

Man Dies After Collide On I-29

BERESFORD (AP) — A 59-year-old man is dead after the motorcycle he was driving was clipped by a semi-truck on Interstate 29 in South Dakota during a period of heavy rain. The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified the man as Lonnie Manuel Jr., of Lusby, Maryland. The Highway Patrol says the semi-truck was traveling south Friday morning on I-29 near Beresford at about 70 mph in the driving lane. The motorcycle also was in the driving lane traveling at a much lower speed. The semi-truck driver tried to avoid the motorcycle but clipped its rear fender. Manuel was ejected from the motorcycle and slid about 200 feet before he left the roadway. He later died at a Sioux Falls hospital. Authorities say the semi's driver was not injured. The Highway Patrol is investigating the incident and says alcohol was not a factor.

Death Penalty Raises Nearly \$244,000

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraskans for the Death Penalty campaign raised nearly \$244,000 in its first reporting period, with most of the money coming from Gov. Pete Ricketts and his father. Ricketts and his father, TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts, each contributed \$100,000 to the ballot drive that could put the death penalty question to voters. An expense report released Friday says the campaign spent more than \$217,500 in the reporting period, leaving it with roughly \$26,300 in cash on hand. The campaign was launched after Nebraska lawmakers abolished the death penalty over the governor's veto. Nebraskans for the Death Penalty says it has paid roughly \$192,000 to Lincoln Strategy Group, an Arizona-based consultant that is using paid circulators to gather signatures. A group opposing the referendum announced a \$400,000 donation last week.

Falcon Named After Fallen Officer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A falcon chick raised at the Nebraska Capitol has been named "Orozco" in honor of an Omaha police officer killed last month in the line of duty. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission announced Friday that the name was chosen from 507 contest submissions. The chick was named after Officer Kerrie Orozco, 29, who was shot and killed on May 30. A list of finalists was selected by a committee before names were submitted to a public vote. The chick hatched on May 10 from the nest box on the 18th floor of the Capitol, has fledged and has been exploring the area ever since. The peregrine falcon pair which raised the chick has nested at the Capitol since 2005, and has produced 22 offspring over the last 11 years.

Weather Damage Exceeds \$13.5M

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska emergency officials say recent severe weather has caused more than \$13.5 million in damage to roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency said Friday that the damage was caused in 12 counties that were just designated as disaster areas. Gov. Pete Ricketts was notified Thursday that President Barack Obama has approved a request for presidential disaster declaration for areas hit by severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding between May 6 and June 17. The declaration makes federal funding available to the state, local governments and certain nonprofits. The affected counties are Cass, Dundy, Gage, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lincoln, Morrill, Nuckolls, Otoe, Saline, Saunders and Thayer. Bryan Tuma, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, says other counties could be added once more assessments are complete.

Wild Bat Tests Positive For Rabies

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A wild bat found on a sidewalk of a southeast South Dakota zoo has tested positive for rabies. KELO-TV reports the state's Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory tested the bat after a zookeeper at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls found it on Wednesday. Officials believe the bat had no human contact. Elizabeth Whealy is the zoo's president and CEO. She says any wild animal found on zoo grounds that is "acting abnormally" is submitted for rabies testing. Whealy adds that although this is a "relatively low-risk situation" for zoo guests, the facility is working with the Department of Health to notify the public as a precautionary measure. All zoo animals are vaccinated against rabies.

Beach Closed Due To Bacteria In Water

MITCHELL (AP) — Lake Mitchell's Public Beach has been closed as a precaution after a water sample showed high levels of coliform bacteria. The Environmental Protection Agency says a high level of coliform bacteria can indicate sewage contamination. But Parks and Recreation Director Dusty Rodiek tells the Daily Republic that he suspects the high level is the result of a high number of dead fish in the area during the sample period. Rodiek says the city is not required by state law to test the lake, but a weekly sample is taken in the interest of public safety. New test results were expected Friday.

In SD, Gay Marriages Quickly Commence

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Gay South Dakotans exulted Friday as the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples in America have the constitutional right to marry and county officials across the state began issuing marriage licenses to all. Though the nation's high court set a three-week window for the losers to challenge its ruling, South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley cleared the way for same-sex couples, saying counties could issue licenses as they wish. The state Department of Health announced Friday afternoon that it had updated its system and issued gender-neutral marriage licenses to county officials, paving the way for couples to marry. "I'm honored to be a part of this moment," said Misty Collins, a 37-year-old Rapid City woman who married Melissa Eidson on Friday after becoming one of the first same-sex couples in the state to receive a marriage license. The couple will soon move to Arizona, but first wanted to marry in the state in which they met and have been dating for seven years. "It was a surreal moment; a very amazing moment," she said. "The timing is perfect." South Dakota has had a constitutional

ban on same-sex marriage since 2006, when voters in the state approved the amendment with about 52 percent of the vote. Last year, six couples, led by Minneapolis attorney Josh Newville, sued the state to challenge the ban. Jenny and Nancy Rosenbrahn, two Rapid City women in their 70s, became the face of the lawsuit in the media. The two were married in Minneapolis last year and were visiting the Twin Cities on Friday when Nancy Rosenbrahn saw a Facebook update flash across her cellphone. "Oh my gosh, it's legal — we're married," she recalled saying Friday as the couple drove back to Rapid City for a celebration. The lawsuit filed by Newville is on hold at the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. The attorney said he didn't anticipate any delay from the 8th Circuit judges affirming that gay marriage should be legal in the state and said he would ask the 8th Circuit on Friday to issue a ruling on his case. Newville, who is gay, was ecstatic. "As a lawyer for them, I can't tell you how happy that I know they are," he said. "But as a gay man, who went into the practice of law specifically because of this issue, I'm overwhelmed," he said. South Dakota's congressional delegation, all Republicans, criticized the high court's ruling. U.S. Sens. John Thune and

Mike Rounds and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem said they all believe a marriage should be between a man and a woman. "Today's ruling is a blow to state's rights," Rounds said. "I believe states have a constitutional role in setting their own policy on marriage. Marriage is between a man and a woman, and traditional families play an important role in the fabric of our society." After the news broke Friday morning, some members of the state's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community began organizing impromptu celebrations while others headed to their local government centers. Bob Weldland, an art education coordinator in Sioux Falls, said his partner proposed to him Friday for a second time. The two are not yet legally married but they held a ceremony at a church in Minnesota in 2010 and Weldland refers to his partner as his husband. Weldland and his partner plan to renew their vows among friends and family this August and marry according to "government standards, and not just by God." "He texted me: 'So, do you want to marry me again?'" Associated Press writers Regina Garcia Cano and James Nord contributed to this report.

Ruling Strikes Down Neb. Ban

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Gay couples in Nebraska will now have their marriages legally recognized in the state that has had one of the most restrictive same-sex union bans in the country, following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Friday that same-sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the United States. Bill Roby and Greg Tubach, who have been together for 29 years and live in Lincoln, joined with other couples who celebrated the decision. They are among seven same-sex couples who sued last year to try to force the state to recognize their marriages, challenging the constitutionality of Nebraska's ban, approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2000. In addition to prohibiting gay marriage, it also outlawed civil unions and outlawed domestic partnerships.

"I'm quietly stunned," Tubach said Friday following the announcement of the decision. "I did cry in the kitchen when I was texting a good friend of mine about it." The tears were for those people, like his uncle who had a long-term relationship with another man, who missed the historic ruling. "It makes this bittersweet for me," he said, his voice cracking. "He was a generation before me, and he's not alive to celebrate this." Roby and Tubach successfully applied for a marriage license in Lancaster County within hours of the ruling. "We already have the paperwork filled out," Tubach said before heading to the courthouse. Other couples had already begun wedding ceremonies at the Douglas County Courthouse following the ruling Friday, according to Susan Ann Koenig, an attorney who

represented the suing couples in Nebraska. "We're thrilled that after such an enduring commitment ... their right to marry has been recognized here in Nebraska," Koenig said. Most county clerks in Nebraska appeared set to act in the wake of the high court's ruling. Douglas County Clerk Thomas Cavanaugh, who oversees the issuance of marriage licenses for Nebraska's most populous county, which includes Omaha, said he ordered changes to the county's marriage license applications earlier this year when a federal judge struck down Nebraska's gay marriage ban as unconstitutional. Days later, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allowed Nebraska's ban to stay in place while it considered the state's appeal and similar appeals in several other states. The Douglas County appli-

cations — as well as applications in Nebraska's other large counties — changed language from "bride" and "groom" to "applicant 1" and "applicant 2." A few county clerks have expressed religious objections to issuing marriage licenses to gay couples but have said they would allow other staffers without such objections to handle those requests. Both Gov. Pete Ricketts and Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson said the state would respect the high court's ruling, but they made clear they didn't like it. Ricketts said that 70 percent of Nebraska voters approved the ban, and Peterson said the court's decision "represents a profound loss of freedom. It shows a lack of faith in democracy for the court to force this decision on every state."

CDC To Study Moldy USD Building

VERMILLION (AP) — The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is sending a crew to the University of South Dakota next month to evaluate a building that a former employee says has caused health problems for students, faculty and staff. USD asked for a review of its response to complaints about mold in Noteboom Hall, a 70-year-old dormitory that has been converted to a speech therapy center. CDC officials chose to visit the school from July 27-29 to gather their own data, the *Argus Leader* reported. "For requests concerning mold, we leave it to the professional judgment of our evaluation team to decide on the most appropriate response," said CDC spokeswoman Nura Sadeghpour. "In this case, they felt the concerns warranted an on-site investigation."

Former USD employee Nancy Andresen has said working in the building gave her breathing problems, migraines and other health issues. An analysis in 2013 concluded the Communications Sciences and Disorders Department should move out

of Noteboom Hall, but the school says it has been unable to obtain state funding to replace the building. The school has installed humidifiers and air filters, moved offices and gotten rid of old fabric furniture in Noteboom, and says air qual-

ity tests show improvements. The school will help the CDC officials in any way it can, USD spokeswoman Tena Haraldson said. "They're going to bring their own equipment and their own testing," she said.

RTEC Sets Dates for Welding, CTE and 'Just for Fun' Classes!

AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding Classes: Applications are currently being accepted for RTEC's AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding course set to begin on **July 14, 2015**. It will be a 48-hour night class held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Aug. 20, 2015. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax. Contact RTEC to enroll today.
Welding Basics Class: The Welding Basics class scheduled to begin **July 13, 2015**, is filling up fast. Applications are being accepted for this introductory 48-hour course which will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through Aug. 19, 2015. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax. Contact RTEC at (605) 668-5700 for more information today!

Coiled Creations "Just for Fun" Class: Learn how to create a trendy, yet practical bowl/container that you can use to display small keepsakes, hold keys, beautify a flower pot or to organize items that might otherwise lead to clutter. Class runs from 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday, **July 13, 2015**. Cost is \$26.50. Bring a bowl/container that is 8-10 inches in diameter to be used to create the shape. Modge podge, rope and brushes provided.

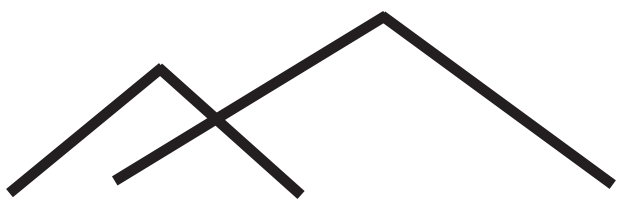
Jute-iful Baskets "Just for Fun" Class: Have you been searching for the perfect decorative basket to organize things in your kitchen, bathroom, bedroom or den? Can't find the right style, size or color? Create your own during this Jute-iful Baskets class at RTEC. It will run from 5:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, **July 16, 2015**. Bring a scissors and either yarn or crochet thread in the accent color of your choice. Cost is \$26.50. Sign up today!

Friday CTE Academy - Computer Aided Drafting (CAD): Students enrolled in grades 11 & 12 at Avon, Bon Homme, Gayville-Volin and Irene-Wakonda school districts for the Fall 2015 semester are invited to participate in the Friday Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy CAD Solidworks class. It will be held on Fridays at RTEC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Completers receive high school credit and may be eligible for credit from Mitchell Technical Institute, if approved. Contact RTEC for complete details!

Friday CTE Academy - Welding: Students enrolled in grades 11 & 12 at Avon, Bon Homme, Gayville-Volin and Irene-Wakonda school districts for the Fall 2015 semester are invited to participate in this Friday Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy welding class. It will be held on Fridays at RTEC from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Completers receive high school credit and are eligible for 1.5 credits from Mitchell Technical Institute.

Please contact RTEC for more information today!
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