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Today



Chat With The P&D Sports Staff From 3:30-4:30 p.m.
www.yankton.net

18 DAYS UNTIL SPRING
#ThinkSpring

SD Bill May Make Permits Easier

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A state Senate committee holds a hearing Tuesday on changes that would apply throughout South Dakota for local planning and zoning decisions on conditional-use permits.

The legislation, HB 1201, won approval last week in the state House of Representatives. The key change would reduce the threshold for conditional-use decisions.

It would be allowed to become a majority of board members present.

The root of the fight is about the relative ease or difficulty for more large agricultural production facilities to be built.

"We need new and fresh ideas in South Dakota," Rep. Burt Tulson, R-Lake Norden, said during the 20-minute debate Wednesday in the House. "Let's use our natural resources here in the state, not ship it out."

Supporters of the changes include the South Dakota associations representing cattlemen, cooperatives and dairymen, as well as the county commission and municipal government groups, and the state Department of Agriculture.

The lead opponent has been the Dakota Rural Action organization.

Rep. Mark Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls, is the bill's prime

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A Nebraska Gamble?

Unicameral To Consider Bill That Will Let Lawmakers Authorize Gambling Laws

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Legislature is considering a bill this week that would give state lawmakers — rather than citizens — the power to authorize and regulate any form of gambling in the state.

The proposed constitutional amendment, Legislative Resolution 10CA, would shift the decisions away from voters, who currently must amend the state constitution to approve any

new form of gaming. If state senators approve LR 10CA this session, it would be placed on the 2016 ballot for voters to decide.

"It's scheduled to come up for a vote on the floor on Monday (today), but it could be delayed until Tuesday," said Pat Loontjers, executive director of Gambling With The Good Life, in an interview with the *Press & Dakotan*.

Loontjers said her organization, which opposes expanded gaming, will lobby hard to prevent the bill from making it out of the Legislature.

"It's a very bad bill for Nebraska, and we intend to fight it with all that we have," she said.

District 40 Sen. Tyson Larson of O'Neill — whose constituency includes Rock Holt, Boyd, Knox, Cedar and Dixon counties — chairs the General Affairs Committee which voted 5-3 to send LR 10CA to the floor. Larson was among the five senators voting in favor of the measure.

The *Press & Dakotan* emailed a request last week to Larson, seeking his comments on LR

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Pan-Tastic



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Hailee Privett of Yankton Figure Skating (YFS) puts the finishing touches on her performance as Tinker Bell from "Peter Pan" during YFS's year-end performance Sunday at the Pine Acres 4-H Kiwanis Ice Arena in Yankton. The skaters presented the program "If You Can DREAM It, You Can Do It," performing two shows during the weekend. Other performances touched on Disney films ranging from "Cinderella," "Pinocchio" and "The Lion King" to "Frozen," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Enchanted." To see more photos from this event, visit www.yankton.net.

Roberts Chosen As SD Republicans' Chairwoman

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

FORT PIERRE — Pam Roberts of Pierre officially became the new chairwoman for the South Dakota Republican Party on Saturday.

She follows Craig Lawrence, who was chairman for the past two years. Republicans swept every statewide elected office in 2014 for the first time 50 years.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard invited Roberts to consider the post as Lawrence, a long-time principal at a Sioux Falls marketing company, planned to return to semi-retirement.

Roberts herself retired in October 2013, after a decade in her latest role as state secretary of labor in the Rounds and Daugaard administrations.

She now describes herself as

"active Nana, family gofer and Century farm/ranch wife" on her Facebook page.

Her unanimous selection Saturday puts women in the top seats for both of South Dakota's major political parties.

Democrats chose Ann Tornberg of Beresford, a former teacher and unsuccessful candidate for the

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Lawmakers Eye City Sales Taxes And Autism Coverage

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota lawmakers plan to consider measures on municipal sales taxes, insurance coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder therapy and athletics policy for transgender students. Here's a look at some of the proposals they'll take up this week in Pierre:

TAX

A measure to allow municipalities to collect up to an additional 1 percent sales tax for capital expenditures is expected to be heard in the House State Affairs Committee on Friday. House Majority Leader Brian Gosch said it would allow municipalities to raise significant revenue if passed.

Gosch said he wants to examine whether the hike is necessary before approving a tax increase.



Munsterman

AUTISM

The House State Affairs Committee on Wednesday is expected to take up a measure that would help ensure insurance coverage for a type of Autism Spectrum Disorder therapy called applied behavior analysis. A similar measure failed last session, and legislators instead opted to commission a study on the issue.

Rep. Scott Munsterman, who is pushing the plan in the House, has said the legislative climate

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COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton High School senior Allie Thiesse has been named the first of three recipients from across the nation to receive this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership scholarship.

Thiesse Wins National Honor

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Allie Thiesse was looking for a volunteer project she could really sink her teeth into.

"I walked around (Yankton High School) dressed as a vampire to help create awareness and support for the blood drive being hosted at our school," she said. "We wanted to get more people to sign up to donate blood."

Clearly, Thiesse was willing to do what it takes to benefit others.

When she applied for a national scholarship, the application required the completion of 250 hours of community service. No problem — the YHS senior had completed more than 500 hours.

Her work has ranged from helping young people with cancer to serving a Puerto Rico mission. She has done it all while maintaining a 3.8 grade point average, including Advanced Placement courses, and a

full range of school and church activities.

She wasn't paid for her volunteerism, but she has now been rewarded.

Thiesse has been selected as the first of three young people from around the nation to receive this year's \$1,000 college scholarship from the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership program. She had attended HOBY's South Dakota State Leadership Seminar in 2013.

"I am ecstatic to receive this scholarship as HOBY has had an unbelievable impact on my life," she said. "I am extremely grateful to be blessed with this opportunity."

After graduating from YHS this spring, she plans to attend the University of Sioux Falls and pursue a double major in elementary education and special education, with minors in business and Spanish with an emphasis on non-profit organizations.

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