

Varilek Appointed To Small Business Admin.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — One-time U.S. House of Representatives candidate Matt Varilek has a new job with the Small Business Administration. Varilek, a native of the Yankton area, has been appointed regional administrator for the SBA. U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson applauded Varilek's appointment. Varilek has worked for both Johnson and former Sen. Tim Daschle. Says Johnson, "With his private sector experience and strong roots in the region, Matt is exceptionally well prepared to deliver results for the small businesses of South Dakota and the rest of Region 8." Varilek lost the House seat to incumbent Kristi Noem.



Varilek

Budget Cuts To Shrink Unemployment Benefits

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota will be reducing extended unemployment compensation benefits by nearly 17 percent as part of federal budget cuts. The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation says the benefits will be reduced by 16.8 percent. It affects all claimants filing for benefits beginning the week of June 2 and ending the week of Sept. 28. The reduction does not affect the 26 weeks of state unemployment benefits.

Two Bodies Found Inside Omaha Home

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police have been poring over a west Omaha home where two people were found dead. The bodies were found just before 10 a.m. Tuesday inside the west-central Omaha home. Officers have been sent to the home to check on the well-being of the residents. Police spokesman Michael Pecha says it's unclear whether a crime was involved in the deaths, but homicide investigators have been called in. The names of the deceased and other information about the case haven't been released.

Nebraska Attorney General Fined By FEC

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Federal Election Commission has fined Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning \$19,000 for violating campaign finance laws during his run for U.S. Senate last year. The fine stems from a complaint filed against the Republican by the Nebraska Democratic Party shortly after he launched an exploratory committee in 2010. The FEC found, among other things, that Bruning knew he was going to run for U.S. Senate when he filed for the creation of the committee prior to his run. Bruning agreed to a settlement with the FEC last month, according to an FEC document.

SD School Board Rejects Honor Song Request

CHAMBERLAIN (AP) — American Indian students will not be recognized with an honor song during this year's graduation ceremony at Chamberlain High School in southeastern South Dakota. The *Daily Republic* newspaper reports that the school board voted 6-1 Monday night to reject a request to allow the song. Supporters of an honor song presented a petition to the board last month. About one-third of the students in the school district are Indian. School board members say they want to make sure graduation recognizes educational achievements, rather than favoring one culture over another. They also say a ceremony led by the district's Native American Club the night before graduation honors tribal students.

Former SD State Auditor Betty Casey Dies

PIERRE (AP) — Former South Dakota state auditor Betty Casey has died. Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Casey died Sunday at a hospice facility in Rapid City. She was 80. Casey served as state auditor from 1961-63. Daugaard has ordered the flag at the state Capitol lowered to half-staff on Saturday, the day of her funeral in Gettysburg.

Nebraska

Death Penalty Repeal Dies

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A proposal to abolish the death penalty in Nebraska died on Tuesday, after supporters failed to win a two-thirds majority required to quash a legislative filibuster. Lawmakers voted 28-21 to end the filibuster, which was five votes short of what they needed. The failure to reach a vote pushes the bill to the bottom of the Legislature's agenda, effectively killing it for the rest of the session. The measure was introduced by longtime Sen. Ernie Chambers, who has fought for nearly four decades to end capital punishment. Chambers, of Omaha, said he will try again next year, as he has done every year from 1973 through 2008, when he was forced from office due to term limits. He was re-elected last year after a four-year hiatus. "I have been down this path so many times, and I'm prepared to continue walking this path," Chambers said before the vote. "If the 33 votes are not there, the world does not end for me." The vote after an eight-hour debate suggested that a growing number of lawmakers oppose capital punishment, most likely because of an influx of 10 freshman senators who have pulled the Legislature in a more moderate direction.

"I won't shed a tear and I won't mourn, except for the passage of time. I cannot have sympathy for these men on death row. They have forfeited their right to be part of the human race."

SEN. SCOTT LAUTENBAUGH

tion. The Legislature has only passed one of Chambers' death penalty bills once, in 1979, but then-Gov. Charles Thone vetoed it. Among the reasons death penalty opponents give for wanting to outlaw capital punishment is that they say it is applied arbitrarily. Nebraska has seen 260 first-degree murder convictions since 1973, and 33 of those offenders were sentenced to death. Of that number, three have been executed. Lawmakers who support the death penalty say Nebraska's system affords inmates numerous chances to appeal their sentences, often over decades. They also contend that improved DNA identification and evidence-gathering has reduced the chances of the state executing an innocent person.

Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, of Omaha, said Nebraska's death-row convicts have all committed crimes so heinous that he won't regret any of their executions. "I won't shed a tear and I won't mourn, except for the passage of time," Lautenbaugh said. "I cannot have sympathy for these men on death row. They have forfeited their right to be part of the human race." Sen. Charlie Janssen, of Fremont, argued that the death penalty gives prosecutors additional leverage to force plea-bargains in murder cases. "Murderers are cowards by their very nature, and they will cave if they've got something to lose," Janssen said. Nebraska has 11 men currently sitting on death row. The last inmate executed in Nebraska was Robert E. Williams, who was executed in 1997. Williams confessed to killing three women and trying to kill a fourth during a three-day rampage in 1977 that crossed into three states. Earlier this month, Maryland became the sixth state in the last six years to repeal the death penalty. Like the other five states — New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois and New Mexico — Maryland is less conservative than Nebraska. Thirty-two states have the death penalty.

Neb. Lawmakers Override Veto On Retirement Bill

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers on Tuesday overrode Gov. Dave Heineman's veto of a public-employee retirement bill, holding in place a deal that was struck to shore up the retirement plans of teachers, judges and state patrol troopers. The 32-1 vote came one day after Heineman, a Republican, criticized the measure as an unfair increase for state taxpayers. Supporters of the bill argued that failing to pass it would only postpone tough decisions on the state's unfunded, \$2.2 billion pension liability. The bill holds a nearly 10 percent contribution rate for teachers, reduces benefits for new hires, and increases the state's contribution from 1 to 2 percent. In his veto message, Heineman criticized the proposal to increase the state's contribution. He said the increase would cost the state an estimated \$20 million a year — an amount that would grow over time — in addition to the roughly \$20 million that the state already pays. Heineman also took issue with assumptions that the investments would see 8 percent annual returns, saying those estimates were unrealistic. He

called for a study so lawmakers and the public can better understand the system's liabilities, and make changes next year. Heineman's budget recommendations did not include a solution to the projected shortfalls in the school, judges' and troopers' retirement plans. Nordquist said past governors have worked to address state-pension shortfalls. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha, said the bill was an attempt to move forward with the state's 30-year pension obligation. Nordquist said the state would end up paying more in future years if lawmakers failed to take action. "It's time for us to step up and address this in a comprehensive manner," he said. Heineman has said he supports a short-term fix within the legislation, which would change employee contributions from a specific dollar amount to a percentage of their overall pay. As employee salaries increase, the amount contributed to retirement would increase in tandem.

Minnesota Gov. Dayton Signs Gay Marriage Bill

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Gov. Mark Dayton on Tuesday signed a bill making gay marriage legal in Minnesota, the 12th state to take the step, as thousands of onlookers cheered. "What a day for Minnesota!" Dayton, a Democrat, declared moments before putting his signature on a bill. "And what a difference a year and an election can make in our state." Rainbow and American flags flapped in a sweltering breeze during the ceremony, held on the Capitol's south steps. The crowd, estimated by the State Patrol at 6,000, spilled down the steps and across the lawn toward downtown St. Paul. Dayton thanked legislators for "political courage" before signing the bill just a day after it passed the state Senate. It passed the House last week. The push for gay marriage was a rapid turnaround from just six months ago, when gay marriage supporters had to mobilize to turn back a proposed constitutional amendment that would have banned gay marriage. Minnesota already had such a law, but an amendment would have been harder to undo. But voters rejected the amendment, and the forces that organized to defeat it soon turned their attention to legalizing gay marriage. Democrats' takeover of the Legislature in the November election aided their cause.

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YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE STEM ZONE™

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. Chevron and the United States Golf Association (USGA) are bringing science to life by showing how STEM studies play a big role in the game of golf. This page is the fourth in a series of special Kid Scoop pages created through this partnership.

AERODYNAMICS: IT'S ALL AROUND YOU

You may see a funny, bumpy ball sitting on a tee. But when you take it into the the STEM Zone,™ a golf ball looks aerodynamic!

The word aerodynamic comes from two Greek words: **AGROES** OF THE AIR and **DYNAMIS** POWER, STRENGTH, FORCE.

Scientists and engineers use the rules of aerodynamics to make things go fast and far — like race cars, jet planes and golf balls!

ROUND AND ROUND

The impact, or hit, of a golf club on a ball gives it speed to move. Drag is an opposite force that slows a moving object. Most round objects (like a golf ball) have less drag than flat objects (like a cube). Wave your hand through the air. You can feel the drag of the air.

WEIGHT AND LIFT

The weight of an object makes it harder to lift. Have you ever wondered how a full passenger jet, which weighs about 300,000 pounds, can fly? Aerodynamics!

Golf balls do not create as much lift as a passenger jet, but they do create enough to greatly increase hang time, and therefore, distance.

As a golf ball travels through the air, wind resistance creates drag, which slows the ball down. The dimples on a golf ball reduce the drag of the air making it possible for the ball to go faster and farther.

STEM Connection: Bernoulli's Principle explains how objects generate aerodynamic lift. Lift is partly responsible for getting golf balls to travel as far as they do.

STEM in the News Collect STEM related articles from the newspaper to place in a time capsule. What do the articles tell us about current technology?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

WHAT A DRAG!

Cut out and paste this sentence in order.

speed to move it through
counter the drag of the water.
the air, but not enough to
This golf cart has enough

STEM Zone™ content on this page is provided through a partnership with Chevron and the USGA.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

STRENGTH ANALYSIS DYNAMIS FAIRWAY FLIGHT IMPACT TRAVEL TUNNEL SPEED FORCE DRAG HANG BLOW WAKE AIR

A L D E E P S E S D
S E R O T C D T Y R
I V Y H N C R N A A
S A W A K E A O M G
Y R I N N M B P F C
L T H G I L F S M A
A R T S O O A I R I
N H U W T U N N E L
A N D Y A W R I A F

Standards Link: Letter sequencing, Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY www.kidscoop.com

Problem Solvers

STEM workers are problem solvers. Locate a problem in the sports section of the newspaper that an athlete or team faced. Write about and illustrate an invention to solve it.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Write On!

Talking Frogs

Send your story to: Press & Dakotan C/o Noelle Schlechter 319 Walnut Street Yankton, SD 57078 605-665-7811, ext 112

What would you do if you could communicate with frogs?

Deadline: June 9 Published: Week of July 7 Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

If Pigs Could Fly

Finish this story.

If pigs could fly, I would get a moon bounce and jump on it so I could fly with them. We would fly over the clouds and restaurants.

Carmen, 1st grade

If pigs could fly it would be hard for them since they weigh a lot. They would need strong wings and feathers. Bacon would be falling from the sky like bird droppings.

Arthur, 3rd grade

If pigs could fly, then there would be a different saying for never doing something.

Evan, 1st grade

If pigs could fly, they could take people places. They could even get lost and fly away from their farm. Maybe if they land in the woods a wolf might eat them. If pigs could fly, they could land on the top of houses. Maybe they could land in your front or back yard.

Madelyn, 2nd grade

If pigs could fly, they could help people and save people from monsters. They could come back home and make me a chocolate cake. The next day, when I had gone to school, the pigs could clean my house and bedroom. They could get me toys and lots of great stuff. I wish pigs could fly!

Mariam, 2nd grade

If pigs could fly it would be terrifying. When pigs fly for one hour, they get really tired and start to fall out of the sky. Then they start to cry. I felt really terrified when I saw the pigs falling.

Christopher, 2nd grade

If pigs could fly, I would need a special net to catch one. I would ride one through the sky. They would need traffic control so they don't have any pig accidents. They could fly anywhere in the world that the non-flying animals can't reach. The pigs and birds would fly together and become best friends. I would love it if pigs could fly.

Crissy, 2nd grade