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IMMIGRATION

To many, ruling doesn't go far enough

Advocates worry about enforcement repercussions

By **Christina Killion Valdez**
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The implications of Monday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the most controversial section of Arizona's immigration law raised concerns among several people who work with immigrants in Austin and south-

eastern Minnesota.

Jeffrey Jurewicz, a community organizer with Centro Campesino, an Owatonna-based organization that works with the Latino and migrant community, said the group was disappointed that the court ruling did not strike down the key section of the law, "the heart of the legislation and the section that has the largest impact on the largest number of people."

The Supreme Court struck down three of four sections of the Arizona law, but it upheld the provision requiring state law enforcement officials to

determine the immigration status of people they stop and suspect are not in the United States legally. That provision also requires that the immigration status of people who are arrested must be determined before they're released.

The ruling affects a wider population than the Latino population, Jurewicz said. Because victims of crime are less likely to report offenses if their own immigration status will be evaluated, more crimes will go unreported, he said. Plus, when police are required to handle federal immigration

issues, that takes away from time spent doing community policing, he said.

"Right now in Arizona, you can be arrested based on the fact that you are not able to prove your immigration status, not because you committed a crime," said Catherine Bauer, of Bauer Immigration Law Firm in Rochester.

Local law enforcement officials across the country can and do check a person's immigration status with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when someone has committed a crime, Bauer said. "When a

person commits a crime, you want that, you want to be able to know that information. I'm not arguing against this one," she said.

However, the Arizona law goes beyond that by requiring police to check the immigration status of people who are pulled over for routine traffic stops as well as victims of crimes who go to police, she said.

Another concern is that if states issue their own laws like this one, it will turn what's traditionally been federally regulated into a patchwork of laws, she said.

Concerns of racial profiling, however, seemed to rank highest among immigrant advocates in the area.

"The ruling could have been worse," said Deacon Dave Plevak, who serves at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester, which has a weekly Spanish language Mass. "But it still allows for the differential treatment of individuals based on race. Racism is an offense against all of humanity. Whenever racism is codified, it is a move in the wrong direction."

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Joe Michaud-Scorza / jscorza@postbulletin.com

Vision 2020 Bike/Walk Trail Group Chairman Steve Kime, of Austin, joins bikers on a commemorative ride up the Shooting Star Trail on Monday from Adams and Rose Creek.

Shooting Star trail gets new link

By **Adam Pulchinski**
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ROSE CREEK — The town of Rose Creek became a little more connected with surrounding communities Monday night with the ribbon-cutting for a new stretch of bike trail. The blacktop surface stretching about 20 miles is the latest expansion to the Shooting Star State Trail, bridging the towns of Rose Creek and LeRoy.

"People said, 'You'll never get it done, and if you do, no one's ever going to ride it,'" said Gerald Meier, addressing the crowd of cyclists and organizers.

Meier noted the process to build the section of trail was nearly 20 years in the making. "It was worth every minute of it."

The addition to the Shooting Star State Trail through

Rose Creek started as one of many ideas by the group Prairie Visions, a cooperative between the towns of LeRoy, Adams, Taopi and Rose Creek, to promote the area. The group was also involved with the Shooting Star Scenic Byway along Minnesota Highway 56.

"It will be very advantageous," said Becky Hartwig, president of Prairie Visions. Hartwig is also owner of the Rose Pedaler Log Cabin, a local business along the trail. She is one of many hoping the economy in Rose Creek sees a boom from the new section.

"I'm looking forward to the day this thing goes all the way to Austin and I can ride up here," said Dan Urlick, of Austin, who added the Rose Pedaler would be one of his stops. "To support the businesses that support the trail."

Urlick has traveled on bike trails in Rochester, Lanesboro and the Twin Cities. He enjoys the Shooting Star trail, but said to bike the highway to where it begins can be dangerous, for cyclists and motorists.

Urlick isn't alone in his desire to see the trail continue to Austin. That's the goal for many who attended Monday's ceremony, and it's part of the plan for the trail.

"The Rose Creek piece isn't actually the last piece," said Joel Wagar, the state Department of Natural Resources area parks and trails supervisor. The next step is to plan possible routes from Rose Creek to Austin. After that, it's a matter of acquiring land and money, the biggest obstacles that kept the Rose Creek section from getting done sooner.

Wagar also said success will



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depend on cooperation from Mower County officials and groups such as Prairie Visions. The commitment seemed to be there Monday night.

"It's an Austin trail," said Hartwig. "We're trying to get to Austin."

Adam Pulchinski is a freelance writer in Austin.

Pit bull attacks, kills Chihuahua

By **Heather Rule**
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A small dog was killed by a pit bull Sunday morning at Austin's new dog park, according to a police report, and the pit bull's owner has been served with a dangerous dog notice.

A 19-year-old woman reported to Austin police that her dog, a Chihuahua, had been killed by a pit bull Sunday morning at the park, at the south end of the 500 block of Second Street Southeast.

According to the report, the woman said she had her Chihuahua and three other dogs in the smaller fenced area within the park when the pit bull ran along the fence line. The next thing she knew, the pit bull was in the fenced area and had her Chihuahua in its mouth, "shaking it violently," said Austin Police Chief Brian Krueger.

The pit bull's owner, David Davenport, came in to talk to police about the incident early Monday. He said he was at the dog park cleaning up after his pit bull, and the next thing he knew, his dog had the Chihuahua in its mouth. Davenport, 42, said he didn't observe any blood or puncture wounds, so he thought the smaller dog was injured but not fatally. He then left the dog park, he told police.

Police said today that Davenport was served Monday with a dangerous dog notice. He has 14 days to appeal to the Austin City Council if he wants to contest the notice. If he does nothing, the dog will be euthanized after that 14-day period.

The dog park has been available for use since the fencing went up in the middle of May, though it hasn't had an official opening. Rules for the park haven't been posted yet.

Mayor Tom Stiehm is part of the Start a Park for Austin's Respectable K9s committee and has been an active supporter of the dog park.

Austin dog park



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"I think all the people from SPARK are just devastated that this happened," Stiehm said. "It's a horrible thing."

Already, the dog park is a busy place, Stiehm said. Organizers are determined to have a safe dog park, he said. Anyone who sees a problem should get the dog owner's license number and report it to the police, Stiehm said.

"You can never make sure it's not going to happen again," Stiehm said. "But you do have to make sure that you take every step possible to prevent it from happening."

Mary Svoboda, of Austin, said she's typically at the park every day with her cocker spaniel, though she wasn't there when the incident occurred. She heard about it Monday morning and used the park later that afternoon.

"I hate to hear that," Svoboda said. "I feel terrible about what happened yesterday."

Still, she said, what happened doesn't concern her enough to stop going to the park for visits, and she doesn't think it will stop others. She knows a lot of the dogs that come to the park, including several pit bulls, and they "all have been great," she said.



Stiehm

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97 **75** **6 a.m.** **Noon** **6 p.m.**
69° 86° 97°

Corrections

The Post-Bulletin is committed to fairness and accuracy. If you have a concern, contact Managing Editor Jay Furst at 285-7742 or furst@postbulletin.com.

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"Don't count on it. I'm the groom."

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