

S. City Council OKs Bonds For Casino Project

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — The Sioux City Council has voted to authorize the sale of \$22.3 million in bonds as part of a planned \$120 million Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

The *Sioux City Journal* reported the council on Monday voted three to one to authorize the bonds. Council member Keith Radig voted no and Mayor Bob Scott abstained because he says some believe he and his family would benefit from the project. The mayor denies that charge.

The bonds will help pay for parking, utilities and other infrastructure as part of the planned gambling and entertainment center.

The bonds would be paid off over 20 years by future property taxes from the construction.

New Law Will Require Newborn Heart Screening

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Newborns in Nebraska will have to get screened for a potentially fatal heart disease, under a new state law (bill LB225).

Gov. Dave Heineman approved a measure Monday that will require screenings for critical congenital heart disease, a leading cause of death in newborns.

Newborns sent home with undetected heart defects can go into cardiac shock, and are at a greater risk of brain damage, developmental disabilities or death.

The current screening standard for congenital heart disease is a non-invasive procedure, in which a sticky strip is placed on a newborn's hand or foot.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Jim Smith, of Papillion. Smith says the screenings are easy and inexpensive, and will save lives.

Doctors Say Man Insane At Time Of House Fire

BOX ELDER (AP) — Two psychiatrists have agreed that a Box Elder man who torched his mobile home was insane at the time.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that the attorney for 29-year-old Joseph Hodges told Circuit Judge Janine Kern on Monday that the report from the state Human Services Center will confirm that his client was insane when he lit the fire that destroyed his home in October.

Kern scheduled another status hearing for Hodges on June 10.

Neb. Tax Committee Convenes First Meeting

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Members of Nebraska's new tax modernization committee have started their work to identify any weaknesses in the state's tax structure.

The 14-member legislative committee met for the first time on Monday to discuss how they will proceed.

Sen. Galen Hadley, the committee chairman, says members will travel to five or six different communities in Nebraska to hear public input. Members are planning to look at sales, income and property taxes, and what can be done to stimulate business and population growth.

Hadley says the committee will look at what areas of the tax structure, if any, have fallen out of sync with Nebraska's economy. The last major tax overhaul took place in the 1960s, and some lawmakers question whether it still reflects an economy that now relies more on services.

Wet Conditions Continue To Hamper Farmers

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Cool wet conditions have prevented farmers and ranchers in South Dakota from making progress planting crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its weekly crop report that producers had on average only 2.1 days suitable for fieldwork.

Winter wheat conditions were rated 34 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 11 percent good and 0 percent excellent. Eighty-four percent of cattle were reported as moved to pasture compared to 63 percent the week before.

Pasture and range conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 42 percent good and 6 percent excellent.

South Dakota

Lawmakers Seek Workforce Development Numbers

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota lawmakers said Monday they need better statistics to determine how well the state is training and recruiting workers for key industries.

Legislative Planning Committee members said they have no central source of information about workforce development. Once lawmakers know what state agencies, schools and other organizations are doing to provide workers needed for critical jobs, the Legislature can do a better job of setting labor development policies, the committee said.

Established to conduct long-term planning on key issues, the committee is putting together a document on workforce development. Committee members said a set of measurements would be comparable to dashboard instrument readings to help the Legislature steer the best course for developing talent.

"We've got to get that down to where we've got gauges in front of us," said Rep. Scott Munsterman, R-Brookings, the committee's chair.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development has targeted its development efforts in the firearms and outdoors industry, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, financial services and energy.

The committee will seek suggestions how schools' and agencies' performances should be judged in terms of recruiting and training workers, and will then set benchmarks.

Munsterman said key statistics might include schools' post-graduation placement rates and availability of workers. For example, if universities are having trouble providing needed workers because tuition is too high, the Legislature might give the schools more money so they can hold down tuition and attract more students, he said.

Kim Olson, an adviser to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said the state is operating 20 workforce development programs created last year as part of a package proposed by the governor. Those programs focus on helping schools educate students for key occupations, setting up programs to train skilled workers, increasing the number of doctors and other health care workers in rural areas and recruiting workers from other states, she said.

Olson said officials are now putting together statistics to determine whether the programs have helped narrow the gap between supply and demand for workers in key industries, and will give the committee an update at its next meeting, tentatively set for July 11.

The workforce programs were put together after looking at the need for workers in information technology, financial services, manufacturing and health care fields, as well as the need for more teachers in science, math, technology and engineering.

Committee members noted that one of Daugaard's programs, a contract with a national recruiting firm, has not worked as well as projected. The company was supposed to help fill 1,000 jobs in three years, but only 83 had been filled a year after the contract was signed.

It's since been modified to let South Dakota businesses use other recruiters and be reimbursed for part of their expenses.

South Dakota's unemployment rate is traditionally among the lowest in the nation — 4.1 percent in April. But lawmakers said many workers can be retrained so they can get higher-paying jobs.

Lost Rushmore Memorial Sign Restored On S.D. Highway

RAPID CITY (AP) — A sign honoring sculptor Gutzon Borglum and the people who built the Mount Rushmore National Memorial is back in place along a highway in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The marker that once designated a 10-mile segment of Highway 244 as the Gutzon Borglum Memorial Highway has been missing for decades after it was removed during a road construction project.

The sign was restored this past weekend at a ceremony attended by Borglum's grandson, Jim Borglum, and the only living Mount Rushmore worker, 91-year-old Nick Clifford.

Jim Borglum attended the original dedication ceremony for the sign 40 years ago, when he was 21. He said his father, Lincoln Borglum, who also worked on the memorial, had a great sense of humor and would have been amused by the saga of the missing sign.

"I just wish my father could have been here," said Borglum, who lives in the same house in Hermosa that his father occupied while working on Mount Rushmore. "He would have laughed."

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Clifford's wife, Car-

olyn, led the efforts to find the original marker and have it returned to the side of the highway. Her husband spent three years in the late 1930s working both in the sculptor's studio and on the mountain as a driller, which he called a coveted job.


"Everybody wanted to be a driller," Nick Clifford said. "It was terrible dusty and hard work, but you could make 15 to 20 cents more depending on how good you were. And that was a lot of money back then."

Nearly 3 million people a year visit Mount Rushmore, which

was completed in 1941. Nick Clifford can be found most days at the monument's gift shop, signing copies of his book about the project and answering questions about hanging from harnesses and cables.

Clifford, who began working on the monument when he was 17 years old, told a few dozen people at Saturday's rededication ceremony how much he admired Lincoln Borglum.

"I was just so thankful that he gave me a job," he said. "I think he felt sorry for me."



AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, June 4

7:40 am Yankton Library
(Becky Pittenger)

8:20 am HHS & Students
(Sheri Duke)

8:45 am Dakota Museum
(Crystal Nelson)

Wednesday, June 5

7:40 am Fordyce Centennial
(Ruth Wiebelhaus)

8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods
(Chef Staci)

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