

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### Daugaard Has New Rules For Valhalla Cabin

RAPID CITY (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says a state-owned vacation cabin in the Black Hills will be opened for public tours, business meetings and retreats.

The cabin called Valhalla in Custer State Park typically has been used by governors and their guests. Daugaard spokesman Tony Venhuizen tells the *Rapid City Journal* that the governor wants Valhalla to be more open and more accessible to the public, though it still will be reserved for the governor and his guests from Thursday nights through weekends.

The cabin became a subject of debate last year when then-Gov. Mike Rounds refused to release the names of people who stayed there. Daugaard says he plans to keep a list of guests and make it available to the public.

### Wife's Tip Leads To Child Porn Arrest

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln police say a tip from a man's wife led to the discovery of child pornography on a storage device.

A search warrant filed in Lancaster County District Court says 46-year-old LeRoy Downey's wife found a USB flash drive in his vehicle and reviewed its contents at home.

The warrant says she called authorities after discovering an image that depicted an underage child standing naked outside.

Police say investigators examined the flash drive and found 17 images and four videos that were confirmed to depict underage children engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

The *Lincoln Journal-Star* reports that Downey was arrested Thursday on suspicion of possession of child pornography.

Police say they don't believe Downey produced any of the material found on the device.

### Charges Against Ex-Prosecutor's Wife Nixed

OGALLALA, Neb. (AP) — A judge has thrown out the theft charges filed against a former western Nebraska prosecutor's wife, but he's still weighing whether the case against former Keith County Attorney Blake Edwards should move forward.

Both Edwards and his wife, Shirley, were charged in January with stealing more than \$11,000 while Blake Edwards held office and Shirley Edwards worked in the office.

Judge James Worden dismissed the charges against Shirley Edwards on Monday after a preliminary hearing was held. But Worden says he will rule later whether the case against Blake Edwards can proceed to trial.

The charges relate to the pre-trial diversion fees Blake Edwards managed between 2007 and 2009.

Edwards has said the payments he received were reimbursement for items he bought for the office.

### School Sup. Pleads Not Guilty In Driving Case

HURON (AP) — A South Dakota school superintendent who pleaded guilty to drunken driving has pleaded not guilty to driving with a revoked license.

Wessington Springs Superintendent Lance Witte was arrested by a Highway Patrol trooper Dec. 10 in Jerauld County, about two weeks after he had pleaded guilty to DUI. He told The Associated Press that he thought he had complied with all of the requirements for a work driving permit and thought he was driving legally.

KOKK radio reports that Witte is due back in court June 10 for a motions hearing.

### Students Compete In State Geography Bee

BROOKINGS (AP) — An eighth-grade student from Brookings will compete for his third straight state title Friday in the National Geographic Bee competition.

The *Argus Leader* newspaper reports that Alex Kimn won the state bee when he was in sixth and seventh grade at George S. Mickelson Middle School.

He and as many as 100 South Dakota students in grades 4 to 8 will do battle Friday at South Dakota State University.

The state winner gets \$100 and a trip to Washington, D.C., for the national finals May 24-25.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online ([www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net))

## S.D. Abortion Law Defense Fund Gets Anonymous Cash

SIoux FALLS — A state fund set up to raise money to help defend South Dakota against court challenges to abortion laws has accepted an anonymous \$20 donation, leading critics to question whether there is a loophole for donors whose names are supposed to be public information.

The Life Protection Subfund, created in 2006, has about \$30,000. The amount has more than doubled this month after Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed a law requiring a three-day waiting period and counseling for women seeking abortions. Abortion rights groups have said they plan to sue before the law takes effect July 1.

Among donations this year is a \$20 bill with an unsigned note saying the money should be put into the fund, state Bureau of Administration spokesman Mike Mueller told the *Argus Leader*. Donors cannot request anonymity, but if a donation is sent with no identifying information, the agency still will accept it, he said. He declined to label that a loophole.

"I'm not willing to characterize it in any way," he said.

South Dakota Newspaper Association General Manager David Bordewyk said it is important that the public know where the money in the fund comes from.

"Allowing anonymous donations really defeats the purpose of all the discussion and agreement (five years ago) that the fund should be public in terms of where the money is coming from," Bordewyk said.

**GOT NEWS?**  
Call The P&D  
At 665-7811

## MIDWEST ECONOMY

# Fiscal Indicators Positive In March

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy in nine Midwest and Plains states remained strong in March because of the health of agricultural and manufacturing businesses in the region, but a new survey released Friday suggests business weakened slightly last month.

The overall Mid-America business conditions index declined to 61.4 in March from February's 63.2, but the index remains in positive territory above 50.

"The export of agricultural and manufacturing goods continues to be an important source of growth in the region," according to Creighton University Economics Professor Ernie Goss.

The survey of supply managers and executives and the report use a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth in the next three to six months, while a score below 50 suggests a contracting economy.

States in the survey are Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. The March employment index grew to



Goss

60.3 from February's already-strong 58.3. Goss, who oversees the survey, says only about 11 percent of companies in the survey reported job cuts.

"Our surveys over the past several months indicate that the region will add another 100,000 by the end of 2011 leaving the region down 379,000 jobs, or 3.0 percent, since beginning of the recession," Goss said.

Inflation continues to put pressure on businesses in the region. The prices-paid index registered 88 in March, down slightly from February's 89.2.

"The upward pressures in prices will be further exacerbated by disruptions of supplies and products from Japan," Goss said.

About 16 percent of supply managers predicted that the earthquake and tsunami in Japan would cause significant delays in supply orders. Roughly two-thirds of the business leaders who responded said they don't expect the disaster in Japan to cause significant price increases.

Despite the inflation concerns, the business leaders remain confident in the economy. The March confidence index was 65.8. Goss said that's lower than February's 71, but still a strong reading.

The inventory index declined to 60.9 in March from February's 61.9, but it showed that supply managers are continuing to stockpile supplies in anticipation of stronger sales.

The export index declined to 57.5 in March from February's 62.4. The import index grew to 58.1 in March from 57.7 in February.

"Despite all of the international turmoil and uncertainty, businesses continue to expand both sales and purchases abroad," Goss said.

Other components of the March overall index were:

— New orders at 65.7, unchanged from February.

— Production or sales index at 63, down from 65.6 the previous month.

— Delivery lead time at 57.2, down from February's 64.7.

## Neb. High Court Orders New Trial In Chadron State Fatal Stabbing

BY **TIMBERLY ROSS**

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A former Chadron State College student convicted of stabbing his roommate to death and attacking another man will get a new trial, the Nebraska Supreme Court said in an opinion released Friday.

Joseph Hotz, 28, of Rushville, had appealed his 2009 conviction in Dawes County District Court, saying he was high on hallucinogenic mushrooms during the killing but the trial judge did not allow the jury to consider whether he was insane. In its opinion, the high court said Hotz was not entitled to an insanity defense because he voluntarily took drugs that he knew would impair his mental state.

Still, the high court ruled, the judge had given Hotz the impression that the jury would be instructed to consider insanity. So, the court ordered a new trial.

"Hotz's ability to mount a defense was severely compromised when he was barred from asserting the insanity defense in the 11th hour," the opinion said. The ruling noted Hotz filed notice to present an insanity defense at trial, attorneys told the jurors that Hotz claimed to be insane when his roommate was killed and an expert testified on Hotz's behalf about drug-induced delirium.

Hotz's attorney Jeff Pickens said he was pleased that the high court granted a new trial but disappointed that an insanity defense was ruled out.

"I didn't have a backup defense (during trial) but there are other defenses available," Pickens said. For example, he explained, Hotz could claim he was psychotic or delirious during the killing, rendering him unable to have the intent necessary to be convicted of committing second-degree murder, which could throw out that particular charge.

A message left Friday with the Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning's office wasn't immediately returned. A legislative bill Bruning proposed this session would prevent criminal defendants from using temporary mental illness as grounds for an insanity defense, if their condition was voluntary. It's on track to be passed by the Legislature.

Hotz was convicted of attempted second-degree murder, terroristic threats and weapons charges in the killing of 22-year-old Kenneth Pfeiffer of Sebastian, Fla., and an attack on another man. Hotz was given a 42-to-125-year sentence.

Authorities said Pfeiffer was stabbed more than 50 times in December 2008. Hotz allegedly entered a home before Pfeiffer's body was found and, armed with two knives, confronted a resident and threatened to kill him, according to a police affidavit.

Hotz's attorneys have argued that hallucinogenic mushrooms had left him delusional, thinking Pfeiffer was part of a plot to kill him.

## SD Police Chief Put On Leave Steps Down

HURON (AP) — A South Dakota police chief who caused a stir with comments about illegal immigrants has stepped down.

KOKK radio reports that the Huron City Commission on Thursday night accepted the "retirement and resignation" of Chief Doug Schmitt.

Schmitt was put on administrative leave last month, following his testimony on a bill in the state Senate. He testified that he thought two businesses in the Huron area were employing illegal immigrants. He said his requests to federal immigration officials to investigate fell "on deaf ears," but a federal official said there was no record of Schmitt asking agents to investigate.

Mayor Dave McGirr says Schmitt was never punished. And Commissioner Kerwin Haeder says misinformation was spread on the Internet. He says city officials couldn't talk about it because of employee confidentiality.

**Sally & Terry Want To Know...**

## Where Are They Now?

Once abandoned, these dogs have now found a new place to call home with the help of the Heartland Humane Society.

					
<b>BABE</b>	<b>NINA</b>	<b>SHILOH</b>	<b>BAILEY</b>	<b>LACI</b>	<b>KIERRA</b>
We adopted Babe on December 29th. She bonded instantly with our 5 cats and our Saint Bernard Brutus. Babe loves to play "hide and seek" with the cats. She also loves us to read the book "Marley and Me" to her...What a dog! <i>Kent &amp; Ruby Goeden</i>	Here is a photo of our Bella. Our daughter Nina was relaxing on her bean bag chair, Bella came and laid right next to her. She has been so much fun and is such a loving addition to our family. <i>Toby and Jenny Hansen</i>	Shiloh came to live with us in November of this year. She is a dolly. We love her and she likes her new house. She has a big brother retriever and a brother cat. The three of them run the place. They sleep, eat and play together. <i>Jim &amp; Judy Eisenmenger</i>	We are so lucky to have Bailey in our family. She is doing really well. She and the cat and our little boy get along so well. Thanks so much for helping Bailey in her time of need, she deserves it. She's a loving and kind dog who would never hurt anyone. <i>Peggy Schortzman</i>	Laci holds her own in a tug of war with Harley. She is doing great, loves going outside and running. Well, she bounces across the snow like a rabbit! <i>Gayle Fountain</i>	Kiera has fit into our family very well. Whenever a person walks through our door, she is always there to greet them. Even if it is barking or licking their faces off! She just is a very lovable dog! <i>Tony &amp; Amy Vollbrecht</i>

## Still Needing Adoption...

**Adopt Me**

**No bones about it... these dogs are begging for a home.**

					
<b>Patty</b> <i>4 mo., Rottweiler/Shepherd</i>	<b>Murphy</b> <i>male, 3 years, Rottweiler</i>	<b>Panda</b> <i>male, 1 year, St. Bernard/Spaniel</i>	<b>Terry</b> <i>male, 4 years, Rat Terrier</i>	<b>Jonesy</b> <i>male, 7 months, Pug/Beagle</i>	<b>Beau</b> <i>male, 4 months, Rottweiler/Shepherd</i>

## Looking for a purrfect pet?

					
<b>Tigger</b> <i>7 months, female</i>	<b>Louise</b> <i>7 months, female</i>	<b>Shayla</b> <i>1 year, female</i>	<b>Buzz</b> <i>2 1/2 years, male</i>	<b>Gertie</b> <i>6 months, female</i>	<b>Smudge</b> <i>1 year, male</i>

**For information on how to adopt an animal call Heartland Humane Society 605-664-4244 or [www.heartlandhumane.com](http://www.heartlandhumane.com)**



### How Can You Help HHS?

- Foster an animal until a permanent home is available
- On going need for cleaning supplies, cat litter and gently used leashes or harnesses
- Sponsor an animal with a contribution for food and vet care until they are adopted
- Donations needed for community spay neuter assistance program.