

## Law changes medical card filing for CDL holders

A new law that took effect Friday changes the schedule under which holders of commercial driver licenses (CDL) must file medical certificates with the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program.

Prior to the new law, CDL holders subject to federal physical qualification requirements were required to provide a medical examiner's certificate each time they renewed their license. Commercial Driver Licenses must be renewed every five years.

The new law, passed by the 2011 Legislature to bring the State into compliance with federal motor-carrier rule changes, requires a medical card to be filed each time the CDL holder receives a new card. Typically, CDL holders subject to the physical qualification requirements must renew their medical certificate every two years. That means those individuals must provide the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program with that new card every two years.

"The new law doesn't change who must meet the medical-card requirement and it doesn't change the physical qualifications," said Cindy Gerber, Director of the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program. "It simply requires that a medical card be filed with us each time a new one is received."

The Driver Licensing Program keeps those cards on file and provides them to law enforcement upon request. Gerber said persons subject to the physical qualifications requirements and issued a CDL after July 1, 2011, will receive a notice 60 days before their current medical card expires.

The medical cards may be provided to the Driver Licensing Program by:

- Mail to South Dakota Driver Licensing Program, 118 W. Capitol, Pierre, SD, 57501.
- By fax to (605) 773-3018.
- Or scanned and emailed to DPSCDLMedCert@state.sd.us

## High school students diagnose career possibilities at USD camp

Fifty high school students from South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota received a firsthand look at careers in the health care industry during the fifth annual Health Care Careers Camp, June 19-24, at The University of South Dakota.

With the help of various lectures and activities, students learned of the skills required to pursue a future in health care. Health care professionals were on hand to inform camp participants of various career options and discuss important issues in health care such as salaries, educational requirements and the need to augment the future health care workforce – in all disciplines – in order to accommodate projected health care demands.

According to Jerry Yutzenka, Ph.D., director of Diversity Affairs for Sanford School of Medicine and the University's Health Professions Advisor, the camp was created to allow high school students the opportunity to observe, ask questions and interact with professionals. Throughout the week, campers attended group activities and discussions; presentations by faculty and health care professionals from USD, the Sanford School of Medicine and USD School of Health Sciences;

and participated in field trips to area medical facilities, including a tour of Sanford Research in Sioux Falls. Additionally, the camp consisted of a gross anatomy session and physiology lab, and medical demonstrations.

Students attending the camp included Matthew Preszler of Menno, Lucy Benitez, Stacy Deibert, Riddhi Gandhi, Adam Kost, Jordan Larsen, Jessica Leat, Narysse Nicolet, Rachel Noonan, Geralyn Palmer, Suzie Richards of Sioux Falls, Rachel Uhrich of Aberdeen, Haylee Erickson of Akron, IA, Shayna Frost of Ashton, Nora Lueth and Hayley Naasz of Brandon, Emily Van Roekel of Corsica, Julianne Miner of Eagle Butte, Matthew Dykes and Emily Miles of Hartford, Niki Riley of Hazel, Shelby Sieverding of Humboldt, Melanie Fetherhuff of Ipswich, Mariah Pierce of Kadoka, Holly Clifford of Kyle, Lacey Van Laecken of Letcher, Sarah Maberry and Christina Parsley of Madison, Stephanie Haier of Marion, Lindsey Hendrickson of Meadow, Greg Hauer of Mission Hill, Lottie Grimshaw and Tanner Colombe of Mission, Karlie McEntee of Mitchell, Delayna Paulson of Mount Vernon, Katherine Van Gerpen of Pierre, Ashley Woldt of Slayton, MN, Jackson Roberts of Spearfish, Beth Reiser of Spencer, NE,

Elizabeth Karge of Springfield, Elana Kaup of Stuart, NE, Dustin Javers of Tea, Siehera Thibodeau of Toronto, Jonni Blake-Kosmicki of Tulare, Morgan Hower and Kelsey Meadows of Vermillion, Justine Soukup of Wagner, Tierra Axdahl of White River, and Taylor Dumke of Yankton.

USD students Seth Parsons of Pierre, S.D., Collin Michels of Yankton, S.D., Emily Reinbold of Timber Lake, S.D., Janine James of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Robyn Oster of Eureka, S.D. served as counselors and guides for the camp. Support for the camp was provided by a \$10,000 grant from the South Dakota Workforce Partnership Fund and additional sponsors included USD, Sanford School of Medicine, Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Relations Council, USD School of Health Sciences, Sanford USD Medical Center, Sanford Vermillion Medical Center and the Dakota Hospital Foundation.

For more information about the camp, please visit [www.usd.edu/medical-school/health-careers-camp.cfm](http://www.usd.edu/medical-school/health-careers-camp.cfm) or contact Kathy VanKley, Healthcare Careers Camp Coordinator, Sanford School of Medicine, at (605) 677-7288 or e-mail [Kathy.VanKley@usd.edu](mailto:Kathy.VanKley@usd.edu).

## Social Services' lunch July 12

If you are interested in learning more about elder abuse, residents' rights in long-term care facilities, Medicare and the low-income subsidy program, you are invited to attend a complimentary lunch provided by the Department of Social Services' Division of Adult Services and Aging.

Anyone interested in learning more about these

topics is welcome to attend on Tuesday, July 12, at 11:30 a.m. at the Vermillion Senior Center, 320 West Main Street. RSVP to 605-624-7868 if you plan to attend.

This is a public service announcement provided by the Department of Social Services Division of Adult Services and Aging in partnership with this newspaper.

## JUDGE

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Gering grew up in northern Yankton County and attended Menno High School. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. She received the Presidential Alumni Scholarship, the top USD merit award which fully covered her college expenses.

While at USD, Gering performed in the concert and marching bands.

Gering graduated with high distinction from the University of Iowa School of Law, finishing sixth out of 215 in her class. Desiring to practice law in South Dakota, she returned to the state and joined the Sioux Falls law firm of Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz and Smith.

She credited her colleagues at the law firm for their support. She previously told the *Press & Dakotan* that, if she had not received the judgeship, she would have chosen to practice at the firm for the rest of her career.

Gering, who now lives in

Freeman, also credited the love and backing provided by her family. She introduced the family members in attendance, who were seated in the jury box during Friday's ceremony.

"They are a big part of why I am here," she said. "I give thanks for the support they have given me and the support I will need as I continue on this adventure."

"And this is the only time I want to see them in my courtroom," she added jokingly.

Presiding Circuit Judge Steven Jensen of Dakota Dunes, serving out of Elk Point, welcomed Gering to the bench. He also welcomed her to the First Circuit, which covers the southeast quadrant of the state from roughly Dakota Dunes to Chamberlain.

The circuit includes Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, McCook, Turner, Union and Yankton counties.

"I think I speak for all of the judges and court staff when I say we look forward to working with you," Jensen told Gering. "It will probably take you two to three years to get around the circuit and see all the court staff. I hope you enjoy it as

A folk music contest will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Sioux River Folk Festival in Newton Hills State Park, which is just south of Canton. Acoustic vocal and/or instrumental solo, duo, and group acts are welcome.

The Plain Label Stringband & Mat D will judge the acts during the break on Saturday afternoon. To register, please send an email which describes your music, along with contact information to [info@fotm.org](mailto:info@fotm.org)

and include folk music contest in the subject line. This contest is only open to paying guests of the festival. Board members and family of board members are not eligible.

The winning act will have 15 minutes to play their hearts out in front of the crazed Saturday night crowd and open for the big closing set! They'll also receive \$32.32 and original Headley Eyesore artwork signed by Headley himself. For additional

information on the Campground Contest please visit: <http://www.fotm.org/campgroundcontest.htm>.

The Sioux River Folk Festival runs from Aug. 5 through Aug. 7. A pass for the entire festival is \$35 and is available at the gate or by mail. One day tickets are only available at the gate and are priced at \$20 for Friday night, \$25 for Saturday, and \$5 for Sunday. Children 14 and under

may attend the festival free of charge.

Tickets went sale June 30. For additional information on the festival, please visit <http://www.fotm.org/festival.html>. If you are planning to participate in the contest and would like to gain camping privileges in the concert campground, you can do so by volunteering to work a shift in the product tent or ticket tent. Please send such requests to [schmitzg@sio.midco.net](mailto:schmitzg@sio.midco.net).

much as I have."

The audience included a large number of judges representing the federal and state judiciary.

Besides Jensen and Rusch, the justices attending Friday's installation included U.S. District Court Judge Roberto Lange, who formerly worked with Gering at the Sioux Falls law firm; retired Supreme Court Justices Judith Meierhenry and Robert Amundson; and First Circuit Judges Glen Eng of Yankton and Bruce Anderson of Wagner.

After the ceremony, Gering spoke with the Press & Dakotan about her new career path. She officially took the bench on Tuesday, July 5 – a day later than usual because of the Independence Day holiday – to hear her first case.

"I am both nervous and excited," she said. "I have a lot of anticipation and a lot to learn."

Gering said she didn't know for sure that she would become a judge when she entered law school. However, she held a judgeship as a career goal and applied for the vacancy created when Rusch announced his retirement from the bench.

She underwent a background

check and interview with the Judicial Qualifications Committee. Her name was forwarded to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who interviewed the finalists and selected her for the judgeship.

"You never know what direction the (future) will lead," she said. "I have had good fortune and enjoyed a good career."

In the month since her selection, Gering has met with sitting judges to learn more about her new role. She has also shadowed courtroom personnel to learn more about their procedures.

"I have learned (judges) do a lot more than meets the eye," she said. "They do a lot of administrative work that's not seen in the courtroom. They also do a lot of correspondence. But I'm up to the challenge."

Gering also received advice on the necessary traits for sitting on the bench.

"I learned that a judge needs to be hard working and treat everyone with respect," she said.

Gering already knows many of her fellow lawyers in the circuit. However, she took the opportunity to meet with attorneys at gatherings in

Yankton, Clay and Union counties during the past month.

Her duty station is located in Yankton County, but she will also hear cases in Clay and Union counties. She will be assigned to hear cases elsewhere in the circuit as needed, and she could hear cases with the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Gering will deal with a factor not previously faced by circuit court judges – cameras in the courtroom.

The South Dakota Supreme Court has allowed cameras in its courtrooms for years. A new state law – which went into effect Friday – allows cameras in circuit courtrooms for the first time.

Gering said she has been studying the new law and its implementation in the courtroom. She anticipates working with the media and making adjustments as needed.

Gering doesn't make the distinction of herself as a female judge. However, she did appreciate Friday's attendance

by Meierhenry, the first and only female justice on the South Dakota Supreme Court.

"I was so honored to have (Meierhenry) be here," Gering said. "She has been a great role model, and I look at her as the way I should conduct my career and the way I practice law. I look for the best way to emulate her."

At Friday's reception, Rusch said the day brought bittersweet feelings as he watched his successor take her oath.

"I am happy to have (Gering) sworn in. She will do a good job," Rusch said. "It's always incredibly difficult to leave a job, but it's good to see her take over."

Now outfitted with her robe and gavel, Gering looks forward to serving from the bench.

"I hope to serve South Dakota and the First Circuit to the best of my ability," she said. "I want (people) to come to the courthouse and know their cases will be fairly heard."

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