

New Private School Offers Free Tuition

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new private school in Omaha that won't charge families a dime for their children's education is wrapping up renovation work in preparation for students' first day of school in August.

The Lozier Foundation announced plans a year ago to convert a former church and school into a private school with free tuition, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported. Nelson Mandela Elementary will begin with kindergarten and first grade students and will add a grade each year until it reaches fifth grade.

Mandela was chosen as the school's name in a tribute to the late South African President Nelson Mandela's advocacy for education and because he modeled resilience. The school's pledge uses one of his quotations, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

To focus on the school's values, the pledge adds: "I will change the world with my hope, strength, service, unity, peace and wisdom."

Around 93 percent of students admitted into the school come from families that qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and about 85 percent came from single-parent homes, said Susan Toohey, the foundation's director of educational initiatives.

5 Arrested For Pot Part Of Gathering

RAPID CITY (AP) — Several people in Rapid City who are in the state for a proposed counterculture gathering are facing drug-related charges.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports police found two ounces of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and marijuana wax in a car with five people in it on Wednesday. All five are from outside South Dakota and some told officers they were in town for the Rainbow Family gathering.

Police pulled over the car after they received a report of "aggressive panhandling" earlier in the day.

People associated with the Rainbow Family of Living Light came to the Black Hills recently to decide whether to host their annual counterculture gathering in South Dakota in July.

The five people arrested are facing several charges that include felony marijuana possession and possession of drug paraphernalia.

SD Supreme Court Upholds Sentence

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has upheld a more than 42-year prison sentence for a woman who ran over a Highway Patrol Trooper in Sioux Falls while driving drunk.

Twenty-six-year-old Rachel Coleman had argued that her sentence of 42 1/2 years for running over Trooper Andrew Steen violated her constitutional rights because it was "grossly disproportionate" to her crime.

The high court unanimously upheld her sentence.

Coleman ran over Steen in the early morning of Oct. 17, 2012, after he attempted to pull her over. She pleaded guilty in January of 2014 to aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer and felony driving under the influence fourth.

The *Argus Leader* reports Coleman will have to serve between 28 and 30 years in prison before she's eligible for parole.

Economy Improves In Parts Of States

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy has improved slightly in rural parts of 10 Western and Plains states, but a new survey suggests little growth ahead.

The overall Rural Mainstreet index improved to the neutral score of 50 in June from last month's 49.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the strong dollar is continuing to hurt crop prices and exports, so farm income is down in the region.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

The survey indexes range from 0 to 100. Any score below 50 suggests decline in that factor in the months ahead.

The weak crop prices and current bird flu outbreak have bankers worried. The confidence index registered 45.9 in June, up from 41.5 in May, but still negative.

Review On Rail Authorities Reveals Inconsistencies

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A special review found room for improvement at many of the 13 regional railroad authorities across South Dakota that have loans or leases for state-owned lines.

Five staff members for the state Department of Legislative Audit conducted the reviews at the request of the state Railroad Board.

The regional authorities have property-tax powers in case debts incurred on projects can't be repaid.

State laws allowing creation of the authorities date to 1978 when the Milwaukee Road was in financial trouble and the Legislature authorized purchasing its lines throughout South Dakota.

The special review is believed to be the first time the authorities' practices

have been checked.

The state board received the preliminary summary Wednesday and will hold a special meeting June 25 to prepare the board's formal response to be added to the final report.

The final report will be publicly released when complete, according to Russ Olson, the local audits manager for Legislative Audit.

Olson said the special review looked at the practices for the 2011 through 2014 calendar years.

The review focused on practices by the regional authorities but didn't inspect the accuracy of financial documents, he said.

Among the general findings:

Eight of the 13 authorities hadn't followed state requirements for appointing current members;

One authority didn't use an account-

ant, and another authority used the county auditor office rather than an accountant;

The state Department of Transportation should verify financial records and revenue data for the authorities, such as seeing copies of payments made to lenders by track users for projects;

Two authorities improperly paid stipends to board members in violation of state law;

One authority made a single 10-year payment for legal services because money was tight;

One authority lacked a written contract for a paid consultant; and

Annual reports weren't in consistent formats.

"We need time to digest it," board chairman Todd Yeaton of Kimball said. "It's very interesting."

Authorities Arrest Woman Accused Of Lottery Scam

BY DAVE KOLPACK  
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — Federal authorities have arrested a woman they say helped the man convicted last month in North Dakota of running a Jamaica-based scam that bilked mostly elderly people around the country out of millions.

Melinda Bulgin was apprehended Tuesday in Rhode Island, and charged with mail fraud, wire fraud, money laundering and telemarketing fraud, court documents filed Thursday show. An initial court date has not been scheduled, but she has been ordered to appear in Bismarck no later than June 30.

Authorities say Bulgin, of Providence, handled money on behalf of Lavrick

Willocks and Sanjay Williams, described as the leaders of two separate scamming operations based in Jamaica. Williams was convicted by a North Dakota jury after a 10-day trial and faces up to 40 years in prison. Willocks has been charged but not extradited to the United States.

Federal prosecutors did not respond to a request for comment. Bulgin's court-appointed attorney, Mark Meyer, of Wahpeton, said he has talked to his client but had no further comment.

Jamaican lottery scams have been happening for years, but few cases of this magnitude have been prosecuted. The case began when an FBI agent from North Dakota interviewed a Harvey woman who said she lost close to \$300,000 in the scam. The investigation

led authorities to a married couple from South Dakota who had been scammed.

An FBI affidavit shows that an elderly person in Wisconsin was instructed to send cashier's checks for nearly \$34,000 to Bulgin, including two checks payable to Bulgin and one check payable to Bulgin's mother. A person from Arizona allegedly wired Bulgin \$25,000 after scammers said the money was needed to cover federal taxes for a \$5 million prize.

Williams is one of more than 30 people charged in the case and the only one thus far to go to trial. Another defendant, Andrew Myrie, is scheduled for trial July 13 on charges of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and wire fraud. Myrie has pleaded not guilty.

NE College Board Approves 9 Percent Tuition Hike

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Undergraduates at Nebraska's three state colleges will pay 9 percent more for tuition this coming school year under a proposal approved Thursday by the system's trustee board.

The Nebraska State College System board voted 4-1 in favor of the increase at its meeting in Wayne, with two members absent.

Resident undergraduates will pay \$153 per credit hour for the 2015-16 school year at Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State colleges. Online-only tuition will rise to \$246 per credit hour from \$225 per hour.

The system froze undergraduate tuition at \$140 per credit hour for each of the past two years as part of an agreement reached by Nebraska's public colleges and universities and then-Gov. Dave Heineman.

A spokeswoman for the system said the increase will help cover business costs such as insurance, salaries and utilities, as well as the expense of adding more faculty positions.

"It was a very considered, difficult decision," said Korinne Tande, the vice chancellor for student affairs, marketing, enrollment and public information.

Tande said an undergraduate paying in-state tuition and taking a typical 15-hour course load would pay about \$900 more per year. Even with the increase, she said the colleges are still the most affordable four-year option in the state.

Wayne State College junior Matt Mullins, who serves on the trustee board, said the increase was necessary to compensate for a smaller-than-expected increase in state funding.

Nebraska lawmakers approved a 3 percent annual increase for the University of Nebraska and state colleges in the two-year budget which passed in

May. Mullins said the state aid increase wasn't enough to cover the colleges' core expenses.

Last week, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved a 1.75 percent tuition increase for the upcoming school year and a 2.5 percent increase the following year.

Mullins said the state colleges have worked to control their expenses, but also need to preserve their quality.

"A tuition increase is never easy — not for students, not for the board," said Mullins, 20.

The news raised concern among some students. Wayne State College sophomore Veronica Zavadil, 18, said the increase would likely force her to borrow more through student loans.

"It's a huge concern," said Zavadil, a criminal justice major. "A lot of people can't afford tuition as it is."

OBITUARIES

Laverna Folkers

Laverna E. Folkers, age 92 of Hartington, Nebraska died on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with the Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be at St. Andrews Cemetery in Bloomfield, Nebraska. Visitation will be on Monday from 5-8 p.m. with a Vigil service at 7:30 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will continue on Tuesday at church one hour prior to services.

Pallbearers will be grandsons Matthew Folkers, Michael Folkers, Gerard Kast, Karl Kast, Leland Folkers, and Lonnie Folkers. Honorary pallbearers will be grandchildren Lisa List, Amy Gustad, Julie Kleinschmit, Janie Folkers, Paul Folkers, Jenny Folkers, Joe Folkers, Angie Johnson, Mark Folkers and Nick Folkers.

Laverna E. Folkers was born on October 25, 1922 in Cornelia, NE to Othmar and Lena (Brandt) Gilsdorf. She moved to Bloomfield when she was five years old and attended St. Andrews Catholic School. Laverna lived on



Folkers

the farm and worked for numerous area families. She married Carl Donald Folkers on April 27, 1943 in Bloomfield, NE. She and Carl moved to a farm north of Randolph where they lived for 40 years. They built a home in Hartington in 1982. Carl died on February 2, 2002 at the age of 87 years. Laverna moved to the Golden Living Center on October 12, 2014 and then to the assisted living on 12/3/2014. She then transitioned into the Alzheimer's unit there on March 25th of 2014.

Laverna was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, the Church Guild, and Christian Mothers. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Laverna enjoyed playing Bridge with her Hartington friends and she did a lot of Rug Looming (weaving).

She is survived by her four children and their spouses Diane and Ron Kast of Fordyce, David and Rosie Folkers of Hartington, Dennis and Dayna Folkers of Randolph, LaVonne Folkers and

husband Leonard Fuxa Jr. of Omaha; 16 grandchildren; 52 great grandchildren; six siblings and spouses Marjorie Kronberg of Bloomfield, Earl and Kathleen Gilsdorf of Bellevue, Donald and Alice June Gilsdorf of Bloomfield, Melvin and Barbara Gilsdorf of Bellevue, Clifford and Holly Gilsdorf of Gayville, SD, Elva Mae and Marvin De La Roi of Bloomfield; sisters-in-law Lena Gilsdorf of Bloomfield, Marian Gilsdorf of Norfolk; many nieces and nephews.

Laverna was preceded in death by her parents, husband Carl; granddaughter Geralyn Kast; three brothers, infant Irvin, John and Orville Gilsdorf; sister Darlene and husband Richard Bartetic; brother-in-law Charles Kronberg.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
June 19, 2015



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Company Planning Ethanol Factory Buys Land

ONIDA (AP) — A company planning an ethanol plant in Sully County has purchased land in the wake of a public vote that affirmed a zoning change approved by county commissioners.

Ring Neck Energy and Feed CEO Walt Wendland tells KCCR radio that the company bought the land from Oahe Grain of Onida, and plans to begin an equity drive next month.

About 79 percent of the 672 people who voted in Tuesday's election approved the County Commission's decision to re-zone the parcel of land to pave the way for the plant that will employ about 40 people.

Final county approval of the project is pending.



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**YOU'RE INVITED**

**Jazz Service**  
*Performed by JAS JAZZ (Of Sioux Falls)*

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am**  
**United Church of Christ- Congregational**  
**5<sup>th</sup> and Walnut**

The group members, Joel Shotwell on Sax, Jim Speirs on Trumpet, Jeremy Hegg on Piano, Andrew Rienartz on Bass and Mike Benton on Drums will be providing the uplifting music for our regular 10:00 am service.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

9:45 **Jazz Prelude**  
10:00 **Service**  
11:00 **Coffee and refreshments in Pilgrim Hall**

Rev. Molly Carlson is the Pastor  
"Where ever you are in Life's Journey, you are welcome here!"

Knox

From Page 1A

Two facilities in Yankton and Hutchinson counties saw more than 100,000 turkeys destroyed last month.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the virus has affected more than 48 million birds nationally — mostly turkeys and egg-laying chickens.

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board estimates that a total of 1.7 million birds had been affected in this state as of the second week of June.



**Father's Day Dinner**  
*Roast Beef Dinner with all the trimmings. Dessert included*  
**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**  
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**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Jerry "J.B." Byrkeland**  
10:30 AM, Friday  
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**Larry L. Lindemann**  
10:30 AM, Saturday  
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