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15 DAYS UNTIL SPRING
#ThinkSpring

* * *

Senate OKs Looser Standard For Conditional-Use Permits

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State senators voted 22-11 Wednesday for allowing county commissions to adopt a lower standard for approving conditional-use permits.

The legislation would allow a simple majority of board members present to approve permits for projects that don't conform to the county's zoning or planning code.

State law currently requires a two-thirds majority of the board's total members.

A one-word amendment by the Senate means the measure, HB 1201, must return to the House of Representatives, where it previously passed 52-17 on Feb. 25.

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Youth Min. Wage OK'd

House OKs \$7.50 For Workers Under 18

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The minimum wage should be lower for workers younger than age 18 in South Dakota, the state House of Representatives decided Wednesday.

The hourly amount would be \$7.50 if the proposal becomes law.

South Dakota voters approved a statewide minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour in the Nov. 4 election.

The youth-wage legislation now goes to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for his consideration.

House members voted 44-24 in favor of SB 177. Its prime sponsor is Sen. David Novstrup, R-Aberdeen.

The Senate previously approved the measure 26-7.

The South Dakota Retailers Association supported its passage. The \$7.50 would take effect

also

■ Governor Yet To Pick A Side In Youth Minimum Wage Debate. **PAGE 12**

on July 1 if it becomes law.

"I don't think anybody is going to reduce the wages," Shawn Lyons, the retailers executive director, said after the vote.

"Their concern is having a wage scale that allows them to give an opportunity at employment," he said.

The bill's lead sponsor in the House said the legislation specifically prohibits employers from taking any action to displace an employee in order to hire an employee at the youth minimum wage.

WAGE | PAGE 12



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
These girls at Yankton's Lincoln Elementary School are shown taking part in the opening session of the "Girls on the Run" program, which is also being offered at Beadle School. The program places an emphasis not only on exercise and physical activity (above) but also self-esteem and social issues (left) that kids in grades 3-5 may encounter on a daily basis.

'Girls On The Run' At Local Elem. Schools

New Program Teaches Life Lessons While Stressing Healthy Living

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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For 32 Yankton School District (YSD) girls, after-school boredom has been replaced with excitement and exercise.

Tuesday, the "Girls on the Run" program began at both Beadle and Lincoln Elementary schools, and according to Lincoln principal Paul Struck, it is going to be fun.

"We are so excited that we are offering this program here," he said. "This program is all about giving our 3-5th grade girls the opportunity to educate themselves on self-respect and healthy living. It is led by volunteers from the community and is something I think is going to be very exciting for everyone involved."

Struck said the "Girls on the Run" program began in Sioux Falls. This past November, he and other school officials were invited to a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce where they were introduced to the program and asked if the Yankton Schools would be interested in offering the program.

"I give credit to Amy Reyes," Struck said. "She

GIRLS | PAGE 14

Puppies Saved From Frozen Ditch

BY JORDYNNE HART
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Six newborn puppies and their mother were saved from a frozen ditch near Wagner and brought to the Heartland Humane Society (HHS) Friday, Feb. 27.

Just hours after being born, the puppies were left to endure sub-zero temperatures. Luckily, a man came across the mother and her pups on Thursday.

Unfortunately, not all the puppies survived.

"The man who found the puppies said that three of them were already dead by the time he got there," HHS

senior staff member Janette Kaddatz said. "They were frozen. It was a really cold day."

Kaddatz said the man went back to where he had found the dogs to see where the mother, who HHS is calling Asia, had the puppies.

"He didn't think she had the puppies there," she said. "So suspicion is that Asia had them on Wednesday night at somebody's house, and they just took them and dumped them in a ditch."

HHS staff can tell that the dog had a previous owner because Asia is house trained.



COURTESY PHOTO:
Asia and her six surviving newborn puppies were found in a ditch in subzero temperatures Thursday, March 26 near Wagner. The dogs are now being taken care of by the Heartland Humane Society.

PUPPIES | PAGE 14



COURTESY PHOTO
Scotland High School senior Katie Winckler, who wears a prosthesis, sits among the donated prostheses and orthotics she has collected for those who cannot find or afford their own.

Scotland Teen's Project Has A Long Reach

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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SCOTLAND — Regardless of what day lies ahead, Katie Winckler knows one thing she'll wear to school.

The Scotland High School senior uses a prosthesis for her left leg, something she has worn her entire life. She has undergone replacements on a regular basis, receiving two different models — one for everyday use and another one for athletics.

"I'm doing pretty good," she said. "I'll be getting two new legs

and will have them in July."

Now, Winckler is helping others who may face difficulties in locating and affording prostheses. She noted an artificial arm can cost \$3,000-8,000, while an artificial leg can cost \$8,000-12,000.

As a senior project for her graduation requirements, she has launched a collection of gently-used prostheses and orthotics (braces). The donations will go to the U.S.-based "Limbs For Life" or-



Bon Homme County

ganization. In addition, she has set up an account at a Scotland bank for donations to the Prosthetics/Orthotics Department at the Twin Cities Shriners Hospital for Children.

The project has reached people hundreds of miles away, including Rapid City and Belle Fourche. Donated prostheses have arrived from other states, from as close as a Hartington, Nebraska, woman to as far away as a Kansas City donor.

"This has been really great. It's been a lot more than I expected."

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TOMORROW: Shannon Trail Group To Host Neil Diamond Impersonator