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Cournoyer acknowledged the Shakopee contributions during the past decade.

'The Yankton Sioux Tribe appreciates the numerous donations that (the Shakopee) have given us," he said. "Your generosity and open-heartedness has made much-needed projects become a reality for our tribal members. On behalf of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, I give you a sincere 'thank you' for the kindness and generosity you have displayed.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Missouri River Area, which received the \$250,000 grant, has branches in the towns of Wagner and Marty. The clubs are part of a nationwide affiliation of local, independent organizations helping youth of all backgrounds. The clubs hold a special concern for disadvantaged youths.

The clubs provide Indian youth with athletic programs, ca-

Budget

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spends \$1.75 billion in federal funds and \$1 billion in other funds.

Jason Dilges, budget director for Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said the state cut aid to school districts by \$47 million last year as it tried to close a \$127 million budget gap. Bills approved this year will give the schools back about \$43.7 million, counting state aid, an increase in local property taxes and funding for teachers' training, he said.

The budget includes the governor's plan to give school districts a 2.3 percent ongoing increase in state aid to account for inflation. A separate spending bill suggested by Daugaard gave schools another \$4 million in one-time state aid and set aside \$8.4 million for training teachers to use a new curriculum. The Legislature on its own also ap-

reer and health counseling, educational support and after-school activities.

The Shakopee grant will ensure a safe place for children to learn and grown, according to Patrick Breen, the Missouri River Area club's interim executive director.

The contribution will have a positive impact on hundreds of children in the communities of Wagner and Marty," he said.

Jodi Zephier, director of the Ihanktonwan Unit, said the club faced closure because of a lack of funding. The Shakopee grant will keep the club going, she said.

With the help of the SMSC, our clubs will continue to provide a safe and positive place for the youth in both Wagner and Marty, she said.

Zephier and tribal leaders, in-cluding Jason Cooke, Brenda Zephier and Gail Hubbeling, presented a star quilt to SMSC chairman Stanley R. Crooks for his tribe's generosity over the years. The star quilt represents one of the highest honors a Dakota person can bestow on another.

At Fort Randall Casino, the Shakopee grant will cover the purchases of about 20 new Class III slot machines in the last year, said interim co-manager Pam Aungie.

The new slot machines are part of a promotion with a car and cash as prizes, Aungie said. At the present time, the promotion offers a jackpot starting at \$18,000.

The new machines replaced old ones, keeping the casino within the limit of 250 Class III machines under the compact between the state and tribe, she said.

Tribal and casino officials have expressed interest in raising the limit to 500 slot machines when the compact comes up for renegotiation. The state has approved 500 machines for Royal River Casino at Flandreau.

Aungie emphasized the \$380,000 for the new slot machines is separate from the funding request to the Shakopee Tribe for the second phase of the casino's major construction project. "We are still waiting to hear in

May whether we get the Shakopee

Legislature also passed a separate bill giving state employees a one-

time bonus this year equal to 5

percent of their annual salaries,

with the state for at least three

and no more than \$7,500.

years getting no less than \$2,300

with all employees who have been

The dispute among Republican

House and Senate leaders started

Friday with a disagreement on a

bill that would have spent \$1 mil-

lion to start a scholarship program

for students at South Dakota's four

technical institutes. The House

killed the bill, which was favored

by the Senate, but the dispute on

the scholarship measure held up

The Appropriations Committee later added \$500,000 to the techni-

cal schools' budgets without say-

consideration of the budget for

several hours.

grant or loan for building the new addition," she said.

The \$26 million project would include a new hotel and convention center and an expanded and remodeled restaurant and lounge.

The seven-story hotel and convention center would include a swimming pool, meeting rooms, a theater and a place for VIP parties, Aungie said.

"We figure it would take about a year (to complete construction) from the time that we get the money," she said.

Last year, the casino completed its \$13 million expanded gaming area.

The project is part of the tribe's effort to make the casino and hotel a tourist destination with family activities, Aungie said. The casino would market the nearby Missouri River along with fishing, hunting, golfing and historical and cultural sites.

Aungie and Ward Zephier are working as an interim management team. The casino set a March 1 closing date for manager applications, she said.

more than \$400,000 to establish two new drunken driving courts and expand drug court programs, both of which are intended to keep people out of prison while rehabilitating them.

Another \$450,000 was added to the budget to permit the Agricultural Experiment Station at South Dakota State University to conduct research for making fuel from sunflowers, other oil seeds and some specialty crops. Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, said the U.S. Navy plans to use the fuel in its airplanes and ships in a few years.

Using a rule that lets the House and Senate members of the panel vote separately, the House members killed a Senate proposal to add doctoral programs in physics at two state universities. Support-ers said South Dakota needs to produce its own physicists with doctoral degrees to work in the national underground laboratory in the former Homestake Gold Mine in the Black Hills.

Ohio Emerging As Microcosm Of GOP Race

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND PHILIP ELLIOTT Associated Press

WILLOUGHBY, Ohio — This state's Super Tuesday primary is proving to be the perfect microcosm of the nation's unruly race for the Republican presidential nomination: Mitt Romney is spending lots of money, **Rick Santorum is aggressively** courting conservatives and Newt Gingrich is counting on big ideas to swing votes his way.

Of the 10 states weighing in on Tuesday, Ohio offers the hottest contest. And with its diverse population, reputation as a presidential battleground and preoccupation with the same economic worries that nag the nation at large, Ohio seems destined to foreshadow the shape of the campaign as it heads toward November.

Despite the vast territory in play across the country, from Alaska and Idaho to Vermont, Virginia and Georgia, Romney will sleep in Ohio every night until Tuesday. It's that important to him.

Even so, the race was playing out in similar fashion in the other states with contests Tuesday. The former Massachusetts governor and his allies were flooding the airwaves, outpacing his rivals in every Super Tues-

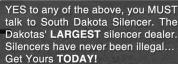
day state except in North Dakota, where Santorum was alone on the air but spending less than \$8,000. Romney campaigned in Washington on Friday, the day before the state's caucuses, as he closed a Western swing.

Romney has much of Ohio's Republican establishment behind him after years of courting the party's county chairmen and donors.

"When a party chairman gets a call early on from someone perceived as the front-runner and they ask you to sign on as a county chairman, it's easy to say yes and it's hard to say no," said Mark Munroe, the Mahoning County GOP chief who is leading Romney's efforts in the northeastern Óhio county. "We've seen the Romney campaign in action since late last year. He was able to start early and that makes such a huge difference."

Romney's camp insists he does not need to win Ohio to get the presidential nomination or even to keep alive the expectation that he eventually will. Losing here, however, would drive persistent doubts about the strength of Romney's candidacy after a closer-than-expected race in Michigan and a string of comments that have drawn attention to his personal wealth.





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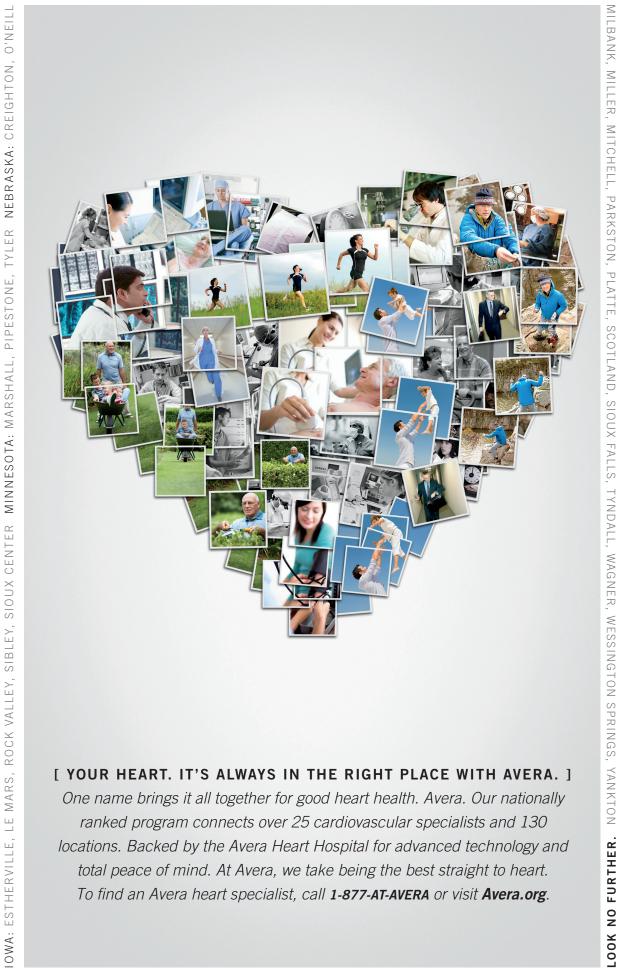
employees. The budget also includes Daugaard's plan to give state employ-

ing how the money would be spent.

The panel also agreed to spend



SOUTH DAKOTA: ABERDEEN, BRITTON, DELL RAPIDS, DE SMET, EUREKA, FLANDREAU, GREGORY,



ees, who have gone three years proved a special spending measure that gave schools an additional without a raise, a 3 percent acrossthe-board salary increase next \$8.7 million one-time bonus. Lobbyists for education groups year. At the governor's urging, the

said they appreciate the extra money the Legislature has provided to school districts, but they said schools could have used the extra \$2.1 million blocked Friday by the House members of the committee.

We're in a crisis when it comes to school district budgets," said Wade Pogany, of the South Dakota Associated School Boards.

Dilges also said the governor's budget plan and other measures will give an extra \$20.8 million to nursing homes and other facilities that provide care to poor people in the Medicaid program.

However, representatives of some of those facilities said the unsuccessful attempt to give them another \$2.1 million would have helped boost salaries and reduce a high turnover rate among their



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