

Omaha Firefighters Battler Large Fire

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Officials say it will take hours to extinguish a fire in north Omaha that involves tires burning.

Battalion Chief Tim McCaw tells Omaha television station KETV that the overlapping tires have created an obstacle for fire crews. He added that rubber burning is not good to inhale because of toxic smoke.

More than 40 firefighters responded to the blaze, which was reported Wednesday afternoon. The Omaha Public Power District says the fire forced officials to switch power away from a nearby transmission line.

Additional information about the fire has not been released. There are no reports of injuries.

Smoke over a portion of north Omaha was reported from miles away.

No Bond In Attack Of S. Dak. Attorney

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of attacking his public defender while in court is being held without bond.

Capt. Jim Hoekman with the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department says 34-year-old Kelly John Lange became upset and attacked his public defender in a conference room.

Hoekman says Lange was in court because he failed to complete court-ordered anger management classes. Hoekman says Lange tipped over the room's table and struck the female public defender in the face.

Hoekman says it's unclear what caused Lange's outburst. The attorney suffered minor injuries.

Lange is facing four alternating counts of simple assault stemming from the court incident.

Lange's wife, Neesha, tells the *Argus Leader* that what her husband did was wrong. But, she says, his public defender wasn't giving him the help he needed.

Gun Used To Threaten Burglar In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha woman says she used a handgun to keep a burglar under control until police arrived.

The *Omaha World Herald* reports 52-year-old Barbara Haley awoke early Tuesday to a loud noise. She says she noticed hands coming out of her bedroom closet and grabbed a gun.

The newspaper reports Haley threatened the intruder to stay in the closet or she would shoot. She called 911.

Police say 24-year-old Jody Kudlac was arrested and charged with one felony count of burglary. Court records do not list an attorney.

Haley says her husband gave her a quick lesson on how to use the gun before he went out of town. Officer Kevin Wiese, a police spokesman, says residents should be trained on how to properly use firearms.

Neb. Crash Lawsuit Dismissed By Judge

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit against three companies that were accused of negligence after a western Nebraska crash that killed a family, including a woman who was pregnant.

The lawsuit was filed by relatives and estates of Christopher and Diana Schmidt. The Gaithersburg, Maryland, couple died along with their two young children and unborn son on Interstate 80 in September 2012.

The Schmidts were in separate cars in standstill traffic after a crash that involved two trucks in Cheyenne County. Christopher Schmidt's car was then struck by another truck, and the impact pushed his car into the car with his wife and children.

U.S. Magistrate Judge F.A. Gossett dismissed the lawsuit against the trucking and semi-trailer companies that were involved in the initial crash. The family's relatives are appealing.

Woman Resented To Life In Prison

WATERTOWN (AP) — A South Dakota state prison inmate from Watertown who was given a life sentence when she was a teenager has been resentenced to 40 years in prison.

Jessi Owens was 17 when she pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the 1998 hammer beating death of David Bauman. Authorities say Owens and another teen went to Bauman's house to steal money.

Owens appealed her sentenced last year following a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision that said that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juvenile homicide offenders violates the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

KWAT-AM radio reports Judge Robert Timm in Codington County resentenced Owens on Wednesday. She will be eligible for parole in three to four years.

Owens is serving her sentence at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre.

Bosworth Trial Scheduled For February

PIERRE (AP) — Former U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth is scheduled to stand trial in February on election law violations.

KCCR-AM reports the trial of the Sioux Falls Republican is on the calendar for Feb. 4-6 at the Hughes County Courthouse. Her trial had originally been scheduled for November.

Bosworth is charged with six counts each of perjury and filing false documents, which carry a maximum punishment of 24 years in prison and \$48,000 in fines.

Authorities say the physician fraudulently attested to gathering voter signatures when she was really on a Christian mission trip to the Philippines.

Bosworth lost the June 3 Republican primary with 6 percent of the vote and was charged the following day. She said she was the victim of "political persecution."

Stolen Pickup Slams Into R. City Home

RAPID CITY (AP) — Police say a stolen pickup slammed into a Rapid City home causing more than \$30,000 in damage to the house.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that the incident happened at shortly before 6 a.m. on Sunday.

Police spokeswoman Tarah Heupel says a witness told officers that about five juveniles scrambled out of the truck and fled on foot after the vehicle struck the corner of the house. No injuries were reported.

Attendance Drops At Neb. State Fair

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — Actual rain and the threat of severe weather have been blamed for a drop in attendance at the Nebraska State Fair last week.

Heavy rain held down the Grand Island crowds at the beginning of the week, and then Sunday's forecast may have kept people home. Sunday's attendance was down 36 percent from last year's final Sunday.

Threats of 2-inch hail, 70 mph wind and heavy rainfall on Sunday were topped by the forecast possibility of a tornado. Fair executive director Joe McDermott says it turned out that Grand Island had great weather on Sunday, but he thinks the forecast likely swayed people's decisions about attending the fair.

Mom Accused Of Drugs Allowed Visitation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman accused of using drugs in the house she shared with her children will be allowed supervised visits with them under court-required circumstances.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Judge Wally Eklund will allow 37-year-old Mandy Scott to see her children if social workers develop a safety plan and supervises those visits.

Scott was arrested in June. Court document say three children, ages 13, 11 and 1, were in the house where methamphetamine, hydrocodone and marijuana were found.

Scott has pleaded not guilty to several charges, including aggravated child abuse and felony possession of a controlled substance. She is free on \$25,000 bond.

S.D. Takes Steps Help Labor Shortage

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota officials say they're taking tangible steps toward helping relieve the shortage of qualified workers, including funding community initiatives and re-examining how to connect job-seekers and employers.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard released his workforce summit report this week. It said South Dakota faces a labor supply shortage of industries that require considerable training, and that industries requiring less-qualified workers have too many from which to choose.

Secretary of Labor Marcia Hultman said Wednesday that the report, which lays out ways businesses, communities, educators and government can find more employment for South Dakota residents, will help local communities come up with plans to address the shortages.

In addition, Hultman said, Daugaard has set aside \$1 million in state future



Daugaard

‘Oh, one of those strategies really works for us,’ or they can come up with their own,” Hultman said, referencing the 19 suggested strategies that communities can use to help fill local labor shortages.

Community leaders can then use one of those to build an action plan that they'll present at the state's Workforce Summit Development Council in December.

Al Heuton, the director of the Brookings Economic Development Corporation, said groups in his town have been trying to figure out how get more qualified workers in the community for

funds to help finance initiatives, but communities must first bring a detailed plan to the council and be willing to match any state funding they receive.

“So communities, as they're looking at their assessments, can say

years. The area is in need of welders and technicians, as well as financial personnel, such as accountants.

He expects the community will present its workforce initiatives to the council and request funding, though it isn't clear what specific idea they'll push. He said that it could include the South Dakota Education Campus, which provides workforce training and community education classes in the Brookings area.

“Continuing to grow that program will be a big part of what we're looking at the on training side,” Heuton said.

Hultman said the Department of Labor will begin to re-evaluate how it lists available positions on its website. The department's job portal currently lists types of jobs, and Hultman said she wants to change that so employees aren't ignoring jobs that could be a good fit for them.

“What we really want to do is not just list the job title, but list ‘Here are all the types and skills an individual would need to fulfill that job,’” she said.

Nebraska

Immigrant Licenses Lawsuit Case Moved

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A lawsuit challenging Nebraska's practice of denying driver's licenses for immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children has been moved to federal court.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit last year in Lancaster County District Court on behalf of four Omaha residents. The lawsuit says Nebraska officials violated state law that requires state agencies to go through a public hearing and comment period before making significant changes to state rules and regulations. It also says the policy also violates the state constitution's

right to due process and equal protection.

The Nebraska Attorney General's Office had the case transferred to federal court last week, saying that federal law created the issue on which the lawsuit is based.

Nebraska and Arizona are the only states that refuse to issue driver's licenses to participants in President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which was enacted in the summer of 2012. The program allows people brought to the U.S. illegally as children to work in the country, and protects them from deportation for two years. A federal appeals court recently struck down Arizona's policy, but the state has

asked the full 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider.

Within days of Obama's program going into effect, Republican Gov. Dave Heineman declared that Nebraska would deny driver's licenses to those eligible under it. Heineman is named as a defendant in the ACLU's lawsuit.

The case is now before Chief U.S. District Judge Laurie Smith Camp, who sided with the state earlier this year in a similar lawsuit by a Peru State College student. In that ruling, Smith Camp said the student had not shown Nebraska had violated the equal-protection rights of young immigrants who were denied driver's licenses.

Amy Miller, legal director for the ACLU of Nebraska, said the state's request to move the lawsuit to federal court came after a state judge last week denied Nebraska attorneys' request to resolve the case without a trial, which had been set to begin in state court on Sept. 30.

“Removing this case to federal court with trial imminent is nothing but a last ditch effort to maintain Gov. Heineman and the DMV's unlawful practice of denying driver's licenses to young immigrants the federal government has authorized to live and work in Nebraska,” Miller said.

Google Touring National Music Museum

BY J.L. ATYEO
Argus Leader

VERMILLION — Google will be taking its street-view technology inside the National Music Museum at the University of South Dakota this week.

The museum in Vermillion will be the first South Dakota institution and the first collection focused primarily on musical instruments to join Google's Cultural Institute. The online collection allows people to browse high-resolution photos of art and step virtually into galleries around the world.

“It's just another way to get our instruments and our artworks out there to let the world know that we've got a real jewel . in the state of South Dakota,” said Margaret Banks, the museum's associate director and senior curator of musical instruments.

A crew from Google will visit the museum Friday with a 7-foot trolley topped with the same type of camera that mapped streets across the world. Before the filming begins that evening, a public event from 10 to 11 a.m. at the museum will explain the project and give visitors a chance to browse collections that already are part of the Cultural Institute.

About 80 pieces from the National Music Museum already are featured on the Google site.

Since spring, Banks has posted photos of select instruments. She'll



Banks

continue to add more, but it's no easy task to choose which instruments to feature out of a collection of 15,000, she said.

“It's like picking out which of your children do you like best,” Banks said.

So far, she's picked out some of the museum's crown jewels, literally instruments owned by royalty. There's the world's oldest cello, nicknamed The King because it was made for the king of France. She's also added string instruments made by Antonio Stradivari, as well as pieces from India and Africa.

Putting the music museum's collection online next to pieces from world-famous museums helps people find these gems, even if they don't know where to look, said Piotr Adamczyk, program manager with Google's Cultural Institute.

“It's going to be terrific to see the kind of exposure they can get alongside some of the big names,” he said.

He said he expects the museum also will see more visitors in Vermillion once people know what they have to offer.

Google is open to any nonprofit institute joining the program, as long as the material is clear of copyright restrictions. Google always is looking for interesting and diverse collections, Adamczyk said.

Officials at the music museum approached Google about being part of the project. There are no costs involved other than staff time.

Once Google's trolley makes its run through the galleries, it will take six to eight weeks before the Google team can stitch the photos together and make the virtual tour available online.

National Music Museum goes digital:

- What it is: The Google Cultural Institute has a sampling of collections from more than 400 museums worldwide, accessible for free online. The National Music Museum has been posting detailed photos of instruments in its collection. A virtual tour filmed using Google streetview technology will be available in coming months.

- How do I see it: Go to www.google.com/culturalinstitute and search for National Music Museum. A link will also be on the music museum website, www.usd.edu/smm.

- See firsthand: Representatives from Google will give a presentation on the Cultural Institute at the museum from 10-11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 5. South Dakota Secretary of Tourism James Hagen and National Music Museum Director Cleveland Johnson will speak. Google Chromebooks will be available throughout the day for visitors to browse the online exhibit.

N.D. Education Board Approves Capital Projects

BY DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — The North Dakota Board of Higher Education on Wednesday took a \$69 million chunk out of its \$808 million backlog in deferred maintenance projects, though some members said that's not enough for a state swimming in profits from energy and other industries.

The board approved more than \$200 million in capital projects that chip away at the list of needed repairs and renovations, including a new heating plant at Valley City State and new water and sewer lines at North Dakota State College of Science.

Board member Kevin Melicher, of Fargo, calls the deferred maintenance needs “enormous” and said he believes the state has the ability to fund more of them.

“We have, I would assume, some colleges in the facility department that are not up to the current needs that students want or need when they go to college,” Melicher said. “We want to make sure we have not forgotten some of our existing campuses and make sure that we get those up to speed.”

University of North Dakota science professor Eric Murphy, the board's faculty adviser, asked Larry Skogen, interim chancellor of the

North Dakota University System, whether the deferred maintenance plan was aggressive enough. The list of projects left off the funding list includes a building at North Dakota State University where a lab has no running water.

“Dr. Murphy, there are many of those that should be funded. But, at some point, like creating budgets anywhere, you've got to draw a line,” Skogen said.

The new projects include buildings that will house programs to help meet the demand both from the oil boom in western North Dakota and a thriving business and agriculture sector on the east side. There's a \$14 million facility at Williston State College meant to address the shortage in doctors and nurses on the oil patch and an \$8 million career and technical education building at Minot State to train workers, also in oil country.

The budget also includes \$10 million for the first phase of North Dakota State College of Science's expansion into Fargo, which is North Dakota's largest city and needs workers with two-year degrees.

The board also approved 3 percent raises for most of the university presidents Wednesday. Williston State College President Raymond Nadolny received a 5-percent raise, mainly because of the high cost of living in the oil patch.

Nebraska Priest Accused Of Threats Gets Probation

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest accused of swinging a piece of lumber at his brother has been given two years of probation on reduced charges.

The Rev. Michael Wetovick, 53, was sentenced Tuesday in Grand Island.

Hall County authorities say Wetovick accused his brother of stealing from him on June 16, 2013, and a fight ensued at their father's home near Alda.

Court records say Wetovick picked up the piece of lumber and swung it at his brother without actually hitting him. The brother, Tim Wetovick, punched the priest in return. Authorities have said the brothers had been involved in a long feud.

In an application for a protection order, Tim Wetovick

said his brother had made numerous threats toward him and his family since 2009.

Michael Wetovick originally was charged with terroristic threats, assault and use of a weapon — all felonies. But in a deal with prosecutors, he pleaded no contest to two lesser, misdemeanor charges, and the weapons charge was dismissed.

Michael Wetovick told *The Grand Island Independent* that he'd examined his issues with his brother.

Wetovick no longer is listed on the parish website as associate pastor at Grand Island's Blessed Sacrament Church. The diocese website lists several assignments for him in the Nebraska Panhandle, where he lives.

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