

MIDWEST DIGEST

S.D. Soldiers Returning From Afghanistan

RAPID CITY (AP) — The South Dakota Army National Guard says 113 soldiers with the 211th Engineer Company are scheduled to return to the United States on Monday, Sept. 13.

The soldiers have served a year in Afghanistan, clearing improvised explosive devices from troop movement and supply routes.

The 211th is headquartered in Madison with a detachment in De Smet. The soldiers will go through demobilization at Fort McCoy, Wis., before returning to South Dakota on Sept. 17.

Ex-Officer Sentenced In Child Sex Case

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — A former Nebraska police officer have been given 30-to-60 years in prison for having sex with an underage girl. Larry Williams was sentenced Friday in Buffalo County District Court for first-degree sexual assault of a child and five counts of first-degree sexual assault.

Prosecutors say Williams was sexually involved with the girl between 2001 and 2003, beginning when she was 14 and Williams was a Ravenna police officer. He resigned from the department in 2005. Williams also was tried in 2007 and earlier this year, but both trials ended in hung juries.

According to the Kearney Hub, Williams' attorney says Williams is asking for a new trial, alleging among other reasons that the jury's verdict wasn't supported by the evidence.

Enrollment Numbers Jump At U. Of Neb.

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Estimated fall enrollment at the University of Nebraska's campuses is at a 17-year high of nearly 49,900 students, NU President J.B. Milliken announced Friday.

The enrollment increases come as the number of high school graduates in Nebraska and neighboring states declines, said Alan Cerveny, dean of admissions at the university's flagship campus in Lincoln. He said that is a sign the school is drawing students from around the country.

There are nearly 19,400 undergraduate students enrolled at the Lincoln campus, an increase of more than 2 percent over last year.

Undergraduate enrollment across the university's four campuses, and the agricultural college in Curtis, is nearly 3 percent higher than a year ago, exceeding expectations set by the university's administrative board, Milliken said. The number of graduate and professional students also increased.

The number of college newcomers — first-time freshmen — jumped by 3.5 percent.

S.D. Man Faces Liquor Store Charges

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A man originally charged with aggravated assault in a Sioux Falls fight that turned fatal now faces more serious charges.

KSFY says Burton Eagle Hawk Jr. has been indicted on manslaughter counts.

Authorities say Eagle Hawk and Jason Hall got in a fight on Aug. 19, and Hall died two days later in a local hospital.

A telephone listing could not be found for Eagle Hawk.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Breast Cancer Bracelets Cause Stir In S.D. Schools

BALTIC, S.D. (AP) — Rubber bracelets aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer and emblazoned with "I love boobies" are raising eyebrows among school officials in South Dakota.

This week, Baltic High School joined several schools nationwide to ban the popular bracelets with a message some say is in poor taste.

"I do think there are more proper ways to bring this plight to the attention of people, and I don't think this is a proper way," Principal Jim Aisenbrey told The Argus Leader.

Officials at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls have also told students not to wear the bracelets in school.

"Our concern is that the issue of the wristbands are meant to address is a serious one, but the language used on the bracelets trivializes the issue," Principal Kyle Groos said.

The bracelets that sell for about \$4 in stores were created by the nonprofit Keep A Breast Foundation of Carlsbad, Calif. Proceeds go to the foundation's programs.

Schools from Florida to California have banned the bracelets following objections

from some students and parents. Baltic resident Ann Ahersson said cancer has affected several of her relatives, and she doesn't have a problem with her two teenage daughters wearing the bracelets. "I guess I never thought of them as offensive," she said.

"It's just a bracelet," said her 16-year-old daughter, Amelia Atkins. "Yeah, it says 'boobies,' but it's for breast cancer."

But not all students wear the bracelets because of the serious message.

"I pretty much had it just to get a kick out of it, just because it says, 'I love boobies,' mostly not because of the awareness," Baltic student Chris Mesa told KDLT.

"Most of us like to have it as a joke, like this is awesome, it has 'boobies' on it," said student Travis Evans.

Bracelet co-founder Shaney Jo Darden told The Argus Leader that the bracelets are meant to spark discussion among young people.

"That's the whole idea," she said. "It's getting people to talk about breast cancer, it's getting people to share their feelings about how this disease has impacted their life."

Judge Orders Officials To Pay Westboro

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — A judge's final ruling overturning Nebraska's flag-desecration law includes an order for the state to pay \$8,000 in attorney's fees to the Kansas church member who filed the lawsuit — a bill that will be footed by state taxpayers.

The order issued Thursday by U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf names several prosecutors and law enforcement officials involved in the case as responsible parties. Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning and Nebraska State Patrol commander Bryan Tuma are responsible for \$3,500, which will come from state funds.

Members of the Topeka, Kan.-based Westboro Baptist Church travel around the country to protest at military funerals because they believe U.S. troop deaths are punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality. Church members often trample on the U.S. flag, wear it and display it upside-down as part of their protests.

"Anytime we have to pay people as repulsive as the people of Westboro it's painful, but state statutes allow for the collection of attorney's fees," Bruning said Friday.

Tuma did not immediately return a message The Associated Press left Friday with a patrol spokeswoman seeking comment. Sarpy County Attorney Lee

Polikov is responsible for \$2,000 of the fees, Omaha Police Chief Alex Hayes another \$2,000, and Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine \$500.

Polikov said his share will come from county funds. He disagreed with the judge's ruling striking down Nebraska's flag-desecration law, which made illegal intentionally "casting contempt or ridicule" upon a U.S. or Nebraska flag by mutilating, defacing or burning it or by trampling on it.

"I think anything was too much to pay, but in the scheme of things ... it was acceptable," Polikov said. "We agreed on it. The state stood up and took a bigger share, I think because the lawsuit was aimed at state law."

Neither Hayes nor Kleine immediately returned AP messages Friday seeking comment.

The order stems from a lawsuit filed by Megan Phelps-Roper, a Westboro Baptist Church member who said Nebraska's flag law infringed on her right to free speech and was unconstitutional.

The fact that taxpayers' money will be used to pay the attorneys fees is fitting, said Margie Phelps, Phelps-Roper's attorney and another church member.

"It's the public that keeps pressing these officials to do the wrong thing," Phelps said. "They should know that a.) It's not going to work; and b.) It's going to cost them tax dollars."

Ex Gov. Candidate Admits To False Reports

BY NATE JENKINS
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — Former Democratic candidate for governor Mark Laker, who previously said he mistakenly listed some donors as having promised him campaign money, admitted Friday that he falsely listed dozens of pledges in campaign finance reports.

Lakers declined to comment as he left a Lancaster County courtroom to pay the \$500 fine he agreed to in a deal where he pleaded guilty in exchange for the state not pursuing felony charges.

"Mr. Lakers did not want a visible, continued defense of

these allegations to serve as a distraction from the real issues involved in the gubernatorial campaign," said his attorney, Clarence Mock.

Lakers dropped out of the race two months ago amid questions about his finance reports, and Mike Meister has since replaced him as the Democrats' candidate for governor in the race against incumbent Republican Gov. Dave Heineman.

Lakers admitted Friday to falsifying 51 of 80 campaign pledges on his finance reports and pleaded guilty to one count of abusing public records. The false pledges added up to about \$333,000, more than half of his campaign's total.

Attorney General Jon Bruning, a Republican, said he didn't investigate Lakers because of politics. It would have been easier politically to investigate a Republican, he said, because people wouldn't have questioned his motives, as happened with Lakers. Bruning promised to investigate any Republicans who might be accused of campaign-finance violations in the future.

The chairman of the state Democratic Party, Vic Covalt, called Bruning's investigation a "political witch hunt" and said Bruning would not do the same to a member of his own party.

Bruning said it was important to investigate the matter even

though Lakers had dropped out of the race because the reports let citizens know who candidates are getting financial support from, and how much. They are an important part of the political process, he said.

"This was not a misunderstanding, these were fictitious pledges," Bruning said. "Most of these donors have not even spoken with Mr. Lakers," he added later.

Bruning said he thought Lakers made up the pledges to give his campaign momentum.

Lakers, an Omaha investment banker, entered the race in February as a political unknown and ran on a job-growth platform.

Owners Of S.D. Gallery For Indian Artists Retiring

BY BETH WISCHMEYER
The Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS — The retirement plans of the owners of Prairie Star Gallery in Sioux Falls could stifle a vital outlet for Native American artists in South Dakota.

But the possible closure is creating opportunity at the Washington Pavilion, where officials are in talks with Prairie Star owners Linda and John Boyd to set up a museum and gallery for Native American goods.

The Pavilion already has plans to create a permanent Native American gallery collection this fall and a store could be included in the mix, said Pavilion Executive Director Larry Toll. His organization has applied for a grant from the South Dakota Community Foundation to hire a museum store expert to help set up that enterprise.

Toll said the Pavilion wants Linda Boyd to help the facility further develop the exhibit's interpretive qualities.

"(Linda) has such great resources and ties to the Native American community that any conversation with her, and if we were able to get her here working with us, it would really take us the next step forward," he said.

For almost 15 years, the Prairie Star Gallery has provided a place for the public to view, buy and learn about Native American art. It also has helped boost the income for many people living on poverty-stricken reservations.

The gallery features art ranging from beadwork to sculptures, along with ceremonial items such as drums and rattles. Hides also are included among the inventory because they always have been a

part of the Lakota culture, Linda Boyd said.

A scenario in which the Pavilion continues the mission of promoting Native art would be a natural, Boyd said.

"We talk about the Pavilion, because the Pavilion has museum status, it has archives in the basement that are climactically controlled, it has galleries that aren't always used," Boyd said. "We are going first to the place that might make the most sense."

Native artists said the Boyds' exit from the area's art scene would leave a void. The Boyds are known for dealing fairly with artists, they said.

Marty Two Bulls, a Rapid City native who also has lived in Sioux Falls, does painting and sculpting. He said that in the Sioux Falls area, he sells his artwork almost exclusively to the Boyds.

"(Linda is) really a definite resource there. She's really an asset to the community and to the

artists." Two Bulls said. "All too often in this field, the Native American artist is taken advantage of. Even people who spend 20 hours on a piece are forced to sell it for \$20 to \$30. Linda's gallery, she pays well, pays what the work is worth. It's kind of a rarity around South Dakota."

JoAnne Bird of Toronto has been doing sculpting and impressionistic art for about 40 years. Her work also is sold at Prairie Star.

"To me, Linda has been really honest, and you can trust her," Bird said. "She promotes the artists very well."

The Boyds believe so strongly in helping reservations and promoting Native American art that the couple has mortgaged their home and paid it back three times through the years to keep the gallery going.

Linda Boyd said they started by buying as much art as they could, working with about 50 families. With that art, the couple

opened their first gallery in 1997. In 2003, they moved downtown.

Unlike other consignors, they paid the sellers up front what the piece was worth, rather than making them wait until the piece was sold.

"We had to prove to ourselves and also to really the Native people that we respected them enough, first of all, to buy their art up front and then to work to sell it," Boyd said.

The list of artists whose work the Boyds sell has grown to about 1,000 families from South Dakota and other Northern Plains tribes. Linda Boyd said there have been times when selling a few pieces of artwork meant a family could remain financially stable.

"The poverty level on the reservations in South Dakota is the worst poverty level in the country," Boyd said. "It's Third World. My husband and I decided that — because we were lucky and were able to get education and things — that we should, if we could, help the reservation people as much as possible."

Meet Dr. Kudera, Orthopedic Surgeon


YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF
Jeremy Kudera, M.D.
Board Eligible Orthopedic Surgeon


Dr. Kudera is originally from Dell Rapids, SD and completed his undergraduate degree at The University of South Dakota where he was a student-athlete. He is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine-University of South Dakota. Dr. Kudera completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency training at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and is board eligible.

Dr. Kudera will provide care for a multitude of musculoskeletal conditions including joint replacement of the knee, hip, and shoulder, treatment of athletic injuries, adult and pediatric fracture care, rotator cuff repair, and treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome.

Please join with us in welcoming Dr. Kudera, his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Jackson, to Yankton.

Dr. Kudera began seeing patients at
Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. August 23, 2010.
Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-1722.






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