

MIDWEST DIGEST

S.F. District Alters Message System

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A change in the Sioux Falls school district's alert messaging system will allow it to better communicate with parents who don't speak English.

The district will change its provider for the school-to-home phone system in the fall. Information services director Bob Jensen says the new provider can automatically translate urgent messages into 19 languages, including Spanish, Russian and Chinese. The current system only allows messages to be sent in the language they are recorded in, usually English. Jensen says the new provider is also cheaper, with a cost of \$2.25 per student instead of \$3.

District spokeswoman DeeAnn Konrad says students in the district speak more than 50 languages, so the new feature won't benefit all parents.

Organ Donation Advocates Honored

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A David City couple recently received a national honor for promoting organ donation. Milt and Janet Bemis (bee-MUS) were awarded the first annual National Donor Memorial Award of Excellence. It was presented at a ceremony for the National Donor Memorial in Richmond, Va.

The couple's 2-year-old son Matthew became an organ donor in 1984 after an accidental drowning.

The Bemis family has volunteered for many years with Nebraska Organ Recovery System, advocating organ donation education in area schools and supporting state legislation to promote donation.

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24 People Injured At Iowa Parade

BELLEVUE, Iowa (AP) — Two horses running out of control trampled children collecting candy and other onlookers along a Fourth of July parade route in a small Mississippi River town in eastern Iowa on Sunday.

Twenty-four people were injured, including at least two children who were in critical condition, police and hospital officials said.

The horses took off after one rubbed its head against the other, removing that horse's bridle, police said. The horses, with a wagon in tow, galloped for several blocks, running over children and adults who sat and stood along the streets watching the parade in Bellevue. At one point, the wagon flipped, ejecting two people in it, police said.

Sandie Crilly, 46, of Willow Springs, Ill., said she was collecting Tootsie Rolls from the street with her 8-year-old son, 12-year-old niece and 2-year-old granddaughter when the horses ran toward them about halfway through the parade. Someone yelled to get out of the

way, she said. "I could see it was two horses," Crilly said. "I could see they were running at full speed and they were harnessed together and I knew we were going to most certainly get hit, and as soon as it happened, everybody was crying and screaming."

Five people were critically injured, five others severely injured and 14 suffered minor injuries, police and fire officials said in a statement. The victims were as young as 2 years old and suffered injuries ranging from multiple fractures to collapsed lungs and abrasions, officials said.

The parade is a decades-long tradition in the town of about 2,300 people, located 25 miles south of Dubuque on the Iowa-Illinois border.

"The mood is shock and disbelief," Bellevue Mayor Virgil Murray said. "We've had this parade forever. We've had horses in the parade forever."

Crilly, who was visiting her parents in Bellevue, said someone

pulled her granddaughter to safety, but her niece was left with a broken left wrist and had her two front teeth knocked out. Everyone else in their group suffered bumps and bruises, she said.

Paramedics treated victims in a nearby art gallery, Crilly said, and a triage area was set up near the Mississippi River, where volunteers held up tarps to shield the injured and paramedics from the sun and heat. Others brought the injured ice and water, she said.

"It was madness," Crilly said. "I mean we were in a triage. The town really came together. It was a huge community effort."

Murray said residents pitched in, making phone calls and sending text messages to get word out that doctors and nurses were needed.

The injured were sent by ambulance and medical helicopter to hospitals in Dubuque, Maquoketa and Iowa City. Ten patients were taken to Mercy Medical Center-Dubuque, nine of them children, house supervisor Carol Dietzel said.

One child in critical condition was flown to University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, and another critically injured child was in surgery at Mercy Medical, she said. Six children were treated and released.

Officials at Finley Hospital in Dubuque said a 70-year-old woman in serious condition was flown to University of Iowa Hospital.

"We've never really had any tragedy," the mayor said. "Usually our biggest nemesis is if it rains. That's what we're always worried about."

Between 3,000 and 4,000 people attend the annual parade, many people coming in from rural areas and nearby towns, he said.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver released a statement, saying he was thinking and praying for the victims.

"I am especially saddened because the accident occurred during the events celebrating Independence Day, which is a day that should be filled with pride and joy for all Iowans and Americans," Culver said.

Grand Teton Park May Be Auctioned

MOOSE, Wyo. (AP) — For Sale: Two square miles of Grand Teton National Park.

Majestic views of the Teton Range. Prime location for luxury resort, home development. Pristine habitat for moose, elk, wolves, grizzlies.

Price: \$125 million. Call: Gov. Dave Freudenthal.

Wyoming is trying to force the Interior Department to trade land, minerals or mineral royalties for 1,366 acres it owns within the majestic park. If the foot-dragging feds don't agree to a deal — soon — Freudenthal threatens to put a For Sale sign on the property.

Wyoming has owned the land since statehood in 1890, when the federal government set aside land in new Western states to be mined, logged or leased to raise money for public education. Wyoming kept its so-called "school sections" after Grand Teton National Park was established in 1950.

GF&P Wants Fewer Lions In Black Hills

BY WAYNE ORTMAN
Associated Press Writer

SIoux FALLS — A proposed five-year management plan would reduce the estimated population of mountain lions in the Black Hills by nearly a third, most likely by raising bag limits or making other adjustments to the hunting season.

State wildlife managers estimated the 2009 lion population at 250 — give or take 10 percent. A new five-year management proposal sets a population target of 175 in the Black Hills.

The report lists several benefits to a smaller population:

- Fewer lions would have to be killed because they're in residential areas or are threats to livestock or pets.
- A 40 percent reduction in the number of lions struck and killed by vehicles.
- Improvement in overall health of the population and less disease.
- Saving an estimated 1,650 deer, elk and other big game animals killed by lions each year for food.

The state Department of Game, Fish and Parks will take public comment through July 26 on its proposal, consider modifications and submit it to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

The commission takes no action on the plan, but decisions it makes on the hunting season can help meet the management goal, said Tony Leif, director of the wildlife division within the GF&P.

"If we are going to adopt the management plan as it's drafted now, it would require an increase in the (hunter) harvest, so we would adjust upward from the season structure we had last year. Again, that's if the plan is adopted as written," Leif said.

Tom Hulmerkoch, who's been critical of hunting season regulations, said there's no justification for lowering the population that much.

"Where's the risk and where's the need, other than a perceived fear?" said the retired veterinarian from the northern Black Hills. "Where is the data? Where is the problem? There isn't one, really. That's the whole thing."

The GF&P held 11 meetings around the state in March and April to take public comment on lion management.

Jill Cataldo saves hundreds on groceries by making the most of the common coupon. You can, too. Here's how.

Tips from the COUPON QUEEN

More Secrets of TV's Coupon Pros

Last week I shared some of the secrets behind those great shopping trips you see on TV, where a person cuts a grocery bill from \$70 to \$6, or \$92 to \$10, or \$98 to \$8... (which, incidentally, were all actual, filmed shopping trips that I've done!) How, exactly, does a shopper achieve that? It involves a strategic combination of matching high-value coupons to low sales, then using multiples of coupons for those same items. Toss in coupons for free products and use any coupon overage (where the coupon value exceeds the cost of the product, giving you "extra money" to apply to other items you're purchasing) and you're well on your way to shopping like a pro. Here are a few more secrets of TV shopping trips, and how you can apply these techniques to your own grocery bill.

Focus on 'Buy One, Get One Free' coupons

Using BOGO coupons will obviously allow you to take home two items for the price of one - a great way to add multiple items to your cart but only pay for half of them. And, if you can combine those BOGOs with an in-store promotion you can cash in on even bigger savings.

Catalina promotions are a couponer's friend.

Anytime a store runs a Catalina promotion offering money back for buying specific items included in the sale, it's a great opportunity to stock up and actually receive money back at the end of a trip.

A recent sale at one of my local stores advertised "Buy \$25 worth of participating cleaning products, receive \$10 back for your next shopping trip." This is already a good deal, but remember that the \$25 total purchase requirement is typically pre-coupon. I used several BOGO coupons for a variety of cleaning products, and after coupons my total for the \$25 worth of products dropped to \$11.48.

After paying, I received a \$10 Catalina coupon printed out at the register good for \$10 off my next shopping trip. Coupon shoppers consider this kind of Catalina almost as good as cash. Factoring that Catalina in, I paid just \$1.48 for \$25 worth of cleaning products!

It's fun to work Catalina promotions into a TV shopping trip, too. Not only do I aim for a low total at the register, but I also get money back in the form of a Catalina. It's icing on a coupon-shopper's cake!

So how can your own shopping trip match that of a professional's? First, understand that not every week's shopping trip will be so dramatic. But you can use the same tips I've outlined to reduce your own grocery bill each week.

My weekly grocery shopping trips average between \$40-\$60 for my family of five. However, I usually buy more than \$100 worth of groceries before coupons. That's about a 40-60 percent reduction in my grocery budget every week, which quickly adds up to big savings!

Anyone can enjoy great savings by matching coupons to sales. But, when you hit a great sale in which everything lines up well, you may have reason to brag. Just this week in one of my Super-Couponing classes, a shopper proudly showed me the receipt from a recent shopping trip. She's only been coupon-shopping for four months, but she's already expertly matching coupons to sales. Her receipt? She bought \$47 worth of products. After coupons, she paid just over \$2 for everything! That's a trip even a TV pro would be proud of!

(C) CTW Features
Jill Cataldo, a coupon workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her website, www.supercouponing.com. E-mail your own couponing victories and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.

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