

MIDWEST DIGEST**Yankton Sioux Protesting Red Pipestone Sales**

GREENWOOD (AP) — Members of the Yankton Sioux plan a four-day run from the southeast South Dakota town of Greenwood to protest the sale of red pipestone at Pipestone National Monument in southwest Minnesota.

The run starting Friday is to end at the monument Monday evening.

Organizer Allen Hare says the National Park Service wants to limit access to sacred sites to preserve resources, while tribes want to maintain year-round access. Yankton Sioux officials and runners also want to protest the sale of trinkets made from pipestone.

Curt Frain, the monument's chief of visitor services, says the Park Service understands the feelings of the Yankton Sioux but that other tribes do not object to trading the stone as a commodity.

The Yankton Sioux organized similar protest runs in the 1970s and 1980s.

Disaster Recovery Continues In South Dakota

ABERDEEN (AP) — Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman Dennis Lowery says ongoing disaster recovery efforts in South Dakota together equal the largest in state history.

There have been four disaster declarations in the state in the past six months, for a Christmas blizzard, January ice storm, April ice storm and spring flooding. Lowery says the storms and flooding have affected 51 of South Dakota's 66 counties.

One-hundred-thirty FEMA officials continue to work in South Dakota. Nancy Casper, a federal coordinating officer, says FEMA and the state have worked well together.

Work on the two earliest disasters is wrapping up, but work on the other two is just beginning.

Former S.D. Attorney Disbarred After Arrest

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A former Sioux Falls attorney and political candidate has been disbarred following her arrest last month.

Mary Ann Giebinck's resignation was accepted late last month by the disciplinary board of the State Bar.

Giebinck faces charges of drunken driving, aggravated eluding and marijuana possession in a May 7 police chase.

The Minnehaha County sheriff's department says a deputy attempted to stop Giebinck's vehicle, but it sped off. A chase through a residential neighborhood reached speeds of 100 mph and ended when the vehicle slid into the ditch.

Giebinck, a Democrat, has also ended her run for the House seat in District 10 and announced plans to close her law office, Galland Law Firm.

Neb. High Court Upholds DMV's Authority

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Supreme Court has ruled the state Department of Motor Vehicles was within its authority to request more information on a drunken-driving arrest to determine whether to hold a license revocation hearing.

In the opinion released Friday, the high court also said the DMV can fairly investigate a charge against a driver and adjudicate the case. The ruling came on an appeal from 46-year-old William Murray of Broadwater, who was arrested for drunken driving in Scotts Bluff County in March 2008.

Court documents say the arresting officer listed reasons for stopping Murray's car, but not for the DUI arrest, in his report to the DMV. So, he was asked by the DMV to file an addendum including those details.

More Parking, Exhibits Set At Omaha Zoo

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo has released a \$175 million master plan that will add a parking lot where Rosenblatt Stadium now sits and an African grasslands exhibit on the east side of the zoo.

Zoo director Dennis Pate said Friday that the improvements will be made over the next 10 to 20 years, and the zoo's animal exhibits will be reorganized by the region the animals hail from.

Rosenblatt's land has been destined for the zoo since city leaders announced plans to build a downtown ballpark two years ago.

The 30-acre grasslands exhibit will cost about \$34 million and include a new elephant enclosure.

Also planned are exhibits highlighting animals of the Andean mountain regions of South America and animals of the Asian forests and upper highlands.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA EDUCATION****Officials To Move Slowly On Standards**

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — South Dakota should take a slow approach to applying uniform standards for math and language instruction that were developed by a coalition of states, state Education Secretary Tom Oster said Friday.

Oster said he expects to recommend that the state Board of Education adopt the common core standards within the next six months or so. But he said the new standards should not be put into classrooms until teachers are trained to use them and new tests are developed to measure how well students know the material.

"We'll be moving slowly on this," Oster said.

Brian Aust, communications director for the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, said the organization is withholding its support for the uniform standards until it is sure the state will help train teachers. The organization that represents local school boards also wants to make sure the state's adoption of the standards is voluntary and not required by the federal government.

South Dakota school boards believe in strong education standards, Aust said. "How it's implemented is going to make all the difference."

South Dakota is one of 48 states that

agreed to develop common core standards, a project backed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

States are to revise their curriculum and testing to make learning more uniform across the nation, with the goal of getting all students ready for college or jobs.

"It is important to note these standards weren't developed by the feds, the U.S. Department of Education. These were developed by the states for the states," Oster said.

The common core standards will ensure that when students move from state to state, they will remain at the same stage of learning in math and English, Oster said. They also will allow for better comparisons of student achievement among the states, and each state can learn from the successes of others, he said.

"I've said for years a fraction is the same in South Carolina as it is in South Dakota. It's always been amazing to me we didn't have a set of standards that all the states could agree to that were rigorous, met our needs and could be applied across the country," Oster said.

One of the most important aspects is that the new standards will allow states to use uniform tests, Oster said. South Dakota now spends \$5 million a year on testing, and nationwide states spend a total of \$2 billion

annually on tests, he said.

If the state board adopts the new standards, South Dakota should wait to implement them until a national test is developed to measure student achievement, Oster said. A national test will save South Dakota and other states a lot of money because each state will no longer pay to develop its own test, he said.

A slow approach is also needed so states can see what Congress does in reauthorizing an education law that includes the No Child Left Behind measure intended to improve schools, Oster said.

South Dakota's existing standards for English and language arts are similar to the common core standards, and the state's work on new math standards also closely matches the national standards, he said.

"As far as what's being taught in the schools, there won't be a dramatic change with this. There will be some small tweaks here and there," Oster said.

Aust said South Dakota school officials want to learn more about the national standards.

"Our members are very leery about the idea of national standards," Aust said. "We have no position to support it at this time, but we intend to educate our members about possible benefits that could come from common core standards."

South Dakota, Neb. Spellers Ousted From National Bee

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The state spelling bee winner from North Dakota was among the 10 finalists at the 83rd National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., while the representative from South Dakota was ousted in the semifinals.

Shantani Srivatsa of West Fargo, N.D., and Sean Calhoun of Sioux Falls, S.D., both represented their states for the second consecutive year.

The Omaha girl who was representing Nebraska and Iowa in the National Spelling Bee was also knocked out of the competition.

Fourteen-year-old Emma Johanningsmeier was stumped by the medical term "dysautonomia" in the fifth round of competition that aired live on ESPN Friday morning.

Earlier, Johanningsmeier had successfully spelled "fleuron," "xerocolous" and "parliamentary."

The national bee started with 273 spellers, with 48 making the semifinals. Thirty-eight were eliminated early Friday.

UNL Budget Includes Tuition Increase

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Tuition at all four University of Nebraska campuses would rise 6 percent next year under a budget plan announced Friday, but the pain for some would be eased by setting aside a record amount of money for financial aid.

The budget proposal released by NU President J.B. Milliken includes no money for salary increases, meaning that campuses in Kearney and Omaha will have to make cuts to come up with money for salary hikes mandated by collective bargaining agreements at those schools.

"Families in Nebraska have felt the pinch ... and so has the university," Milliken said of the budget proposal.

About \$8.5 million must be pared from the current-year budget, and another \$10 million must be cut next year. More than 100 positions have been axed, and Milliken said it's too early to say how many more job and program cuts might be required.

Like many schools across the

country, the university is struggling with lower-than-normal appropriations from state government, though NU has fared better than many. In an effort to balance the state budget, lawmakers didn't give the university system an overall funding increase this year, NU won't get one next year, either.

Flat or reduced funding is possible over the next two years: Fiscal analysts say the state could face an overall shortfall of hundreds of millions of dollars.

"I'm concerned about the investment in education," Milliken said.

Salaries at the university system's campuses lag behind the average among peer campuses, or similarly sized universities, mostly in the Midwest, that NU administrators use for comparison. But the cost of attending NU schools is about 25 percent less than the peer average.

There are two NU campuses in Omaha, one being the medical center, and one each in Lincoln

and Kearney.

Under the budget plan, which the Board of Regents will consider June 11, financial aid would increase by 6 percent. Also, there will be an additional one-time investment of \$2 million to allow campus financial aid officers to meet needs not covered under existing aid programs — textbooks for students, for instance, since aid programs normally just pay for tuition.

The proposed 6 percent tuition increase would follow a tuition hike for this school year of 4 percent, the smallest in a decade.

The average annual tuition increase at NU's flagship campus in Lincoln over the past two decades has been nearly 7 percent.

From 1990 to this year, tuition at NU campuses has increased about 114 percent.

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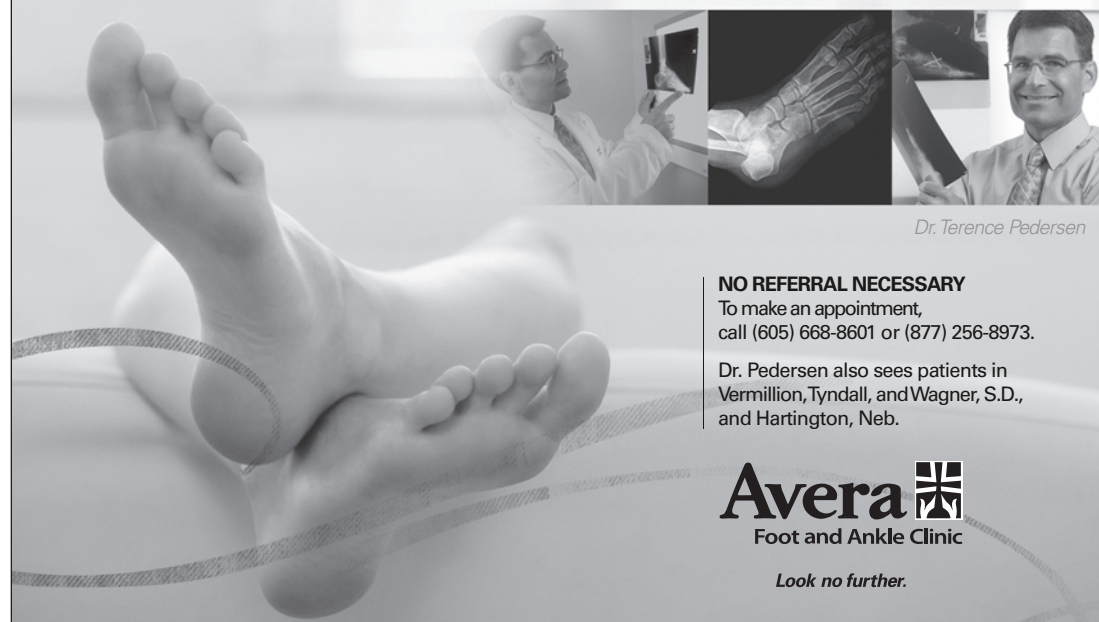
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