

NE Roads Standards Board to Meet

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards will meet at 9 a.m. on July 24, in the Nebraska Department of Roads' Central Headquarters Building Auditorium at 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

The agenda includes:

- Consideration of sanctions for failure to submit the 2014-2015 annual street program financial report and the 2015 One- and Six-Year Plan by certain municipalities
- This meeting is open to the public.

Redistricting Measure Explained

PIERRE — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has announced an Attorney General Explanation for a proposed Constitutional Amendment has been filed with the Secretary of State. This statement will appear on petitions that will be circulated by the sponsor of the proposed amendment. If the sponsor obtains a sufficient number of signatures on the petitions by Nov. 9, 2015, as certified by the Secretary of State, the measure will be placed on the ballot for the November 2016 general election.

This is a measure to change the Constitution, as opposed to changing state statutes (which requires 13,871) and the sponsor will need 27,741 signatures:

1. An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to provide for state legislative redistricting by a commission. Under South Dakota law, the Attorney General is responsible for preparing explanations for proposed initiated measures, referred laws, and South Dakota Constitutional Amendments. Specifically, the explanation includes a title, an objective, clear and simple summary of the purpose and effect of the proposed measure and a description of the legal consequences. To view the Attorney General Explanation for the measure, as well as the final form of the measure submitted to this office, please go to: <http://atg.sd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=wfhmEZLObHI%3d&tabid=442>

To date the Attorney General has released Attorney General Explanations for the following:

- An initiated measure to set a maximum finance charge for certain licensed money lenders.
- An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to allow referral of state and municipal laws affecting public peace, health, safety and the support of government and also to limit the ability to amend or repeal initiated laws.
- An initiated measure to legalize marijuana for medical use.
- An initiated measure to decriminalize the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia.

Vermillion Library To Host Closing Party

VERMILLION — The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library will be hosting a closing party for its Summer Reading Program at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 27.

Patrons are invited to join in this Backyard Bash for an afternoon of games, pizza and prizes in honor of their participation in this summer's program. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to reserve a spot in advance by either calling the library or visiting the Circulation Desk.

Entitled "Every Hero Has a Story," the 2015 Summer Reading Program started on June 1 and has been an action-packed ride every day since. Group activities, LEGO robotics and various notable entertainers have been a valuable part of the experience; even more valuable, however, are the participants. Active involvement has come from all ages, preschoolers to adults, and the program would not have been possible without them. The library staff is grateful to have hosted this program for the community and is taking this opportunity to thank all those involved.

For more information, stop in or call 670-7060.

'Walk A Mile In Her Shoes' Event Set

The eighth annual "Walk A Mile In Her Shoes" event will be held at Yankton's Memorial Park on Saturday, Aug. 29, starting at 2 p.m.

"Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" is an awareness walk for Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence where men slip on a pair of high heels and strut their stuff. The mission is to create a unique and powerful public experience that educates individuals and communities about sexual violence.

River City Domestic Violence Center's mission is to assist victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. The Walk is a light-hearted approach to bring awareness about domestic violence/sexual assault and the impact it has on our community and the individuals who reside in this community. It is also an opportunity to raise funds to help River City Domestic Violence Center to continue its mission.

The hope is that each participant raises \$100 in order to help the center meet its financial goal. There is also a registration fee.

The deadline for signing up for "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" is Aug. 14. To register, call 605-665-4811.

For more information, visit yanktondomesticviolence-center.com or email womensshelter@midconetwork.com/.

Huber Blood Drive Slated For July 28

VERMILLION — The Mackenzie & Josie Huber Scholarship Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, July 28, at Ace Hardware in Vermillion from 12:30-6 p.m.

Mackenzie and Josie are working to reach their goal of 50 units of blood donated to receive a college scholarship. They are hosting a blood drive on July 28 and would like to invite the community to come out and not only help local hospitals with the summer blood supply.

All registered donors for their blood drive will receive a Chlotique discount and a pass to the wellness center.

Call Mackenzie at 605-677-9050 to schedule your appointment.

25 Students Receive Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship

PIERRE — Twenty-five South Dakota college students have been awarded a state scholarship that supports new teachers who serve in critical-need teaching areas. Gov. Dennis Daugaard has announced the second group of recipients in the Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship Program.

"These scholarships support our high school graduates as they obtain a teaching degree in South Dakota. They then remain here and contribute to the state and its citizens by working in a critical-need teaching area," Gov. Daugaard said. "These 25 future educators will give back so much to the South Dakota students and communities where they will work. We are pleased to support their educational efforts."

Scholarship recipients agree to remain in South Dakota and work in a critical-need teaching area for five years after college graduation. If terms of the agreement cannot be met, the scholarship converts into an interest-bearing loan. Subject areas of critical teaching need are determined by the South Dakota Department of Education, based on data collected from local school districts.

The teaching scholarship may be awarded to a student for up to two years, with the maximum annual award not to exceed the cost of tuition and general fees for 30 credit hours at a South Dakota public university. The program is open to all accredited postsecondary institutions in South Dakota that offer degrees in elementary or secondary education and that agree to participate.

The scholarship program, created by the 2013 South Dakota Legislature, is administered by the South Dakota Board of Regents. For more information, contact the regents' office at 605-773-3455 or send an e-mail to info@sdbor.edu.

This is a list of the 25 students who are Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship recipients for the 2015-2016 academic year, sorted by the postsecondary institution where they are enrolled. The list also includes the student's hometown.

• Augustana College — Alexis Jurrens, Avon

• Dakota State University — Eric Ruppelt, Tyndall

• Mount Marty College — Alex Mueller, Yankton; Megan Meister, Kingsley, Iowa; Kami Meyerink, Platte; Denea Veldkamp, Sioux Falls; Neil Hohenthaner, Yankton

• Northern State University — Christine Hickel, Sioux Falls; Whitney Heupel, Leola; Megan Brink, Renner

• South Dakota State University — Taylor Leonhardt, Groton; Ashley Tollefson, Hitchcock; Trey Waltner, Marion; LaNae Fuerst, Tripp; Courtney Sykora, Beardsley, Minn.; Trevor Larson, Hamill; Abby Ottenbacher, Eureka; Eide Lucas, Clear Lake

• University of South Dakota — Tucker Tornberg, Centerville; Erin Tounsey, Pierre; Brooke Vandersluis, Le Mars, Iowa; Kristin Pollema, Brandon; Abby Roskam, Canton; Katelyn Heisinger, Tripp; Adrienne Frankenhoff, Hayti.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Riverview Reform Church of Yankton recently packed 3,000 meals for children in need of our care. To learn more about how you can make a difference please visit www.mercymealsyankton.org or find us on Facebook.

Zoo Man

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hometown of Sleepy Eye, rebuilt his zoo and began re-growing his collection of animals.

Complementing the library's summer reading program superhero theme, "Every Hero has a Story," "The Zoo Man" brought some of his own animal heroes to show the kids.

"We are giving them something purposeful to do," youth services librarian Joyce Moore said. "This is free entertainment for the community and I think that is really important."

"The Zoo Man's" friends during the visit featured a bearded dragon named Space Ghost, a royal python snake named Razor, a blue-tongued skink and Big Guy #15, a golden albino Burmese python.

"The characteristics of the animals are what make them heroes of the animal world," Mielke said.

One of the animals that Mielke presented Monday, a royal python snake named Reggie, was one of the few creatures to survive the 2009 fire at the Prairie Winds Zoo.

"The Zoo Man" used child curiosity to encourage reading. Mielke posed questions to the kids about some of the animal's habits. While providing information, he left some answers for the kids to discover themselves, by reading.

"If you try to have a hands-on activity with the child and they are enlightened by it, they are going to read," Mielke said.

"I always get questions after his program," Moore said. "They want to know where all the snake and reptile books are."

"The Zoo Man" chose a series of volunteers to show their superhero stuff and stand still while creatures crawled on their head and shoulders.

"These kinds of events are a great way to get them into the library so that, once they are here, they will check out some books and start reading," Moore said.

The Yankton Library's summer reading project has two different programs; one for kids grade 5 on down, and one geared towards middle school and high school

students.

For the youth program, kids have been reading and logging their minutes all summer long. They get one book buck for every 100 minutes they read. If they log 1,000 or more hours during the summer program, the student and their families will be invited to a pool party hosted by the library on July 28.

"Our goal is to keep kids reading all summer long so that they are ready for the fall school year," Moore said.

Saturday, July 25, is the last day to log minutes for "Book Bucks." Kids can bring in their book bucks that following Monday and trade them in for prizes such as toys, games, puzzles and books. The Superhero Storehouse prize store opens Monday, July 27, at 9 a.m. and closes Saturday, Aug. 1 at 4:45 p.m.

Kids in grade 6 and up have a separate reading program where they are climbing the four levels of reading missions. If they are able to climb all four levels, they get to play laser tag with the library staff on July 30.

In this last week of the program, the library will host other events open to the public:

TUESDAY, JULY 21

- 10:15 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. - Toddler Time
- 11 a.m. - Crafts

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

- 10:15 a.m. - Preschool Story Time
- 1 p.m. - Teen Minute-to-Win-It
- 3-4:30 p.m. - LEGO Club (no robotics this week)

THURSDAY, JULY 23

- 10:15 a.m. - Preschool Story Time
- 11 a.m. - National Park Service: Who's on the Line?
- 1 p.m. - Super Hero Training Camp

FRIDAY, JULY 24

- 2 p.m. - Reading Club (bring a favorite book or title)

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

USDA Seeks Applications for Grants To Support Cooperatives

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to help rural cooperatives develop new markets for their products and services. USDA is making the grants available to non-profit corporations and institutions of higher education through the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) program.

"Cooperative organizations are important catalysts for economic growth and job creation in rural America," Vilsack said. "The lack of investment capital is often the key factor holding many rural areas back from economic prosperity. The investments that USDA is making available will help organizations start cooperatives, expand existing ones, boost sales and marketing opportunities, and help develop business opportunities in rural areas."

USDA's Rural Cooperative Development Grant program improves economic conditions in rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand or improve the operations of rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through cooperative development centers. Other eligible grant activities may include conducting feasibility studies and creating business plans.

USDA is making up to \$5.8 million in grants available in Fiscal Year 2015. One-year grants up to \$200,000 are available. In most cases, grants may be used to pay for up to 75 percent of a project's total costs. Recipients are required to match 25 percent of the award amount. The grants will be awarded prior to Sept. 30, 2015. The recipients will have one year to utilize the awarded funds.

The application deadline is July 30, 2015. For additional information, see Page 34129 of the June 15, 2015 Federal Register or contact the USDA Rural Development State Office.

YOUR NEWS!

The Press and Dakotan

OBITUARIES

Robert 'Tubby' Ekeren

Robert "Tubby" Ekeren, 83, of Yankton died Sunday, July 19, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Memorial services are 2 p.m. Friday, July 24, at Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill with the Rev. Velma Larson officiating.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the memorial service at church. Inurnment with military hon-

ors will be at the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Lucille Harkness

Lucille M. Harkness, 90, of Elk Point passed away Monday, July 20, 2015, at Prairie Estate Care Center, Elk Point.

Funeral Arrangement are pending with Kober Funeral Home of Elk Point.



Country music was a big part of Ren's life.

It was also a big part of his funeral.

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