

### Former DCI Agent Alleges Retaliation

PIERRE — A former Division of Criminal Investigation special agent is suing over the agency's response to alleged sexual harassment of her by a county deputy.

Laura Zylstra Kaiser of Aberdeen alleges she was harassed by a Brown County deputy in 2011. Her federal lawsuit claims she was demoted after the alleged harassment.

Zylstra Kaiser says she filed unsuccessful grievances with DCI Director Bryan Gortmaker and Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Her lawsuit says her work relationships suffered after another agent spread word of the alleged harassment. She says the agency has impeded her outside employment since she left in 2012.

The suit names Gortmaker in his official capacity and the former agent. It doesn't name the deputy as a defendant. The attorney general's office says it hasn't seen the lawsuit.

### UNL Pushes For Childhood Development

LINCOLN, Neb. — The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has announced a new effort to boost research and support of early childhood development.

University officials announced the creation Thursday of the Nebraska Early Childhood Research Academy, which will promote research and collaboration on challenges that young children and families face.

The university is also adding nine new positions to the current 65 faculty members who work on early childhood issues. The university's extension offices will hire 15 educators who will work with the early childhood community throughout the state. Some of the work will take place in Brazil, China, Turkey and other international locations.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Harvey Perlman says providing children with the resources they need is crucial to the long-term state economy.

### Custer State Park Auctions Cabins

CUSTER — Custer State Park is auctioning online 12 cabins in order to make room for new, updated units.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has contracted Utah-based Public Surplus to handle the auction, which runs until 11 a.m. MDT Tuesday.

The cabins are one-room units with a bathroom and can sleep up to four people. Successful bidders will be responsible for removing the cabin and any deck or stairs that the unit may have. Bidders also must clean up any garbage created by the removal process.

The department will allow bidders to remove the cabins between noon Tuesday and Oct. 11.

### Senator Chosen To Election Commission

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Nebraska lawmaker from Gretna has been chosen as one of two state legislators in the nation to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Sen. John Murante, a Republican, will serve on the national commission along with Mississippi state Sen. David Blount, a Democrat.

The independent, bipartisan commission was created as part of the Help America Vote Act, which made sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. The law requires that the commission test and certify voting equipment, conduct research and provide a national clearinghouse of information for voters.

Murante is the chairman of the Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and much of his work has focused on voting and election issues.

### Agriculture Secretary Names Deputy

PIERRE — The South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture has named a deputy secretary for the agency.

Department Secretary Lucas Lentsch announced Wednesday that Kyle Holt will serve in the position.

Holt worked most recently in U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem's office in Rapid City.

Lentsch says the new deputy secretary knows about South Dakota's agricultural industry.

Holt was raised on a family farm around Cresbard and graduated from South Dakota State University. Holt says he's excited to be part of the agency.

### Beef Plant Coverted To Cooked Meat

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Cargill plans to convert a beef processing plant in Columbus, Nebraska to make cooked meat, and two other beef plants in Wisconsin and Texas will be expanded to handle the work currently done there.

Cargill said Thursday the changes will cost roughly \$111 million. About 80 of the 250 jobs in Columbus will be eliminated during the conversion.

The project will begin in December in Columbus. The plant is expected to begin producing cooked meat in the middle of next year and reach full production in 2017.

Cargill says workers who lose their jobs in December can apply at one of the company's other plants in the region and relocation help will be provided. Cargill will spend \$27 million to expand beef plants in Butler, Wisconsin, and Forth Worth, Texas.

### Woman Accused Of Killing Man Indicted

KENNEBEC — A grand jury in Lyman County has indicted a 27-year-old woman on one count of second-degree murder.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says Whitney Turney, of Oacoma, was indicted Wednesday. She's accused of killing Calvin Shields on Sept. 4. Authorities say Shields was stabbed to death.

Jackley says 27-year-old Dayna Wells was also indicted on one count of accessory to a crime. Authorities allege Wells assisted Turney in her attempt to conceal, destroy or alter evidence.

Theresa Maule Rossow, Turney's attorney, says her client intends to plead not guilty. Turney is in custody in Winner. She has a bond hearing scheduled for Friday morning.

If convicted, Turney faces a mandatory life sentence in prison. An attorney is not listed for Wells. She could face up to five years in prison.

### High-Water Forces Closure Of Access

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Danger from high water has prompted authorities to temporarily close access to the Elkhorn River in eastern Nebraska's Douglas County.

John Winkler is general manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, and he said in a Thursday news release that the access sites are being closed for safety reasons. The river's running high because of the recent heavy rain, which he says makes boating extremely perilous. No reopening date has been determined.

# City Of Beatrice, Mayor Seek To Have Lawsuit Dismissed

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The city of Beatrice and its mayor are asking a judge to dismiss a lawsuit by a former mayoral candidate who says his property was condemned in retaliation because he criticized the mayor during campaigning.

Ronald Hasley filed the lawsuit in December 2013, a little more than three years after he lost the 2010 Beatrice mayoral election to current Mayor Dennis Schuster. Hasley's suit said he was targeted by Schuster and city officials because a house he owns was condemned as uninhabitable within weeks of his failed bid.

"(T)he property should have not been condemned and was done so only at the direction of the defendant, and at all times relevant, the city of Beatrice knew

or should have known that the purported inspection was a sham and was conducted only for the purpose of creating a pretext for the aforementioned condemnation," Hasley's lawsuit said.

Attorney Thomas Culhane, who represents the city and mayor, filed a motion Wednesday seeking to have the lawsuit dismissed. He said Schuster has qualified immunity, which protects government officials from liability for civil damages as long as their conduct does not violate clearly established laws or constitutional rights.

Culhane said Hasley has no evidence to prove that Schuster was involved in the inspection and condemnation of Hasley's property. Even if he had, "there is no conceivable basis upon which Schuster could be deemed to have been obviously wrong or incompetent in issuing such a supposed instruction; no reasonable officer could have considered it objectively

unlawful to inspect the property given its condition at the time," Culhane wrote in the motion.

The city is not liable because there was probable cause for city officials to condemn the property, Culhane said, pointing to the fact that a judge signed a warrant to allow officials to inspect the property, which they determined was uninhabitable because of a hole in its roof.

Hasley's attorney, Vince Powers of Lincoln, declined to comment Thursday. Culhane did not return email and phone messages seeking comment.

The trial is scheduled for Dec. 7 before U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf in Omaha.

Hasley is seeking an unspecified amount in damages, as well as legal costs. He is also seeking a declaration that his rights were violated and an injunction ordering the defendants not to further retaliate against him.

# Family Decides To Close Black Hills Cave To The Public

RAPID CITY — A cave with a long history in the Black Hills will no longer be open to the public after this weekend.

Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns will open for the last time Sunday and then cease to be a tourist attraction following a decision from the family who runs it, the *Rapid City Journal* reported.

Peter Heffron runs the cave on behalf of 13 mem-

bers of his extended family. He said family members have moved away and lost their connection to the cave, which his family has operated since 1934.

"There's no interest from the next generation in continuing with the cave and no interest in expanding our services here," Heffron said, "so we felt that right now was probably the best time."

Heffron estimates that

more than a million people have visited the cave.

About a half-mile of its passages have been mapped, but Heffron believes there's more to be explored. He said he hopes the cave will end up in the hands of an organization that will preserve it and conduct further exploration and research in its deeper reaches.

Before the tourist era, Heffron said, the cave site

was reportedly a favored 19th century winter camp of the famous Native American leader Sitting Bull.

"We're talking about 140 years of a constant people presence, crawling around doing untold damage just being inside that sensitive environment," Heffron said. "It'll be nice to close it up and let the cave be a cave again."

# VOTE YES

## On TUESDAY, September 29

Last November Yankton County elected new commissioners to lead us forward. After years of insufficient road funding and maintenance in Yankton County, they have acted to use a new tool recently provided by Governor Dugaard and the state legislature to meet severe shortfalls in road maintenance funding. Other SD counties and townships have taken similar action to help themselves. We should support our commission's sound efforts and responsible action.

- These are our roads that our children, grandchildren, and neighbors travel. We need to raise adequate funds to ensure they are safe. We need to act responsibly and maintain them rather than continue to defer maintenance.
- Maintenance and replacement costs increase every year. The problem isn't going away. The longer we wait to catch up on all the deferred maintenance, the more expensive it will be.
- Our state and federal governments provide funding to assist with road and bridge repair and replacement, on a matched funding basis. Having more of our own funds will help us maximize those additional funding sources.
- Our area's economy is dependent on the agricultural community. We need a good transportation infrastructure to support commerce into our communities. More commerce means more investment, development, real estate taxes and sales taxes. We need to grow our base of revenue sources to support all of our public assets and services.
- The commission is not using this new funding to build new roads. The funds will be used simply to maintain and repair the roads and bridges we already have.

Our commissioners have studied our needs and our funding problem and taken action to solve it. They created a 20-page handout detailing the situation and provided it at the public hearing prior to taking this action. In the past month, they have attended a community forum and hosted six "town halls" around the county to provide information, answer questions, and obtain feedback from those they represent. They realize nobody wants higher taxes, but they have acted as leaders and made a tough decision to act responsibly and move Yankton County forward.

The easy thing to do is to ignore this issue and not bother to vote. But without your vote on September 29th, this problem will only worsen, as the solution our commission has provided will fail. We need to invest in Yankton County's future and take care of our roads and bridges. Please do your part to help!

# PLEASE VOTE YES ON SEPTEMBER 29

Visit your county website at [www.co.yankton.sd.us](http://www.co.yankton.sd.us) for more information.

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