

Mount Rushmore Crew Monitors Cracking

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AP) — A specially trained team has installed new rock software to monitor cracks that appear on the four famed faces of Mount Rushmore. KOTA-TV reports that crews worked Wednesday and Thursday to install the software on the granite monument. Officials say the software could eventually cut down on the number of trips made to the top of the monument. Crews trained in industrial rope access techniques regularly climb the monument. This is the first time crews have been up this summer.

Injured Hiker Rescued In Badlands Park

INTERIOR (AP) — Officials used a helicopter to rescue a Pennsylvania man who became injured while hiking in Badlands National Park in southwestern South Dakota. The park says 57-year-old Dave Johnson of Audubon, Pa., injured a leg and his back in a fall Thursday morning and waited hours before being discovered by other park visitors. Officials with Black Hills Life Flight and the South Dakota Air National Guard responded to help rescue Johnson and fly him to a Rapid City hospital for treatment. The Guard says it was the first live-rescue mission in the state involving the new UH-72 Lakota helicopter.

NU Regents Approve Tuition Increase

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Tuition is going up for students at the University of Nebraska this fall — but it's the smallest increase in 15 years. The Lincoln Journal Star says the NU Board of Regents on Friday approved an increase of 3.75 percent. It's the lowest tuition increase since 1997 and amounts to about \$100 more per semester for resident undergraduates taking 15 credit hours. The regents also approved increasing faculty and staff salaries by as much as 2.5 percent at the university's main campuses in Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney. Tuition and state appropriations fund the university's budget, which is projected to carry a \$2.2 million shortfall for 2012-13. The state will contribute about \$495 million, an allocation that has been relatively flat for the past five years.

Suspect In S.D. Robbery Attempts Sentenced

RAPID CITY (AP) — A man accused of trying to rob two Rapid City convenience stores on the same day has been ordered to serve four years in prison. Authorities say 26-year-old Robert White Plume Janis used an unloaded BB gun to rob one store of \$240 and to try to rob a second store on Jan. 13. He was arrested after a police chase in Nebraska five days later. Janis pleaded guilty last month to attempted robbery, and prosecutors dropped a separate robbery count. His sentence requires him to get treatment for alcohol addiction and medication for bipolar disorder.

Man Arrested After Car Hits Blunt Business

BLUNT (AP) — A 35-year-old Pierre man was arrested Friday on charges of crashing a stolen car through the doors of a Blunt business. Hughes County Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Darin Johnson tells KCCR radio that deputies received a report at 6 a.m. Friday of a break-in at the Blunt Cash Store. Johnson says Ryan Sholes allegedly drove a 1995 Ford Thunderbird into the front doors of the building and stole beer and cigarettes. Johnson says Sholes turned himself in later Friday morning. He's charged with grand theft, driving under the influence, burglary and intentional damage to property. Attorney information for Sholes was not immediately available.

Archery Gives Lakota Youth A Piece Of Their Past

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Thanks to this year's blockbuster movies "The Avengers" and "The Hunger Games," archery is enjoying a national renaissance, with ranges reporting a steady uptick business and outdoor stores scrambling to keep up with the demand for bows. But for 15-year-old Bailey Clifford, it's not the fictional heroine Katniss or a sleek Hollywood film that's turned him into an avid bow hunter. It's his Lakota culture. Clifford, a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe, has bow-hunted since he was about 9 years old, a skill he learned from his father. Now, Clifford spends hours imagining he's hunting for food just like his ancestors as he explores the land around his home in the northeastern edge of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, near Badlands National Park. "Whenever I'm using a traditional bow, you feel like how they felt probably whenever they used to hunt buffalo," Clifford said. "It feels really cool to shoot how they used to shoot." For Lakota youth, archery offers an opportunity to connect to their past while taking part in a sport that is growing in popularity. The Lakota people historically used the bow and arrow to hunt for animals, such as buffalo, eating the meat and using the hides for clothing and shelter.

The reservation's Oglala Lakota College hopes to convince other children to take up the sport and is hosting a weeklong bow camp, starting Monday, for middle and high school students. They'll learn everything from how to cut staves and saplings to make bows and arrows to stringing and shooting the bow. "The cool thing about archery to me is it can be an individual sport, it can be a cheap sport, but it's something you have to do yourself," said camp organizer Joe Flood, an associate professor of English and the archery team's co-coach. "The real idea is to get kids to take initiative and do it yourself." The camp will also teach math and science principles, such as dentology — the study of wooded plants — and how to analyze the distance and speed an arrow travels. The camp is an offshoot of a similar effort that started on the Cheyenne River Reservation in north-central South Dakota in 2004. Jack Holthaus, an avid bow hunter who lives in Springfield, Ore., started the non-profit organization Bring Back the Bow to help reinforce Lakota values. The camp started out small, just six or seven kids in the first year, but swelled to 175 participants last year. "This is so closely tied to their culture — that is the buffalo culture — that it seemed like a real good fit and kind of a vanishing art," he said. "We think it recaptures or preserves an important part of their culture."

Without a bow, they couldn't eat. It gives parents an opportunity to talk about their culture and the importance of the bow." Students at his camp use materials provided by the organizers to build a small, primitive bow that's similar to what Lakotas in the 1850s used. The organizers furnish arrows and the kids use life-sized foam animal figures for targets. And experienced bow hunters from across the country come in to teach the kids proper technique and shooting safety. Waylon Gaddie, 40, believes every young Lakota should learn how to shoot a bow and arrow, so he plans to take his 12-year-old nephew to the Pine Ridge camp. "All young boys should go through that because it gets them away from other things like gangs and all the modern obstacles you go through. It keeps them in a good place and good mind and good spirit," said Gaddie, whose stepdad taught him how to make his first bow and arrow when he was about 12. Gaddie also believes shooting can be therapeutic, because it's going back to a simpler way of life. Michelle Janis, a 22-year-old archer on the Oglala Lakota College team, is a modern-day spin on the Lakota hunter. Traditionally, men were the hunters, not women. She had never shot a bow before joining the school's team this year, and will be one of the teachers in next week's camp. "For me, it's like symbolic," she said.

Nebraska

High Court Gives Boot To Firefighter Collections

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld a state accountability commission's finding that Omaha firefighters can't legally participate in roadside collections for charities on city time using city-owned uniforms and equipment. Friday's ruling targets so-called "boot drives," in which uniformed firefighters ask for donations at traffic intersections, malls and supermarkets. The money goes to organizations like the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In 2010, the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission issued an opinion that the practice violated a state law that bans public employees from using their positions or public resources to benefit businesses

with which they may be associated. The Nebraska Professional Fire Fighters Association, which is the state firefighters union, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association challenged that finding in Lancaster County District Court. In February 2011, the court dismissed the challenge, saying the union and MDA failed to first file a grievance with the commission — as prescribed by law — before taking the matter to court. The Nebraska Court of Appeals agreed that the courts lacked jurisdiction to review the commission's advisory opinion, and, on Friday, the state's high court upheld the dismissal for lack of jurisdiction. The ruling means firefighters must collect donations on their own time and without using city equipment, such as work boots and uniforms.

That's how fire departments around Nebraska have been operating since the commission's opinion was released, said David Engler, president of the state firefighters union. "As such, we've taken a big hit in fundraising," Engler said. "Typically, there's been a reduction of about half of the money usually raised." Engler said the union has not had a chance to review the Nebraska Supreme Court's ruling. After doing so, "we'll determine where to go from there," he said. A message left Friday the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Tucson, Ariz., was not immediately returned. Scott Kuehl, a firefighter in Grand Island and president of his local firefighters union, said Friday that his department has had more success than others in raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association now that

firefighters can't hold drives on city time using city-issued equipment. "The process has now become so jaded and bogged down with this anti-union worker sentiment around the country," Kuehl said. "It's not like we're not responding to calls or doing our duty when we're out there collecting for charity." Kuehl said his department raised \$80,000 in the last year for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. They did it on their own time, using their personal gear and old gear taken out of public service. Rather than using a city-owned firetruck as a backdrop at collection sites, firefighters have used restored antique firetrucks owned by fellow firefighters, he said. "People are still willing to give, whether we're wearing our official uniform or not," Kuehl said.

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