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U Search Leads To N.J. Bust

Portion Of USD Facility Evacuated After 'Possibly ... Explosive' Material Found

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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VERMILLION — A student with an alleged connection to the partial evacuation of USD's Coyote Village has been arrested in New Jersey.

Elan Haba, 19, a sophomore on the Rutgers-Newark campus in Newark, N.J., was arrested Tuesday night and faces charges including theft, and possession of fireworks and a prohibited weapon.

A resident of North Caldwell, N.J., Haba was brought to the attention of the authorities by offi-

cials from the University of South Dakota after a room check at Coyote Village uncovered items USD's manager of media relations described as being "possibly considered explosive in nature."

According to The Associated Press, the USD authorities said that Haba had an alleged connection to the student in question.

A dorm on the Rutgers-Newark campus was evacuated Wednesday while the FBI searched for further potentially hazardous substances relating to Haba, who has been released to his parents, the AP said.

The series of events began Tuesday when Coyote

Village staff members were inspecting a room that had been vacated by a former student and found the suspicious items, Carter said.

Campus police and the Vermillion Police Department were notified, and authorities from Sioux Falls also appeared on the scene.

As depicted in a photo posted on campus newspaper *The Volante's* website, a "bomb squad" vehicle was among those parked outside Coyote Village during the search of the room.



FILE PHOTO: VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

The University of South Dakota's Coyote Village living facility in Vermillion was partially evacuated Tuesday night when mysterious items were discovered in a vacated room.

ARREST | PAGE 2

S.D. Panel Approves Bonus Proposal

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's plan to give bonuses to the state's top teachers was endorsed Wednesday by a South Dakota House committee after supporters said it would lead to better teach-



Daugaard

ers and improved student achievement.

The Education Committee voted 11-4 along party lines to send the measure to the full House. All Republicans supported the plan, while Democrats opposed it.

Democrats said merit pay never works in schools, but Republicans argued the proposed bonuses should eventually improve the quality of teachers in South Dakota's school districts.

Tony Venhuizen, the governor's communications and policy director, told the committee that South Dakota students score above the national average in achievement tests, but those scores have not improved much even as state spending on schools has increased substantially in recent decades.

"The focus can't be on how much we're spending, but we also can't be afraid to spend money in a way that affects student achievement," Venhuizen said.

However, teachers told the panel that the bonuses could harm the quality of education by discouraging teachers from collaborating, because they will instead be competing against each other for the bonus money.

Susan Turnipseed of Brookings, South Dakota's 2011 teacher of the year, said she developed into a good teacher over the past three decades because of help she received from other teachers.

"Rewarding just 20 percent of us with bonus pay ... will work against all we have worked so hard to create," Turnipseed said as she testified over the telephone. "Look for ways that will encourage teachers to work together and learn and grow."

The Republican governor's plan was changed this week after he reached an agreement with GOP lawmakers, who control both chambers of the Legislature.

The governor had proposed annual bonuses of \$3,500 for math and science teachers in middle schools and high schools. The revised plan would give new math and science teachers \$8,000 annual bonuses for their first five years of teaching, as long as they teach at a South Dakota public school.

Venhuizen said South Dakota

RAISING THE BAR FOR SPACE



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Scotland students try their hand — or rather, their backs and legs — at the limbo during an activity period in the gymnasium. School officials say the gym sees continuous use from early morning to late night, and the district is studying whether to build an auxiliary gym to meet both school and community needs.

Scotland School Officials Ponder A Little More Room

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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SCOTLAND — During a recent afternoon, the Scotland school gym was filled with elementary students enjoying a variety of games.

At one station on the floor, youngsters were even seeing "how low they could go" as they competed in the limbo.

The exercise time was just one of many activities filling the gym from early morning until late at night.

Superintendent Damon Alvey said the packed schedule — and the desire for more activities and flexibility — have led the school district to consider the construction of full-sized auxiliary gym.

According to school officials, the auxiliary gym could also serve a variety of community needs, from dances and receptions to exercise classes and weight lifting.

"Currently, we have both the boys and girls practices and games competing for gym time," he said. "Depending on the schedule, we may be looking at practices at 6:30 a.m. and late evening."

The high school gym is used for dances, recep-

"The boys and girls basketball coaches do a good job of making (the gym space) work, dividing up the time they can use the gym. Then, throw in some middle school games and home wrestling matches, and it makes things interesting."

JIM KOGER

tions, concerts and basketball games. The community also uses the gym for reunions, birthday parties and family gatherings.

After about six months of discussion, the school board provided the green light for administrators to look into the possibility of an auxiliary gym, Alvey said. The concept remains in the fact-finding phase, he said.

SCOTLAND | PAGE 7



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Some of the "Gourmet Guys" participating in Saturday's fundraiser at the Yankton Community Library include, from left: Todd Rothenberger, Andy Bryan, Wendell Mortensen, Daric Mortensen and Bruce Viau. They are sitting in video rockers purchased by Friends of the Library, the group that will benefit from Saturday's event.

'Gourmet Guys' Get Cookin' Saturday

Annual Fundraiser Is On The Menu At The Yankton Community Library

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Food. Fun. Music.

The Yankton Community Library will play host to all three Saturday, as Friends of the Library will host its fourth annual Gourmet Guys fundraiser.

Those attending the event from 6-8 p.m. at the library's location at 515 Walnut will have an opportunity to sample a wide variety of dishes prepared by members of the community, listen to music by the Pisgah Mountain String Band and visit with friends, according to library director Kathy Jacobs.

"It's really a fun evening," she said.

The evening's food will be provided by this

year's collection of Gourmet Guys, which include Andy Bryan, Mike Felmer, Shane Gerlach, David Leonard, Todd Rothenberger, Bruce Viau and the father-son team of Wendell and Daric Mortenson.

"This is the first time we've ever had a father-son duo, so that's kind of exciting," Jacobs said.

Menus will feature several different types of food, including flatbread, spaghetti, pulled pork, bread puddings, beef terrine, soups and sandwiches.

"Even though people just get tastings, we always leave full," Jacobs said. "There's a lot of food, and it's always so good, and there's always such a nice variety."

A silent auction will also be held, with 13 donated baskets going to the highest bidders. Baskets

GOURMET | PAGE 2



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