

## James River Water Development Seat Vacant

ABERDEEN (AP) — An Aberdeen man's seat on the James River Water Development District has been declared vacant.

Larry Lovrien has represented District 2 on the district's board of directors, but he cannot run for re-election because new district boundaries drawn after the 2010 census put his home in District 1.

The current director in District 1 is Randy Grismer, and his seat is not up for re-election this year.

Lovrien tells the *Aberdeen American News* he would not run against Grismer anyway because Grismer is doing a good job.

In the meantime, Lovrien is running for state's attorney in Brown County.

## UNMC Chancellor Stepping Down For New Job

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — University of Nebraska Medical Center Chancellor Harold Maurer is stepping down to take a new job with the university and focus on fundraising for a proposed cancer research center in Omaha.

The university announced Tuesday that Maurer will move to his new role on July 1. Maurer will become a professor in the UNMC Department of Pediatrics and chancellor emeritus. He has served as chancellor since 1998.

Maurer will devote much of his time to his new position working with the University of Nebraska Foundation to raise money for a new Cancer Center Campus. The \$370 million project will include space for cancer research and care, and a new multi-disciplinary outpatient facility.

## Witnesses: Semi In Fatal Crash Didn't Slow

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) — The truck driver charged with manslaughter in the western Nebraska crashes that killed five people told investigators he never heard the warnings about stopped traffic because his CB radio wasn't on.

Witnesses told investigators Josef Slezak's semitrailer truck didn't appear to slow down Sunday before it collided with a Ford Mustang that stopped because of an earlier wreck.

The 36-year-old Slezak from River Grove, Ill., was charged Monday. His attorney did not immediately respond to a message Tuesday.

The Mustang's driver and an adult and two juveniles in a nearby Toyota Corolla all died. Authorities haven't identified those victims.

## Crazy Horse Dedicates 9/ 11 Monument

CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL (AP) — A steel fragment from the destroyed World Trade Center in New York City is part of a new monument at the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota dedicated to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

About 100 people attended a ceremony Tuesday on the 11th anniversary of the attacks to dedicate the monument that also includes two stone pillars.

The memorial also honors the efforts of emergency responders after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93.

## Panel Delays Recommendation On Texting Ban

HURON (AP) — A Huron public safety panel has delayed making any recommendation on a proposal to ban driving while texting in the eastern South Dakota city.

KOKK Radio reports that the Huron Public Safety Committee will not make a recommendation until it can review data from states that have passed bans on texting while driving.

Huron Police Chief Gary Will Jr. says the proposed ban is based on the wording of a texting ban passed last week by the Sioux Falls City Council. The Sioux Falls ban on sending and receiving electronic messages within city limits is prompting other South Dakota cities to consider similar measures.

Beadle County Sheriff Doug Solem says a ban could mean officers spend more time in court if drivers who get tickets deny they were texting.

# Court Schedules Arguments For Oct. 1 In Rodney Berget Murder Appeal

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Supreme Court will hear arguments Oct. 1 in the appeal of a man sentenced to death for murdering a State Penitentiary guard during a failed escape attempt.

The high court has scheduled arguments in the case of Rodney Scott Berget, 50, at the Jeschke Fine Arts Center at the University of Sioux Falls.

Berget pleaded guilty to killing Ronald "R.J." Johnson on April 12, 2011 — Johnson's 63rd birthday — and Circuit Judge Bradley Zell of Sioux Falls sentenced Berget to death. Eric Robert, 50, also pleaded guilty in Johnson's death, was sentenced to death and is scheduled to be executed the week of Oct. 14.

Berget's appeal does not challenge his conviction, but asks the state's highest court to order that his sentence either be changed to life in prison or that he get a new sentencing hearing because of errors made by Zell in the original one.

The state's written brief has not yet been filed with the Supreme Court, but Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday the state will argue that Berget's death sentence is constitutional and not excessive when compared with similar cases, and that the judge considered evidence properly in Berget's sentencing hearing.

"The state proved beyond a reasonable

**"I'm guilty of taking Ronald Johnson's life. I knew what I was doing that day and I continued to do it. I destroyed a family. I took away a father, a husband, a grandpa."**

RODNEY SCOTT BERGET

doubt the existence of at least one aggravating factor," Jackley told the Associated Press.

South Dakota law says the death penalty cannot be imposed without the existence of at least one from a list of 10 aggravating circumstances. Zell found two aggravating circumstances in Berget's case, ruling that he killed a correctional officer and the murder was committed by an inmate.

Johnson was working alone the morning of his death in a part of the prison known as Pheasantland Industries, where inmates work on upholstery, signs, custom furniture and other projects. Prosecutors said that after Robert and Berget bashed Johnson's head with a pipe and covered his mouth with plastic wrap, Robert put on the guard's uniform and carted a large box toward the prison gate with Berget inside. Both inmates were apprehended before leaving the grounds.

Robert asked to be put to death, and the Supreme Court last month upheld his sentence after a mandatory review.

# Councilman Opposes Water Misdemeanor

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln councilman says residents who violate the city's summer water restrictions shouldn't face a misdemeanor charge.

City Council Chairman Adam Hornung says he plans to introduce an ordinance that would change the charge from a criminal misdemeanor to a civil infraction. So far, 384 people have been ticketed for violating the watering restrictions, which the city put in place Aug. 9 because of the severe drought and low water tables, according to the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Residents who water their lawns on the wrong day face a maximum \$500 fine and up to six months in jail if convicted, plus a mark on their criminal record.

Sixty people have pleaded

guilty so far and received a lesser punishment. They've paid \$148 in fines and court costs, said Public Safety Director Tom Casady.

Some licensed workers such as teachers and nurses are required to report misdemeanor offenses, and job hunters are worried that it could hurt their odds of finding work.

Hornung said he wants the council to approve the change quickly to allow those who haven't been convicted pay the fine but have the lesser offense on their records. He hopes it can be changed in the next two weeks, but that would require the council to skip the usual process that takes from three to five weeks to get a law changed.

Hornung said after Monday's

council meeting that he thinks he has the votes for the change.

Casady pointed out that infractions still show up on a criminal background check from the Lincoln Police Department, but Hornung said there's a big difference in most people's eyes between a misdemeanor and an infraction.

"Many employers require you to list misdemeanors or felonies, but not infractions," Hornung said.

City Attorney Rod Confer said there are steps that could erase a misdemeanor from their records.

The mayor can pardon an ordinance violation, although Mayor Chris Beutler's office has not said whether that will happen. A judge also can set aside or vacate a conviction if the person

paid the fines and is not likely to reoffend.

One person already did that Monday, Confer said. But he said that couldn't happen if the offense was an infraction.

Beutler's aide, Rick Hoppe, asked the council to wait to make any changes and to discuss the issue this fall and winter.

Hornung asked why the charge was a misdemeanor in the first place. The ordinance was put on the books in 1984, but there wasn't discussion with the council before the city started issuing tickets in August, he said.

"Don't downplay the importance of the violation," Hoppe said during the discussion. "We were dangerously low on water."

**Kid Scoop**® THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Facebook "Like" Kid Scoop on Facebook!

© 2012 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 28, No. 39

**BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY**

Leave early so you don't have to hurry!

Safe is Better Than Short

Take the safe path to school, not the shortest one. Help Amy find the best path to school.

**My Safety Story**

Finish the sentences using these words:

CARS ALL BUCKLE CORNERS RUN WAYS  
HELMET CROSSWALKS STREET CROSSING

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I take time to be safe. I always look \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. I walk, and don't \_\_\_\_\_. I never walk between parked \_\_\_\_\_. I cross streets only at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ up when riding in a car and wear a \_\_\_\_\_ when riding my bike.

**Know your bus danger zone!**

Many children are injured each year while getting on or off school buses. This is because the bus driver cannot see certain areas around the bus. The danger zones are shown below.

Avoid these danger zones by always taking 10 giant steps away from the bus after you exit. Always wait for the bus driver or another adult to tell you when it is safe to cross the street.

How many differences can you find between these two school busses?

10 FEET  
DANGER FROM PASSING CARS  
MOST DANGEROUS DANGER ZONE  
10 FEET  
DANGER ZONE  
WALKING AREA

Extra! Extra! Before and After Photo

Select a photo from the newspaper. What do you think happened before this picture was taken? What do you think happened after?

Standards Link: Reasoning: Students distinguish between observation and inference.

Special thanks to our friends at AAA for their help with this page. For more about safety, visit [AAA.com/childsafety](http://AAA.com/childsafety)

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Do the math to reveal these important car safety tips.

The back seat is the safest place to sit until age 3+3+2+5= \_\_\_\_\_

You're safer sitting in a booster seat until you are 2+2= \_\_\_\_\_ feet 3+3+3= \_\_\_\_\_ inches tall.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums.

**Online Scoop**

Play games with Sparky. Have fun with online games and learn about fire safety. [www.kidscoop.com/kids](http://www.kidscoop.com/kids)

**Double Word Search**

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

DIFFERENCE  
CORNERS  
BOOSTER  
WALKING  
SAFETY  
DANGER  
BUCKLE  
HELMET  
STREET  
PARKED  
RIDING  
ZONE  
SEAT  
CARS  
BUS

B R T E E R T S U B  
B S E A T E R E S T  
U P S G M E Z A W F  
C E A L N O T Y A G  
K Y E R N A W T L N  
L H O E K A D E K I  
E C N E R E F F I D  
Y S C A R S D A N I  
R E T S O O B S G R

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

[www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

**Cause and Effect**

Many times headlines tell "what happened" in the news. This is the **effect**. Select an article to find out what **caused** the effect reported in the article's headline.

Standards Link: Reading: Understand organizational and informational text (cause and effect).

**Write On!**

**Best Friends**

Some people say a dog is a person's best friend. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Send your story to:

Press & Dakotan  
C/o Noelle Schlechter  
319 Walnut Street  
Yankton, SD 57078  
605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: October 9 Published: Week of Nov. 4  
Please include your school and grade.

## Weekly Writing Corner

## Safety Tips

What are three safety tips for kids to remember?

You should go into the basement when there is a tornado. Get out of the swimming pool when there is a storm. It's not safe to be outside during a storm.

Cameron, 1st grade

Here are three safety tips every kid should remember.

1. Never talk to strangers. A lot of young kids seem to forget the phrase 'stranger danger.' It is very important to avoid telling strangers important information without your parent's permission.

2. Look both ways before crossing the street. This could save your life. People who are driving aren't watching for you. So you have to watch for them.

3. Call 9-1-1 in an emergency. If you're in trouble or there is an emergency, you need to know how to call 9-1-1. If you're home alone, you need to have a phone.

Kamden, 6th grade

1. Make sure to teach young children their full name, phone number and address.

2. When parents are not home, do not answer the door or phone, but parents should always leave important numbers on a note pad in case of an emergency.

3. When on the internet, only go to sites that are useful for homework (make sure parents have checked them out). If for any reason you see or think something is not right for you, please tell a parent.

Rayne, 1st grade

1. Do not hold anything metal outside during thunder storms.

2. If you are locked out of your house when a tornado comes, take cover in a ditch.

3. ALWAYS! If a man asks you to help him find his dog, RUN HOME!

Meleanna, 3rd grade