

Regents OK Tuition Freeze For Resident Students

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Tuition for resident students at the University of Nebraska won't increase in the next school year for the first time since 1990.

The Nebraska Board of Regents approved the tuition freeze Friday for resident students at the four campuses in Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney and the medical school.

Tuition will climb by 3 percent for nonresident students.

The regents were able to freeze tuition because of a 4 percent funding increase approved by the Legislature.

Officials say the freeze will save undergraduates about \$1,000 over two years.

The board also approved a 3 percent increase for faculty and staff, which is apart from already bargained raises.

Union faculty at the Omaha and Kearney campuses will get 2 percent raises in the next two school years.

Residents Skeptical Over Proposed Reservoir

DAVENPORT, Neb. (AP) — A proposed reservoir in southeast Nebraska is running into opposition from residents.

The *Hastings Tribune* reports about 100 people packed a meeting Thursday night in Davenport, about 35 miles southeast of Hastings, to learn more about the proposed 620 acre reservoir in northwest Thayer County.

The Little Blue Natural Resources District Board of Directors authorized an evaluation of the project, originally proposed more than 30 years ago.

Much of the audience was skeptical of the project, outlined by FYRA Engineering of Omaha.

Loma Grone, who would lose land if the reservoir were built, says the project would consume valuable farmland.

Although flood control is a main purpose for the reservoir, others noted the area hasn't flooded for decades.

Board members will discuss the project at a June 25 meeting.

Aberdeen Police Investigate Stabbing

ABERDEEN (AP) — Police in Aberdeen are investigating an early morning stabbing that landed a man in the hospital, but the injuries don't appear life-threatening.

The *Aberdeen American News* reports that officers responded to an apartment on the west side of the city about 3 a.m. Friday after a woman heard the man cry for help and say that he had been stabbed in the stomach.

Police Capt. Dave McNeil says officers are attempting to find a suspect but they have limited information. McNeil says the two people know each other, but McNeil doesn't know the cause of an altercation between them.

The man was standing on the porch calling the dispatch center when officers arrived.

State Outlines Plans For Key North Platte Road

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Department of Roads is explaining plans for a "storefront to storefront" rebuilding of U.S. Highway 83 in downtown North Platte.

The *North Platte Telegraph* reports state district engineer Gary Thayer explained at a public meeting the plans to begin work in April 2015 and finish by that fall. The \$2.7 million cost of the project will be paid by local, state and federal sources.

The project will be from First to Sixth streets and will include reconstruction of the highway, curb, sidewalks and utilities.

Thayer says parts of the road structure are nearly 80 years old, and brick remains under some section.

Woman Hurt, Alleged Shooter Dead In Black Hawk

BLACK HAWK (AP) — Authorities in Meade County say a man killed himself after shooting a woman at a Black Hawk home.

KOTA television reports that Meade County sheriff's deputies were called out to a domestic dispute Thursday night and found a woman in the driveway who was shot. The injured woman told deputies that the man who shot her was inside the home and armed.

Deputies and police officers from nearby Rapid City who joined in the standoff later went into the home and found the man dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

No names have been released.

The woman has been hospitalized.

Australian Company Announces Neb. Oil Find

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — An Australian company has announced finding what it says could be several million barrels of oil in a new Nebraska Panhandle location.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reported Friday Black Star Petroleum says the oil was discovered thanks to two wells it drilled near the Wyoming border in Banner County. The company says two independent consultants estimate the wells could tap between 4.3 million and 23.3 million barrels of oil.

Last year the entire state produced a little more than 2.5 million barrels total.

The find, if it proves out, still would be minuscule compared with other oil fields. For example, the Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska's North Slope area ranks 20th in the world and contains an estimated 25 billion barrels.

Girl Reports Being Raped In Lincoln

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 16-year-old has reported being raped after she was knocked off her bicycle in Lincoln.

Police spokeswoman Katie Flood says the girl told officers she was riding her bike to a friend's house around 1 a.m. Friday when the attack occurred. The girl says she was crossing under a roadway overpass in north-central Lincoln when the man came up from behind. She says he grabbed her, threw her to the ground and raped her.

Flood says the girl told investigators the man then rode away on his own bicycle.

No arrest has been reported.

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South Dakota:

Panel Proposes Quota For Bobcat Harvest

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — Prompted by uncertainty on how many bobcats actually live in South Dakota, a state panel Friday proposed a bobcat hunting and trapping season that for the first time would limit the number of cats that could be killed in the western part of the state.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission had been scheduled to set the season this week, but delayed a decision for month after proposing a season that would be much different than wildlife officials had originally suggested.

The commission is now proposing that no more than 600 bobcats could be shot or trapped in a western South Dakota season that would run from Dec. 26 to March 1. The season would end early if that quota is reached in western South Dakota, the cats' main range in the state.

State wildlife biologists will conduct more research and may recommend a different quota when the commission meets in early July to set the bobcat season.

In eastern South Dakota, each hunter or trapper would be limited to one bobcat in a season running from Dec. 26 to Jan. 19. The one-cat-per-person limit is the same as last

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JOHN COOPER

year, the first year in which bobcats could be shot or trapped in eastern South Dakota. The season east of the Missouri River would be held only in Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme and Yankton counties.

State wildlife biologist Keith Fisk said a quota of 600 bobcats in western South Dakota would be slightly lower than the average of 626 cats taken per year in the past dozen years. Wildlife managers are in the first year of a three-year study aimed at determining the bobcat population in the state, he said.

Commissioner member John Cooper of Pierre said bobcat pelts have risen in price in recent years, reaching \$1,000 for a prime pelt last winter. High prices draw more hunters and trappers, he said.

“The bobcat is a neat critter, but when you start introducing the high price into it and you’re not careful, you can get high harvest figures pretty quickly,” Cooper said.

Fisk said hunters and trappers in western

South Dakota took slightly more females than males in recent years, an indication that a lot of pressure is being put on the population. He said 3 percent of the hunters and trappers take 30 percent of the bobcats.

Some hunters and trappers urged the commission to make no change in the season. Others recommended adjustments in the season dates, a limit per person or an overall quota.

Commission member Gary Jensen Gary Jensen of Rapid City suggested a limit on the number of cats that each person could kill. The commission never approved that suggestion, but it prompted the panel to make a new proposal and delay a final decision so hunters and trappers have additional time to comment.

Jensen said Friday he was pleased with the proposal to set an overall quota of 600.

“I just thought we should be conservative until we know more about how many bobcats we have,” Jensen said.

Neb. Woman On Trial Denies Child Abuse

GERING, Neb. (AP) — A Scottsbluff woman accused of child abuse testified on Friday that she and her husband are innocent and have been robbed of their family.

“Everything was taken away due to false allegations,” said Jennifer Herrera about what happened to her and her husband, Carlos.

The couple is charged with child abuse resulting in serious injury. Their trial began Monday and closing arguments were expected later Friday.

Defense attorneys said child services officials forced the couple's children, including a daughter, to believe abuse was taking place.

“She looked like a zombie,” Jennifer Herrera said of her daughter's

testimony. “... That is not my baby. She was forced to say those things.”

Relatives testified Thursday that they'd never seen any abuse in the Herreras' home. Carlos Herrera's father, Ernie Herrera, and two sisters, Liza Arambaru and Monica Dominguez, said they saw the normal scratches, bumps and bruises one would find on any child.

Dominguez described her brother as “a good dad and a good husband.”

“He does what he can for his family,” Dominguez said, adding that both Herreras are “very loving parents and try their best for their children.”

Prosecutors have said police

and child services officials began investigating the Herreras in October 2011, when the 5-year-old boy missed school after showing up with injuries.

The Herreras tried to conceal the boy's whereabouts when officers went to check on the child, police said. He had the imprint of a shoe or flip-flop across his face, a black eye, bruising to the center of his forehead and a severe rash when found, officers said. The boy was removed from the Herreras' home and placed in state custody.

Prosecutors also said the boy suffered extreme neglect and malnutrition, citing his lack of growth among other signs.

Scotts Bluff County District Court Judge Leo denied a defense

motion on Thursday for the judge to decide the case instead of the jury.

Defense lawyers had cited testimony from Dr. Suzanne Haney, who said the boy's growth had begun to plateau after being returned to his parents after living in Kansas. The defense said that any injury to the child — his lack of growth and the beginning stages of what's been diagnosed as psychosocial dwarfism — would have begun in Kansas and thus beyond Nebraska's jurisdiction.

Jennifer Herrera, on the stand Friday, said she did not know the cause of her son's injuries.

“I am not a child abuser,” she said.

SD State Lawmaker Objects To Hog Barn Permits

BIG STONE CITY (AP) — A South Dakota lawmaker, who lives a mile from the site of a planned hog barn in Grant County, has questioned the state's permitting process.

Rep. Kathy Tyler, D-Big Stone City, asked Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard for a study of the regulations and complaint process of the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The department approved a water pollution control permit in April for the proposed 6,500-sow hog facility. Tyler contends the agency's process is outdated and

too focused on the interests of business, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported.

“The process is broken,” Tyler said in a letter to the governor late last month. “The S.D. DENR bends over backwards to get agriculture facilities in our state.”

The governor's office responded with a letter of its own this week, defending the department's permitting process and saying a study of the agency was not needed.

Tyler contends among other issues that permit applications to the county and state by Teton Fam-

ily Farms LLC contained inaccurate information about contracts with area landowners for the disposal of animal waste on fields.

“The DENR let Teton get away with filing a fraudulent application,” Tyler said. Applications containing false information should be rejected outright, she said.

Kent Woodmansey, who oversees permits for large animal feeding operations for the department, said it is common for mistakes to be made in permit applications and that applications are not approved until problems are corrected.

“During our review process (of the proposed Grant County facility) we identified contracts that had incorrect information,” Woodmansey said. “That's why we review the information with the county.”

The proposed hog facility has faced opposition from Tyler and others concerned about possible pollution. A group called Grant County Concerned Citizens and Tyler's husband, Timothy Tyler, have appealed to state court the county's approval of the hog barn proposal in January. A hearing is scheduled June 25.

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