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Woman Gets 37 Years For Manslaughter

SIOUX FALL (AP) - A 32-year-old Sioux Falls woman has been sentenced to more than 37 years in prison for driving drunk and killing a man more than four years ago.

Police say Tammy Kvasnicka drove the wrong way on Interstate 229 in Sioux Falls while drunk and hit an oncoming car in July 2010. It killed 27-year-old Michael Xayavong.

Kvasnicka pleaded guilty to manslaughter and vehicular battery in August of 2013.

Kvasnicka was previously sentenced to serve 60 years in prison. But the state Supreme Court overturned her conviction in March of 2013, saying it was improper for a police officer who testified during her trial to compare the force of the crash to more than 900 handguns being fire at once.

Kvasnicka is also required to pay nearly \$200,000 in restitution.

Neb. Power District To Hold Hearings

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) - The Nebraska Public Power District is conducting a series of eight public hearings across Central Nebraska concerning its proposed for a new 345,000volt transmission line.

The Grand Island Independent reports that the meetings on the proposed line, known as the "R-Project" will be held in Loup, Garfield and Wheeler counties.

The line is meant to relieve congestion among the existing lines and to enhance the electric transmission system, as well

as to provide opportunities for more renewable energy. The hearings will be held Monday afternoon in Burwell, Monday evening in Taylor and Wednesday afternoon in

Bartlett. After the hearings, there will be a 30-day comment period,

ending Dec. 12. Those wanting more information can visit

www.nppd.com/rproject.

Mitchell Police: Forced To Shoot Woman

MITCHELL (AP) — Mitchell police say they were forced to shoot woman in a local motel Saturday night after she pointed a gun at officers.

Mitchell Public Safety Chief Lyndon Overweg says police were called to a motel on Burr street around 5 p.m. for reports of a woman who was intoxicated and threatening to hurt herself and others with a gun.

After police had talked with the woman, Overweg says the woman came out of the motel and pointed a gun at the officers. Police fired at woman.

The woman was taken to a local hospital but later airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital. Her condition is unknown.

Overweg says the Department of Criminal Investigation will investigate the incident as an independent agency.

Volunteers Plant Trees In Pilger

PILGER, Neb. (AP) - Volunteers will plant 46 trees in Pilger this weekend to help the northeast Nebraska town recover from a devastating June tornado.

Black Hills Energy is paying for the trees from the Arbor Day Foundation to help the town. Residents were encouraged to request the trees this fall.

Roughly three-quarters of Pilger, which had about 350 residents, was heavily damaged or destroyed by the June 16 storm.

The trees from an Arbor Day Foundation program will be 5feet to 6-feet-tall when planted. The trees offered included Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, Northern Catalpa, Water Birch and Serviceberry.

Authorities Seek Man Who Killed Puppy

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb. (AP) — Authorities are looking for the person who killed a puppy on a western Nebraska roadside.

Scotts Bluff County Sheriff Mark Overman says witnesses reported seeing a man throwing a puppy across the road on Thursday night.

One witness told authorities she had heard a puppy crying and saw the man throw the puppy across the road. She said the dog tried to crawl under a truck to hide, but the man picked up the puppy and threw it to the ground at least three more times.

Sheriff's deputies say they found the dog dead. It was a female tan and white collie mix with a pink collar.

Witnesses told deputies that the man who killed the dog got into a small black pickup with a white camper shell.

Nebraska

Lawmakers Hopeful 2015 **Session Will Be Productive**

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — With the elections over, many of Nebraska's senior senators are expressing hope the Legislature and Gov.-elect Pete Ricketts will collaborate next year on property taxes and an overhaul of two state agencies.

Press&Dakotan

Lawmakers will convene in January with 17 new members - more than onethird of the Legislature — who were elected to seats that came open due to term limits.

Last week's election helped Republicans expand their majority in the officially nonpartisan Legislature. Senators endorsed by the GOP gained five seats, for a new balance of 35 Republicans, 13 Democrats, and independent Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha.

Ricketts, a Republican, cruised to an easy victory Tuesday amid promises that he would seek to lower property taxes and draw more manufacturing jobs to the state. Property taxes are set by local governments, including counties and school districts, but many have complained that those taxes have risen because of unfunded state mandates and a lack of financial aid for schools.

Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, the chairman of the Legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee, said he has spoken with Ricketts about budget issues and the need to reform Nebraska's prisons. Ricketts has said he will collaborate with lawmakers

'I'm optimistic," Mello said. "There's a lot of common ground regarding the need to fix these problems. We're not going to agree on 100 percent of the issues, but I think we'll have a very collaborative approach.'

Lawmakers also have to pass a new state budget. Nebraska state government is expected to collect about \$9 billion in the next two-year budget cycle, but lawmakers also face a projected \$62.6 million shortfall.

Senators are required to balance the budget, and the estimates - which routinely change — show the state is on pace to spend slightly more than it collects. Those projections also fail to account for possible spending to alleviate prison overcrowding, an issue many senators have eyed since the last session ended in April.

Lawmakers will also discuss reforms to the state's troubled prison system and the Department of Health and Human

Services, said Sen. Galen Hadley, of Kearney. The Department of Correctional Services is under scrutiny following news that prisons officials prematurely released hundreds of inmates because they failed to follow Nebraska Supreme Court rul-

ings. "Obviously, we have some big issues to address," said Hadley.

Sen. Mike Gloor of Grand Island said he expects taxes will remain a top priority, but lawmakers should stay mindful of a legislative study of Nebraska's tax system that was completed in 2013. The report advised against sweeping changes to Nebraska's tax system.

Gloor, who is running for chairman of the tax-focused Revenue Committee, said lawmakers should take a long-term view to ensure that any cuts are sustainable. Gloor said any tax changes should come gradually.

"Slow but steady wins the race that's the approach the commission recommended," Gloor said. "If we reduce revenue and narrow our tax base, we're going to reduce the revenue for things that Nebraskans expect us to do, whether it's education, roads, support for the university, things like that.

River Pipeline Turns To States For Funding

BY CARSON WALKER Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Rather than waiting for the U.S. government to come through with funding for a tri-state Missouri River water pipeline, its developers are lobbying Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota — states that will also benefit from the project — for upfront money to keep it progress-

ing. Construction on the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System started in 2003, but just 11 of 20 towns and rural water systems are connected: 10 in South Dakota, one in Iowa and none in Minnesota. Most of the 20 need more water but some have quality issues with their current supply, system executive director Troy Larson said.

State and local entities already have paid their share of the deal: \$154 million. But federal funding hasn't kept up with inflation, largely because of an end to certain earmarks, so the remaining federal share has increased from \$194 million in 2010 to \$203 million, Larson said. The current budget year's proposal is just \$2.4 million. The delays also have forced the nine members of the system that haven't been connected to spend \$17.5 million on repairs and temporary upgrades to their current systems, he said. "The idea for Lewis and Clark originated in 1989. The project was incorporated in 1990. So this project has been 25 years in the making and we are currently 65 percent complete. There are projects of huge magnitude like the Chunnel between France and Great Britain that didn't take that long," Larson said To keep it from taking even longer, Larson is seeking funding advances from Pierre, South Dakota, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Des Moines, Iowa, in an effort to finish the project with zerointerest loans that will be repaid as Washington appropriates funding. South Dakota last year contributed \$1 million toward engineering and design

of sections that will eventually connect Madison. On Thursday, the Board of

Water and Natural Resources included funding recommendations on three projects that would create a temporary water supply for the city: \$7.7 million for two 5mile sections on the actual pipeline route; \$3 million for the Big Sioux Community Water System; and \$1.8 mil-

lion for the Minnehaha Community Water Corp.

"We anticipate support (from lawmakers), but we've got to get through those steps also," Jim Feeney, director of the board's division of Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, said of the request.

In Minnesota, lawmakers approved \$22 million earlier this year to connect Luverne

and the Rock County Rural Water District to the Lewis and Clark, and construction is scheduled to start soon, Larson said. He's also working with Iowa lawmakers and the governor's office to put together a proposal for the next legislative session of \$25 million for the line to Sioux Center, Iowa.

RTEC Announces Class Dates for Knitting, Tatting, Welding & More!

Class A CDL Training:

Mitchell Technical Institute will be returning to help SD residents obtain their Class A CDL. Classroom (CDL prep) portion of the class will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 24 & 25, 2014. Driving times for those completing the entire course (CDL prep + driving hours) will be scheduled with the instructor. Note: The classroom portion of this training satisfies requirements for NE residents working to obtain their NE Class A CDL. Contact RTEC for complete details! Hurry! Must be registered for course by Friday, Nov. 14th.

Knitting Without Needles Class:

Learn how to make a trendy infinity scarf for yourself or for someone special in this "just for fun" class from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014. You'll discover how to knit using your arms instead of needles. No previous knitting experience is required, making it ideal for anyone (age 13+) who would like to explore a new crafting technique. Cost is \$21.20 (includes tax). Note: Participants should bring a scissors and two skeins of yarn - either #5 chunky or #6 extra chunky - in their favorite color/colors. Call and sign up today!

Lakota Singer Up For New Artist Award

RAPID CITY (AP) - Gabrielle Knife doesn't have a record deal — or even a manager — but she does have one thing: a best new artist nomination at the nation's largest Native American music awards ceremony.

The Lakota Sioux singer from Řapid City is up for Debut Artist of the Year at the Native American Music Awards — or Nammy's — this year, reported the *Rapid City Journal*.

She'll travel to Niagra Falls, New York, this week to try and grab the honor at the 15th annual awards ceremony.

Knife said she recorded, mixed and produced her debut album last year all on her own.

"It was a challenge but it definitely paid off," Knife said. "I have no record company or manager to promote me, either, so I'm doing it all as well. Talk about chasing your dreams.'

The album, "Ohiya Ku Winyan," which translates to "Comes Home a Champion Woman," is now on iTunes.

The Native American Music Awards "honors Indigenous people north and south of the US and Canadian borders," according to its website.

Award nominees are selected among industry professionals and winners are selected, in part, from public online voting.

SD Capitol Concert Now On YouTube

PIERRE (AP) — Music lovers who didn't make it to Pierre for a performance by the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra can watch it online.

The orchestra performed in the Capitol rotunda on Nov. 1. the eve of the state's 125th anniversary of statehood.

Patrick Callahan with OaheTV in Pierre posted the twohour event on YouTube: http://bit.ly/1uGG5rl.

The ceremony also included a dedication and lighting ceremony for the newly restored stained glass in the Capitol.

A limited number of free tickets for seats in the rotunda and hallways went fast, and there was standing room on the marble grand staircase and in the balconies above the rotunda floor.

YOUR NEWS! The Press & Dakotan

Needle Tatting for Beginners:

Discover the art of needle tatting in this unique two-part "just for fun" class coming to RTEC on Nov. 21 & 22, 2014. You'll spend two hours learning the basics from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, have a chance to go home and practice and then return for the final part of the class from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. After mastering basics, you'll be ready to tat lovely edgings, doilies and more. Note: Thread and #10 tatting needles will be provided. However, participants are asked to bring a scissors, a small (#6) crochet hook and a little bit of patience. Cost is \$40.00 (includes tax). Reserve your spot today!

AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding Classes:

Applications are currently being accepted for the AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding course set to begin on Jan. 6, 2015. It will be a 48-hour night class held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will run through Feb. 12, 2015. Contact RTEC today to learn about possible funding assistance. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax.

Welding Basics Class:

Want to prepare yourself for a career that's in high demand? Learn the basics of welding in the next 48-hour course scheduled to begin Jan. 5, 2015. Classes will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Mondays & Wednesdays through Feb. 16, 2015. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax. Contact RTEC today and see if you might be eligible for funding assistance.

Winter Hobby Welding:

Learn the basics of different types of welding so you can create unique welded projects. Make something for your yard or household or even create a keepsake for a loved one in honor of a special occasion or milestone. Hobby class will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on three Saturdays - Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2015. Perfect for amateurs, artists and hobbyists! Cost is \$137.80 (includes tax). Sign up today!

Class sizes are limited! Please contact RTEC and register today!



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