

Wind Farm Project Reaches Initial Goal

BERESFORD (AP) — Developers of a proposed wind farm in southeastern South Dakota say they have surpassed their initial \$1.5 million fundraising goal. Officials with Dakota Power Community Wind say 110 investors across the state have partnered with Lincoln County landowners to raise enough money to launch the project. Additional investments are being accepted through the end of the year or until the total reaches \$4 million. Work planned this fall includes wind studies, bird counts and preliminary turbine mapping. Turbine construction is not expected to begin until 2018. The wind farm could produce 300 megawatts of electricity. That's more than a third of the current wind energy production in the state.

Sister Of Killer Guilty In 2 Robberies

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The sister of a man convicted of killing four Omaha residents in August 2013 has been found guilty of helping rob two of the men. A jury convicted 24-year-old Erica Jenkins of two counts of robbery Monday but failed to agree whether she was guilty of conspiring to commit the robberies. The charges are connected to the Aug. 11, 2013, killings of Juan Uribe-Pena and Jorge Cajiga-Ruiz in a south Omaha park. Prosecutors say Erica Jenkins and her cousin lured the men to the park with a promise of sex, but Nikko Jenkins met them in the park and robbed and killed both men. Nikko Jenkins has also been convicted of killing Curtis Bradford and Andrea Kruger during a 10-day period last year shortly after he was released from prison.

Teen Wounded In Omaha Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police say a teenager has been critically injured in a shooting. Seventeen-year-old Shawn Johnson was shot Sunday in northern Omaha. He was transported to the CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center. Police say they believe the injuries aren't life-threatening. It's unclear what caused the shooting and police haven't released information about a suspect. No arrests have been reported. Police are investigating.

Fairgrounds Get \$50K For Exhibit Hall

HURON (AP) — Donations continue to flow to a campaign of the South Dakota State Fairgrounds to build a new 4-H exhibit hall. The state's Department of Agriculture on Monday announced a \$50,000 donation from South Dakota-based American Bank and Trust. State officials have raised more than \$3.3 million toward the \$4 million project. State Fair Manager Jerome Hertel says fairgrounds officials have been very pleased with the support from the Huron area for the new hall. The proposed 47,000-square-foot hall will feature multiple classrooms, a large kitchen for 4-H special food competitions, year-round concessions and a performance stage. Fair officials expect construction to begin in the spring of 2015. The project should be finished by the end of the summer.

Retired Nurse Claims \$200K Jackpot

HOVEN (AP) — A retired nurse in Hoven has claimed the \$200,000 Wild Card 2 jackpot in Saturday's drawing. South Dakota Lottery officials say Christa Ramirez is the lucky ticket holder. Officials say Ramirez matched all five white ball numbers and the wild card. Ramirez says she immediately "didn't believe" she hit the jackpot. She adds the money will allow her to travel with her husband to visit family and make some improvements around her home. The odds of winning the top prize in Wild Card 2 are 1 in more than 1.8 million. It is played in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

ND County Uses Drones At Night

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The Grand Forks County sheriff's department has flown its first nighttime drone mission. Sheriff Bob Rost says the unmanned aircraft team was contacted after four suspects fled a traffic stop about 2:20 a.m. Sunday in rural Larimore, about 30 miles west of Grand Forks. The drone was deployed after a K-9 unit was unable to locate the suspects. Rost says the aircraft helped locate one of the suspects in a corn field. Two suspects were arrested on the scene, and a third was taken into custody later. The Federal Aviation Administration in March granted the county permission for night operations. The drone unit is a joint effort among the Grand Forks County sheriff's department, the University of North Dakota and two unmanned aircraft manufacturers.

SD Patrol Plans Sobriety Checkpoints

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says it is targeting 17 counties with sobriety checkpoints in October. The Patrol announced the checkpoints on Monday. The counties scheduled for sobriety checkpoints in October are: Brookings, Brown, Clay, Codington, Davison, Hamlin, Hughes, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Tripp and Walworth.

Dispute Over Nebraska Bar Association Fees Settled

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A dispute over mandatory dues charged by the Nebraska State Bar Association ended Monday with the settlement of a federal lawsuit that questioned whether those dues were constitutional. State Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh of Omaha had sued the association in 2012, saying he believed the roughly \$300 annual dues were improper because some of the money was used for political activities such as lobbying. Lautenbaugh had said lawyers, like himself, shouldn't be forced to help pay for lobbying to help pass a measure they might oppose. The association said Monday that the issue was resolved by a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling last year. That decision restricted mandatory dues to only those activities needed to regulate the legal profession, such as maintaining records, mandating continuing education for lawyers, and enforcing the ethical rules of attorneys. The association's mandatory fees dropped to \$98 in January for most lawyers. Nebraska lawyers must pay those mandatory fees each year to remain in good standing. The association said in a statement that money from voluntary dues will support all of the group's lobbying activities and programs like legal self-help desks, legal mentoring programs and a program that helps place lawyers in rural areas. The settlement requires Lautenbaugh's 2013 dues and his legal expenses of less than \$5,000 to be paid. Lautenbaugh said Monday he was

pleased with the outcome and the state Supreme Court's decision to make some of the association's dues voluntary. He said additional changes might be needed in the future depending upon how well the bar association handles the situation. "We'll have to see how it is applied," Lautenbaugh said. The association said earlier this month that the change in its dues cut its revenue by \$600,000 to about \$1.2 million. Officials said that two out of every five members paid only the mandatory \$98 membership dues. So the bar association eliminated six positions, reduced travel, sublet some open office space and ended some events. Officials said some of the association's programs might have to be eliminated if revenue falls further.

University Research Is Being Squeezed In South Dakota

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Research at public universities in South Dakota is being squeezed by a drop-off in federal funding. The number of people at South Dakota State University paid through research grants and contracts has dropped from about 1,500 in 2012 to about 1,000 this year, due to an end to federal stimulus funding coupled with federal budget cuts. At the University of South Dakota, the number has dropped from about 600 to about 450. Those people primarily are graduate and post-graduate students and assistants, along with support staff. "What that means is, we have less research productivity," Mary Berry, vice president for research at USD, told the *Argus Leader* newspaper. "You have fewer people involved in research, fewer students that we are able to have in our programs and thus fewer graduate students who are educated." The fear is that the funding environment will quash passion for research and send would-be scientists down other career paths. However, South Dakota is better off than some other states, where research facilities built in recent years on college campuses now sit unused.

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University of South Dakota

Some universities are looking at public-private partnerships as an alternative. Campuses are getting more aggressive in pursuing fee-for-service-based activity that ultimately can help industries with challenges they might be facing, according to Paul Turman, vice president of academic affairs for the state Board of Regents. "Federal funding agencies want to see that — want to see what can be done at the end of the road with research activity," he said. Universities also are narrowing the focus of research. "The discussion at our institution is, 'What do we do to become more competitive?'" Kephart said. "You don't do that by saying we're going to be competitive in each and every discipline everywhere."

Those are the realities in many places that have overbuilt," said Kevin Kephart, vice president for research at SDSU. "We're fortunate; that's not an issue here."

Nelson

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appoint anyone to the seat before the election. Democrat John Stalnaker and Republican Joni Craighead are both vying for the officially nonpartisan seat in the November election, and Heineman has publicly endorsed Craighead. Nelson said he expects to leave public office after his term ends in January so he can resume his private law practice in Omaha. As a senator, Nelson served on the Legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee. He usually supported the governor's policy positions, although the two were at odds over a pro-

posal to spend \$2.5 million in state money for bronze fountains at the Capitol. Heineman opposed the funding, while Nelson argued that it would help complete the last original piece of the state Capitol. Nelson was born in Geneva and grew up on family farm. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned his law degree from Creighton University in 1964. The lieutenant governor mainly serves as a successor in case the governor dies or leaves office. In recent years, lieutenant governors have overseen Nebraska's homeland security, emergency management and information-technology programs. The constitution also calls for lieutenant governors to

preside over the Legislature when lawmakers are in session. Nelson won't do so because lawmakers aren't expected to reconvene until January, when he leaves his post. In addition, lieutenant governors serve as public liaisons for the governor at local chamber banquets, schools and ribbon-cuttings. The lieutenant governor is paid \$75,000 a year. Nelson is the third lieutenant governor to serve under Heineman. Heidemann replaced Rick Sheehy, who resigned in February 2013 amid revelations that he had made thousands of phone calls to women other than his wife on a state cellphone.

G.I. Flood Project Is Behind Schedule

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — A Grand Island flood control project that was set for completion next year is four years behind schedule and \$13 million over budget. The Grand Island City Council was briefed on the Northwest Flood Control Project last week, and the delay was reported two months ago to the Hall County Board of Supervisors, the *Grand Island Independent* reported. Both are financial partners in the project. John Petersen, project manager and lead designer with JEO Consulting Group, which designed the project, said it's about 60 percent finished. The project was delayed in part because of the time required to clean up buried explosives from land that once housed an ordnance plant and an insufficient drainage map. The project originally relied on watershed data from the 1980s. Officials say the project is over budget because of an abnormal jump in construction prices over the project's 10-year development. Grand Island Public Works Director John Collins said the price of earth-moving equipment rose in part because of China buying up American construction material and equipment. Diesel prices also increased. The cost of moving dirt rose from 75 cents per cubic yard at the start of the project to \$2.50 per cubic yard, said Lalit Jha, senior project manager with the consulting firm.

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