

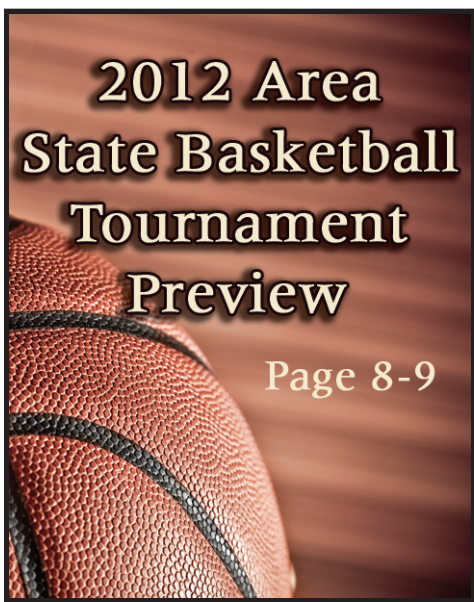


Partly Cloudy

9 a.m.: **34** | 3 p.m.: **45** | DETAILS: PAGE 2



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SDEA Seeks Public Vote

Teachers Union Hopes To Block Bonus Bill

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota's main teachers union will seek a statewide public vote aimed at blocking Gov. Dennis Daugaard's plan to give bonuses to top teachers and phase out tenure, the South Dakota Education Association announced Wednesday.

Daugaard has said the measure passed by the Legislature last week will help boost student achievement, but SDEA President Sandy Arseneault said HB1234 would impose requirements that force more high-stakes testing that will do lit-

tle to help students. The bill promoting merit pay also diverts attention from the top issue in education, which is a lack of adequate state spending on schools, she said.

"Frankly, these types of reforms have been tried all over the United States," Arseneault said. "There's no research that proves what they are doing has done anything for student achievement. So it is really hard for us to focus on school reforms that we know have failed everywhere they've been tried."

In response to the SDEA's referral effort, Daugaard issued a one-sentence written statement:

"This bill will invest \$15 million a year in teacher pay, with lots of local control as to how the dollars are spent to advance student achievement."

To put the measure on the November ballot for a public vote, the teachers association must collect 15,855 valid signatures by June 18. The SDEA's board voted Tuesday night to refer the bill to a public vote, but signatures cannot be collected until after lawmakers meet for the session's final day, March 19, Arseneault said.

Even though the measure received final legislative approval, Daugaard has not yet signed it into law. The education bill, which was substantially modified by lawmakers to give school districts a

BILL | PAGE 7

Escapees From Charles Mix Co. Jail Sought

From P&D Staff Reports

LAKE ANDES — Charles Mix County law enforcement is seeking two inmates who escaped from the county jail Wednesday.

According to a press release, two male inmates escaped from the jail at approximately 12:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. Both inmates were in custody on criminal charges for the Yankton Sioux Tribe and were pending state criminal charges.

The first escapee is identified as Edward (Eddie) Antelope, 34, described as a 6-1, 185-pound Native American male with short black hair and brown eyes. Antelope is to be considered dangerous. He has a history of escape and eluding. Pending state criminal charges against him include absconder from parole; and warrants for arrest for first-degree burglary, first-degree robbery, aggravated assault and grand theft.

The second escapee is identified as Donald Cournoyer, 28, described as a 5-6, 175-pound Native American male with short brown hair and brown eyes. Cournoyer has a history of escape. Pending state criminal charges include escape for failing to return from work release and a State of South Dakota detainer for parole violation.

If anyone has any information to the whereabouts or other information regarding these escapees, you are being asked to contact the Charles Mix County Sheriff's Office at 605-487-7625 or your local law enforcement office.



Antelope



Cournoyer



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

Contractors worked to apply a protective coat to the floor of the new Yankton County highway shop Wednesday morning. The facility is expected to be complete within the coming weeks, after which an open house will be scheduled for the public.

Work Nears Completion On Highway Shop

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Work is nearing completion on the Yankton County highway shop being constructed about a mile west of Highway 81 just north of Highway 50.

Crews worked Wednesday morning to install electrical wiring and to apply a protective coat to the floor of the 24,000-square-foot metal building.

"I talked to the electrician, and he said they have a week or so of wiring to do," Highway Superintendent Alan Sorensen said while overlooking the work being done.

He isn't sure when the official move will happen from the facility along West 11th Street. In addition to moving the maintenance shop, Sorensen's office will move from the Yankton County Government Center to the new location.

The project has taken longer to finish than was

anticipated.

Welf Construction Company was awarded the project with a \$1,536,000 bid in December 2010 and had originally assured the commission that it would be finished by Oct. 1, 2011. However, the hail storm that hit Yankton last August foiled those plans. Exterior panels on the north side of the building, as well as ceiling liner panels, had to be replaced because of the hail damage.

As recently as December, a Welf representative had told the county that work would wrap up by the end of January. That timeframe also came and went, but the Yankton County Commission has not expressed any dissatisfaction with the pace of the project.

"Welf has done a very good job," Yankton County Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said Wednesday.

The new facility will include many improve-

ments over the current shop, the main part of which was built in the 1930s.

Employees will have a mud room where they can rinse off dirt and grime, a locker room and a break room.

Most importantly, the shop will be able to house all of the department's equipment inside and leave room for more.

"This will allow us to get our machines inside during the wintertime to get the ice and snow off them," Sorensen said. "Many of these new machines have computers on them. Sometimes, they don't want to let the machine run until it warms up sufficiently."

The new shop also includes an indoor wash bay for machinery. Previously, that work had to be done outside, according to Sorensen.

SHOP | PAGE 12

Mobile Dental Program Addressing Needs Of Area Youth Set For Yankton

BY DEREK BARTOS
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More than 51 million school hours are lost each year because of dental-related illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To combat the effects dental disease can have on children, Delta Dental's Dakota Smiles Mobile Dental Program has traveled to communities across South Dakota for the past eight years to aid underserved children, and later this month, it will bring that help to Yankton.

"I think it's a great opportunity for those that might not have access (to oral health care)," said

Lauren Hanson, administrative assistant for the United Way — the program's site partner for Yankton. "It's a great opportunity for parents to get them in, do some preventative work and teach their children about oral health care and how it's important to your overall health."

The program's Care Mobile, a dental office on wheels, will be parked in front of Beadle Elementary March 26-30 to provide free comprehensive oral health care to children ages 0 to 21. Eligible patients include those in the area that have not seen a dentist in two or more years, do not have a



COURTESY PHOTO

Delta Dental's Dakota Smiles Care Mobile, a dental office on wheels, will be in Yankton March 26-30 to provide free comprehensive oral health care to children ages 0-21. For more information, call (605) 665-6766 or visit [http://www.deltadentalsd.com/webpage/caremobile.jsp?DV](http://www.deltadentalsd.com/webpage/caremobile.jsp?DView=CareMobile)

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Charges Not Likely For Chat Room Shooting Witnesses

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — It appears unlikely that members in an online chat room who might have watched a 19-year-old Nebraska man fatally shoot himself will face charges for failing to report his death.

The shooting in a suburban Omaha home early Saturday wasn't discovered until about nine hours later when someone in Florida reported it. Bellevue Police are trying to reach chat room participants to determine whether the shooting was a suicide or accident, and prosecutors won't decide on charges until the investigation is done.

But UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh said most states, including Nebraska, don't require citizens to report crimes, and most state laws that do require reporting wouldn't apply here because an accident or suicide isn't a crime.

Only certain groups of people, like teachers and doctors, typically face legal requirements to report crimes.

"Ordinary rank-and-file citizens are generally not required to report a crime or injury," he said.

Volokh said the decision on charges will likely depend on the laws in the states where participants were when they witnessed the Nebraska shooting.

There is precedent for online witnesses avoiding liability. In a 2008 online suicide in Florida, none of the webcam witnesses were

WITNESS | PAGE 7



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TOMORROW: YHS Seeing Positive Results From New Attendance Policy

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