

Former Teacher Sentenced To Prison

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A former Sioux Falls middle school teacher who admitted to having a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old student has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Thirty-three-year-old Tonya Druempel was charged in a five-count indictment last year. She pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual contact with a child younger than 16 in February.

Both the victim and the victim's mother testified during Friday's sentencing hearing. The *Argus Leader* reports the victim said she is going to forgive Druempel because "it's the right thing to do."

Druempel worked for the Sioux Falls School District between 2009 and 2013. She was a teacher at Axtell Park Middle School.

Police began investigating her after a referral from the Department of Social Services.

Wind Energy Firm Objects To Rules

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A company says noise rules being drafted in Lancaster County are so restrictive they would discourage wind farms from being developed there.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports the Oregon-based company, Volkswind, wants to develop a 50-turbine farm in Lancaster and Gage counties.

A Volkswind project engineer said Thursday the likelihood of violating those proposed rules would be so great that wind energy companies would choose to build in other counties.

A Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department official says the regulations are based on recent studies looking at the potential health impacts of the constant, percussive sound made by turbines, which can cause sleep disturbance.

RC Police Seeking Help To Find Woman

RAPID CITY (AP) — Police in Rapid City are seeking the help of the public in finding a woman who's been missing since Monday and is possibly in danger.

Twenty-two-year-old Jessica Rehfeld was last seen with two unknown men in the 3400 block of Hemlock Street on Monday night.

Rehfeld is 5 feet 10 inches tall and 110 pounds. She has blonde hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with any information about Rehfeld is urged to contact authorities at 605-394-4131.

Accused Fan Is Seeking New Attorney

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Philip man accused of subjecting American Indian children to racial slurs and spraying them with beer during a late-January minor league hockey game in Rapid City is now being represented by a new attorney.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Mike Butler of Sioux Falls takes over as defense attorney for Trace O'Connell, who had been represented by Patrick Duffy. Duffy died unexpectedly earlier this month.

The 41-year-old O'Connell has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor disorderly conduct. A status hearing for the case is scheduled for Thursday in Rapid City.

Nebraska Court Upholds Life Sentence

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Supreme Court has affirmed the life sentence of a woman who killed her boyfriend's 68-year-old mother in 2013.

The high court on Friday rejected 42-year-old Shelley Casterline's appeal argument that the sentencing judge did not follow state law in sentencing her to life for her conviction of second-degree murder in the stabbing death of Virginia Barone.

Investigators say the women had been arguing before Barone's death. An autopsy shows Barone was stabbed twice in the back and 20 times in the chest and torso.

Casterline's 24-year-old son, Andrew Casterline, was convicted of first-degree murder and other crimes in Barone's death and also sentenced to life in prison.

Nebraska

Ricketts Appeals To Public To Keep Death Penalty

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts turned to the public Friday to try to crack the veto-proof majority of lawmakers that voted to abolish the death penalty, urging residents to contact their senators and voice support for capital punishment.

Lawmakers voted 32-15 on the measure Wednesday, placing the issue on the governor's desk for the first time since 1979. At least 30 votes are needed next week to override Ricketts' promised veto, so the governor has to flip three or more.

"I think it's appropriate, I think it's an important tool for public safety, and I think frankly, the senators are completely out of touch with Nebraskans by voting to repeal the death penalty," Ricketts said, noting he's spoken with several lawmakers.

Advocates on either side of the issue are working hard to try to influence next week's override vote with phone and email messages to senators' offices and social media accounts. On Friday, the Omaha Police Officers' Association voiced its support for the death penalty for those who murder a first responder



Ricketts

or elected official, as well as other heinous crimes.

Two senators who spoke with the governor after the bill passed said they hadn't been persuaded to change their vote against capital punishment.

Sen. Mike Gloor of Grand Island said he supports the death penalty, but noted that Nebraska's two previous governors and former attorneys general were never able to overcome the legal challenges. Gloor said the spectacle of keeping inmates on death row for decades has weakened capital punishment's effectiveness as a crime deterrent.

Nebraska hasn't executed an inmate since 1997, when the electric chair was used under Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson. The state hasn't put someone to death with the current lethal injection protocol required by law. Eleven men are now on death row, including one who has been there for 35 years.

"It would be one thing if we were only six or seven years out from our last execution," Gloor said. "But this is Year 19."

South Dakota

Bosworth: I Was A Novice

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — Former U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth said Friday shortly before testimony ended in her trial that it wasn't her intention to mislead anyone when she attested to signatures on campaign documents that she didn't actually witness.

Bosworth is seeking to avoid conviction on charges of violating South Dakota election law. The jury will reconvene next week to receive instructions and hear closing arguments.

Bosworth has said she was out of the country on a medical mission while some of her nominating petitions were circulating. She has also admitted that she didn't personally gather signatures from some Hutterite colo-



Bosworth

nies, despite attesting on documents that she had witnessed people signing petitions.

Lawyers for the two sides elicited testimony over the trial that has provided contrasting portraits of Bosworth to the jury.

Bosworth's defense team has cast her as a political novice who did her best to follow complicated regulations but violated South Dakota election law under the guidance of her former attorney and political consultant, Joel Arends. Bosworth testified she hadn't reviewed the requirements well enough when she affirmed she had witnessed people sign certain petitions. She called her

actions "careless."

"I was doing everything possible to get it right," Bosworth said. "I felt like I did a very good job trying. Clearly I'm sitting here because we screwed up."

Bosworth's attorneys say Arends told her she could properly call herself the petitions "circulator" because they were circulated under her direction. Bosworth said Arends advised her on the subject during a specific instance at her medical office in 2014.

She appeared calm while testifying, at times smiling. "Were you trying to pull a fast one on anybody?" Defense attorney Bob Van Norman asked Bosworth.

"No," she replied. Arends testified Thursday that Bosworth is more knowledgeable about the political process than she

is letting on, and called it "a lie" that he had advised her she didn't need to witness signatures. Ethan Crisp, a former campaign staffer who has been in a financial dispute with Bosworth, testified that Bosworth has the reputation of being "not truthful and deceitful."

Defense attorney Dana Hanna said Crisp was "here for a little revenge." Bosworth has pleaded not guilty to felony charges of perjury and filing false documents. A conviction could jeopardize her medical license.

She received just 6 percent of the vote in a five-way Republican primary in 2014 that was won by former Gov. Mike Rounds. Rounds went on to win the U.S. Senate seat in the general election.

South Dakota Raw-Milk Rules Get Yet Another Hearing

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — No opponents testified Friday against proposed state regulations that would make production and sale of raw milk for human consumption simpler in South Dakota.

Four raw-milk advocates spoke generally in favor of the new rules during a public hearing held by the state Department of Agriculture.

They also praised the work of state Agriculture Secretary Lucas Lentsch in working to a compromise.

The meeting lasted less than one hour and was in sharp contrast to the combative mood at several rules hearings and legislative hearings in the previous three years.

Earlier this year, the Legislature approved a proposal submitted by Lentsch creating a specific place in state law regarding raw milk for human consumption.

The South Dakota State Medical Association and the South Dakota Dairy Producers opposed the measure, Senate Bill 45.

Even so, the Senate voted in favor 30-4 and the House of Representatives agreed 65-2. Gov. Dennis Daugaard

signed the legislation. Previously several members of his Cabinet had split on raw milk for human consumption.

Health Secretary Doneen Hollingsworth strongly opposed its legal availability for sale to the public. She retired in December.

The Agriculture Department came under criticism in past years for being too strict in regulating raw-milk producers.

In turn, Lentsch made various personnel changes within his department after his appointment as secretary in April 2013, including replacement of several people who had previously worked on raw-milk regulation and rules.

Raw-milk advocates gained a foothold among legislators during the 2014 session when Sen. Phil Jensen, R-Rapid City, introduced a measure that would have repealed various rules.

A Senate committee tabled Jensen's bill but Lentsch promised to work with the sides. The 2015 legislation came from those round-table conversations.

The rules proposed at the hearing Friday align with the new laws.

"It looks like today we have only proponents here to

speak," hearing officer Hillary Brady said.

Written comments may be submitted by June 3, 2015.

Lentsch said raw milk now will have a separate place in state regulations apart from other milk rules.

He said this creates "a better working environment" for production of raw milk for human consumption and distinguishes it from Grade A milk and manufacturing-grade milk for further processing.

Lentsch said the topic was of great interest to a number of stakeholders when he began as secretary of agriculture. "There wasn't maybe the listening that should have taken place," he said.

"Food freedom is much of the part of the dialogue we had around this," he said. The goal was "taking the shout out of the conversation," he said.

Gena Parkhurst of Rapid City said she is a raw-milk consumer. She moved to South Dakota nine years ago and was pleased that it was legal to drink raw milk because, she said, it is very beneficial for her arthritis symptoms.

Parkhurst, as member of the Dakota Rural Action organization, increasingly led the push the past two years for a more accommodating

regulation of raw milk for human consumption.

She praised Lentsch's leadership in achieving a compromise that she said safeguards human health and preserves availability of raw milk for human consumption. She said she supports the labeling and testing requirements.

"I believe producers will continue to produce as high quality a product as possible," she said.

Parkhurst and Leland Schoon, a raw-milk producer from Mellette County, asked for the rules to be adjusted to allow for a temporary permit for raw-milk producers.

Schoon said he is encouraged by the actions of Lentsch and said the new rules are clear and are easier to understand than the regulations that have been in place.

"It looks to be a positive future for the family farmer and raw milk producer in South

Dakota," Schoon said.

Another raw-milk consumer and Dakota Rural Action member, Frank DiCesare of Rapid City, said producers have told him they consider the new standards to be reasonable.

"There were many compromises on everybody's part," DiCesare said.

He too praised Lentsch. "I believe he (Lentsch) did an excellent job over the last year and a half getting

his department sorted out and getting these regulations to where they are today," DiCesare continued. "Small ag and big ag can co-exist in this state. They have for years."

Carolyn Ness of Rapid City said she's been a regular consumer of raw milk since about 2009. "I believe Gov. Daugaard can be proud of the red tape that has been cut and simplified," she said. "Everyone can win."

Man Claims \$6,000 Lottery Prize

DEADWOOD (AP) — A Sturgis man has claimed a Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Deadwood worth \$6,000.

Lottery officials say Gary Elton bought the ticket that matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card to pick up the game's second prize. The odds of winning it are 1 in about 127,000.

Elton bought the ticket at Big D Oil on Main Street in Deadwood. The retailer will receive a \$600 bonus for the sale.

Wild Card 2 is played in Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas. The jackpot is at \$230,000 for the Saturday drawing.

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