

## Man Indicted On Sexual Contact Case

From P&D Staff Reports

LAKE ANDES — A Lake Andes man was indicted Thursday in Charles Mix County on allegations of sexual contact.

Kelly Joe Wells, 28, was indicted on two counts, according to a press release from Attorney General Marty Jackley and Charles Mix County State's Attorney Pam Hein.

Wells was indicted on one count of sexual contact with a person incapable of consenting, a Class 4 felony, that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$20,000 fine.

He was also indicted on one count of abuse of a disabled adult, a Class 6 felony, that carries a maximum penalty of 2 years and/or a \$4,000 fine.

## ASHH To Host Landscape Design Workshop

The public is invited to a workshop titled "Site Design for Residential Landscapes" presentation by Dr. Matthew R. James, Landscape Architecture, SDSU, at 7 p.m. Tuesday March 27, at the Pavilion Auditorium, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Campus in Yankton.

The program is sponsored by the Missouri River Master Gardeners. A free-will donation would be appreciated. Door prizes and garden networking will be available.

## Post-Legislative Luncheon Set For March 28

David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will be in Yankton on Wednesday, March 28, to review and recap the 2012 legislative session.

The post-legislative luncheon will be at The Elks Lodge No. 994, 504 W. 27th St., Yankton. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. The soup and sandwich lunch is hosted by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee. The meeting will be from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

To RSVP go to [www.yanktonsd.com/legislativeluncheon](http://www.yanktonsd.com/legislativeluncheon) or contact (605) 665-3636. Deadline to register is Monday, March 26. Lunch is optional, but an RSVP is required.

## City, School Candidate Forums Scheduled

Come meet the candidates for the City Commission and the school board during a candidate forum set for March 29 in the Yankton Community Room at the Regional Technical Education Center at 1200 W. 21st St.

The City Commission Candidates forum begins at 7 p.m. and the School Board Candidates forum begins at 8:15 p.m.

City Commission candidates are Pauline Akland, David Carda, Chris Ferdig, Lola Harens and David Knoff. School Board candidates are D.G. "Butch" Becker, Kathy Greenaway, Matthew Pietz, Michael "Moose" Welch and Mark Westerman.

KYNT 1450AM and KVHT 106.3FM will provide live coverage on the candidate forum. WNAX will stream the forum live on WNAX.com. The forum will be rebroadcast on the local access channels Knology channel 98 and Midcontinent channel 3 the following Monday, April 2, at 8:45 p.m. The forum will be facilitated by a moderator and the public is requested to bring written questions to the event.

The candidate forum is hosted by 5 Star Communications, Riverfront Broadcasting, L.L.C., WNAX/104.2 The Wolf, Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, *Yankton County Observer* and *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*.

## Museum Seeks Memories From HSC Employees

After completing research and a booklet about the history of the Dakota Hospital for the Insane, Susan Miles, Dakota Territorial Museum volunteer, has decided to take the project one step further and offer an opportunity for current and past employees of the campus to share their stories.

These oral histories will be recorded and preserved by the Dakota Territorial Museum and will tell the story of the hospital in the words of those that were vital to its operations, the employees.

If you or anyone you know worked at the South Dakota Human Services Center and is willing to share your experiences, contact the Dakota Territorial Museum at 605-665-3898, to make an appointment. Interviews will be conducted in the Dakota Territorial Museum Conference Room or if you are unable to come to the Museum, arrangements can be made for Miles to come to you.

## OBITUARIES

### Becki Wardell

Becki Jane Wardell: Jan. 16, 1963-March 16, 2012.  
Preceded in death by grandparents, Marie and Joseph Wardell, and Mr. and Mrs. John Coder.

Survived by sons Adam, Thomas and Josh Wardell; mother and step-father, Jane and Rog Halsey, Kearney, Ne.; father and step-mother Larry and Bonnie Wardell, Yankton, S.D.; brother Brad Wardell, Omaha; step-sister Christina Conklin, Yankton, S.D.; step-niece Alexis and husband Brandon Johnson; step-nephew Tyler Conklin, and step-great niece Ava Johnson, all of Yankton, S.D.

She was known for her love and beauty.  
Interment: Westlawn Hillcrest Cemetery, Omaha, on Wednesday, March 21.

Memorials to the Girls Club of Omaha.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
March 23, 2012

### James Lightner Jr.

James J. Lightner Jr., 46, of Yankton died unexpectedly at his home on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

Arrangements are pending with Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

### Robert Dalton

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Robert A. Dalton, 74, of Bloomfield, Neb., died Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at Bloomfield Good Samaritan Society.

Memorial services are at 10:30 a.m. Monday at First Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomfield. Pastor Duane Fahr will officiate, with inurnment in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Sunday at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Bloomfield.

### Angela Leise

Angela Leise, 92, of Yankton died Thursday, March 22, 2012, at the Golden Living Center, Hartington, Neb.

Funeral services are pending with Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

# Garretson Student Wins State Spelling Bee

VERMILLION — With the correct spelling of "imperilment," Maria Henebry of Garretson won the oral competition of the South Dakota State Spelling Bee at the University of South Dakota on Saturday, March 17.

Henebry, who participated in the bee as a representative of the Greater Sioux Falls Home School Association, advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 29-June 1. In addition to transportation and accommodations for herself and one parent to participate in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., she also received a Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary,

11th Edition, donated by Merriam-Webster; and a cash prize donated by Bank of the West.

Bailey Sejnoha of Yankton Middle School finished second at the 2012 South Dakota State Spelling Bee, which was at Aalfs Auditorium inside Slagle Hall on the USD campus. Ryder Heitz of Newell Middle School was third in the oral spelling bee.

Additional participants included Danielle Gillis of Yankton Middle School, Lillie Dennis of Sioux Falls (Patrick Henry Middle School), Lexis Sherron of Brandon (Brandon Valley Middle School), Tara McEldowney of Castle-

wood Middle School, Max Oesterling of the South Dakota Christian Home Educators, April Will of Parkston Elementary and Jason Schnabel of Tripp (Tripp-Delmont Public).

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is administered on a not-for-profit basis by the E.W. Scripps Company and local spelling bee sponsors in the United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Department of Defense Schools in Europe; also, the Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The competition is open for students in first grade through the eighth grade.

# Obama

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publicans who blame him for gas prices near \$4 a gallon, Obama announced Thursday that he was directing federal agencies to expedite the southern segment of the Keystone line. The 485-mile line will run from Cushing, Okla., to refineries on Texas' Gulf Coast, removing a critical bottleneck in the country's oil transportation system. The directive would also apply to other pipelines that alleviate choke points.

"Anyone who says that we're somehow suppressing domestic oil production isn't paying attention," Obama said, speaking at the site of the new Oklahoma project.

Republicans said the moves were little more than a publicity stunt, arguing that it wouldn't help Canadian company TransCanada build the pipeline any sooner. Construction is expected to begin in June with completion next year.

"The American people can't afford more half-measures on energy from the president," said Kirsten Kukowski, a Republican National Committee spokeswoman. "No matter what he says, the reality is he killed the Keystone pipeline and the energy production and 20,000 jobs that went with it."

Environmentalists were also critical of Obama's move. Susan Casey-Lefkowitz of the Natural Resources Defense Council said it was "downright foolhardy to cut corners on safety reviews for permitting" the Texas-to-Oklahoma line, "especially when the industry has a history of oil spills."

Obama's order urges speedy review of the Cushing project and directs federal agencies to incorporate previous environmental studies of the Keystone proposal

that included the southern route.

The use of previous studies should help move the project forward more quickly than if a review of the project started from scratch, although it's unclear exactly how much time the expedited review will save.

Republicans call the president's actions a belated attempt to take credit for a project over which he has relatively little control. While federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department play a role in the approval process for the domestic portion of the pipeline, states have a more direct say in approving the route.

Shawn Howard, a spokesman for TransCanada, said the company welcomed Obama's support for the Oklahoma-to-Texas portion of the pipeline but couldn't say whether his involvement would impact the timeline for completing the project.

The full Keystone pipeline became a political flashpoint late last year when congressional Republicans wrote a provision forcing Obama to make a decision and environmental groups waged a campaign to kill the project. Obama delayed the project in January.

Obama has been highlighting his energy agenda this week in Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and later Thursday in battleground Ohio, a trip that reflects the degree to which high gas prices have begun hitting consumers in their pocketbooks.

For Obama's advisers, rising gas prices pose a threat to his reelection bid because they could undermine the benefits of a payroll tax cut that he made the centerpiece of his jobs agenda last fall — Congress approved the tax cut extension in February — and throttle the economic recovery.

Republicans view rising gas prices as emblematic of Obama's energy record and hope to tag him with the blame even though no

president has much control over prices at the pump. Gas prices have risen more than 50 cents a gallon since January in response to a standoff over Iran's nuclear program that has threatened to disrupt Middle East oil supplies.

GOP presidential hopeful Rick Santorum, campaigning at a Harvey, La., company that services oil rigs, said Obama's administration should open more federal lands for leases to boost U.S. oil production and revenue for the federal government.

"Here's an opportunity for us in this country to do something about it: increasing jobs, lowering energy prices, decreasing the deficit, all of the things you would think the president of the United States would be for," Santorum said.

Mitt Romney, Santorum's chief rival for the Republican nomination, has labeled Obama's top energy advisers the "gas hike trio," urging the president to fire three Cabinet secretaries because of the high prices.

Obama was ending the day with a stop in battleground Ohio, talking about automobile research and development at Ohio State University in Columbus. The president has cited his decision to raise fuel efficiency standards to 55 miles per gallon for new vehicles by 2025 as an important step in conserving oil and saving consumers at the gas pump.

Obama has repeatedly invoked his decision to rescue General Motors and Chrysler from collapse with billions in federal aid, a move that saved hundreds of thousands of auto assembly and supplier jobs in Ohio, Michigan and elsewhere. Romney opposed the bailout, and Obama's team intends to make it a stark contrast between the two candidates if the former Massachusetts governor wins the GOP nomination.

# Forum

From Page 1A

- Becker — No
- Welch — No
- Pietz — Yes

If elected to the school board, will you vote to make all public records available to all citizens in a designated area at the administration building as is done with the county records of Yankton?

- Becker — Yes
- Welch — Yes
- Pietz — Yes

If balancing the budget calls for the closing of one of the elementary schools, how will you vote?

- Becker — Abstain
- Welch — Abstain
- Pietz — Abstain

As a school board member, will you tolerate any administrator dismissing a teacher or employee in the classroom while class is in session?

- Becker — No
- Welch — No
- Pietz — No

During a school-conducted election, all school employees, teachers and administrators are to be held at the highest standard. If an

employee, teacher or administrator is guilty of voter obstruction, voter intimidation, voter harassment or coercion, will you ask for his or her resignation?

- Becker — Yes
- Welch — Yes
- Pietz — Yes

If you are elected to the school board and need to balance the budget, will a tax opt-out be your first choice?

- Becker — No
- Welch — No
- Pietz — No

Will it be your last choice?

- Becker — Yes
- Welch — No
- Pietz — Yes

As a school board member, will you demand more than a 1/2-percent interest earning on nearly \$16 million of Yankton School District money?

- Becker — Yes
- Welch — Abstain
- Pietz — Abstain

As a school board member, will you call for a complete audit of the approximately \$8.2 million in the health insurance fund? All money going in and all money going out will be made public?

- Becker — Yes
- Welch — Yes
- Pietz — Yes

The candidates were asked to

sign a pledge that they would uphold all the commitments they made in answering the questions. The *Press & Dakotan* does not know which, if any, candidates signed it.

Following the moderated portion of the forum, the candidates asked the crowd of current and former school district employees, as well as other members of the public, if they had any questions. That spurred a dialogue that continued for more than an hour.

Candidates were asked to clarify answers posed earlier — such as how higher interest rates could be "demanded" or why they voted the way they did on the opt-out — and to answer new ones.

Despite the contentious and ongoing issues that have been debated in the school district for more than a year, the discourse remained civil during this free-flowing portion of the forum.

## Deadline Approaches For Property Tax Relief

PIERRE — Elderly and disabled South Dakotans have until April 1 to apply for property tax relief under South Dakota's Assessment Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program.

Under the program, for tax purposes, the homeowner's property assessment is prevented from increasing. If the actual value of the home increases, the homeowner still pays property taxes on the former (lower) value.

To be eligible for the Assessment Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program, individuals must meet the following qualifications:

- Have incomes of less than \$25,116.03 for a single-member household (only one individual in the household) or less than \$31,395.04 for a multiple-member household
- Have owned or retained a life estate in a single-family dwelling, in fee or by contract to purchase, for at least one year and have been a resident of South Dakota for at least one year

- Have resided for at least 200 days of the previous calendar year in the single-family dwelling
- Be 65 years of age or older OR disabled (as defined by the Social Security Act).

Un-remarried widow/widowers of those who were previously qualified may still qualify in some circumstances. The valuation limit for the program is \$172,401.17 or more of full and true value, meaning that property valued above those limits is not eligible unless the applicant has previously qualified.

Deadline to apply for the program is April 1 and applications must be submitted to the county treasurer. Applications are available from local county treasurers' offices or by contacting the Department of Revenue, Property and Special Taxes Division in Pierre at 605-773-3139 or 1-800-829-9188 (ask for the Property and Special Taxes Division). Additional information and the online application are available at <http://www.state.sd.us/drr2/pr opspectax/property/relief.htm> (see "Assessment Freeze for Elderly and Disabled" with the online application located in the "to apply" area).



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