

Deadwood Location Up For Sale

DEADWOOD (AP) — A Minnesota woman who in recent months opened a wildlife education center that houses wolf cubs and fox kits in Deadwood is selling its business property in the town.

Owner Terri Petter tells the Black Hills Pioneer that Fur-Ever Wild has decided to sell its Deadwood location because of changes in rules and regulations from the city and the state.

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board has blocked Petter from allowing the public to pet the animals. An ordinance recently passed in Deadwood has stopped Fur-Ever Wild from increasing the number of housed animals.

Petter says the ordinance would block growth for the business. Some opponents of the facility have worked against it at the state and local level.

CEO Resigns From State Hospital

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The CEO of a state-run psychiatric hospital resigned last week, effective immediately.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that Bill Gibson stepped down as head administrator of the Lincoln Regional Center in Lincoln, as well as other regional facilities in Norfolk and Hastings.

Gibson has led the center since 2001. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Russ Reno did not say why he resigned.

Sheri Dawson, acting director of the department's behavioral health division, will serve as the center's interim CEO.

The resignation comes at a time of transition under new Gov. Pete Ricketts. Leadership has changed at all but two department divisions since Ricketts took office in January. He also hired a new CEO for the department, Courtney Phillips, who started in April.

At Least 13 Killed In Sturgis Crashes

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — At least 13 people have died in crashes related to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The Argus Leader reports the latest was Larry Kaduce of St. Peter, Minnesota. He was driving a motorcycle northbound on South Dakota 79 seven miles north of Sturgis when he attempted to pass two pickups pulling campers Saturday afternoon.

According to the Highway Patrol, Kaduce collided head-on with a southbound semi-truck. He was separated from his motorcycle and died at the scene.

According to the Highway Patrol, Kaduce was not wearing a helmet.

There have been 152 injury crashes reported to authorities.

The 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally ends Sunday.

Men Accused In Sexual Assault Of Girls

GERING, Neb. (AP) — Two western Nebraska men are accused of sexually assaulting teenage girls after playing them with alcohol at a party.

The Scottsbluff Star-Herald reports that Joseph Moore and Gage Soto are both charged with first-degree sexual assault of an incompetent person.

Authorities say a 17-year-old girl reported that she was assaulted by the 22-year-old Soto while intoxicated. The 22-year-old Moore is accused of having sex with a 16-year-old girl.

Police say Moore and Soto both admitted to having sexual intercourse with the girls and providing them alcohol. Both are also charged with five counts of procuring alcohol for a minor. Attorneys for the men weren't listed in online court records.

Chamber Reports Fiscal Insolvency

BELLE FOURCHE (AP) — The Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce's president says the organization is financially insolvent.

Chamber President Mark Reese tells the Black Hills Pioneer that the organization needs funding to meet 2015 obligations and said the group is falling behind on its office rent.

Reese says the group's balance sheet "shows that we are insolvent."

Reese has asked the city of Belle Fourche for financial help.

City Councilwoman Karen Wagner says that money's not in this year's budget, but Wagner says that a committee could convene to hear Reese's request.

The committee could make a recommendation to the full city council.

Man Accused Of Stealing Cattle

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man accused of stealing cattle faces multiple felony charges in Knox County.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that 44-year-old Timothy Ketelsen of Bloomfield is accused of stealing cattle on at least five different occasions since November. Authorities say he sometimes enlisted his sons, ages 16 and 14, to help him load steers onto trailers at night.

According to authorities, Ketelson sold the cattle at various markets.

Ketelson faces charges including two misdemeanor counts of contributing to the delinquency of a child, felony illegal sale of livestock and six counts of felony theft.

Park Leader Open To Tribal Park Plan

RAPID CITY (AP) — The incoming superintendent of Badlands National Park says he's open to a languishing plan to create a tribal national park in the Badlands.

Recently named Superintendent Mike Pflaum tells the Rapid City Journal that he wants to help repair relationships with tribal officials on issues including the plan.

The proposal would establish on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation the country's first tribal national park.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe halted its participation in the plan in February. The park had been withholding gate receipts from the tribe because the tribe hadn't been providing necessary financial reports.

The National Park Service has also created a regional office for Indian affairs to help improve relationships with tribal officials.

Pflaum says he wants to learn more once he arrives to lead the park.

1,300 Young Immigrants Get Licenses In NE Law's Wake

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska has issued 1,300 driver's licenses to youths who were brought into the country illegally since the state became the last in the nation to let them apply.

Lawmakers voted May 28 to end the state ban on driving privileges for those who were allowed to stay in the U.S. under the federal deferred-action program. The law took effect the next day, and the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles immediately saw between 50 and 70 applicants per day, Director Rhonda Lahm said. She didn't know whether the daily numbers have declined.

Nearly half of the applicants came from the state's two largest counties, according to the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles, which issued 427 licenses in Douglas County, including Omaha, and 133 in Lincoln and surrounding Lancaster County. The third-largest number of licenses issued was in Hall County, including Grand Island, with 123.

One such recipient is Yajaira Gonzalez, a 20-year-old whose parents brought her to

Omaha from Mexico shortly before her 9th birthday.

"It felt like I could be part of the society I've always grown up in," she said of obtaining the license just days after the law went into effect.

The University of Nebraska Omaha junior had relied on her father to drive her to school and work, at a time when he was working 13-hour days. Now, Gonzalez said she routinely helps drive her younger sister to a babysitter and takes her mother grocery shopping.

The deferred-action policy, announced by President Barack Obama in 2012, gives certain youths a Social Security number, a two-year work permit and protection from deportation. Although a few states initially announced they'd deny licenses to those youths, only Arizona and Nebraska ultimately adopted such policies and a court blocked Arizona's law.

Lawmakers overrode a veto 34-10 from Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts, who had backed the administrative policy enacted by former Gov. Dave Heineman. Ricketts said in his veto letter that those who arrived in the country illegally shouldn't receive privileges intended for legal

residents.

But senators countered that many of the teens actively contribute to the state economy and shouldn't face punishment for their parents' actions. The law also had support from agricultural and business groups and prominent state Republicans, such as Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert.

Advocates say allowing the youths to get licensed helped put Nebraska in line with the rest of the country.

"For so many of these kids, this is the only country they've ever known," said Charles Shane Ellison, deputy executive director of the Omaha-based Justice for our Neighbors. "The passage of this law has made a huge difference for them. There's a sense that you're part of the community."

Getting a license made it easier for Fatima Flores-Lagunas, 24, to get to doctor's appointments and to buy medicine for her allergies. Before that, the University of Nebraska Omaha junior said she struggled to do simple things like rent a table for her sister's baby shower.

"It's more than just a piece of plastic," she said. "It's your identity."

The state previously granted licenses to other kinds of deferred-action recipients, Ellison said, such as those who were abused by their parents, children or spouses.

The Nebraska DMV estimated in March that the measure would generate about \$38,000 for the state and counties combined if 2,300 deferred-action recipients were to apply.

Lahm said it's too difficult to calculate the exact revenue between May 29 and Aug. 5, because some youths might have taken driving tests multiple times.

The deferred-action category applies to people who are at least 15 years old, arrived in the U.S. before their 16th birthday, were under 31 in 2012, have lived continuously in the U.S. since 2007 and are in school or working toward a degree.

The federal government had received nearly 3,300 requests for deferred-action status in Nebraska as of March 31, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Of that number, 2,877 have been approved.

Rapid City Airport Gets New Director From Grand Forks

RAPID CITY (AP) — The incoming leader of Rapid City's airport wants to board his new position with sky-high hopes of attracting more visitors to the area during the summertime.

On Monday, the Rapid City Regional Airport Board announced that Patrick Dame was hired as the airport's executive director. He's set to begin at his new job in mid-September, leaving a similar position at North Dakota's Grand Forks International Airport, the 22nd busiest airport in the nation.

Dame would like to work with low-cost carriers to turn the city into more of a summer destination for travelers,

he told the Rapid City Journal after the announcement on Monday. He said he thinks that can be possible with existing carriers such as Allegiant Air.

Dame, 38, grew up in Anoka, Minnesota, and has a degree in aviation management from St. Cloud State University. He has also managed airports in Brookings and Minot, North Dakota.

His extensive resume makes him qualified for his new job at Rapid City Regional Airport, Dick McConnell, president of the airport's board, said in a press release.

"Rapid City Regional Airport is fortunate to have someone with Patrick's

background and experience at the helm," McConnell said.

Dame's wife and three daughters will move to Rapid City before the start of the school year, he said. Dame will follow shortly after, once he has reached the Sept. 12 completion of his duties in Grand Forks.

"I think Rapid City has pretty great air service for the population that's there," Dame said. "But I always think there is room to continuously improve."

Dame succeeds Cameron Humphres, who resigned in January following a leave of absence.

Texting Drivers Frustrate Advocates

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Five years after lawmakers approved a texting-while-driving ban, advocates say Nebraska's roads are still populated with motorists who glance down at their phones while behind the wheel.

Law enforcement, lawmakers and highway safety officials still consider it a problem in Nebraska, according to the Lincoln Journal Star.

Nebraska's ban doesn't allow authorities to pull drivers over for texting alone, because the offense is considered secondary. Officers can only stop vehicles for primary offenses, such as speeding or running a traffic light.

Sen. Merv Riepe of Ralston introduced a bill this year to ban all handheld use of wireless electronic devices while driving and would make doing so a primary offense. The bill remains in the Transportation Committee. Riepe says he hopes it will go before the entire Legislature.

Nebraska is one of five states that do not consider texting while driving a primary offense.

7-Year-Old Boy Helps Feed Hungry

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A 7-year-old boy is helping a Sioux Falls nonprofit feed the hungry by collecting money, books and vegetables for local gardens.

Riley McKeown of Brandon got the idea to help out at The Banquet, which provides meals to hundreds of needy people each week, while doing volunteer work there several weeks ago. The Argus Leader reported. As of late July, he had raised \$770, collected 250 books and procured dozens of vegetables, including 150 cucumbers.

He's also working to raise awareness about hunger in the community and further The Banquet's mission by posting about his efforts to help the nonprofit on Facebook.

"There are kids younger than me who don't know whether they're going to

have anything to eat," Riley said. "The Banquet gives them food even though they can't pay. I want to help."

Riley signed up 24 volunteers to help serve breakfast at the nonprofit last month. His mother, Jen, said Riley does chores around the house in exchange for her help on Facebook.

"He repays me for his 'cause marketing' by cleaning the bathrooms in our home and by watering my flowers every day," she said. "He really wants to own this project and wanted to do the social media himself but I explained that 7-year-olds probably shouldn't be given the reins to their own Facebook pages, but that he could repay my time by doing something for me."

Riley, who has dubbed his project "Help the Hungry," is among a handful of students

at Hoover's Martial Arts in Brandon who have taken on summer service projects. Instructors at the martial arts studio are encouraging students to volunteer throughout the summer instead of sitting on the couch and playing videogames.

Last summer, Riley started a project to pick up garbage along trails and paths. He has continued it this year, with a goal of cleaning up 100 miles.

"It makes me feel good and it's the right thing to do," Riley said. "I've learned that no matter how small you are, you can still make a big difference."

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