her stepson.
She originally was charged with first-degree sexual assault on a child for having sex with her then 15-year-old stepson between Jan. 1 and June 1, 2012. The charge was reduced as part of a plea agreement, and a charge of incest was dismissed.
In October she was resentenced to probation for violating probation, and then in December officers found her in a vehicle with the boy. She'd been ordered not to have contact with him.

Soldiers Train In West South Dakota

RAPID CITY (AP) — Soldiers from 15 states and four foreign nations are taking part in a military exercise in western South Dakota's Black Hills.
The South Dakota National Guard is hosting its 30th annual Golden Coyote training exercise. It starts Saturday and runs for two weeks.
The Guard says 4,400 members of several branches of the military will conduct combat, support and service missions. They will simulate military operations, conduct humanitarian missions such as hauling firewood to American Indian communities and do engineering projects such as resurfacing roads.
The public is being asked to keep a safe distance from all military vehicles and aircraft.

State Anniversary Committees Grow

PIERRE (AP) — The number of communities and groups that have established committees to help celebrate South Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood is now up to 20.
Gov. Dennis Daugaard says three new local committees have formed, in De Smet, Ethan and Howard. They're planning various events leading up to the Nov. 2 anniversary.
President Benjamin Harrison on Nov. 2, 1889, signed the papers for admission to the Union for both South Dakota and North Dakota. North Dakota became the 39th state and South Dakota the 40th.

Storm Damages Hundreds Of Vehicles

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls auto body shops are in for a busy summer after a storm that pelted the metro area with pea-to golf ball-size hail, damaging hundreds of vehicles.
One body shop manager says he's booked solid for the next two weeks, just with hail damage jobs.
No injuries were immediately reported from the storm, which dropped heavy rain in a short amount of time and spawned funnel clouds and at least one tornado.
Sirens didn't sound in the city of Hartford when the tornado warning was issued. Minnehaha County Emergency Manager Lynn DeYoung says the twister popped up quickly and "caught everybody by surprise." There were no immediate reports of damage.

Rapid City Man Sentenced

RAPID CITY (AP) — A man who caused a fatal crash in Rapid City while trying to flee from police has been sentenced to 22 1/2 years in prison.
Thirty-seven-year-old Jimmy Pilcher was accused of driving drunk, fleeing police and running a red light, causing an October 2013 crash that involved four vehicles, killed 40-year-old Tamara Hunter and injured at least three other people.
Pilcher pleaded guilty in April to charges of vehicular homicide and aggravated eluding, and prosecutors dropped other charges including manslaughter.
Judge Thomas Trimble sentenced him on Thursday. In addition to serving the prison time, Pilcher also must pay more than \$21,000 in restitution.

Firefighter Rescues Boy From Creek

RAPID CITY (AP) — An off-duty Rapid City firefighter who had recently completed swift-water rescue training put the new skills to use when a 7-year-old boy slipped and fell into Rapid Creek.
Authorities say the current pinned the boy against a downed tree and pulled him under the water on Thursday. The firefighter jumped in and pulled the boy to safety.
The boy was taken to a hospital to be evaluated. The firefighter who saved him wasn't named.

GFP Looks To Acquire Much More Land In Spearfish Canyon

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

Spearfish Canyon in the Black Hills might be home to South Dakota's next state park.
Homestake Mining Co. officials are in talks to sell two large parcels of land in Spearfish Canyon that would be placed into public ownership.
Two top officials from the state Game, Fish and Parks Department delivered a briefing Friday about the plan.
The Spearfish Canyon Foundation would purchase a 73-acre tract that includes Spearfish Falls and donate it the department, according to Doug Hofer, director for the state Division of Parks and Recreation.
The property was appraised at \$1,225,000 but foundation officials are attempting to secure it for a smaller amount, Hofer said.
That stretch of the canyon covers more than one mile and would connect two tracts purchased in 2004 by GFP from Homestake at Roughlock Falls and Savoy.
Hofer said the combined areas total

128 acres surrounded by U.S. Forest Service lands.
Hofer, who likely will go down as the largest builder of South Dakota's system of state parks and recreation areas, has his sight set for this development.
"Your thoughts begin to wonder what this could be," Hofer said.
He said the combined resources in Spearfish Canyon "would top the list" for a new state park.
Hofer made his remarks as part of a briefing for the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission during its regular business meeting at Lewis and Clark Resort along the Missouri River west of Yankton.
Commissioner Cathy Peterson of Salem recalled hiking to Spearfish Falls from Latchstring Inn in October.
"That is the most beautiful falls. It is amazing," she said. "It's a gorgeous place."
The department would directly purchase a second parcel of 33 acres from Homestake including 3,200 feet of Spearfish Creek at the old Hydro 2 power-plant works in the canyon.
State Wildlife Division director Tony Leif told the commission the current

appraisal is \$430,000.
Leif said there is sufficient money available from a trust fund and from the department's normal streams of Pitman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson federal aid that is funded by federal taxes on shooting and fishing equipment.
He said GFP would pay normal property taxes on the Hydro 2 acres as a game production area, but land that is used for state parks, state recreation areas and boating access is tax-exempt.
The Latchstring Inn trail to Spearfish Falls is closed because of damage from the October 2013 snowstorm.
The foundation operates the trail under an agreement with Homestake.
"The net result is the public can't get down to Spearfish Falls to see the falls at this point," Hofer said.
He said the foundation wants the trail to be sold to GFP.
There was praise generally from the commission members for the plan.
"You can't beat this," said chairman John Cooper of Pierre. "That's great news."
"This is really exciting," commissioner Gary Jensen of Rapid City said.

Nebraska

No Expanded Nebraska, Iowa Bridge Inspections Set

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska and Iowa transportation officials are not planning new bridge inspections in the wake of Delaware's safety problems with an interstate bridge.
On Thursday, Delaware's transportation secretary ordered immediate inspections of major bridges in the state to see if they might have any problems similar to an interstate bypass that had to be closed Monday in Wilmington. Officials there suspect that a large mound of dirt dumped next to the bridge over several years shifted the ground underneath the

span and caused the bridge's support columns to tilt. At least part of the pile was on the state's property, officials said.
In Nebraska, a combination of routine inspections and state laws requiring permits for any work or dumping on state rights of way would likely thwart similar problems, State Bridge Engineer Mark Traynowicz said.
Traynowicz said he was unaware of the Delaware interstate bridge problem until a reporter called Thursday to inquire about whether Nebraska officials were reacting to it.
Nebraska has about 3,500 state-operated bridges and another 12,000 locally-oper-

ated bridges, he said.
"Every one of our bridges has to be inspected at least every two years," he said. "If anything like this were taking place on a bridge right of way here, we'd know about it."
A contractor wanting to use a state right of way would first have to apply for a permit, Traynowicz said.
"Say someone wanted to use a right of way to put dirt on," he said. "They'd have to go to one of our eight districts and file for a permit detailing what they're going to do and why they want to do it."
"If one of our guys saw someone doing something like this, we would be out

there asking where their permit is," Traynowicz said.
Scott Neubauer, Iowa's bridge maintenance and inspection engineer, said Iowa doesn't plan the kind of review Delaware is requiring, but said the state inspections normally do not document the right of way.
"I've never heard of a project here in Iowa where we had an issue with a contractor piling anything near a bridge that would cause a problem," Neubauer said.
"We'd be pretty cognizant of piling debris up against a structure like that, and make sure that was OK before we ever allowed something like that."

Bishop Blesses Bells For New Church

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Four bells that will beckon worshippers to services at a new Catholic church near the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have been blessed by the local bishop.
Bishop James Conley performed the ritual on Thursday at what will be the new home of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and the Newman Center. They will sit in the new building across from the university's City Campus.
The church and center will serve about 6,000 Catholics at the university, the *Lincoln Journal Star* said

(http://bit.ly/1i8B3cs).
In days past, the ringing of the bells was the only form of mass communication, Conley said. Bells sounded not only to signify that services were beginning soon, they also notified villagers of good news and warned them of impending dangers.
When distance silenced the sound of bells, a new church with its own bell was built.
"The bells almost take on a personification," Conley said. Each of the four was named, he said: St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St.

John. The four bells, which have a combined weight of 1,900 pounds, were ceremonially washed and anointed before being hoisted up into the octagonal-shaped bell tower.
A secular ritual also was held Thursday: The final steel beam was signed and lifted into place with a small pine tree attached. Architect Kevin Clark said that signified that construction "has reached the sky without loss of life or serious injury."

The church and student center are phases two and three of a four-phase, \$25 million project.
A 68-bed Catholic fraternity house, Phi Kappa Theta, was the first phase, and it opened last fall. The Newman Center is expected to be finished this winter, and the 650-seat church is expected to open next spring. The final phase of the project will be construction of a Catholic sorority house.

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