



YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 139
NUMBER 32

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **12 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



Nebraska Legislature

Child Services Expanded

The Numerous Bills Are Part Of The State's Ongoing Child Welfare Reforms

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers are gearing up to finish a session that has focused largely on children, including those in foster care, the criminal justice system and juveniles who need psychiatric treatment.

Legislation passed this year will attempt to make it easier to place foster children with friends or relatives, and to protect minors who fall victim to human trafficking. Lawmakers have passed a bill that would expand child care subsidies for low-income families. Still another measure would extend the age in which former state wards can receive housing assistance.

Many of the bills are part of the state's ongoing child welfare reforms, as well as an effort to restore funding for services that were cut in previous years.

"I feel like in the past, we were always responding to a crisis in the child welfare system," said Sen. Amanda McGill of Lincoln, who introduced several of the bills. "This year, we were able to build upon the things that we've fixed, and tried to go the extra step to make sure our programs are most effective at helping kids."

Sen. Kathy Campbell of Lincoln, the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee chairwoman, said lawmakers plan to continue the push for child services next year, and to follow up with those changes that are now in place. Last year, lawmakers created an 18-member children's commission to monitor Nebraska's child services, after the state's failed effort to privatize services for state wards and foster care children. Campbell said the commission's recommendations will help direct how lawmakers should proceed.



McGill

"I think the Legislature has maintained its vigilance on the child welfare system, and I think we're going to have to stay vigilant," Campbell said.

Lawmakers have also voted to create a test program that would offer mental health screenings to children, using computer technology to connect them remotely with psychiatrists. The program, overseen by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, would include three health clinics, with at least one in an urban area and one in a rural setting.

McGill said the bill is an extension of the promise she made to reform youth mental health services in the wake of Nebraska's safe haven law in 2008. The law was designed to protect newborns from being abandoned, but led to a rash of parents who left adolescents and teenagers at hospitals.

Many parents at the time cited a lack of

SERVICES | PAGE 11



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Historian and lecturer Bev Schuetz of St. Louis speaks about the history of medicine during her presentation, "Medical Quackery and Colorful Charlatans," at the historic Excelsior Mill Friday night in Yankton. The lecture was part of the 30th annual South Dakota State Convention of Questers held this past weekend.

Medical Quackery Entertains South Dakota Questers At Convention

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

The history of medicine is a colorful one, full of outlandish promises and devious charlatans, according to historian Bev Schuetz.

"There was a time when anything could be touted. Unscrupulous promoters became rich with crazy, dangerous treatments that often took the lives of the people that used them," the lecturer from St. Louis said during a presentation Friday night at the historic Excelsior Mill. "We don't have to worry about them anymore, or do we?"

Schuetz's presentation, "Medical Quackery and Colorful Charlatans," was part of the 30th annual South Dakota State Convention of Questers held in Yankton during the weekend.

Questers is an international organization dedicated to preservation, restoration and the enjoyment of finding antiques. The convention was hosted by the Yankton Arikara Questers No. 419, one of four local chapters.

Friday's activities also included a banquet and tours of local historic buildings.

On Saturday, two seminars were presented. "Historic Yankton Review" highlighted preservation efforts and roadblocks encountered by local preservationists, and "Grave Walk" detailed various people that helped establish the Yankton community.

In her presentation, Schuetz said the sale of medicine began to pick up in the 1800s, and by 1905, there were at least 28,000 patent medicines on the market in the U.S.

While some products were effective and are still available today — such as Listerine, Aspirin and Alka-Seltzer — others were much more useless or, in many cases, dangerous.

"Medicine during those days should have said, 'Take at your own risk,'" Schuetz said.

Many products contained ingredients such as alcohol,

QUESTERS | PAGE 11

Vermillion Public Library Dedicated

New Library Named In Honor Of Edith B. Siegrist

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — It was standing room only at the newly-christened Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, which had its dedication ceremony Saturday afternoon, the culmination of years of planning and work.

It also was a day to thank those who helped on each of the project's various stages, including those who passed away prior to its completion.

"Congratulations to you," said Jon Flanagan, president of the library's board of trustees. "It is a great thing to have the Vermillion Public Library expansion and remodeling, and we are ready to move into the new world with the new public library."

Sen. Tim Johnson echoed these statements, noting, "At a time when libraries across the country are facing budget cuts and difficult decisions, I'm pleased to see the Vermillion library growing and thriving."

"It's been a long time planning for our community with the library board and the library staff. It's a project we've been working on for many, many years, and it's nice to see it result in this sort of ... community celebration," added City Manager John Prescott. "It's been a truly community effort of funds, staff and people to make this happen."

Thanks to the expansion and renovation, the library has more than doubled its size, with 22,890 square feet, as opposed to the 11,000 it was previously, said library director Jane Larson in a prior interview with the Vermillion Plain Talk.

Among other upgrades, the library has a new circulation desk, a lounge area complete with a fireplace, an expanded community room, automatic doors at the southern entrance and separate areas for teens and technology.

The project was a long time in the making, remembered Vermillion mayor Jack Powell.

Even after the city council set aside more than \$1 million to aid in construction and a Community Development Block



Library director Jane Larson, library board president Jon Flanagan and Sen. Tim Johnson celebrate as the ribbon is cut during the dedication ceremony at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, which took place Saturday afternoon.

LIBRARY | PAGE 11

Report Finds \$50M Spent For IRS Conferences

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A government watchdog has found that the Internal Revenue Service spent about \$50 million to hold at least 220 conferences for employees between 2010 and 2012, a House committee said Sunday.

The chairman of that committee, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., also released excerpts of congressional investigators' interviews with employees of the IRS office in Cincinnati. Issa said the interviews indicated they were directed by Washington to

subject tea party and other conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status to tough scrutiny.

The excerpts provided no direct evidence that Washington had ordered that screening. The top Democrat on that panel, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, said none of the employees interviewed have so far identified any IRS officials in Washington as ordering that targeting.

The conference spending included \$4 million for an August 2010 gathering in Anaheim, Calif.,

IRS | PAGE 11

Companies Look To Home-Grow U.S. IT Workforce

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Ken Behrendt had already had his fill of the hidden costs of offshoring, but the Eagle Creek Software Services chief executive was having trouble finding enough qualified consultants to expand the company's development and technical support business in the Dakotas.

So the Minnesota-based firm turned to the University of South Dakota to help home-grow new tech talent through a customized four-course certificate.

"If we have a jumping off point from the university system, then that allows us to bring that consultant even faster to the market," Behrendt said.

As tech giants such as Google and Microsoft lobby Congress for more H-1B visas to bring skilled workers from overseas, a small but growing number of public-private endeavors

are trying to spark an IT reshoring trend by developing the nation's next generation of tech experts.

IT consulting and development firm PlanetMagpie made "The Argument for Reshoring American IT" in a white paper published late last year.

Doreyne Douglas, vice president of the Fremont, Calif.-based company, said wants the concept to spread throughout information technology as it is in manufacturing.

"It's really just a baby, and we need to get it out there and we need to really start spreading the idea," Douglas said.

Douglas and Behrendt say the true cost of hiring programmers in India far exceeds the promised \$15 per hour advertised by many overseas firms.

In addition to avoiding language, cultural and time-zone issues that arise with overseas support teams, U.S.-based project centers work better when a company wants

better interaction with its customers, especially through mobile apps and social networking, Behrendt said.

Douglas said U.S.-based project centers improve data security, increase worker productivity and encourage teamwork, brainstorming and creativity. Companies who continue to offshore need to start connecting the dots to see the effect on the U.S. tech industry, she said.

"What it has gotten us is dependent on other countries for labor in IT, which is crazy," Douglas said. "We had the best technology of any country in the world."

Eagle Creek, which provides Web and app development and technical support to large health care, financial services and other companies, is now focused on setting up project centers in lower-cost U.S. areas such as South Dakota and North Dakota. The company

GROW | PAGE 11

Make life a little easier...

Easy Pay
Simple • Safe • Secure
The easy way to pay your Press & Dakotan bill.

Automatically charge your monthly subscription to your checking or credit card account through Easy Pay.

Call the Press & Dakotan today to sign up!!

PRESS & DAKOTAN
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD • 605-665-7811 • 1-800-743-2968