

## Gov. Urges Motorists To Be Safe This Weekend

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is urging motorists to drive with extra care over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Four people died and 78 others were injured on state roads during the last two Labor Day weekends. Daugaard says most crashes are preventable, especially if people who have been drinking use a designated driver.

The state Highway Patrol and Office of Highway Safety are teaming up with more than 60 local law enforcement agencies on a "high visibility" program over the weekend. Officials say the goal isn't to make arrests but to raise awareness of the need for safe travel habits.

## NorthWestern Energy Announces Outages

AVON (AP) — NorthWestern Energy says it has scheduled some planned power outages this month.

An Avon outage will begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday and last about 1 1/2 hours.

NorthWestern's Yankton Area Manager Brad Wenande says the Avon outage is needed to complete some upgrades to equipment in a substation that serves the entire city of Avon and some farms in the region.

A Sept. 16 outage in Hitchcock, Bonilla and the surrounding rural area will begin at 7 a.m. and last about 8 to 10 hours.

Huron Area Manager Rick Hoffman says it's part of a system upgrade that will improve reliability and allow the company to connect new and bigger electric loads.

## Nebraska Gets 'C' For Children's Dental Health

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska has received a "C" grade for children's dental health coverage in a 50-state report.

The Pew Center on the States concluded that Nebraska met half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at children's dental health needs.

The state is one of 11 that provided dental care to more than half of its Medicaid-enrolled children.

But the center's report says Nebraska misses its benchmark of providing fluoridated water to 75 percent of the population on community water systems. It says sealant programs still reach less than one-quarter of high-risk schools.

Nebraska was one of 23 states that received a "C" grade or lower. Twenty-seven states earned an "A" or "B" in the report.

## Lifelight Music Festival Kicks Off In Worthing

WORTHING (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Christian music fans from around the world are converging on a large field in Worthing this weekend.

The Lifelight Music Festival is billed as the nation's largest Christian rock festival and draws people from all over the country.

KELO television report that organizers are expecting 100,000 people at the grounds each day of the three-day event.

Many are already setting up tents and making new friends. Admission and parking is free.

## Mountain Lion Spotted In Iowa City

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Two Iowa City elementary schools are holding recess inside after a mountain lion sighting.

The *Iowa City Press-Citizen* says the big cat was spotted by Ryan Jacobsen near Horn Elementary School on Friday.

He was taking his daughter to daycare when it ran across the street.

Jacobsen says two people in another car also saw it, and a homeowner called in the sighting to law enforcement.

Officials at Horn Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary say they decided to hold recess inside as a precaution.

Micha Goodman of the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center says there are usually mountain lion sightings in the area a couple times a year. But the Department of Natural Resources has not confirmed that there is one in Iowa City.

## Sinkholes Remain A Big Problem In Pierre

PIERRE (AP) — Crews in South Dakota's capital city are working to keep up with repairs to sinkholes that officials say are appearing on city streets almost on a daily basis.

The sinkholes are surfacing in Pierre as the flooded Missouri River continues to recede. Utilities Division Director Brad Palmer tells KCCR radio that one is 30 feet long and at least eight feet deep.

Crews are working to patch up the holes on a temporary basis to get through the winter, to ensure safety. Permanent repairs will be made later.

# Court Upholds S.D. Abortion Law

BY KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — South Dakota can require doctors to tell women who seek abortions that they have an "existing relationship" with their fetus that is protected by law and that they can't be forced to undergo the procedure, a federal appeals court ruled Friday.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier's ruling two years ago in which she struck down the requirement, which is part of a larger law requiring South Dakota doctors to provide women with certain information before an abortion can be deemed voluntary.

The law mandates that the doctor must tell an abortion seeker that she "has an existing relationship with that unborn human being and that the relationship enjoys protection under the United States Constitution and under the laws of South Dakota."

Schreier found the wording misleading because she said a relationship, in the eyes of the law, can only exist between people and the Supreme Court has ruled that the unborn are not legally considered people.

The appeals court disagreed with Schreier's reasoning, agreeing with the state's argument that doctors would be providing patients with valid legal advice — that

they can't be compelled to have an abortion — allowing patients to make more informed decisions.

The court upheld Schreier's decision to overturn another aspect of the law that would have required doctors to tell patients that people who have abortions are more likely to commit suicide.

Both the state and Planned Parenthood, which challenged the law, praised Friday's ruling.

Mimi Liu, an attorney for Planned Parenthood, said the group believes the court has ruled that doctors must only inform patients of that one sentence written in the appeals court's decision.

"We think this decision can be read to say that is all that is required," she said.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said the decision will affect a separate lawsuit brought by Planned Parenthood seeking to overturn a state law passed this year. That law, which has not taken effect because of the legal challenge, would require women to wait three days before they could have an abortion — the longest wait of any state — and submit to counseling at one of several centers that seek to dissuade women from terminating their pregnancies.

"This decision will provide further guidance and direction with respect to Planned

Parenthood's challenge to recent legislation which establishes procedures to ensure that abortion decisions are voluntary and uncoerced," Jackley said.

Liu said she believes both lawsuits are relevant to each other.

"The bottom line is that Planned Parenthood has a duty and has always been compliant to ensure that women are voluntarily seeking an abortion and making a decision to have an abortion, and are fully informed about the decision," she said.

Leslee Unruh, the founder of the Alpha Center pregnancy counseling center in Sioux Falls, which seeks to persuade women not to seek abortions, called Friday's court's decision regarding the existing relationship advisory "monumental."

"We are thrilled beyond words," she said. "This has been a very long and coming victory for us. We are so happy about this ruling. It just shows the tide has turned in this country and we need to protect unborn children, as well as the women in making that decision."

South Dakota voters rejected statewide ballot measures in 2006 and 2008 that would have banned most abortions in the state, measures that sought to provoke a court challenge of Roe v. Wade.

## Neb. Supreme Court Rejects Former Officer's Appeal

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A former police officer seeking to have the Nebraska Supreme Court vacate his child sex assault convictions will instead spend more time behind bars.

Larry Williams was sentenced last year in Buffalo County District Court for one count of first-degree sexual assault of a child and five counts of first-degree sexual assault.

Prosecutors said Williams first came to know the girl, then a sixth-grader, while he was a Ravenna police officer and was called to her house for a domestic dispute. Authorities say he befriended the girl and became sexually involved with her between 2001 and 2003.

Williams resigned from the police department in 2005 amid the sexual abuse allegations.

The girl told investigators that her relationship with Williams began when she was 14, when he kissed and fondled her in his police car.

Later, she said, she and Williams had sex in such places as police headquarters, the mayor's office, City Council chambers and the city pool.

Williams told a Nebraska State Patrol investigator that he had bought the girl gifts, spent time alone with her on rides in his squad car and once took her to the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. He has described his relationship with the girl as that of a mentor and has repeatedly denied any sexual

relationship with her.

But in his appeal, his attorney argued that many of the allegations would have occurred after the victim turned 16, the age a person can legally consent to sex in Nebraska.

In his appeal, Williams alleged, among other things, misconduct by prosecutors for filing additional charges against him following his first trial, that the convictions following two previ-

ous trials violated his due process rights and that his sentence was excessive.

The Nebraska Supreme Court dismissed those arguments, but found that the lower court judge erred when he gave Williams 45 days' credit for time served for each of his six counts against him. The high court said Williams is entitled to the 45 days' credit only once.

Neither attorneys for Williams

nor the Nebraska Attorney General's office immediately returned messages left Friday by The Associated Press seeking comment.

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