

Officials: Heat Contributed To Man's Death

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The extreme heat appears to have contributed to the death of an Iowa man shortly after an Omaha car accident last month.

The Omaha World Herald reports that 48-year-old Paul Tamayo, of Council Bluffs, had a core body temperature of 110 degrees when he died on June 27.

Douglas County officials have ruled that Tamayo's high body heat was likely the cause of his death, but the ruling won't be final until toxicology tests are completed.

Tamayo, who worked as a roofer, crashed his car into a dirt mound in an Omaha construction zone. Then police found him collapsed about a half-mile away from the vehicle.

The National Weather Service says the temperature was 101 about the time of the accident.

Native American Dropout Rates Higher In R.C.

RAPID CITY (AP) — Native American students are dropping out of Rapid City schools at a higher rate than their peers in other South Dakota districts.

An analysis of South Dakota Department of Education records by the Rapid City Journal found that 10.6 percent of Native American students in the Rapid City Area Schools district dropped out of school last year.

That compares to rates of 6.2 percent in Sioux Falls and 5.3 percent in Aberdeen.

South Dakota Office of Indian Education director Roger Campbell says he'll be in Rapid City in August for a Native American education summit to help look for answers.

He says schools with large Native student populations will be invited to bring their success stories, and he hopes districts can learn from each other.

Guard Soldiers Study Little Bighorn Battlefield

FORT MEADE (AP) — South Dakota National Guard soldiers from the 196th Regiment traveled to the Little Bighorn Battlefield near Garyowen, Mont., on July 4 to study the successes and failures of battle known as "Custer's Last Stand."

The Guard says an analysis of both sides of the historic battle is one of the major events required for students to graduate from the 58-day commissioning program and become 2nd lieutenants.

In 1876, Lt. Col. Colonel George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the battle.

Numerous studies in recent years have uncovered a great deal of information about the locations, allowing tactics to be studied.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Wall says studying military history teaches junior military leaders to think in terms of terrain and tactics.

Monastery Closure Affecting Cultural Center

MARVIN (AP) — The upcoming closure of the Blue Cloud Abbey monastery in northeast South Dakota is leaving the future of its American Indian Culture Research Center in doubt.

Center director Colleen Cordell tells the Argus Leader that the planned August closure will also close the center, which houses a collection of photographs and artifacts that document the history and culture of the Dakota people.

Cordell says the center's board must find a new home for 40,000 photos, hundreds of taped oral histories, countless books and pieces of clothing and artifacts of the Dakota people.

She says everything will stay together, and board members want it located somewhere on the Plains.

The collection was established 45 years ago by the Rev. Stan Maudlin, called Wambdi Wicasa, or Eagle Man, by the Dakota.

Cougar Killed In Kearney To Become Mascot

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — A mountain lion killed last year in Kearney will become the mascot of a new elementary school in the central Nebraska city.

The Kearney Hub reports that the Kearney school district acquired the carcass and plans to have it stuffed and mounted. Then the cougar will go on display at Kenwood Elementary.

Superintendent Brian Maher says he thinks the stuffed cougar will be an educational tool and an artful presence at the school. Donations are paying for the taxidermy.

Police killed the mountain lion in May 2011 after it was spotted roaming through several yards one morning.

State wildlife officials studied the 2-year-old cougar and didn't find anything wrong with it. The skull is on display at the Game and Parks Commission office in Kearney.

Navy Week Slated In Sioux Falls July 19-28

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls will host its first ever Navy Week later this month.

The week is designed to give residents a better understanding of the Navy's mission and how it works.

Navy Week is scheduled for July 19-28. Activities include a Navy Day at the zoo and Navy divers showcasing their equipment at a local YMCA. Several interactive games and equipment also will be on hand.

'Capital For A Day' Heads To Hill City In August

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard and other state officials will head to Hill City on Aug. 1 to meet with area residents in his Capital For A Day program.

Daugaard will tour the Black Hills city and have a coffee outreach hour with residents. Meetings with business and community leaders also will be held.

Daugaard says the Hill City event will give him a chance to get better acquainted with community leaders and become informed about local issues.

Pierre Team Captures National BB Gun Title

PIERRE (AP) — A youth BB gun shooting team from Pierre has captured another national title.

KCCR reports that the Pierre Junior Shooters won a second consecutive Daisy National BB Gun Championship at the national competition held in Rogers, Ark.

It's the team's fifth national title in nine years.

The team broke the team national record set by the 2005 Pierre squad. Two shooters, Samuel Ryckman and Ryan Habeck, won individual titles.

John Forman, who coaches the team along with Gene Garber, says parents have played a major role in the team's success.

The season started in January and Forman says it can be a long year by the time the national competition arrives.

Blood Run Park

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Blood Run, a national historic landmark set to become South Dakota's first new state park in more than 50 years, is already drawing some 20 cars a day.

The picturesque acreage along the Big Sioux River bordering Iowa was used by thousands of Oneota Indians into the early 1700s, and its diverse landscape boasts a large oak forest, rolling hills, flood plains and riverside bluffs.

Visitors can traverse two miles of mowed trails on their own, but Eric Vander Stouwe, who supervises the Blood Run property and nearby Newton Hills State Park, suggested taking a tour led by historian Edward Raventon. The tours provide information about Blood Run's historically rich burial mounds, refuse pits and artifacts.

"We started with 12 people for guided hikes every Saturday morning, but the interest was so high that we doubled it," Vander Stouwe said.

Park officials are developing a brochure for self-guided tours that should be available online within weeks, he added.

The Oneota culture wasn't a single tribe but conglomerate of groups with similar characteristics dating back to 1200 or earlier. The Oneota grew corn and other staples, hunted bison, made pottery, built circular lodges and stored

perishable food underground in bell-shaped storage pits lined with grass and covered with logs or bison hides.

Many Oneota groups settled on flood plains along rivers, and the Blood Run site eight miles southeast of Sioux Falls is likely the largest of the Oneota sites. The area was occupied in later times by the Omaha, Ponca, Ioway and Oto, and it's believed that many tribes can trace their lineage back to the Oneota.

Blood Run is believed to have received its name from white settlers, perhaps because the iron-rich rocks leached into the stream on the Iowa side to give it a reddish tint.

Iowa's Blood Run National Landmark Site across the Big Sioux River is managed by the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Lyon County Conservation Board. People can visit the site by booking guided tours through the county. It is home to Blood Run Creek and features numerous burial mounds. There are several pink granite boulders whitened from weathering and adorned with 2-inch cup-shaped indentations that have a symbolic or spiritual purpose.

The entire Blood Run site could eventually encompass some 1,400 acres in South Dakota and Iowa.

South Dakota began its quest to preserve the land in 1995 when it partnered with Forward Sioux Falls and the city's chamber of commerce

to acquire 200 acres on what will be the southern end of the state park.

The state bought another 10 acres in December before teaming with the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation and The Conservation Fund later that month to buy the 324-acre Buzz Nelson farmstead for \$3.5 million. Officials are now looking at buying 80 acres to the west of the Nelson farm that would serve as a permanent park entrance and another 60 acres of flood plain south of the property that sits just across the river from the Iowa site.

Nearly all of the money is expected to come from federal grants and fundraising, and the title holders of the acreage are still changing hands.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department plans to seek state park status when the Legislature convenes in January.

The department's master plan eventually calls for entrance roads, a visitor center, historic preservation and interpretation, group and rustic camping areas, ceremonial sites and a pedestrian bridge linking the South Dakota and Iowa sides.

In the meantime, officials have added parking, a drinking fountain and a small picnic area so people can take advantage of the site before it's an official park, Vander Stouwe said.

"People are excited," he said.

Kayaking Gaining Popularity On South Dakota Waters

BY NICK LOWREY
Capital Journal

PIERRE — On any given day the Missouri River is filled with boats zipping across the water propelled by engines large and small. Increasingly those boats are being joined on the water by their ancient precursor - the kayak.

Modern kayaks and canoes, while made with fiberglass and plastic instead of wood and hides, are not terribly different from their predecessors. They have a shallow draft, still rely on human muscle and a paddle to move and are still light enough to be carried by one or two people, for the most part.

Nationally canoeing, and kayaking especially, has seen a rise in popularity over the last few years. South Dakota is not immune to this trend, in 2010 the state's first endurance kayak race, the South Dakota Kayak Challenge was organized on a 72-mile stretch of the Missouri River between Yankton and Sioux City, Iowa. In 2012 there were more than 100 registered competitors. Pierre, according to area paddler Pat Wellner, has also experienced an increase in the number of kayakers.

"Every year I see more and more boats around," Wellner said.

Wellner, who runs the paddling blog Pirates of the Missouri, said that he tries to get on the river two to three times a week. For him, the Missouri is a paddling playground, offering a wide range of opportunities from riding waves on windy days to exploring bays and inlets only accessible by kayak.

"It's not just about being on the water, it's the different styles," Wellner said.

The Missouri River offers a unique variety of places and ways to kayak. Below the Oahe Dam and through Pierre the current is steady but not especially strong. Wind is also less of a factor on most days, which makes the area a good place for beginners.

Above the dam, Lake Oahe's vast expanse of open water offers a different experience.

"Oahe is more like the ocean," said Caleb Gilkerson a co-owner of Steamboat's Inc., a canoe and kayak outfitter in Pierre.

Oahe, Gilkerson explained, also has a lot of protected bays and coves, as well as a number of beaches that paddlers can explore.

More and more people are turning to the kayak as a way to enjoy being on the water without the expense of a larger boat. Andy Kopp, also an area paddler, bought his kayak last year because he wanted to be able to fish on the river. Since then, he said, he's found that kayaking has several perks aside from fishing.

"Another great thing about kayaking is how close you can get to wildlife," Kopp said.

The Missouri is not the only body of water in the area. Kopp said that he will often go out to the ponds on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands with his kayak to fish.

Both Wellner and Kopp suggested that people interested in kayaking should start small. They both said that the easiest and least expensive way would be to rent a kayak or take one of Steamboat Inc's unguided dam run trips.

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School Donates Supplies To Afghan Students

ABERDEEN (AP) — Though he's patrolling one of the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan, Army infantry officer Andy Cahoy still thinks of others.

He sent an email to his mother, Sandy Cahoy, a retired teacher, that described the conditions faced by schoolchildren in Afghanistan and asked for her to arrange for some school supplies to be sent over.

"They said they just need pens and notebooks because they have nothing," he wrote. "Seems to me like it would be a pretty quick, easy fix."

After she sent him a few boxes, Cahoy got to thinking about how to arrange a full-scale drive for school supplies. The timing wasn't the best because supplies are generally cheaper during back-to-school sales in the fall, and her son's email had come in the spring.

"I remembered that when my sons were in school, I'd always overbuy in August, when notebooks were 15 cents apiece," Cahoy said. "I always had plenty of school supplies on hand, and I knew other families might be that way too."

She forwarded her son's note to colleagues in area schools and asked them to think about collecting school supplies from students' desks and lockers that would otherwise be thrown out at the end of the year.

Andy Cahoy, the 2005 Central High School valedictorian, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2009 and has been serving in Afghanistan since late February.

He was a student in Linda Lang's third-grade class at C.C. Lee Elementary. She, along with C.C. Lee principal Eric Kline, spearheaded supply collection efforts at the school.

Lang had already been collecting gently used crayons from her students at the end of the year to be recycled for use in the fall. She saw that the same idea could extend to other supplies too. Having a personal connection with Andy Cahoy helped as well.

"We have such respect for Andy, and he is such a wonderful young man," Lang said. "He is trying to show the world our good side and doing something that will hopefully share that we really are a caring people."

Collectively, schools and admin-

istrators in the Aberdeen School District filled 128 large boxes with school supplies. In addition to C.C. Lee, Simmons and Holgate middle schools and Lincoln, Simmons and May Overby elementary schools contributed to the drive.

The Aberdeen Christian School also shipped six boxes of supplies directly to Afghanistan. Andy Cahoy's wife, Kate, also mobilized efforts among family members and the Miller School District.

Boy Scouts and parents of Troop 188, of which Cahoy is an assistant scoutmaster, also donated their time to help sort items and create packages at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

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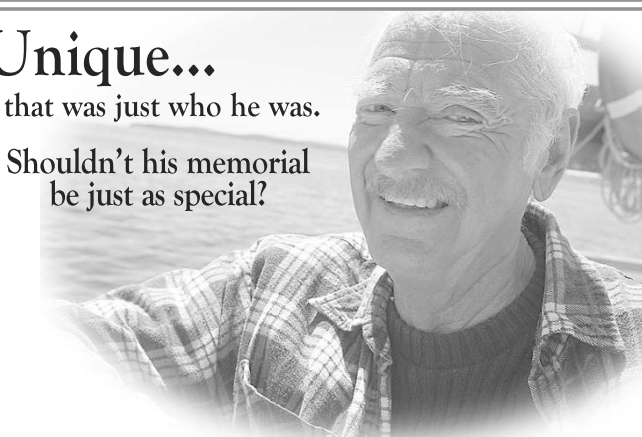
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