

Tornado Causes Damage In Wayne

WAYNE, Neb. (AP) — A reported tornado has caused extensive damage in parts of Wayne, in northeast Nebraska. Witnesses reported that the tornado struck the southern and southeastern parts of town on Friday, destroying at least four homes and the city's softball complex. The Nebraska State Patrol had closed off all roads into town as emergency responders worked on the scene. Sioux City television station KTIV reported that trees around town were stripped of their bark and trees, and power lines were down. Cell phone service was not working. The station reported that Wayne State College's main campus was not affected. Witnesses say the tornado appeared to be 2 miles wide.

3 Killed In Crash During Snowstorm

CRAWFORD, Neb. (AP) — Three people are dead following a crash in the northwest corner of Nebraska that happened as a snowstorm bore down on the region. The Dawes County Attorney's Office tells Chadron radio station KCSR (<http://bit.ly/1aTukR9>) that the three people killed were in an eastbound pickup that went out of control on a snow-slicked U.S. Highway 20 four miles east of Crawford around 8 a.m. Friday. Investigators say the pickup slid sideways into oncoming traffic and was hit by a westbound semi-trailer. All three people in the pickup were declared dead at the scene. Authorities are not yet releasing their names. The driver of the semi was treated for minor injuries at Chadron Community Hospital.

Nearly 3' Of Snow Falling Near Lead

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The early October blizzard in western South Dakota is dumping snow by the foot on parts of the scenic Black Hills. National Weather Service meteorologist Eric Helgeson says the system dumped 33 inches of wet, heavy snow five miles south-southwest of Lead by Friday afternoon, "and it's still coming down." Helgeson says 8 inches fell in Rapid City, where wind gusts outside the downtown weather service office reached as high as 68 mph. A foot of snow fell in parts just outside the city limits. Officials were warning drivers to stay off the roads in the Black Hills and in eastern Wyoming.

Campground Fees Might Increase For 2014

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Prices probably are headed higher at state campgrounds and recreation areas in South Dakota for the 2014 season. The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission will hold a public hearing Nov. 7 on raising fees for a wide variety of camping permits, firewood and rentals of lodges, cabins, picnic shelters and other facilities. The increases generally

would be less than \$5, with some under \$1. All prices would be rounded to an even dollar amount as a matter of convenience for visitors and parks personnel alike. The state Parks and Recreation Division estimates that \$702,000 of additional revenue would be generated in 2014. The fees last changed in 2011, according to Bob Schneider, an assistant director for the division. He said 70 percent of the camp sites in the state sys-

tem would cost \$19 per night — \$15 for a preferred site plus \$4 for electricity service. States adjacent to SD average \$19 per night, he said. Firewood has been \$4 per bundle since 2009 and would go to \$5. "We want to provide that service in the park and want to encourage people to use it. That's our No. 1 tool for keeping emerald ash borer out of South Dakota," Schneider said. "It's moving in from both directions. It's a matter of time. We want to put it off

as long as possible." The Wildlife Division also proposes increasing prices for most hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, other than non-resident small-game and preserve licenses which were raised last year. The Wildlife Division estimates it would generate more than \$2 million of additional revenue. The public hearing on that proposal also will be held Nov. 7 during the commission's meeting in Pierre.

Fishing Limits Might Change in 2014

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission is considering whether to increase possession limits for all species of fish caught from inland waters throughout South Dakota. Commissioners have formally proposed expanding the possession limits to three days of daily limits. The general rule currently is two days. A public hearing is set for Nov. 7 at the commission's meeting in Pierre. The proposal didn't come from the state Wildlife Division. It instead took shape through a discussion between commissioners and staff during consideration of another request at the commission's meeting Thursday. Division director Tony Leif said Friday that the point of the proposal is to gain

additional public input. "We have no position on the proposed change for now," Leif said. "We will have a recommendation for the commission on this issue when they meet to take action on this in November." The idea was sparked by a smaller request from tourism business people along the Missouri River. They want non-resident anglers to be able to keep more than a two-day limit of eight walleyes. Their petition sought a statewide change in the walleye possession limit to a three-day total of 12. That would correspond to the three-day license often used by non-resident anglers in South Dakota. Through Sept. 26 this year, non-resident anglers purchased 20,297 one-day licenses; 22,132 three-day licenses; 21,868 annual licenses; 8,412 family licenses; and 1,243 youth licenses, according to the state Wildlife Division

By comparison, South Dakota residents purchased approximately 56,800 combination licenses that allow fishing and small-game hunting; 65,060 annual fishing licenses; 12,467 senior licenses; and 6,214 one-day licenses. One other change proposed for the Nov. 7 hearing would remove the special limits currently in effect for walleyes on Lake Oahe. Currently anglers can take up to eight walleyes daily from the big Missouri River reservoir, with four at most allowed to be 15 inches or longer. Anglers can have a three-day total of 24. Fishers staff want to return Oahe to the standard four-walleye limit for 2014 because the abundance of walleyes smaller than 15 inches decreased in 2013. Biologists expect the majority of Oahe walleyes available to anglers in 2014 will be longer than 15 inches.

Teen's Abortion Request Nixed

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — In a split decision released Friday, the Nebraska Supreme Court rejected a 16-year-old ward of the state's request to waive parental consent to get an abortion, saying the girl had not shown she is sufficiently mature and well-informed enough to decide on her own whether to have an abortion. The girl, who is not named in the opinion, was living with foster parents this year when a juvenile court terminated the parental rights of her biological parents, who had physically abused and neglected her. In a closed hearing this summer, she told Douglas County District Judge Peter Bataillon she was 10 weeks pregnant and asked for a court order allowing an abortion. She said she would not be able to financially support a child and feared she might lose her foster placement if her foster parents, whom she described as having strong religious beliefs, learned of her pregnancy. Her attorney, Catherine Mahern of Omaha, argued that the girl didn't need anyone's consent for an abortion under the regulations of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, which states that "if a ward decides to have an abortion, the consent of the parent(s) or Department is not required,"

although notification of the parents of the abortion might be required. Nebraska law was changed in 2011 from requiring minors to inform parents of an abortion to requiring them to get the written, notarized consent of a parent or guardian. Exceptions are limited to cases of abuse by the parent or guardian, medical emergencies and instances in which the minor is sufficiently mature and well-informed to decide whether to have an abortion. Bataillon rejected the girl's request, saying that for the purpose of her case, her foster parents would serve as her guardians — even though, under Nebraska law, the department is considered the guardian of wards. Bataillon also found that the girl had not shown she was mature enough to make the decision to seek an abortion. Mahern appealed the girl's case, saying Bataillon failed to recognize the exception for abuse in Nebraska's

parental consent law. She also said Bataillon should have recused himself because he was not impartial, as evidenced by his asking the girl if she knew that, "When you have the abortion, it's going to kill the child inside you." "Probably the most disturbing aspect of this case was the judge's treatment of this young lady, referring to killing her baby," Mahern said Friday. "Who talks to a distressed 16-year-old girl like that?" Court records found online make reference to a Peter Bataillon who served in the 1980s on a committee for Metro Right to Life, an Omaha anti-abortion group. Bataillon did not immediately return a message Friday seeking comment on whether he had ever served on a committee for that or any other anti-abortion group. Under an expedited process, the Nebraska Supreme Court upheld Bataillon's ruling in August but did not issue a public opinion on it until Friday.

Neb. Lawmakers Planning To Overhaul State Prisons

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lawmakers are looking at ways to reduce overcrowding in Nebraska's prison system, with a focus on services for the mentally ill, drug users and inmates who are least likely to re-offend. Officials involved in Nebraska's justice system considered a series of options Friday during a meeting at the Capitol. State Sen. Brad Ashford says lawmakers will introduce reform proposals when the Legislature reconvenes in January. Nebraska's nine prisons currently hold about 4,800

inmates, but only have room for 3,175. The Department of Correctional Services has projected that the population will hit 171 percent of its capacity by 2020. An April report by the

Council of State Governments found that Hawaii, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania are each expected to save millions over the long-term by investing in treatment services.