

Board Of Regents To Evaluate Direction Of University Centers

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — The state Board of Regents is reevaluating how it offers instruction in three South Dakota cities that lack a comprehensive public university campus.

The Board of Regents on Tuesday is set to discuss what the future may hold for the state's "university centers" in Rapid City, Pierre and Sioux Falls. A report prepared for the board says that disruptions in higher education from new course providers and technology, among other factors, are occurring alongside a "marked decline" in enrollment at the university centers — the student headcount has decreased by about 12 percent overall from fall 2008 to fall 2014.

The university centers offer classroom-based instruction emphasis-

ing adult and working students.

"Since those centers were created, the landscape has changed pretty dramatically. Particularly ... the economy has changed, (and) the availability of online education has made a radical change in how place-bound people particularly can access higher education," new Regents CEO and Executive Director Michael Rush said. "That has necessitated another look at what the centers are doing and how they offer their services and what value they add to their communities."

The report to the board shows that from fall 2008 to fall 2014, headcount enrollment at the Sioux Falls center fell by about 27 percent to 1,618 students. The headcount enrollment at the location in Pierre fell by roughly 43 percent to 69 students, according to those numbers.

The Sioux Falls center is also pro-

jecting a \$1 million shortfall of tuition revenue for the 2016 fiscal year. Craig Johnson, executive director of the center, said he wanted to wait for the regents' discussion before commenting.

The Rapid City center's headcount enrollment grew by about 22 percent from 2008 to fall 2014. But, between fall 2013 and fall 2014, it fell by about 8 percent.

Gene Bilodeau, executive director of the Rapid City location, said the center has been in "pretty good shape." He praised a recent measure that rebranded the satellite center as a campus of Black Hills State University.

The Board of Regents could consider lower or different pricing at university centers and look at alternatives to the university centers' emphasis on four-year degrees.

First Restocked Iowa Turkey Farmer Talks Lessons From Bird Flu

BY DAVID PITT
Associated Press

MANSON, Iowa — Thousands of small young turkeys ran around the barns on the Moline family farm Monday near Manson, the first Iowa farm to restock birds after a bird flu outbreak decimated flocks in the Midwest.

Owner Brad Moline, who farms with his father and brother, said it's a sign the industry is turning the page on an outbreak in which about 48 million birds died from the virus or were euthanized to prevent its spread.

The virus spread to the Midwest in the spring, affect 15 states, with Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska losing the most birds.

Cleaning and disinfection at Nebraska and Minnesota farms should be completed by mid-August and at Iowa farms by the end of the month, said Jack Shere, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinary administrator.

Farms must wait 21 days after they test free of virus before introducing

new birds, he said.

Moline hosted state and federal agriculture officials at a news conference Monday to celebrate restocking barns and offer some hope to others still awaiting the green light to move forward.

The young turkeys in his barns were trucked to the farm 120 miles northwest of Des Moines from a hatchery in Wilmar, Minnesota.

Moline recalled how about 90 turkeys were found dead on May 19 in one of his barns of 7,000 birds. Within four days, only a handful of birds were still alive.

"The disease is that destructive and that devastating and that fast. It's something generations of turkey farmers have never seen before and have never been seen on this farm and hope we never do again," he said.

Moline and agriculture officials said the industry is much better prepared should there be a recurrence of the virus this fall.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill

Northey said poultry farmers are looking at biosecurity practices that include controlling worker access to barns and keeping vehicles from parking near them. Wild birds and rodents, which carry infected droppings on their feet, must be kept out of barns, he said.

The outbreak cost the poultry industry an estimated \$360 million, spreading so quickly it overwhelmed resources.

"There are a list of things that if it comes back again we'll be more aggressive on," Northey said. "We'll be more aggressive to make sure it doesn't move and if we get a few cases it will stay at a few cases."

The key will be quicker detection of the virus, Shere said. He said farmers now know that even a few dead birds should be alarming. Some may consider preventative testing.

"The longer birds are infected the more it spreads and the virus load climbs," Shere said.

Thirteen States Want Judge To Block New Federal Water Rule

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Thirteen states led by North Dakota are asking a federal judge in Bismarck to block a new rule that gives federal authorities jurisdiction over some state waters.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said he will seek a preliminary injunction Monday, the deadline for such legal action to prevent the rule from taking effect on Aug. 28.

Stenehjem said he was hopeful a judge will grant a hearing on the injunction within the next few days.

North Dakota is leading a lawsuit filed on June 29 challenging the Obama administration rule that gives federal agencies authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. Stenehjem said the "Waters of the U.S." rule by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers is "unnecessary" and "unlawful." He said it

does nothing to increase water quality in North Dakota and other states.

The rule is a response to calls from the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress for the EPA to clarify which smaller waterways are protected. The EPA says the new law aims to help landowners understand which waters fall under the Clean Water Act.

Landowners — and especially farmers — are worried even a ditch or puddle could fall under federal regulations.

Other states joining the lawsuit with North Dakota are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The request for a preliminary injunction comes after Stenehjem and attorneys general and officials from 30 states sent a letter last month to the EPA and the Army Corps asking that the new law be postponed at least nine months.

"A federal regulation of this scope

and significance demands a thorough judicial review before imposing costly and disruptive burdens on the states and their citizens," the letter said.

The federal agencies have not responded to the letter.

Robert Daguillard, an EPA spokesman in Washington, said Monday that his agency is still "carefully reviewing" it.

In addition to the lawsuit led by North Dakota, dozens of others have been filed by business, agriculture groups and others in at least eight U.S. district courts.

The EPA and the Army Corp have asked that the lawsuits be consolidated in a single district court.

Stenehjem said the request for an injunction he expects to file Monday also asks that the lawsuits not be consolidated.

"We think we have specific arguments," he said.

Some Funeral Homes Keep Ashes

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Some funeral homes in Nebraska are still holding onto unclaimed veterans ashes despite a new law intended to help shield them from lawsuits whenever they release the cremains to other organizations.

The Nebraska chapter of the Missing in America Project works to recover the unclaimed ashes and connect them with family if possible, or arrange a military funeral when it isn't.

The law, which was passed earlier this year, encourages funeral homes and crematoriums to work with such groups on identifying the cremains and to turn them over if they qualify for interment in a veterans' cemetery. It wasn't illegal before, but the law helps keep those involved from getting sued if distant family turns up later, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported.

Bill Henry of the Missing in America Project said some funeral directors are still reviewing the new law.

"I ran into quite a few funeral homes that they didn't even know about it," he said.

Others have denied Henry the cremains, but haven't explained why.

Jon Reichmuth, who owns Reichmuth Funeral Homes in the Omaha area, said he doesn't understand why other funeral directors wouldn't be interested, though he hasn't heard their reasons. Henry helped Reichmuth connect the cremains of a veteran and his wife with their daughter, whom the funeral home had struggled to contact.

Henry said he already has mailed every funeral home in Nebraska and plans to visit them face-to-face as quickly as he can.

"I'm going to hit, eventually, every funeral home," he said. "All I can do is keep trying."

Man Pleads Guilty To Role In Shooting

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — One of two people accused in a deadly Sioux Falls shooting has changed his plea to guilty.

Nineteen-year-old Robert Montes, of Sioux Falls, pleaded guilty Monday to one count of accessory to a felony in the fatal January shooting of Anthony Gabriel. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors have agreed to drop murder and manslaughter charges against Montes.

Lawyers and family for both sides declined to comment.

Montes and 17-year-old Conner Hanson are charged in Gabriel's death. Prosecutors say Hanson fired shots at Gabriel's car after a pursuit through Sioux Falls. Gabriel died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Hanson is charged with murder, manslaughter and discharging a firearm at an occupied motor vehicle. He has pleaded not guilty.

Man Died As Storm Slammed Down RV

STRATTON, Neb. (AP) — A southwest Nebraska sheriff says a Kansas man was killed when a storm tossed his recreational vehicle.

Hitchcock County Sheriff Bryan Leggott says 38-year-old Heath Erbert died when his fifth-wheel RV was picked up and slammed back to the ground in Stratton during Friday night's storm.

Jan Sydow, who lived in a neighboring trailer, says Erbert was from Lucas, Kansas. Sydow says Erbert had been in Stratton for just a few weeks while working for a welding company in Trenton.

Region 15 emergency manager Patrick Gerdes says no other injuries have been reported. The storm temporarily left dozens of people without power.

The National Weather Service says the storm's straight-line winds hit an estimated 110 mph.

Farmers Ahead In Wheat Harvesting

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota farmers have reached the halfway point on spring wheat and are nearing the end of the winter wheat harvest.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly report that spring wheat harvest is at 53 percent, ahead of the long-term average of 45 percent. Only 10 percent had been harvested at this point a year ago.

The winter wheat harvest is 91 percent complete, ahead of the 72 percent last year and 86 percent average.

Topsail and subsoil moisture conditions were both rated 68 percent adequate or surplus. Pasture and range conditions were 61 percent good or excellent, 28 percent fair, and 11 percent poor or very poor.

Omaha Man Shot By Deputy Has Died

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Douglas County Sheriff's Office says a man who was shot during a confrontation with deputies in west Omaha has died.

The Sheriff's Office said in news release Monday that 32-year-old Taylor Culbertson died around 10:15 a.m. Sunday. He'd been hospitalized since being shot in a parking lot of convenience store on June 23.

Officials say Deputy Chad Miller ordered Culbertson out of his vehicle that morning after Miller was told by a store clerk that Culbertson seemed to be intoxicated. Officials say Culbertson pulled a gun, which went off as he and Miller struggled over it. Deputy Wade Grim, who had arrived to back up Miller, then shot Culbertson. Neither deputy was injured.

An autopsy on Culbertson's body has been ordered.

Eagles Removed From Threatened List

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Commission has removed the bald eagle from the state's list of threatened species.

The bird was taken off the federal list in 2007, although bald eagles are still federally protected. South Dakota biologists say the population has now recovered enough to also be removed from the state's list of threatened species.

Widespread use of DDT and other pesticides in the mid-1900s decimated the bald eagle population. After that happened, the first successful breeding pair of bald eagles in South Dakota was not documented until 1993. Ten years later, the species had recovered enough to be taken off South Dakota's list of endangered species, but it remained on the threatened list.

In 2005, wildlife officials devised a management plan for the bald eagle that called for an annual average of 25 active bald eagle nests over a five-year period. The estimated current number of nests is about six times that many, KCCR radio reported.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission made its decision late last week after holding a public hearing on the de-listing proposal.

Children Read To Iowa Barber In Exchange For Haircuts

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — Children who read books to a local barber have received a free haircut as part of a community event in Dubuque to help families prepare for the upcoming school year.

Barber Courtney Holmes traded the tales for trims on Saturday during the second annual Back to School Bash in Comiskey Park, the *Telegraph Herald* reported.

Tayshawn Kirby, 9, of Dubuque, read from "Fats, Oils and Sweets," by Carol Parenzan Smalley, informing Holmes that the average person eats 150 pounds

of sugar each year. Before Tayshawn's 10-year-old brother, Titan Feeney, took his turn in the barber chair, he told his brother the new look was great.

"I just want to support kids reading," Holmes said.

St. Mark Youth Enrichment gave away books during the event, some of which were read to Holmes. Outreach coordinator Beth McGorry with St. Mark said she enjoyed watching Holmes help young children sound out the words they didn't know yet.

Caitlin Daniels, grade-level reading coordinator with the Community Found-

ation of Greater Dubuque, also helped struggling readers in the barber chair.

"It's great. All the kids, they want to have a good haircut to go back to school," she said. "They're paying through reading."

The city's acting resource manager, Anderson Sainci, coordinated the event, which involved nonprofits and other community partners.

More than 100 people learned about free resources and before- and after-school opportunities available to families and students. The first full day of classes in Dubuque is Sept. 1.

Authorities Say Car Driver Died In Collision

NORTH BEND, Neb. (AP) — Dodge County authorities say a 19-year-old car driver has been killed in a collision with a pickup.

The accident was reported a little after 1:30 p.m. Sunday on U.S. Highway 30, about two miles west of North Bend. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Monday that the westbound car crossed into oncoming traffic and rammed into the eastbound pickup.

The car driver died at the scene. The Sheriff's Office identified him as Miguel Manriquez, of Schuyler. The pickup driver was flown to an Omaha hospital for treatment and was identified as Laurel Rieck, of Omaha.

The Sheriff's Office suspects Manriquez had been drinking alcohol.

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