

Judge Orders Reprint Of S.D. Voter Pamphlets

PIERRE (AP) — A circuit court judge ordered Secretary of State Jason Gant to place an opposing statement on a proposed constitutional amendment in an election guide.

Judge Mark Barnett says Gant broke the law by not including opposition statements on four proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. Sen. Stan Adelstein had sued Gant and asked that the pamphlets be recalled and new ones printed, with Adelstein's opposing view on a proposed balanced budget amendment. Gant had said he sought people to present opposing views but had no takers.

Gant says in a news release issued shortly after Friday's ruling that he has already started publishing new pamphlets.

The informational pamphlets are available online and were sent to news outlets and county auditors in late August to help them inform voters.

Package Found At Offutt AFB Cleared

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A suspicious package found Friday morning at an entry checkpoint at Offutt Air Force Base south of Omaha was later deemed harmless, a base spokesman said.

A military dog being used to search a moving van during a routine check at the gate alerted security personnel to the package around 11:45 a.m., and the Omaha Police Department's bomb squad was called in to help.

Base officials shut down the gate off Capehart Road and evacuated about 100 people from three buildings near the gate as a precaution, said Ryan Hansen, a spokesman for the military base.

The package was cleared by inspectors around 4:15 p.m. Friday and the entry gate and surrounding buildings reopened, Hansen said. He did not know what the package contained, but said it was not blown up, as law enforcement officials sometimes do as a precaution.

Offutt is home to the U.S. Strategic Command headquarters, which includes nuclear weapons command and control as well as space and missile defense for all branches of the U.S. military.

Woman Gets Prison For Helping Boy Sell Drugs

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln woman is going to prison for helping a 13-year-old boy sell methamphetamine.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* says a Lancaster County District judge on Friday sentenced 20-year-old Tasha Ryan to four to eight years in prison for her role in a sale to an undercover officer.

Ryan was arrested last fall after a drug task force began investigating reports about the boy selling drugs. She pleaded no contest to attempted aiding and abetting delivery of methamphetamine and to possession of Lorazepam, a controlled substance.

S.D. Man Pleads Guilty To Assault

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man has pleaded guilty to assault and failing to register as a sex offender.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson announced Friday that 38-year-old Glen Eagle Thunder, of Lower Brule, pleaded guilty to the charges earlier in the week.

Prosecutors say Eagle Thunder failed to register as a sex offender following his conviction for abusive sexual contact. He faces 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the charge.

He also acknowledged consuming alcohol and striking a family member on June 22. He faces up to six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine for that charge.

S.D. Teacher Charged With Fourth-Degree Rape

NEW UNDERWOOD (AP) — Bond has been set at \$50,000 for a New Underwood high school teacher charged with rape.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says 26-year-old Kyle Keegan was arrested Thursday night in Rapid City. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Keegan made an initial court appearance Friday morning, where his bond was set. Keegan is charged with fourth-degree rape of a victim between the ages of 13 and 15 and sexual contact with a child under 16. Fourth-degree rape carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine.

No lawyer was listed on court documents.

The New Underwood School District website says that Keegan teaches social studies at the high school.

New Underwood Superintendent Jeff Marlette says he couldn't comment because school officials are still gathering information.

Noem, Varilek Debate Taxes, Work Ethic

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE (AP) — Republican Rep. Kristi Noem tried to paint Democratic challenger Matt Varilek as a dedicated follower of President Barack Obama, while Varilek accused her of being ineffective and missing meetings during a brisk Friday debate in which they often ignored the moderator.

Noam tried to tie Varilek to Obama's policies on taxes, health care and other issues, a strategy likely motivated by the fact that registered Republican voters far outnumber Democrats in South Dakota. Varilek repeatedly said Noem has been ineffective in getting a farm bill and other measures crucial to South Dakota passed even though her party controls the House.

While the two candidates for South Dakota's lone U.S. House seat were polite and didn't interrupt each other or the moderator, they sometimes ignored the rules for timed statements and rebuttals as they traded barbs in a 90-minute debate sponsored by the *Rapid City Journal* and streamed live on the newspaper's website.

"I know you want it to be true, but it's not true," Varilek said after Noem accused him of supporting policies that would tax excess energy use.

"That's a false issue," Noem said after Varilek said she has repeatedly failed to show up at many House committee meetings.

The Rapid City debate will be the only one in western South Dakota, an area defined by small towns and ranches on the prairie and the tourism-oriented Black Hills. They met earlier in Mitchell in a debate focused on farm issues and will meet twice more before the election in debates in the more populated eastern portion of the state.

Varilek, as the challenger, has sought more debates, but Noem has declined, citing schedule conflicts or worries that debate sponsors might be biased against her.

Noem, a 40-year-old farmer from Castlewood, was elected in 2010 as part of a conservative surge that helped give control of the House to Republicans.

Varilek, a 37-year-old lawyer from Sioux Falls and former

member of Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson's staff, accused her of missing many meetings of the House Agriculture Committee and at least a couple of subcommittees.

"I'll show up," Varilek said. "I'm going to make sure our voice is once again heard loud and clear."

Noem called allegations that she has missed many committee meetings a "smear campaign" by Democrats. She insisted that she attended many meetings Democrats said she skipped, but also said she won't apologize for skipping meetings that have nothing to do with South Dakota issues.

She said she has a 99 percent voting record in committees and a 98 percent voting record on the House floor.

"I will always wake up in the morning and decide to go where I can be most effective for South Dakota," said Noem, who previously served in the state Legislature.

The two also sparred on taxes, with Varilek saying he supports spending cuts to help balance the budget but believes in ending tax breaks for the wealthy so the federal government can

continue to give grants or loans to college students and support health care for senior citizens and low-income families.

Noem said she does not support tax increases in a shaky economy, and the policies supported by Obama and Varilek would raise taxes on many South Dakota small businesses that create jobs. Noem said she believes tax rates eventually can be lowered if exemptions and loopholes are scrapped.

Varilek said Democrats would end tax breaks only for those earning more than \$250,000 a year — which many South Dakota business owners don't.

In response to a question, Noem said she supports eliminating the federal estate tax because it would prevent many people from holding onto family farms and ranches after their parents die.

Varilek said he believes the estates of millionaires and billionaires should be taxed, but the inheritance tax should not be placed on smaller estates like those of farm and ranch families.

Lawyer: Robert Calm Ahead Of Execution

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The lawyer for a man scheduled to die by lethal injection on Monday says his client is calm and reflective.

Lawyer Mark Kadi says 50-year-old Eric Robert is reflecting on the situation and "trying to make peace with himself and God."

Robert is set to be executed for the killing of prison guard Ronald "RJ" Johnson on April 12, 2011, during a failed prison escape.

The exact date and time of executions in South Dakota are not released until a few days in advance. The Department of Corrections announced Friday that Robert's execution is scheduled for Monday at 10 p.m.

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