## the midwest

#### **Heineman Signs Nebraska Juvenile Justice Bill**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman has

signed a juvenile justice reform bill into law.

The measure by Sen. Brad Ashford, of Omaha, is designed to shift the state's focus toward rehabilitation for youths who break the law. Heineman approved the legislation on Wednesday during a news conference.

The multi-faceted bill would transfer the supervision of juvenile offenders to state's Office of Probation Administration, under the Nebraska Supreme Court. Juvenile offenders are currently overseen by the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Heineman says the law will allow the department to focus more on children who have suffered abuse and neglect. It also provides \$14.5 million for juvenile services.

Ashford says the law seeks to helps youths in their mid- to lateteens, before their crimes escalate.

The bill is LB561.

#### **Storm Damage S.D. Reservation Town Of Allen**

ALLEN (AP) — The small town of Allen on the Pine Ridge Reservation was recovering Wednesday after a strong storm damaged several buildings and three homes.

The National Weather Service in Rapid City sent an investigator to determine if the damage was caused by a tornado or strong winds that passed through Bennett County on Tuesday. Several structures reported roof damage in the storm.

One of the buildings damaged was a church where an Oklahoma youth group was staying, though no one in the church was injured, said Michele Lewis, regional development coordinator of the Black Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross was distributing food and water and providing lodging for people who needed it. The town is home to about 420 people.

We are in the process of meeting with the impacted families to verify their needs and offer their financial assistance," Lewis said in an email to the Rapid City Journal.

Only the southeast corner of the county was hit by the damaging storm, officials said.

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Post 791

#### **Authorities Suspend Search For Abducted Iowa Teen**

BY THOMAS BEAUMONT

**Associated Press** 

FORT DODGE, Iowa - The father of a missing lowa teenager asked U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley on Wednesday to support stricter sexcrime penalties that he said could have prevented her abduction — a request that came the same day authorities suspended an exhaustive ground search for the girl.

Michael Shepard, wearing a purple bandanna and jersey to honor his daughter's favorite color, asked the Iowa Republican during a town hall meeting to support legislation that his family, friends and supporters plan to offer to the state Legislature next year. Among their requests is requiring some offenders to serve more of their prison sentences.

"If we can get this out to the forefront, hopefully nobody else's daughter, granddaughter, sister would have to suffer," Shepard told Grassley and about 80 other people gathered at the Fort Dodge

Police suspect that a registered sex offender, Michael Klunder, abducted 15-year-old Kathlynn Shepard and her 12-year-old friend on May 20 in Dayton, a town about 60 miles north Des Moines. The younger girl was able to escape. Klunder committed suicide hours

through 250 square miles in three counties for any sign of Kathlynn, but they announced Wednesday that they were halting their search, saying they've exhausted their efforts. They also said flooding means some areas are now under water and has made river searches

Šome of Kathlynn's blood was found last week, dampening hopes of finding her alive. But officials say residents should still check their properties for anything suspicious.

Grassley, who held the meeting in Fort Dodge to answer questions about federal policy and legislation in Congress, thanked Shepard but noted that the concern was a state, not a federal, issue. But the senator offered to tell his grandson, Patrick Grassley, who is a member of the Iowa Legislature.

"If there's something at the federal level, I'd be glad to take your suggestions and work on that." Grassley said.

Klunder was released from prison in 2011, having served about half of a 41-year sentence after pleading guilty to third-degree kidnapping and assault for separate 1991 offenses. Prosecutors had dropped first-

degree kidnapping charges in exchange for Klunder's guilty plea to the lesser offense. Corrections

officials say Klunder's prison time was reduced because he met behavior requirements.

Supporters of the Shepards, many wearing lavender ribbons, also argued at Wednesday's meeting that lawmakers should add kidnapping to the list of offenses for which offenders must register upon their release.

Grassley has been a proponent of mandatory minimum sentences for federal crimes. But he said more lawmakers have supported lesser sentences in recent years, particularly for drug offenses.

sive battle at this point, not an offensive battle," Grassley said.

Klunder also had prior convictions for assault and burglary dating back to his teenage years.

Iowa Department of Corrections officials said they reviewed Klunder in 2011 and ruled him fit for release, and not as a sexually violent predator who could be locked up

As a registered sex offender, he had to check in with the local sheriff's office twice a year, and he fulfilled that requirement, they said.





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## Lawmakers Ask For Information On Labor Recruiting

PIERRE (AP) — Democratic state lawmakers have asked Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard for information on the state's \$5 million contract with a national recruiting firm that was hired to find new workers for hard-to-fill jobs in the state.

Rep. Susan Wismer, of Britton, and Sen. Billie Sutton, of Burke, said they have questions about the program because Manpower-Group Inc. was supposed to help fill 1,000 jobs in three years, but only 83 jobs have been filled a year after the contract was signed. The two lawmakers, members of the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee, note the state recently made changes in the project, which was started to fill needs in engineering, financial services, information technology and manufacturing.

"I hope Gov. Daugaard's administration will help us answer our questions about the program so we can protect taxpayers and fill open jobs across South Dakota," Sutton said in a written statement.

The Democrats want information about the program's expense, the contract with ManpowerGroup, the number and type of jobs filled, and the wages paid for those jobs.

Tony Venhuizen, the governor's communications director, said the Governor's Office of Economic Development has always been open about the project and will provide the information sought by Democratic lawmakers. However, it might take time to collect all the information the lawmakers are seeking, he said.

The contract with Manpower-Group provided the company with a monthly payment of \$49,000 and additional payment for every job filled. Officials recently said the program has been modified to let businesses use other recruiters and be reim-

bursed for part of the expense. Venhuizen said the GOED decided it was time to make some changes after talking to South Dakota businesses a little more than a year after the recruitment effort started.

'They're hoping this change will increase the success of the program," Venhuizen said.

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## **Deanna Huether** BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

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Deanna was diagnosed with stage II cervical cancer. Monies raised will go to help defray expenses. Contact Kyle Huether 605-661-2831

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