

S.F. Fire Leads To Discovery Of A Meth Lab

SIoux FALLS (AP) — One of the first fires of the new year has led to the discovery of an apparent meth lab in Sioux Falls.

KSFY TV reports that Sioux Falls Police and Fire Rescue were called to a fire about 6:45 a.m. Sunday. The fire was quickly extinguished, but investigators then found components used in making meth in the apartment. Officials said it appears the fire was started as a result of the meth manufacturing process.

Police officers collected evidence at the scene. They said arrests are expected in the future.

One resident of the apartment was treated for minor burns at a hospital.

Daugaard Expects Debate On 1-Time Funding

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he expects the South Dakota Legislature will extensively debate his proposals to use one-time money for some programs in next year’s budget.

The governor wants to increase state spending on school districts, higher education, state employee salaries and health care. But much of that increased spending would be one-time additions that would not be built into ongoing spending.

Daugaard tells KCCR Radio in Pierre he expects lawmakers will discuss whether it’s appropriate to use one-time funds.

The governor says lawmakers seem to like his plan to give state employees a 3 percent across-the-board raise next year, but some question his proposal to give state workers a one-time bonus equal to 5 percent of their salaries this year.

NE Nebraska Needs Welders, Companies Say

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — There’s a growing shortage of welders in northeast Nebraska, which is driving up wages and benefits and increasing the competition for reliable workers.

The *Columbus Telegram* reports that the demand is expected to rise by more than 6 percent between 2008 and 2018 in northeast Nebraska.

A Columbus wind turbine tower company, Katana Summit, last month had nearly 90 openings for welders and has been trying to recruit out of state. The company has raised its wages, overtime and goal-based incentives to entice new workers.

Teacher Gary Senff says that at Central Community College’s Columbus campus, interest in the college’s welding technology program has nearly tripled in the past couple years.

Southeast Neb. Rollover Crash Kills Driver

PAWNEE CITY, Neb. (AP) — A 37-year-old man has died in the crash of a pickup he was driving early on New Year’s Day in southeast Nebraska.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that Jeffrey Krumme, of Jansen, crashed along Nebraska State Highway 8 about 1:25 a.m. just east of the Gage County line in Pawnee County.

Pawnee County Sheriff Jaynee Reed says in a news release that Krumme was driving east when he lost control of the truck and it rolled, tossing him out.

Krumme was alone in the vehicle. The sheriff suspects speed was a factor in the crash, which is still being investigated.

Bags Of Soiled Adult Diapers Left On Streets

YORK, Neb. (AP) — Someone’s leaving full bags of soiled, adult-size diapers on streets in the southeast Nebraska city of York.

The *York News-Times* reports that the infamous “diaper dumper” has a couple of places he or she leaves the stinky litter.

The bags have been hitting the streets for about two years.

York police are aware of the problem and say a littering citation and a fine await the diaper dumper.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season Open In S.D.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota’s mountain lion hunting season has started.

The ends March 31 or until 50 female mountain lions are taken or 70 total mountain lions are taken.

The state’s Game, Fish and Parks’ department keeps a tally of the number of mountain lions harvested on their website, [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov). Hunters can also keep track by calling 1-866-895-9067, texting “SDGFP lion2012” to 368638 or visiting the Game, Fish and Parks’ Facebook page.

South Dakota has had a residents-only mountain lion season since 2005

Nebraskans Need Hunting, Fishing Permits

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is reminding residents that state permits are required to legally hunt, fish or harvest fur in Nebraska.

The commission says a hunting permit is required for hunting upland game and waterfowl. A fur harvest permit is required for hunting, trapping or pursuing furbearers. A fishing permit is required for taking or attempting to take fish, bullfrogs, snapping turtles, tiger salamanders or mussels by any legal method.

Also, a park entry permit is required for every vehicle entering a state park, recreation area or historical park.

Permits are valid Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2012.

There are age and residency restrictions for some permits.

More information about the permits is available online at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org).

Shooting

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Barnes was connected to an early-morning shooting at a New Year’s house party in Skyway, Wash., south of Seattle that left four people injured, two critically.

At Mount Rainier around 10:20 a.m. Sunday, Bacher said the gunman had sped past a checkpoint used to assess the tires of visitors. One ranger began following him while Anderson eventually blocked the road to stop the driver.

Before fleeing, the gunman fired shots at both Anderson and the ranger that trailed him, but only Anderson was hit, Bacher said.

It was possible that searchers may wait until morning to continue the effort.

“We do not know what resources the shooter has. We’re not sure what we’re up against,” Bacher said. “We know that he has a weapon, but we don’t know how many.”

About 150 officers, including officials from the Washington State Patrol, U.S. Forest Service and FBI, were on the mountain.

Authorities said earlier that Anderson’s body had been removed from the park, but Troyer said police have been unable to get to her because of concern over potentially being in the line of fire.

An FBI SWAT team was working to remove her body from the mountain Sunday night.

Park superintendent Randy King said Anderson is a mother of two young daughters who has served as a park ranger for about four years. King said Anderson’s husband also was working as a ranger elsewhere in the park at the time of the shooting.

Speeding

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fenders who continue to speed despite their tickets.

“This is not something that should cause the average South Dakota driver to panic,” he said, adding that the proposal puts “teeth” on “those who just don’t care and don’t mind paying a few tickets.”

Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City, a former police chief, said Hickey’s bill seems solid.

“It’s a moving violation that’s as dangerous as other moving violations, and we should have

these kinds of restrictions,” Tieszen said.

Rep. Lance Russell, R-Hot Springs, a former prosecutor, said he would be hesitant about changing the points system. He said the fine and fees for a speeding ticket frequently cost more than \$100, which is sufficient to discourage speeding in most cases.

Hickey said his proposal is motivated in part by the fact his father was killed in 2002 by a speeding driver — someone Hickey said has been a frequent speeder.

Hickey’s bill will be considered in the South Dakota legislative session that opens Jan. 10.

Powerball

S.D. Backed Price Hike Early

BY KRISTI EATON AND DALE WETZEL  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — South Dakota was one of the early states in favor of the Powerball lottery’s decision to double its ticket price from \$1 to \$2. The reason? Higher price tickets mean larger prizes.

So says Norm Lingle, director of the South Dakota Lottery.

“Because jackpots drive sales, we saw the move to the enhanced Powerball game as a way to increase lottery revenues for the state,” Lingle said in an email to The Associated Press.

The Dakotas were split on the increase: North Dakota fought the price hike because its lottery officials worried the move could reduce ticket sales by more than one-third.

“At this point, we’re uncertain what it’s going to do,” North Dakota Lottery Director Randy Miller said of the price rise, which takes effect Jan. 15 in North Dakota, South Dakota and the 40 other states where the game is offered.

“We’ve heard some good feedback,” Miller said. “But there are some others who are really not in favor of it.”

During the North Dakota Lottery’s last budget year, which ended June 30, Powerball ticket sales plummeted 22 percent to \$9.86 million. Miller attributed some of the loss to competition from a similar game, Mega Millions, which was introduced in January 2010.

The lottery offers five multistate games — Powerball and Mega Millions, in which the odds of winning are microscopic and the jackpots potentially huge, and Hot Lotto, 2by2 and Wild Card 2, which have smaller payouts and more favorable odds.

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NORM LINGLE

Until the state’s last budget year, which ended June 30, Powerball has raked in more than half of North Dakota lottery players’ annual wagers. That changed in 2011, when the game accounted for 42.8 percent of the state’s \$23 million in lottery sales.

South Dakota gamblers spent \$15.7 million on Powerball tickets during the 2010 budget year, which is the most recent data available, said Kelly Thompson, a South Dakota Lottery spokeswoman.

The lottery’s 2010 annual report says South Dakota gamblers wagered a total of \$687.7 million on lottery games during the year. Of that sum, \$642.2 million was bet at video lottery terminals, which are ubiquitous in South Dakota.

Amber Wallenstein, a 31-year-old clerk at Freedom Value Center in Sioux Falls, said that despite the national discussion about the price increase, she doesn’t think many people realize it’s coming.

“When I mention it, they seem surprised,” said Wallenstein of Sioux Falls. “But they’ll still pay for it.”

North Dakota’s lottery advisory board split last summer on whether to support raising the Powerball price. Attorney General Wayne Stene-

hem, who regulates the lottery, decided the state would fight the increase.

North Dakota was one of 10 states that wanted to keep the \$1 ticket. Twenty-two states, including South Dakota, backed the higher price, according to Charles Strutt, director of the Multi-State Lottery Association, an Iowa-based organization which administers the game.

The change will have some advantages, Miller said. The game’s minimum jackpot will rise from \$20 million to \$40 million, and the prize for matching the five “white” numbers will quintuple, from \$200,000 to \$1 million. A ticket buyer who matches the red Powerball number will win \$4, instead of \$3.

The \$100 million jackpot threshold, which typically goesos ticket sales, should be reached more quickly with the more expensive tickets, Miller said.

Players who don’t want to spend \$2 on one ticket may switch to Mega Millions, which will still offer \$1 tickets, he said.

A \$2 Powerball ticket “will add to our product mix,” Miller said. “It does give us some diversification.”

Sioux Falls resident Todd Burns said he buys Powerball and Mega Millions tickets about once a week.

At \$1 per ticket, it’s easy to convince himself that the money is pocket change, he said.

“The odds of winning right now are minuscule. I play if I have an extra dollar with me,” Burns, 45, said after checking to see if his Mega Millions tickets were winners at Freedom Valu Center, a convenience store and gas station in Sioux Falls. “At \$2, it’s probably going to decrease the odds of me purchasing a ticket.”

South Dakota Draws More Students Than It Loses

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota attracts more high school graduates from out of state to attend college and technical schools than it loses to other states, and that could help fill crucial jobs in the future, officials said.

The U.S. Education Department reports that 2,134 students who graduated from high school in other states in the 2007-2008 school year started in South Dakota postsecondary institutions in the fall of 2008. That’s 570 more than the 1,564 South Dakota high school graduates who left the state to further their educations that year, the last for which statistics are available.

With projections indicating that 41,000 jobs will be created in South Dakota from 2008 through 2018, any ongoing gain in net migration of college students who would graduate and stay to work in South Dakota is significant, said Paul Turman, associate vice president of aca-

ademic affairs for the South Dakota Board of Regents.

“Each year, we do a better job of employing graduates in the state, wherever they come from, and retaining those students to pursue further degrees or take jobs in South Dakota,” Turman told the *Argus Leader* of Sioux Falls.

In 1996, South Dakota was losing about 175 more students to schools out of state than it was bringing in, Turman said. The Board of Regents then decided to lower nonresident tuition and charge out-of-state students 150 percent of what South Dakota resident students paid for tuition at state-run universities, and the migration trend began to reverse itself, he said.

South Dakota State University President David Chicoine said South Dakota schools have to offer competitive prices. A Minnesota resident planning to be an engineer might find it

less expensive to attend school in South Dakota than in Minnesota, he said.

Turman said class sizes are declining in South Dakota high schools, so universities need to attract students from out of state.

The recruitment of out-of-state students is also important because about a third of nonresident students attending schools in South Dakota stay in the state to start their careers, Turman said. That beefs up South Dakota’s labor force, he said.

Turman said he believes South Dakota has attracted more out-of-state students because universities are offering more graduate programs. More South Dakota students have stayed to attend schools in their home state because South Dakota’s economy continued to grow through the national recession, which meant jobs were available in the state, he said.

Available in the iTunes app store on December 13, 2011.

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