

S.D. Bill On Anti-Bullying Awaits House Vote

PIERRE (AP) — Lawmakers in South Dakota want all of the state's school districts to adopt a bullying policy. The 12 districts in the state lacking one will have until July 2012 to do so if a bill that has passed the Senate turns into law. The Senate voted 27-5 for a version that equally represents all student victims of bullying and provides a sample policy based on that of the Sioux Falls School District. The adopting districts could modify the wording or come up with its own version, while the 148 districts that already have policies don't have to change anything. The state bill includes "repeated" in its description of harassing conduct. If the House passes the measure Friday, it would need Gov. Dennis Daugaard's approval to become law.

VP Of S.D. Tribe Arrested, Jailed

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The vice president of an American Indian tribe suing some of the world's largest beer makers was arrested and jailed for what police say was an alcohol-related incident. But Thomas Poor Bear of the Oglala Sioux Tribe says Thursday the arrest was racially motivated and unrelated to alcohol, and he expects the charges to be dropped at a preliminary hearing this month. Poor Bear was arrested on the Pine Ridge Reservation on Feb. 19 for obstructing government function while receiving treatment at a hospital. A police officer notes in an arrest report that Poor Bear had "the odor of intoxicants on his breath" and had a blood-alcohol content of .306. The Oglala Sioux Tribe has sued several beer makers, saying they are knowingly contributing to rampant alcoholism on the reservation.

S.D. House Kills Bill Defining Domestic Abuse

PIERRE (AP) — A measure that some worried would discriminate against same-sex couples by revising South Dakota's definition of domestic abuse has been killed by the Legislature. The bill had specified that couples involved in domestic abuse had to be of opposite sex, but lawmakers reworded it Thursday before the final vote to include gays and lesbians. The measure's initial definition of domestic abuse also included violence between family members or people dating and living together, while excluding college roommates who have a fight in their shared living space. Supporters say the definition was meant to ensure the state still got federal funding by spelling out who is protected under state law. But opponents say they never had information on the funding at stake and that the bill's original intent got lost.

S.D. Legislature OKs School Assessment Bill

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature has approved a bill that allows the Department of Education to set a school accountability method that would replace the expectations set by No Child Left Behind. Senators unanimously passed on Thursday the House's version of the bill on Thursday. The bill would measure public school achievement using multiple indicators including student growth and college and career readiness. The federal No Child Left Behind, on the other hand, judges schools based on 100 percent math and reading proficiencies by 2014. The final version lacks a financial accountability section that would have required a group of business leaders and educators to examine how South Dakota schools spend their dollars. Next the bill goes to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's desk for his signature.

Lawmakers Pass Neb. Childhood Sex Abuse Bill

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers have passed a bill that would give childhood sex abuse victims more time to sue their assailants. The measure by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch won final approval Thursday in the Legislature. The bill (LB612) would give childhood sex abuse victims 12 years after their 21st birthday to file a lawsuit against the perpetrator. Current law sets a 4-year time window to file, starting when a victim turns 21. Pirsch has said many childhood sex victims take years to come to terms with the abuse they suffered, and lose the right to sue because the time limit expires. The bill allows victims to file a lawsuit even if their assailant never faced criminal charges.

South Dakota

Lawmakers Work To Finish State Budget

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Legislature's budget-writing panel rejected nearly two dozen proposals to boost spending Thursday as the committee began putting the finishing touches on the \$4 billion state budget. The Joint Appropriations Committee started considering amendments to next year's state budget late Thursday, and the committee plans to finish work on the spending bill early Friday. The budget then will be submitted to the House and Senate for approval later Friday, bringing an end to the main run of this year's legislative session. Senate Appropriations Chairman Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, said there's only about \$5 million available to add to the budget for the year beginning July 1, but he doesn't know whether lawmakers will support any proposals to increase spending. "You never know," Brown said. Individual lawmakers had proposed 39 changes to the budget bill, with many seeking to increase spending on schools and medical

services for low-income people in the Medicaid program. With two dozen rejected Thursday, only 15 remained to be discussed. The \$4 billion budget will spend about \$1.2 billion in state general funds, \$1.75 billion in federal funds and \$1 billion in other funds in the year beginning July 1. When the committee discussed a plan to increase reimbursement to some nonprofit agencies that care for people with disabilities or mental health problems, supporters noted that those organizations have high turnover rates because employees are paid modest wages and have not had a raise in several years. But Jason Dilges, Gov. Dennis Daugaard's budget director, noted that the governor's proposed budget would increase ongoing state payments to Medicaid providers and bills passed in recent days will give one-time money to those organizations this year and next year. The Legislature should avoid increasing ongoing spending any further because of an uncertain economic future, he said. "I think we need to be careful," Dilges said. Rep. Susan Wismer, D-Britton, said state spending could be increased if the Legislature

is willing to use \$20 million that has been put in a reserve fund for possible use on the Medicaid program. That money is needed by nursing homes, schools and others now, she said. "I think we're looking under every rock for a place to hide money," Wismer said. But Sen. Deb Peters, R-Hartford, said the state could face steep increases in Medicaid spending in the next few years, so the money needs to be held in reserve. Many of the proposed spending increases were withdrawn by their sponsors Thursday before the committee even discussed them. Rep. Paul Dennert, D-Columbia, said he decided not to pursue an additional one-time bonus to schools because other bills passed this week have given extra money to school districts. One of the more intriguing proposals came from Rep. David Sigdestad, D-Pierpont, who suggested giving \$83,000 to Northern State University so the school in Aberdeen could begin teaching Mandarin Chinese. Other committee members agreed with Sigdestad that knowledge of the language would help business school graduates but said the university should pursue the idea in its budget proposal next year.

S.D. Legislature Approves Tax Breaks For Wind Farms

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A measure that would refund about half the construction taxes for large wind energy projects and an environmental upgrade at Big Stone Power Plant now awaits the signature of South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard. The House voted 52-16 to accept the Senate's version of the bill, which would provide tax refunds beginning in January 2013 for wind energy projects or environmental upgrades at power plants costing more than \$50 million. Supporters said it would usher along a couple of wind energy projects and would help Big Stone Power Plant make environmental upgrades required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The bill would not interfere with a public vote in November on a more general economic incentive plan that the Democratic Party referred to the ballot. That law would use a different method of refunding construction taxes to a wider range of projects. Rep. Roger Solum, R-Water-town, said South Dakota's sales taxes and contractor's excise taxes during construction are far higher than those in surrounding states. Until the state's tax bill is lowered, he said, companies may build large wind energy projects elsewhere.

"These things are taken into consideration when they start making a decision to build a wind farm," Solum said. Rep. Steve Street, D-Reville, said the state needs to assist the Big Stone Power Plant with the \$500 million of environmental upgrades to its coal-fired plant on the South Dakota-Minnesota border. Construction taxes would be passed on to the plant's electricity customers, so a tax break will help many families in the state, he said. But House Democratic Leader Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton said the tax refunds for the Big Stone project could amount to \$10 million or more, which means the state will have less money to spend on schools and other priorities. Hunhoff said he has no problem with the part of the bill giving tax breaks to wind farm projects, but the Legislature should wait until next year to deal with the issue. The bill approved by the House on Thursday would take effect next year regardless of the outcome of November's vote on the referred law. Daugaard and others have said the ballot measure for the new business grant program has created uncertainty about state incentives that could hurt South Dakota's efforts to attract new companies and help existing ones expand.

S.D. Mountain Lion Season Closes With 70th Cat Kill

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — South Dakota's mountain lion hunting season has come to a close about a month early with the killing of a 70th cat, the state Game, Fish and Parks Department said Thursday. The 7-year-old, 86-pound lion killed about 3 miles south of Hayward on Thursday was the 44th female killed this year, said State Wildlife Director Tony Leif. The season began Jan. 1 and was scheduled to end March 31, or when 50 females or 70 total lions were killed. Wildlife commissioners let hunters shoot more cougars in 2012 to help increase the Black Hills populations of elk and deer. Leif said the goal is to find a balance between the populations of mountain lions and their primary prey, deer and elk. He said it's too early to tell if the quota increase helped meet that management objective. Custer veterinarian Sharon Seneczko, president of the Black Hills Mountain Lion Foundation, said the quota should not have been raised by 15 cougars for 2012 because the mountain lion population was already in decline and it takes years to understand the effect

of a change. "We need to quit increasing the season every single year," Seneczko said. "We need to give it a chance, two or three years, to see what's really going on here. But there's this knee-jerk reaction and this fear and intolerance of predators." South Dakota has had a residents-only mountain lion season since 2005. The season covers the entire state, but nearly all hunting is done in the Black Hills area. The 2011 season had a quota of 45 total lions or 30 females, and a separate limited season in Custer State Park allowed up to five lions to be killed there. This year's season eliminated the Custer State Park quota and added lions shot there to the overall total. The 2012 season got off to a quick start, with seven cats taken in the first two days. The biggest lion killed was a 164-pound male shot in Lawrence County on Feb. 22. The season has also drawn more hunter interest, Leif said. More than 3,400 outdoor enthusiasts purchased licenses this year compared to just over 2,300 last year. He said the increased harvest limits, which provided more opportunity, and a milder, drier winter in the Hills likely piqued their interest.

OBITUARIES

Romaine Becker

WYNOT, Neb. — Romaine C. Becker, age 83 of Wynot, Nebraska died on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church in Wynot, Nebraska with the Rev. Eric Olsen and Rev. Timothy Lange officiating. Burial will be at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Wynot. Visitation will be on Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with



Becker

a Vigil Service at 7:00 pm at the church. Visitation will continue on Saturday at church one hour prior to services. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington, NE. Pallbearers will be John Dickes, Jeremy Dickes, Jacob Dickes, Mason Buschelman, Sam Schrant and Grayson Becker. Honorary Pallbearers will be the Wynot American Legion Auxil-

lary Post 31. Romaine C. Becker was born on August 24, 1928 in Crofton, Nebraska to Louis H. and Rose B. (Meirose) Lange. She grew up in Coleridge and graduated from Coleridge High School in 1946. Romaine married Joseph A. Becker on August 20, 1951 in Bow Valley, Nebraska. She and Joe farmed in the Bow Valley area from 1951 to 1968. They later owned and operated the Wynot Cash Store from 1971-1982. Romaine and Joe moved to Wynot in 1976 and remained there until moving to the Norfolk Veterans Home in Norfolk in

January of 2011. Romaine was a member of Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church in Wynot and the Council of Catholic Women. She had sent cards for the sick from the council for three years. Romaine was a life-member of the Hartington VFW Auxillary Post 5283 and the Wynot American Legion Auxillary Post 31. She held various offices (past president, secretary, and membership chairman) for the Wynot Auxillary over the years. She was a member of the Women of the Moose Lodge in Yankton, SD, the Christian Mothers and was

also a kidney donor. Romaine is survived by her husband, Joseph A. Becker of Norfolk, NE; five children and spouses Michael and Barbara Becker of Apache Junction, Arizona; Mona and Mark Buschelman of Fordyce, NE; Toni and Kurt Schrant of Wayne, NE; Stephanie and Jeffrey Dickes of Bow Valley, NE; and Joseph P. and Cheryl Becker of Aurora, Colorado; 17 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, 2 sisters, Delores Zulian of Tulsa, OK and Delrae Tate of San Antonio, TX. She was preceded in death by her parents, a grandson Aaron

Dickes on 1/12/2001 at the age of 15, 2 brothers, Albin and Jerry Lange and a sister Ethel Guenther. Yankton Press & Dakotan March 2, 2012

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Hartington * Coleridge * Crofton
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Judson B. Reaney, MD

Judson B. Reaney, MD, Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrician from St Paul, MN died peacefully of pancreatic cancer at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital on February 24, 2012. Jud was born in Yankton, SD to Dr. Duane and Kathryn Reaney, of Yankton and Mesa, AZ on April 29, 1949. The Reaney family shared a rich family life and spent many holidays and vacations together. Jud was dearly loved by family and friends, and a person of sensitivity and deep love for others. He was respected and loved by the children and their parents who he cared for in his pediatric practice and held in high esteem by his peers and colleagues. Jud was a talented singer, actor, artist, writer and speaker. Jud graduated from Yankton High School in 1967. After graduating from Northwestern University, Jud attended the University of South Dakota Medical School in Vermillion where he met his wife, Sue. They were married and spent the next two years in San Francisco where Jud graduated from the University of California at San Francisco and was a member of the medical honor society, Alpha Omicron Alpha. He returned to the Midwest and did a



Reaney

fellowship at Minneapolis Children's Medical Center in Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics. Jud and Sue moved to their native South Dakota where daughter Kat was born. He was employed at Sioux San Hospital in Rapid City and remained very devoted and involved with the Native American population throughout his lifetime, most recently completing twenty-five years consulting at Pierre Indian Learning Center. Upon moving back to Minneapolis, Jud became a behavioral and developmental pediatrician at the Learning and Behavior Problems Clinic at Minneapolis Children's Medical Center. He later became the Medical Director of the program. He served in similar roles at the Alexander Center at Park Nicollet Medical Center. In 1989, Jud and several of his colleagues, concerned about the current state of interviewing and

examining children who had been sexually and physically abused, established Cornerhouse. It became a groundbreaking organization, improving how child abuse is investigated around the world. In 2005, Jud was awarded a Bush Fellowship in the area of physician renewal. As part of the fellowship, he trained with Rachel Naomi Remen to develop groups for medical students, known as "Finding Meaning in Medicine" and trained with author Parker Palmer, founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal. He helped establish the practice of Schwarz Rounds at Methodist Hospital, a method that deals with the emotional aspects of medicine as well as the physical. He and his wife, Sue, completed studies at the Spiritual Guidance and Leadership Program at Womenswell in St. Paul. Jud also spent a semester in Boston studying world religions. The two years of doing his

Bush Fellowship crystallized his desire to work with other physicians in renewal work. Jud is survived by his wife, Susan (Gillis) Reaney of St. Paul and daughter, Kathryn (Kat) Reaney also of St. Paul; parents, Duane and Kathryn Reaney; sisters, Joan (Reaney) Loecker and Jan (Reaney) Merriman, both of Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is also survived by brother-in-laws, Bruce Merriman and Rick, John, Floyd and Mike Gillis. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 3rd at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In lieu of flowers and as a way to honor and remember Jud for his passion for professional renewal, please send contributions to the Center for Professional Renewal, Park Nicollet Foundation, 6500 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Yankton Press & Dakotan March 2, 2012

Virgil Pederson
Virgil M. Pederson, 84, of Yankton died early Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at the Wakonda Heritage Manor/Avera Health, Wakonda. Memorial services are at 11 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev.

Dave Lund officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be at a later date. Visitations begin at 4 p.m. Sunday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

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