

GROUND BREAKING

Edgewood Senior Living Community breaks ground **A3**

Q & A

'Dust of War' to have special screening Friday **B3**

DUST

McCahren trial pushed back because of defense appeal

By CAPITAL JOURNAL STAFF
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The trial of a Pierre teen accused of killing a classmate will be pushed back while the defense appeals to the South Dakota Supreme Court an earlier decision to try their client as an adult, a Hughes County judge ruled Wednesday.

Depending on the actions of the Supreme Court, the trial now is set to begin early next year.

Braiden McCahren, 17, is charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and aggravated assault in connection with the shooting death of 16-year-old Dalton Williams on Dec. 18, 2012.

McCahren was also 16 when the incident occurred.

During a transfer hearing last month, Judge John Brown ruled that McCahren, who has pleaded not guilty to all charges, should be tried in circuit court rather than the juvenile court system.

McCahren's attorneys filed for a motion of continuance last week, saying they planned to appeal Brown's decision.

During the hearing Wednesday, William Taylor, one of two attorneys representing McCahren, said that allowing for the maximum time to file the appeal and for all parties to respond, the state could hand down its ruling in the middle of the planned trial, which was scheduled to begin on Oct. 21.

If the Supreme Court rules in favor of the defense it would remove jurisdiction of the case from the Hughes County Court in the middle of the trial, Taylor said.

In his decision, Brown said both the victim's family and the defendant, who has been held in the county jail for the past nine months, would like to see a resolution to this case. However, because of the confusion it would cause if the Supreme Court removed jurisdiction during the trial, he agreed to the continuance.

The defense's motion also asked that no trial date be scheduled until the Supreme Court makes its decision, but Brown said it's best to move forward with the trial as soon as possible.

Assuming the case is not picked up by the higher court, Brown scheduled the trial to begin Jan. 21 and tentatively to run until Jan. 31. There also will be a hearing on Dec. 4 to discuss making available the records of a potential juvenile witness and a pre-trial hearing on Jan. 8.

Taylor said the defense had five or six motions it plans to present at the pre-trial hearing. Some of those motions could influence trial preparation.

Beadle County State's Attorney Michael Moore said the prosecution was ready for trial and disagreed that the court's prior ruling should be appealed, but agreed to continuance because of the potential disruption if the Supreme Court agrees to hear the appeal.

After the hearing, Moore, who was appointed to take over the case after the resignation of Hughes County State's Attorney Max Gors in March, said he was disappointed the case had to be continued, but because of the reality of the situation it was the only decision the judge could make.

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State Sen. Shantel Krebs, a candidate for South Dakota secretary of state, describes why she decided to run during a meeting of the Cen-Kota Republican Women at Perkins Wednesday. (Justin Joiner/Capital Journal)

Krebs pledges she'll be fair as secretary of state

By BOB MERCER
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

Shantel Krebs said Wednesday she hopes people in the coffee shops across South Dakota can stop talking about the office of secretary of state if she's elected next year.

"They shouldn't know who the secretary of state is," Krebs told a lunch gathering of members of the Cen-Kota Republican Women in Fort Pierre.

Her goal is to return the office to the integrity and respect held under secretaries of state such as Alice Kundert, Joyce Hazeltine and Chris Nelson.

Her vision is a team approach built on quality staff and a renewed emphasis on customer service: "It gets things done. You don't hear about it, but you know it's working."

Krebs, a state senator from Renner outside Sioux Falls, is seeking the Republican nomination. She is the only announced candidate looking to succeed the current office-holder, Jason Gant, a Republican.

After Krebs filed her official statement of organization for her campaign last month, Gant declared that he won't run for election in 2014 to a second term.

Krebs, a self-described "fourth generation farm girl" from Kingsbury County who waited her way in Arlington to a business degree at Dakota State University while still working on the farm, owned two stores in downtown Sioux Falls before becoming a retail business consultant.

She and business partner Rick Knoe recently sold out of the

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buffalo ranch they ran together. Krebs, 40, is serving in her fifth term in the Legislature.

Her husband, Mitch Krebs, is press secretary for former Gov. Mike Rounds' campaign for the Republican nomination to the U.S. Senate in 2014.

She recalled being selected as a House page in 1991 when she was 17. She was sponsored by then-Rep. Joyce Hodges and prizes a picture from that winter of

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Navigator: SD residents ask insurance questions

By DIRK LAMMERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Although the website for the federal health insurance marketplace is in high demand, a South Dakota coordinator said Wednesday she's still fielding calls from people who aren't sure how President Barack Obama's health care law will affect them.

South Dakota is one of 36 states letting the federal government run its health exchange, where consumers can compare plans and buy health insurance. But nonprofits and advocacy groups funded by federal grants are helping residents navigate the system and sign up for coverage.

Kim Jones of the South Dakota Navigator Coalition said people are getting through on the website, but that she also took several calls Wednesday and set up several appointments to meet with residents to discuss coverage options.

"The calls I've handled today had nothing to do with the website," Jones said. "They had to do with people being unaware with the Affordable Care Act and what it might mean for them."

The marketplaces represent a turning point in the nation's approach to health care, the biggest expansion in coverage in nearly 50 years. The Obama administration hopes to sign up 7 million people during the first year and aims to eventually sign up at least half of the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans through an expansion of Medicaid or government-subsidized plans.

About 105,000 South Dakotans, or 13 percent of the state's population, are uninsured, according to recent surveys.

Dec. 15 is the deadline to obtain coverage that'll start Jan. 1. Customers have until the end of March to sign up in order to avoid tax penalties.

Overloaded websites and jammed phone lines frustrated consumers nationwide Tuesday on the first day they could sign up.

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GFP faces big-game review report and holds public hearing on lions

By BOB MERCER
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

SPEARFISH — The first two hours of the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission's meeting here Thursday afternoon will involve some of the most important listening in the modern history of trophy hunting in South Dakota.

The commission will hear from an outside consultant on its findings and recommendations on big game management, a study that Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered be

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Jeff Vonk, State Game, Fish and Parks secretary

done at the commission's expense.

And the second hour of the meeting will find the commission holding a public hearing on the 2014 hunting season for mountain lions, the species whose management in the past decade led

in many ways led to the governor's decision to get an outside review of the state Wildlife Division.

The results of the study are being kept under wraps from the general public until 1 p.m. MT Thursday when the reviewers from the

nationally recognized Wildlife Management Institute of Gardners, Pennsylvania, present the report.

The governor's private briefing on the report was scheduled for today (Wednesday), according to his chief of staff, Dusty Johnson.

State Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Jeff Vonk, a member of the governor's cabinet, doesn't expect the review will have any bearing on the commission's decision regarding the 2014 mountain lion season

that will be made either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

"I don't expect that the WMI report will contain recommendations of the type that would have an impact on the season setting process that is currently under way," Vonk said.

The 2013 season for mountain lions was notable for three reasons.

The commission set the 2013 harvest limit at its highest levels — 70 females or 100 lions total, whichever was reached first — since a hunting

season was resumed in 2005.

The harvest for the first time didn't exceed the previous year. Hunters took a total of 61 lions: 26 males and 35 females. That was down from 73 in 2012.

And because the harvest limit wasn't reached, the 2013 season ran its full length rather than closing early.

State Wildlife Division biologists have set a goal of 150 to 200 lions as the goal for the Black Hills

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