

## No Charges In Child-Driving Accident

ABERDEEN (AP) — No citations or charges will result from the death of a woman who was pinned between two vehicles after she put her 8-year-old daughter behind the wheel of one of them, Aberdeen police said.

Brianne Nutter, 30, was supervising her daughter as the girl tried to back out of a driveway Tuesday afternoon, according to police. Her boyfriend, Chris Schulz, told the *American News* that Nutter wanted the vehicle moved about a foot so she could get a riding lawnmower out of the garage.

"It was such an innocent thing," said Schulz, who was home on a lunch break and witnessed the incident in which authorities said the child driver lost control and hit a vehicle parked in the street.

Nutter had the driver's door open and was pinned between the door and the parked vehicle, police said. She died at a hospital. Brown County Coroner Mike Carlsen listed internal crushing injuries as the cause of death.

"It's a very unfortunate accident, very tragic accident for the family," Police Capt. Jay Tobin told KELO-TV, adding that he hasn't seen anything like it in his 26 years in law enforcement. "Our sympathy goes out to them."

Nutter's funeral was scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Dakota Event Center.

## Plea Deal Reached In Neb. Stabbing

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A girl accused of stabbing a fellow student at Lincoln Pius X High School has reached a plea deal with prosecutors.

The 17-year-old will enter a plea in August, but attorneys for both sides aren't giving specifics about the agreement. The girl faces felony charges of assault and use of a weapon for the Oct. 7 attack that prompted a two-hour school lockdown.

A trial had been scheduled for July, after a judge ruled that the girl was competent to stand trial. Police say the girl attacked 17-year-old Ellen Kopetzky in a school bathroom with a hunting knife and a claw hammer, and then fled to Kansas, where she surrendered the next day. Kopetzky survived the attack.

The Associated Press generally doesn't identify juveniles accused of crimes.

## Former SD Pharmacist Begins Jail Term

MITCHELL (AP) — A former Mitchell pharmacist accused of taking about \$3,500 worth of pills from his place of employment has begun serving a 10-day sentence on a reduced charge.

Sixty-year-old Jim Buechler initially was charged with grand theft and possession of a controlled substance, both felonies. *The Daily Republic* newspaper reports that he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of not being forthcoming with information, and the more serious charges were dropped.

Buechler was sentenced in late May to 90 days in jail with 80 days suspended, fined \$500 and ordered to pay nearly \$4,000 in restitution. He began serving his jail sentence on Monday and will be on probation for a year after.

## Effort To Keep Casino Open Denied

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A federal bankruptcy judge has refused to keep Iowa regulators from closing the Argosy riverboat casino by July 1.

On Wednesday Judge Richard E. Fehling denied Argosy parent Penn National Gaming Co.'s request for an emergency injunction. Penn National's Iowa subsidiary, Belle of Sioux City LP, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last month.

The company wanted the stay until Penn's lawsuit against the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission is resolved. Penn has criticized the bidding process for a license that later went to another developer.

Penn National spokesman Eric Schippers says Penn National now will seek an emergency stay in Iowa courts.

## SD Winter Wheat Expected To Rebound

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Winter wheat production in South Dakota this year is expected to be almost double what farmers harvested during drought-plagued 2013.

The Agriculture Department's latest estimate is 49.1 million bushels, up 88 percent over the year. The average yield is forecast at 45 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from last year.

South Dakota farmers are expected to harvest 1.1 million acres of the crop, up 63 percent from 2013.

Winter wheat production nationwide is pegged at 1.38 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago.

## Overtaken Truck Dumps Beer Cans

SUMMIT (AP) — A semi-truck that rolled on Interstate 29 in South Dakota dumped a trailer full of beer cans into the highway's median.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol tells KELO television that the driver fell asleep while heading north on Interstate 29 near Summit on Wednesday morning. He woke up and overcorrected, causing the truck to enter the median and roll.

Cases of beer that the semi was hauling spilled through the trailer's broken roof into the median.

The Highway Patrol says the driver had not been drinking. He was wearing a seatbelt but suffered serious, non-life threatening injuries.

The crash remains under investigation.

## Airport Has Unwelcome Fliers In Vultures

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — Not everything that flies into the Fremont Municipal Airport is welcome.

Local officials are working to get rid of turkey vultures that have created a hazard at the airport, according to the *Fremont Tribune* reports.

Wildlife Specialist Scot Rosendahl told the Dodge County Board of Supervisors Wednesday that he saw a dozen of the birds out between the airport's runways that morning.

Rosendahl said foxes and badgers are also a nuisance at the airport because they dig large holes near the runways. Ground squirrels are attracting them.

Rosendahl said the fox and badger problem seems to be under control for now, but may require attention again in the future.

Rosendahl works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and has been contracted by the county to handle wildlife damage issues for the past 14 years. The county renewed the \$11,375 contract on Wednesday.

Beavers are common in Dodge County, he said. Rosendahl is currently working on a beaver project near North Bend with several farmers.

# High School Activities Association Faced Unplanned Expenses In 2014

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota High School Activities Association paid nearly three times more than the \$7,000 budgeted for audit services this year because of snags in two prior years.

The state Department of Legislative Audit wasn't able to deliver the fiscal 2011 audit until July 23, 2012. State fiscal years run July 1 to June 30. The billing for the 2011 audit came during the association's 2013 fiscal year.

The firm hired by the association to provide financial statements to Legislative Audit for the 2012 fiscal year was delayed in delivering them, according to state Auditor General Martin Guindon.

That led to Legislative Audit billing later than normal for the second year in a row. The fiscal 2012 audit was delivered on Aug. 29, 2013. That was after the start of the association's 2014 fiscal year.

Guindon said the association hired a different firm to provide the statements for the fiscal 2013 audit. He said the new firm's work was "very timely."

Legislative Audit completed the fiscal 2013 audit on Feb. 28, 2014.

"Thus, you had two audit bills presented by us for payment in the same fiscal year," Guindon said.

Together the two billings — \$11,524.50 and \$11,559.25 — totaled \$20,083.75. Not only was the total much greater than budgeted, but the individual amounts were more than in previous years as well.

"The audit bill for fiscal '11 was \$9,022 and for fiscal '10 it was \$9,048," Guindon said. "The bills for fiscal '13 and fiscal '12 were higher because of additional new accounting standards that had to be dealt with, not because of any problems we encountered at the (association)."

Wayne Carney, the association's executive director, had been budgeting \$10,000 annually but reduced the amount to \$7,000 for each of last year and this year.

Carney provided a summary that showed the association was billed only \$6,916 in its 2012 fiscal year and \$2,106 in the 2013 fiscal year.

The \$10,000 budget was changed to \$7,000 for the 2013 fiscal year and

stayed at \$7,000 for the current 2014 fiscal year.

The association also spent much more than budgeted for legal services this year.

Through April 30 the amount billed for legal advice and lobbying was \$20,570. The budgeted amount for legal work was \$4,500.

Carney said there were unforeseen expenses dealing with the Legislature's decision to make the association subject to South Dakota's open-meeting laws. The association fought against the new law.

He said the association also faced additional costs for legal work on its new policy regarding participation by transgender students in athletic competition.

Carney said Thursday he won't know how much the total expense would be for legal work during the 2014 fiscal year until after it ends June 30.

It will be more.

"The last billing we received is dated June 3, 2014, and would not be included in the financial reports that the board reviewed (Wednesday)," Carney said.

## Senate Candidates In SD Split On Health Care Law

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Two of the South Dakota candidates vying to serve in U.S. Senate want to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, while the other two want to keep and improve it.

Former Gov. Mike Rounds, the Republican nominee for the seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, said he wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with a market-based system that prompts competition. South Dakota used to have 17 companies providing insurance in the state, Rounds said, and the federally run marketplace serving South Dakotans offers only three options.

"American families make good choices if they know that some companies will provide appropriate service and others will not," Rounds said. "It doesn't take long in the market for the bad apples to be found out."

Democratic candidate Rick Weiland said the act should be improved, not repealed, and the law's problems stem from "big money calling the shots in Washington" and nixing a public option that would have forced private companies to offer more competitive policies.

Weiland said Medicare, the federal health insurance program for people aged 65 and over, is an example of an efficiently run public program and he'd like to open it up to people of any age. His proposed Medicare Choice Act would create public-private competition and strengthen the current system by expanding the pool of insured to younger, healthier Americans, he said.

"Why wouldn't you use

that model to make the private sector compete?" he asked.

An Associated Press-GfK poll last month shows that nationwide, public opinion continues to run deeply negative on Obama's signature effort to cover the uninsured. Forty-three percent oppose the law, compared with just 28 percent in support.

Most of these polled said they found premiums in line with what they expected, or even lower. But more than one-third of those who said they or someone in their household tried to enroll, were ultimately unable to do so.

Weiland said Americans will not be willing to give up what they've gained in the law. Those new benefits include the ability for children to stay on their parents' plans until age 26, the prevention of coverage denial for pre-existing conditions and the prohibition of lifetime caps on benefits.

Former Republican U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler, who is running as an independent, said the "Repeal Obamacare" talking point is too simplistic and the conversation has to be about what is it going to be replaced with.

"I'm for keeping Obamacare and improving it or fixing the problems," Pressler said. "I don't think we can go back."

Pressler said there's room for compromise on such issues as the 15-member board tasked with coming up with ways to contain Medicare spending. He said appointments could be limited to two years, and the panel could be more responsive to Congress if legislators are allowed to override the recommendations with a majority vote instead of supermajority.

## Rain-Packed Storms Cut Drought In Neb., Iowa

BY DAVID PITT  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Storms last week brought with them some peril in the form of wind and large hail but they also delivered enough rain to relieve drought conditions across much of Iowa and Nebraska, the latest drought report released Thursday said.

A slow moving storm system moved across the Great Plains to the Tennessee Valley "spreading copious amounts of rain across much of the Great Plains, Midwest, and Southeast," wrote drought monitor author Matt Rosencrans, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA compiles the weekly drought update with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The thunderstorms prompted the removal or reduction of drought across much of the Midwest and Central Great Plains. Iowa's remaining drought is mostly confined to the northwest

and southeast corners of the state. About 40 percent of the state has some drought — mostly abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions, the lower two categories on a five-step scale of drought severity. That's a significant improvement from a week earlier when nearly 56 percent of the state had some drought.

In Nebraska, drought coverage was reduced to 63 percent of the state from nearly 70 percent the week before. Extreme drought was removed from central Nebraska as the region received enough rain to recharge soil moisture down to 2 to 3 feet, the state climatologist reported.

Storms in Iowa and Nebraska last week produced a tornado near Oakland in western Iowa and produced baseball-size hail and heavy rain in portions of both states.

Nationally, the drought monitor showed 30 percent of the 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico had moderate drought or worse, compared with 31 percent a week earlier.

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**Tuesday, June 17, 2014**  
**Kiwanis/4-H Building**  
**709 Whiting Dr., Yankton**  
**Catered by Rollin Smoke BBQ**

**Schedule of Events**

**5:00 p.m.** Doors Open  
**5:30 p.m.** Social Hour  
Wine/Cheese Tasting  
Variety of Exhibitors  
**6:30 p.m.** Prime Rib Dinner  
**7:30 p.m.** Program

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**SD Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch**  
**Master of Ceremonies:**  
**SD Lt. Governor Matt Michels**

**\$40.00 per person**

Tickets and more information is available by calling the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce at **665-3636** or on-line at **www.yanktonsd.com/aggala.com**.

**Deadline for tickets – June 16th.**

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