

Police: Child Found In Dumpster In Neb.

LA VISTA, Neb. (AP) — Police say a 1-year-old child was found in a dumpster outside of a La Vista apartment complex.

The La Vista Police Department says the child was found at the complex Wednesday evening just off of 84th Street and Park View Boulevard. The child was taken to a local hospital and has been listed in stable condition.

Police say the child was wearing only a diaper. No further information has been released and no arrests have been made.

Officials: Tornadoes Hit South-Central Neb.

ROSELAND, Neb. (AP) — Officials in south-central Nebraska scrambled Wednesday to check on residents after a number of tornadoes hit the area.

A tornado hit Roseland, a rural town of fewer than 250 people about 8 miles southwest of Hastings, around 4:20 p.m. Wednesday, weather and emergency management officials said.

The National Weather Service in Hastings learned of the tornado from the Adams County Emergency Management Office and later confirmed the twister, meteorologist Angela Pfannkuch said. At least 10 to 15 homes in and around the town were damaged, she said.

KOLN-TV and KHAS-TV posted photos online of what appeared to be a tornado at Roseland, as well as lumber and siding ripped from houses there and numerous downed trees and tree limbs.

Pfannkuch and Dawna Whitcomb with Adams County Emergency Management said no injuries had been reported by 6 p.m. The local office was coordinating with the American Red Cross to help any households displaced by the tornado, Whitcomb said.

Further east, another tornado hit a rural area near the Kansas border. The Nuckolls County Sheriff's Office said the tornado hit a rural area between the small towns of Hardy and Ruskin. No injuries or damage were immediately reported, but deputies were checking houses in the area to make sure residents were safe.

Emergency officials in neighboring Thayer County also were checking on reports of a tornado in a rural area there, and the weather service planned to send an official to determine whether a twister had struck the area. The weather service had issued a tornado warning for the county through 7 p.m.

Governor Fills Open Senate Seats

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Senate is back at full strength, and the Republican conference is gathering to fill two top leadership spots.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed Dell Rapids Mayor Scott Fiegen on Wednesday to serve the remainder of former Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave's term.

Daugaard last week tapped Dakota Dunes businessman William Shorma to fill in for former Sen. Dan Lederman, who served as assistant majority leader.

The two Republican will serve through the next legislative session.

Rave and Lederman stepped down after the 2015 session, creating a leadership void among Senate Republicans.

Senate President Pro Tempore Corey Brown says the Senate GOP is gathering on Saturday to fill the spots in Pierre, where the two new lawmakers will also be officially sworn in.

Brown is running for majority leader.

2 Cold Case Arrests Made In 2 Weeks

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — It's a coincidence that arrests have been made in two cold case killings in the Sioux Falls area in less than two weeks, investigators said.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office last month arrested a Florida man in the 1989 killing of Kimberly Eidsness, who was found shot to death in her home. Sioux Falls police a short time later arrested a homeless woman in the 2011 slaying of Daniel Eastman, a homeless man found beaten and stabbed in a downtown alley.

The arrests were the result of two departments independently deciding to apply new perspective and technology to old unsolved cases, investigators told the *Argus Leader* newspaper.

"A lot of times we have a primary person of interest, but you have to be able to prove your case to a jury," Sioux Falls Police Capt. Blaine Larsen said. "It's about having a strong enough case."

In the Eastman killing, Sioux Falls Police detectives Pat Mertes and Mike Webb were given permission in March to dig back into the case. With the relationships Mertes built working the streets and the investigative work by Webb, the investigators were able to get a witness to come forward, Larsen said.

"I don't think we ever thought we would be done," Larsen said. "We knew we were going to continue to investigate."

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office three years ago decided to reopen the Eidsness case. Improved technology enabled investigators to solve previously unanswered questions, Capt. Paul Niedringhaus said.

"I think there's satisfaction that we've finally come to a resolution, not only for law enforcement, but for Kimberly Eidsness, who doesn't have a voice anymore," he said.

Student Accused Of Threatening

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A University of Nebraska at Omaha student has been taken into police custody after being accused of pulling a pocket knife on another student in the university's library.

The university sent an email to faculty and students about the Wednesday morning incident.

The Omaha Police Department says 21-year-old Leo Labogen had been asked not to talk so loudly on his cell-phone when he pulled the knife.

Other students tackled Labogen, who displayed another knife, and held him down until police arrived. Omaha police later took Labogen into custody on attempted felony assault and three counts of carrying a concealed weapon.

No one was injured during the incident, and the library remained open as usual throughout and after the incident.

UNO is providing counseling services for students disturbed by the event.

New Nebraska Budget Boosts Property Tax Relief To \$408M

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers agreed Wednesday to set aside even more money for property tax relief amid predictions that state revenue will grow faster than expected.

The budget that advanced to a final vote would boost the funding by \$8 million, for a total of \$408 million over two years. The money will go into the state's property tax credit fund, which reduces what taxpayers owe to local counties, school districts and natural resources districts.

The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board predicted last month that the state would collect more money than expected, giving senators an additional \$9.7 million.

The Legislature's budget committee recommended that lawmakers put \$8 million of the extra money into the property tax fund.

"The Appropriations Committee felt this was a responsible and sustainable increase



METRO GRAPHICS

in direct property tax relief," said Sen. Heath Mello, the committee chairman.

The rest of the surplus revenue will help replace a public-broadcasting antenna that fell off a tower in Alliance, and provide money for rural economic development bills.

The state forecasting board projected last month that state revenue will grow 5 percent during the fiscal year that starts on July 1 and 4.3 percent in the following year.

Prior to the board meeting, many lawmakers had speculated that state revenues would decline and force them to make cuts in the \$8.7 billion budget to avoid a deficit.

"These were funds we didn't know we were going to have, and quite truthfully, I think all of us are thankful that we ended up on the plus side of things," said Sen. Beau McCoy, of Omaha. "I think the right place to put these funds is in the property tax credit relief fund."

Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican, urged lawmakers last month to use the surplus revenue on tax cuts.

On Monday, lawmakers gave initial approval to a separate property tax bill aimed at farmers and business owners.

The measure would allow business owners to exempt the first \$10,000 worth of tangible property used in their operations, for an average tax savings of \$162. The bill would apply to farm equipment such as irrigation pivots and tractors, and business equipment such as rail cars, pipelines and factory machines.

Lawmakers also voted to withdraw about \$28 million from the cash reserve fund to pay for renovations to the Capitol's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The full project is expected to cost \$106 million, including the expense of restoring windows, moving Capitol offices across the street and a more efficient geothermal heat pump system. The withdrawals would take place over eight years.

Four Sioux Tribes, Pennington County Agree On Law Enforcement For Pe' Sla Land

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An agreement on law enforcement was reached Tuesday between Pennington County and four Sioux tribes that bought 3 square miles of land they consider sacred in western South Dakota's Black Hills.

In 2012, the Great Sioux Nation raised \$9 million to buy land the tribes call Pe' Sla from private landowners. The tribes hope to put the

land, also known as Reynolds Prairie, in trust with the federal government to be held on behalf of tribal members.

None of the tribes has a headquarters closer than a four-hour drive from Pe' Sla, the *Rapid City Journal* reported. The area is used as a ceremonial site by the tribes because of its role in tribal creation stories. They also plan to reintroduce bison to

the site.

If the land is put into trust, tribal jurisdiction would apply. But the agreement would allow the county, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribes to handle law enforcement. If a tribal member is cited or arrested for a crime at the site, he or she would be prosecuted in tribal court, but non-tribal members would be prosecuted in other courts belonging

to the local jurisdiction.

Sheriff Kevin Thom said he has some concerns about the agreement, which he called "a little confusing, a little mushy."

For example, it doesn't specify which party will be responsible for transporting a tribal member who's arrested by a county deputy at Pe' Sla to tribal court on the Rosebud Reservation, he said.

Celebrate Women 2015

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Saturday's Celebrate Women Event has been postponed until fall of 2015.

Purchased tickets will be refunded by bringing your ticket to the Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, until Friday, May 15th.

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