

New Social Studies Standards Approved

RAPID CITY — The South Dakota Board of Education has approved new social studies standards that will change the way history is taught to students across the state.

Board members approved the standards overhaul Monday. The new guidelines do not require schools to teach early U.S. history in high school.

The board contends the standards are meant to make students “college, career and civic ready.” Teachers and other education professionals developed the standards.

The *Argus Leader* reports the approval came despite opposition from higher education professors who argued students aren’t ready for history lessons in college because they aren’t learning early American history in high school.

Students must complete one course in U.S. history to graduate from a South Dakota public high school.

The standards will be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.

Boulder Tossed Into Islamic Center

OMAHA, Neb. — Police are trying to find out who tossed a boulder through glass on a door at the Omaha Islamic Center.

Omaha television station KETV reports that police say some people began throwing stones at the center in north-central Omaha a little before 3:30 a.m. Sunday. Images from a security camera show one of the people heaving the 40-pound boulder through the door glass. No injuries or arrests have been reported.

Leaders at the center say the attack was the first in 20 years.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations on Monday called for state and federal authorities to investigate the incident as a possible hate crime and for police to increase protection at the mosque.

3 Runaways From Rehab Center Arrested

CUSTER — Corrections officials in South Dakota say the three teenagers who ran away from a youth rehabilitation center near Custer have been arrested.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says the 16-, 17- and 18-year-old males were apprehended Monday morning at a home near the State Treatment and Rehabilitation Academy. The teenagers ran away from the facility late Sunday.

Authorities didn’t identify the youths because of their age.

State corrections officials say law enforcement authorities are investigating the incident to determine any additional charges.

Man Back Home After Finishing ‘Alone’

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A 22-year-old man is back home in Lincoln with his wife and friends after finishing second on a reality TV show contest called “Alone.”

The show had pitted 10 experienced survivalists against each other in a last-man-standing competition, and Sam Larson finished second to Blairsville, Georgia, contestant Alan Kay, who was the last one to leave the wilderness, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported.

Larson said he always tries to “tough things out,” but that it was difficult to stay motivated while remaining isolated for weeks in the Canadian wilderness when he wanted to go home and take care of his pregnant wife. He said she was going through “one of the craziest times in her life with her first pregnancy” and that “she deserves to have someone there to hold onto when times get really, really tough.”

She gave birth to their first child, Alaska Thatcher Larson, shortly after Larson returned to Lincoln after participating on the show.

“I totally got my chops handed to me by this place, but it’s over,” Larson said on the final episode as the cameras showed the rescue boat pulling up to his campsite to retrieve him. “There’s no way to describe the feeling after you’ve been in the woods solo for eight weeks. It’s just the most bizarre thing.”

According to a clip of the show, the experience took a physical toll on Larson who survived on mice, crabs, kelp and little more over the course of the competition. Larson weighed around 245 pounds before the show and came home, weighing about 162 pounds.

Man Arrested For Vehicular Homicide

SIoux FALLS — A Sioux Falls man is in custody on several charges including vehicular homicide after a fatal crash in the city.

Police say the 25-year-old man was driving a car that collided with a motorcycle at an intersection shortly after 4 p.m. Sunday. The 56-year-old Sioux Falls resident driving the motorcycle died at the scene.

Authorities did not immediately identify the victim.

The man driving the car was arrested on charges of vehicular homicide, driving under the influence and careless driving.

Man Who Held Officers Imprisoned

COLUMBUS, Neb. — A 24-year-old man arrested after a five-hour standoff with officers in Columbus has been sentenced for several crimes.

Online court records say Stephen Knott on Friday was given up to 19 years in prison for crimes that included strangulation, use of a weapon and false imprisonment. He’d pleaded guilty on July 20 after prosecutors lowered some charges and dropped others.

On March 6 Knott held officers at bay for around five hours. Police say he had threatened and assaulted his ex-girlfriend while armed with a handgun.

Hunters Can Set Tree Stands Today

PIERRE — Archery hunters in South Dakota can start setting up tree stands on public lands beginning Tuesday.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says portable tree stands and climbing devices that do not use nails, wire or bolts for attachment will be allowed to remain on public lands through Feb. 15.

The deer archery season in South Dakota opens Sept. 26. Wildlife officials say permanent tree stands and climbing devices are prohibited on lands owned, leased or controlled by the Game, Fish and Parks Department as well as the Fort Meade Recreation Area.

The name and address or the year and current big game tag number of the owner or user must be on the stand. The information must be legible from the ground.

‘Streaming’ Of ’16 Legislative Session Can’t Be Guaranteed

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The technology used to provide free Internet streaming of audio and video from proceedings of the Legislature is outdated and won’t be supported any longer by its providers, the executive director for South Dakota Public Broadcasting said Monday.

Julie Overgaard told the Legislature’s Executive Board her agency has found a new provider willing to write new software and contract for a five-year lease in time for the 2016 session that opens in January.

But SDPB can’t afford the deal without financial help from the governor’s office and the Legislature, and possibly from the state Public Utilities Commission that also uses the system for its meetings, she said.

A variety of legislators on the Executive Board said they want the situation to be considered by the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Appropriations that oversees state government’s spending.

If that means going through the standard legislative appropriations process, the money wouldn’t become available until next spring at the earliest, after the

close of legislative session in late March, or until the July 1, 2016, start of the next budget year.

Several legislators said Monday there’s a possibility of seeking a supplement in the short term but they need firm numbers on the funding commitments from other parts of state government. Those details aren’t in place yet.

The root problem is the present system relies on the Windows XP operating system that isn’t being supported any longer. Overgaard said SDPB’s system “probably” could last through the 2016 legislative session but she couldn’t guarantee it.

“Should we run into a hiccup, there’s not necessarily anybody to call for a spare part or to fix it,” she said.

Overgaard said the new system would come from Haivision, an international firm based in Montreal and Chicago.

She said there would be an \$80,000 cost up-front to install new equipment and write new software, followed by a monthly lease fee of \$10,950 for five years.

The need for a new system comes as Gov. Dennis Daugaard is encouraging state boards and commissions to stream their proceedings over the Internet.

Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, said

the money probably should come from state government’s general fund rather than from existing budgets.

Brown said the general public, news media and legislators benefit from the streaming of meetings.

There likely would be greater participation by state boards and commissions if they didn’t have to pay from their agency budgets, he said.

Overgaard said SDPB seemed to have a solution with another provider but that company suddenly walked away from the deal. The Haivision proposal came together about 30 days ago.

She described Haivision’s offer as “quite, quite, quite a good deal” and the company would benefit by developing a product that could be sold to other governments.

“I think \$131,000 to open up state government even further is a good deal,” she said.

The current system costs approximately \$67,000 annually to operate plus personnel expenses covered directly by SDPB, according to Overgaard.

Several legislators who serve on appropriations said the issue wasn’t brought to them last winter during SDPB’s budget hearing.

180 Riders To Traverse Famed Sidney-To-Deadwood Trail

BY TOM GRIFFITH
Rapid City Journal

DEADWOOD — Veteran South Dakota teamster Gerald Kessler used to say, “You don’t miss much at 4 miles per hour.”

More than 180 horse and history lovers, steering 40 wagons, will heed the commands of trail bosses as they traverse more than 100 miles of the famed Sidney-to-Deadwood Trail from Friday to Sept. 5, in one of the largest trail ride re-enactments in modern memory, albeit at a decidedly leisurely pace. The trail ride and wagon train begins in Ardmore near the Nebraska border.

The nine-day trek of teamsters and outriders from 15 states will retrace the hoof-prints of the Pony Express and the wagon ruts of countless stagecoaches and freighters that hauled thousands of would-be miners and madams, as well as more than 22 million pounds of goods, from Sidney’s Union Pacific Railroad hub to the muddy, bloody streets of Deadwood in 1878-79 alone.

“It’s really a re-enactment of what went on in the old times,” said 84-year-old Gordon Odell, of Belle Fourche, who is chairing the ride with his wife, Lily. “We’ll battle the teams like they did then and make it up the hill to Deadwood, which is always a big deal.”

And Odell would know. The son of Montana and South Dakota homesteading ranchers, he and Lily started participating in wagon trains in 1976, and they’ve completed more than 40 to date.

“We love horses, driving ‘em, all the people you meet and it’s just a lot of fun,” said the veteran teamster, whose pair of 1,000-pound husky Halfingers, which resemble miniature Belgians, pull his rubber-tired covered wagon. “The scenery is wonderful and the thrill of doing something your ancestors did is pretty special.”

The Sidney, Nebraska, to Deadwood trail was highly popular in the late 1870s and 1880s, as hopeful prospectors de-boarded at Sidney’s railroad depot and set out for the gold camps of the Northern Hills in wagons and stagecoaches and on horseback, according to Jon Mattson of the Days of ‘76 Museum, which is sponsoring the ride. Trail riders back then did the trip in one shot; this year’s ride will be spread over nine days with

one rest day in Custer, he told the *Rapid City Journal*.

Organizers would still welcome new registrants and the cost to participate is \$160 per person, with children 12 and under free, Mattson said. A catered meal will be available each evening and breakfast will be offered most mornings for a modest charge, he said. Transportation has been arranged each night to take participants back to the morning’s jumping off point to retrieve trailers, motorhomes and other vehicles, Mattson said.

“This ride represents a chance to re-live history on a real pretty trail through the Black Hills,” he said. “Participants are coming from all over the country, including Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Colorado and Minnesota.”

Legislative Leaders Want To Get Back Annual Retreat

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The Legislature’s Executive Board plans to hold a retreat this fall at Custer State Park, reviving a practice that had been scrapped about 15 years ago.

Jason Hancock, the Legislative Research Council’s director, outlined the plan Monday afternoon to the board.

He wants four other senior members of the LRC staff to also attend the retreat.

The event would start on

the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Reunion Cabin near the State Game Lodge in the park. The legislators would stay at Creekside Lodge in the park.

The LRC senior staff would cook breakfasts on Wednesday and Thursday for the legislators.

There would be working sessions on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning, afternoon and evening, and Thursday breakfast.

The Wednesday afternoon discussion would include the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Commit-

tee on Appropriations.

The Wednesday working dinner at the State Game Lodge would include all members of the Executive Board and the appropriations committee.

“We haven’t tried to fill in the actual discussion topics yet,” Hancock said.

The retreat was dropped after then-Executive Board selected Jim Fry to succeed

Beef Plant Vows To Avoid Discrimination

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A beef production plant based in Omaha is promising to update its hiring practices to avoid discrimination as part of an agreement with authorities.

The U.S. Justice Department said Monday that Nebraska Beef had agreed to pay \$200,000 as part of the settlement, but the company denied any wrongdoing.


Authorities say the beef producer was requiring employees who aren’t citizens to provide proof of their immigration status. Workers who are citizens didn’t face the same requirements.

Regulators will monitor the company for two years and workers who lost wages will be compensated.


An attorney for Nebraska Beef said Monday afternoon he wasn’t yet authorized to comment on the settlement.

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