

METRO & IOWA



Halt on abortion law extended

Iowa chief justice refers case back to district court

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Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady extended a temporary halt to a new state law requiring women to wait 72 hours for an abortion Tuesday, sending the matter back to a district court judge for another hearing.

Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican, signed the law Friday morning, one day after a Polk

County district court judge denied a request for an emergency injunction to stop enforcement of the law that was part of a lawsuit brought by Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa. Planned Parenthood appealed the denial and Justice David Wiggins issued an order Friday halting enforcement temporarily while the court decided how to move forward.

In his Tuesday order, Cady highlighted a claim from Planned Parenthood that the organization has not yet received materials it is required, under the new law, to give women seeking abortions, including literature on risks associated with abortion and options such as putting a child up for adoption.

But Geoff Greenwood, a spokesman for the Iowa attorney general's office, said late Tuesday that those materials

from the Iowa Department of Public Health were publicly available before the bill was signed and that the state said as much during a Thursday court hearing.

In his ruling released before Greenwood's statement, Cady wrote that state lawyers had "failed to rebut" claims from Planned Parenthood that the materials have not even been developed. The organization argued in its request for justices to hear the case that the lack of material and further guidance from the Iowa Board of Medi-

cine is leaving it without "critical information" on how to interpret the law.

Cady ordered another district court hearing to be scheduled within 30 days. The temporary injunction will expire 10 days after a district court judge issues another ruling.

"This ruling means that while this case moves through the court, women will continue to have access to the safe, legal abortion care they are constitutionally entitled to receive,"

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IOWA DISTILLERIES PREPARE FOR GROWTH



RODNEY WHITE/THE REGISTER

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad holds a public bill signing Tuesday at Iowa Distilling Co. in Cumming. The bill allows Iowa distilleries to sell liquor by the drink.

Branstad signs legislation that allows craft liquor to be sold by the glass

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Iowa's craft liquor distilleries are preparing for a wave of new business now that Gov. Terry Branstad has signed a law allowing them to pour cocktails and other drinks by the glass.

"It's such a customer expectation," said Garrett Burchett, co-owner of Mississippi River Distilling Company in Le Claire. "When you go into a brewery, when you go into a winery, you expect that you can have a glass. And in a distillery, you couldn't."

He said renovations already are underway on a new bar and patio overlooking the distillery's namesake Mississippi River, which will allow visitors to sit and enjoy cocktails mixed with craft spirits made onsite.

Branstad signed House File 607 authorizing the changes Tuesday afternoon surrounded by a group of supporters at Iowa Distilling Company in Cumming.

He said the state's alcohol laws, many of which date back to the Prohibition era, needed to be adjusted to create more parity among manufacturers.

Breweries and wineries have been able to pour their product by the glass for paying customers for years. But concerns lingered around liquor manufacturers, even as distillers like Burchett pushed for change.

Branstad said the new law not only will create a more even playing field, but it will help drive economic development across the

state.

"Iowa manufacturers are a vital part of our state's economic diversity, and when they're allowed to succeed, the entire state benefits," he said.

"Our native distilleries are a great example. They provide local employment while using Iowa-grown crops like corn and rye, they create energy and commerce for small towns like Cumming, and they provide something of value, not only for our state, but for consumers from throughout the nation."

Kyle Doyle, owner of Iowa Distilling Company in Cumming, said he also is planning renovations to take advantage of the new law.

"We're going to be able to create an experience," he said. "When people walk in the door they're going to be able to see everything from the fermentation to the distillation to the barreling to the bottling process as you walk along the row."

Part of that is an expanded retail space, he said. The bill also will allow distillers to sell more of their bottled liquor for visitors to take home. Currently, they can only sell two bottles per person per visit. The bill increases that to nine one-liter bottles.

Burchett said he thinks the changes, which take effect July 1, will attract a wider variety of people to his establishment and help build brand awareness.

"When you give (customers) a new style of margarita or a different way to have an old fashioned and things like that, we really think it'll have an impact," he said.

It's official: Iowans can buy, shoot off fireworks

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Patriots and party-goers will be able to legally buy fireworks in Iowa beginning next month — just in time to shoot them off during this year's Fourth of July festivities.

Gov. Terry Branstad signed legislation Tuesday officially legalizing the sale and use of commercial grade pyrotechnics in the state.

"It's very quiet, but it's not going to be after this bill's signed," Branstad joked at a public bill signing at the Capitol.

The law becomes effective immediately, allowing Iowans to buy and use fireworks each year from June 1 through July 8 and again from Dec. 10 through Jan. 3.

"The state fire marshal has been working hard to develop the proper rules and regulations that are called for in this bill," Branstad said. "And we are confident that they will be in place in time for Iowans to purchase fireworks for this season and for licensed companies to be able to sell them in the state of Iowa as well."

But already, some city leaders in the Des Moines metro have said they are considering imple-

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Stepfather had been barred from home where he was slain

Court records show order lifted 6 days before homicide

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Six days before Anthony Hartmann was slain in a south Des Moines home, a court order prohibiting him from that home was lifted, court records show.

Hartmann, 49, was shot to death in the basement of a home in the 7200 block of Southwest 17th Street at about 1 p.m. Monday, police said.

His stepdaughter, Sera Alexander, 29, was arrested at the scene and charged with first-degree murder.

Shortly before the shooting, Hartmann was at Alexander's home retrieving some of his belongings, according to a criminal complaint filed in court against Alexander.

Alexander "came home and went upstairs to get her handgun to confront Hartmann in the basement," the complaint alleges. She then "shot him numerous times, resulting in his death." The documents do not specify how many times Hartmann was shot.

Alexander allegedly admitted to the shooting, and another person witnessed the shooting, according to the complaint.

Hartmann did not threaten or assault Alexander in the moments before the shooting, court records show. Police said Monday after Alexander's arrest that she had not been threatened.

It's unclear what motivated the shooting. But Hartmann does have some recent history of domestic abuse. Court records

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Woman awarded nearly \$750K for retaliatory firing

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A worker who blew the whistle on alleged sex abuse at a boarding school for troubled children near Keokuk has been awarded nearly \$750,000 in damages.

Cheyenne Jerred said she was wrongfully fired after reporting the alleged abuse of a student at Midwest Academy in December 2015. She won the judgment Monday in Lee County as a criminal investigation continues into the now-closed school.

Jerred reported the allegations involving the former student to Iowa's Department of Human Services. That helped trigger raids in January 2016 involving federal, state and local law enforcement.

Midwest Academy owner Ben Trane told local media Tuesday that Jerred was fired because she failed to report the alleged sexual assault of the student. He claimed the academy had followed procedure, reporting the same information within 10 minutes of getting it, according to the Associated Press.

But Jerred's lawyer said Trane fired her for taking action.

"I'm glad the judgment is there and for

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