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## Philanthropist Pledges \$10M For Crazy Horse

**BY DIRK LAMMERS** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota philanthropist T. Denny Sanford has pledged a \$10 million matching gift to accelerate work on the mammoth Crazy Horse Memorial mountain carving in South Dakota's Black Hills, the memorial announced Thursday.

Sanford's gift follows a \$10 million matching pledge he made in 2007 that drew a \$5 million donation from Paul and Donna "Muffy" Christen of Huron and helped raise another \$5 million in donations for the ongoing project.

Ruth Ziolkowski, the memorial's president and chief executive, said Sanford's first gift has helped speed progress on the rough shaping of the Oglala Lakota leader's horse head through better carving equipment and detailed engineering studies of the

"It's made all the difference in the

world," said Ziolkowski, the widow of sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski.

Inspired by Gutzon Borglum's nearby Mount Rushmore carving, Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear proposed a memorial to Native American heroes with a granite carving near Custer. Crazy Horse played a key role in the 1876 defeat of the U.S. 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana. He died a year later after being stabbed in Nebraska.

When completed, the carving of his image on a bluff about 10 miles southwest of Mount Rushmore will be 641 feet long and 563 feet high. The horse's head will be the memorial's largest artistic detail at 219 feet high.

Korczak Ziolkowski was the longtime leader of the project and his widow and children have followed his admonition to rely only on private enterprise.

Sanford, a former Sioux Falls businessman and banker who made much of his fortune in the credit card industry, said his gifts stem from a deep admiration he has for what the Ziolkowskis have accomplished through

determination and perseverance. 'My desire is to see the horse's head finished and I am pleased with the progress being made toward achieving

that goal," he said in a statement. Work on the carving has been going on since 1948. While Crazy Horse's face had been peering across the southern Black Hills since 1998, crews have been blocking 11 stair-stepped tiers that will soon reach under the horse's nose, 360 feet from the top. Work also is progressing to finishing work on the pointing finger of Crazy Horse's outstretched arm, which sits atop the horse's mane.

Ziolkowski said once that final tier is blocked out, crews will shift to finishing

"The big thing has always been, you have to be able to get to where you want to work," she said.

#### Nebraska

# Appeals Court Upholds Ruling For Railroad

BY MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A federal appeals court on Thursday upheld a lower court ruling that found U.S. border officials exceeded their authority when they imposed multimillion-dollar fines against Union Pacific Corp. for failing to discover illegal drugs in railcars that crossed into the country from

A three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon that officials with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, referred to in the opinion as CBP, were wrong to fine the railroad almost \$38 million and seize railroad equipment.

The government had argued in its appeal of Bataillon's 2011 ruling that the Tariff Act of 1930 allowed it to impose the fines. But the appeals panel ruled Tuesday that the act does not authorize penalties against the railroad for drugs found on railcars that Union Pacific "neither

owns nor controls.' In at least one instance, the appeals panel noted, the railroad was fined more than \$655,000 for an incident in which a Union Pacific police officer found nearly 82 pounds of marijuana on a train that U.S.

border agents had missed. "Despite UP's diligence, CBP imposed a fine against UP,' Chief Judge William Jay Riley wrote for the panel. "CBP has never explained why UP's active role in uncovering the marijuana was not enough to absolve UP of liability.'

In an emailed statement. Union Pacific said it was pleased with the appeals court's ruling.

"Union Pacific dedicates significant resources and invests millions of dollars to provide a safe and secure environment at our border operations," the statement said. "We value our relationship with Customs and Border Protection and look forward to continue working with CBP to help prevent drug smuggling on the U.S. side of the Mexico border."

In August 2011, Union Pacific resolved part of the longrunning dispute with the federal government over the drugsmuggling fines by agreeing to invest \$50 million in efforts to strengthen security in the rail supply chain at the Mexican border without admitting any fault. In turn, the government agreed to forgo millions in fines already imposed and provide the company five years of

amnesty. But the company proceeded with the lawsuit to challenge the agency's power to impose the fines and seize railcars.

Union Pacific has said it is not practical for the railroad to patrol trains in Mexico because its security officers have no authority there, cannot carry guns and would face serious safety threats from Mexican drug cartels.

According to the lawsuit, Customs and Border Protection agents found at least 4.514 pounds of marijuana hidden on

Union Pacific trains between 2002 and 2008, and on at least one occasion about 257 pounds of cocaine was also found. The drugs are often found in false compartments on the railcars. The seizures took place at the Calexico, Calif., Nogales, Ariz., and Brownsville, Texas, crossings

Union Pacific has said customs inspections themselves often leave the trains vulnerable. While agents check the Mexican railroad crew's paperwork, railcars on trains up to two miles long can stretch back into Mexico and sit

unprotected. While the appeals panel upheld the lower court's finding that U.S. officials exceeded their authority with the fines, it did vacate the lower court's injunction keeping U.S. officials from penalizing Union Pacific in the future for drugs found on railcars Union Pacific owns.

Phone and email messages left Thursday with the U.S. Department of Justice were not immediately returned.

### **Board Names New Neb. Education Commissioner**

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Nebraskan who helps coordinate services for students, teachers and school districts was chosen Thursday as the state's new education

commissioner. The State Board of Education announced it had unanimously chosen Matthew Blomstedt, of Central City, for the job out of four finalists. Blomstedt will replace Roger Breed, who retired

earlier this year. Blomstedt serves as executive director of the Nebraska Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council. The 6-year-old council works with Nebraska's 17 educational service units, which provide staff training, technology and instructional ma-

terials to schools. The board voted 8-0 to approve Blomstedt. Board members pointed to his experience with educators throughout the state, and his work with rural Nebraska schools. Board members noted that, in his current job, Blomstedt had met with more than 100 Nebraska superintendents. He also has worked closely with state lawmakers.

"He was so well-informed about the needs in education throughout Nebraska," said board member Lillie Larsen, of Lincoln. "I personally appreciated that he stressed his willingness to negotiate,

to come to agreement on the best educational policy."

Blomstedt received a Ph.D. in educational leadership and higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in addition to a master's degree in community and regional planning and a bachelor's degree in

political science. Blomstedt also has Community Schools Association and worked as a research analyst for the Nebraska Legislature's Edu-

cation Committee. Board president Pat Timm said members will work with Blomstedt to develop a new state accountability system. Blomstedt and the board will also work together to try to close the achievement gap among groups of students. Recent state assessments have shown a gap among white students and minori-

ties. The other candidates were Virginia Moon, who most recently served as interim superintendent of Omaha Public Schools; Norman Ridder, the superintendent of the Springfield, Mo., public schools; and Michael Sentence, of Concord, Mass., who most recently was the president of Tribal Group, USA, an education consulting

company. Breed retired in January, with a \$211,650 annual salary. Blomstedt's salary is subject to negotiation.

#### Officials OK \$7.2M Corn Palace Project

MITCHELL (AP) — South Dakota's State Historic Preservation Office has given its blessing to a \$7.2 million plan to upgrade the Corn Palace tourist attraction in Mitchell.

The plan to renovate and expand the Corn Palace will not "damage, destroy or encroach upon historic properties," the office said in a letter sent to city officials this month, *The* Daily Republic newspaper reported.

The Corn Palace is part of Mitchell's Historic Commercial District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. That prompted the state office's review of the plan that was approved by the City Council in July and by the Mitchell Historic Preservation Commission in November.

"It is quite a relief," Doug Dailey, chairman of the Next-Generation Corn Palace Committee, said of the state office

The Corn Palace bills itself as the world's only palace dedicated to the grain plant. New murals using about  $275{,}000$  ears of corn of various sizes and colors decorate the exterior and interior of the facility each year. About 200,000 tourists visit the attraction annually.

### **Small Quake Shakes Black Hills**

CUSTER (AP) — The U.S. Geological Survey says a small early morning earthquake rumbled in the Black Hills.

KOTA radio reports that sensors detected the quake in Custer State Park near the Black Hills Playhouse and Center

Lake at about 2:45 a.m. Thursday. The location is about 8 miles south of Mount Rushmore, or 20 miles south-southwest of Rapid City. It registered 3.5 on the Richter scale at a depth of

The USGS says it is unlikely that many felt the quake unless they were very close to the epicenter. There are no re-

### **Burns Planned To Enhance Elk Habitat**

RAPID CITY (AP) — The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is providing money for prescribed burns to improve wildlife habitat on a total of about 3 square miles of land in western South Dakota's Black Hills.

The foundation has approved \$71,000 in grants for burns on the southwest corner of Custer State Park, the northwest corner of Wind Cave National Park, and portions of U.S. Forest Service and private land in the region, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"Our focus is primarily the elk themselves, but without good habitat, we don't have any critters of any sort," said Tom Slowey, of Yankton, who is one of two foundation regional directors for South Dakota.

The prescribed burns are to be scheduled when weather and ground conditions allow next summer. The goal is to eliminate ponderosa pines encroaching on aspen stands and to clear layers of pine needles, dead vegetation and weeds from the forest floor.

The result is a much healthier stand of grass," Slowey said. "You get the shrubs that start to come back right after a fire that are much better forage."

New forage growth doesn't just benefit elk, it benefits other animals as well, including deer and wild turkeys, said Black Hills National Forest wildlife biologist Kerry Burns.

"The new shoots that come up are very palatable, much easier to digest," Burns said. "That can be a factor when the elk are going into winter, when they're wanting that really good food.

### Neb., Mass. Ticket Holders Win \$122M

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lottery ticket holders in Nebraska and Massachusetts will be sharing an estimated \$122 million Powerball jackpot.

The Multi-State Lottery Association says a ticket sold in Nebraska and a ticket sold in Massachusetts matched numbers drawn Wednesday night. The numbers are 1, 10, 13, 18, 19 and Powerball 27. Nebraska Lottery spokesman Neil Watson said Thurs-

day that the winning Nebraska ticket was sold at a Speedee

Mart in Gretna. He also said there was no word yet on who bought the Nebraska ticket. Massachusetts State Lottery spokeswoman Beth Bresnahan says the winning Massachusetts ticket was sold at the Appletown Market in Sterling. She says the winner has-

The Multi-State Lottery Association is a nonprofit association owned and operated by its 33 member lotteries.

n't stepped forward yet.

# Stay Sought In Lawsuit Over Nebraska State Bar Association Dues

BY MARGERY A. BECK **Associated Press** 

OMAHA, Neb. — An Omaha state lawmaker has asked a federal court to put on hold his lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Nebraska's mandatory state bar membership while both sides mull a Nebraska Supreme Court opinion issued last week on the matter.

State Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, of Omaha, sued the association last year in federal court, saying the mandatory dues of \$335 a year violate the constitutional rights of those lawyers who object to some of the money being used for political, ideological and other activities not germane to regulating the legal profession — such as lobbying lawmakers on various

issues. Lautenbaugh argues that it's not fair to members who might oppose those issues to have to help pay for the lobbying effort to pass them. On Friday, the Nebraska

Supreme Court ruled on a separate petition by Lautenbaugh seeking to make bar association membership in Nebraska voluntary. The state's high court ruled that lawyers in Nebraska must still pay annual bar dues to remain in good standing. But the court limited mandatory dues to only activities necessary to regulate the legal profession — like maintaining records, mandating continuing education for lawyers and enforcing the ethical rules of attorneys. The ruling made voluntary those dues that

would go for other activities,

such as lobbying and running programs like legal self-help desks, legal mentoring programs and a program that helps place lawyers in rural The changes, which go into

effect Jan. 1, will see mandatory fees drop to \$98 a year in most Following that decision, Lautenbaugh and representa-

tives of the state Bar Association agreed to ask the federal court on Tuesday to postpone for 30 days upcoming deadlines for motions in the lawsuit while both sides determine the full impact of the high court's decision.

The two sides have agreed

to file a joint status report on the lawsuit by Jan. 15.