

Opportunity Scholarship Might Increase For Incoming Freshmen

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Attention, all college and tech-institute students in South Dakota who are currently receiving the state's Opportunity scholarship: The amount isn't going up after all — at least not for any of you.

The state Senate scaled down its plan Tuesday to increase the scholarship. Now the increases would apply for those recipients starting classes in the 2015 fall semester.

The revenue shortfall facing state government for the current year is now expected to extend into the 2016 budget year that begins July 1, 2015.

Consequently, legislators are pulling back on spending plans in many areas, including the Opportunity scholarship.

Gradually implementing the first-ever increases for the Opportunity scholarship will cost an estimated \$270,000 to \$300,000 the first year if applied only to freshmen, according to Sen. Deb Peters, R-Harford.

She said it would have taken an estimated \$1.2 million to provide the

higher amounts to current recipients as well.

The scholarship amounts have been \$1,000 for each of the first three years and \$2,000 for the fourth year since the first awards were made in 2004.

Peters, the Senate Appropriations Committee chair, said the plan remains intact to provide \$1,300 annually for the first three years and \$2,600 for the fourth year.

The program has succeeded in keeping more high school graduates in South Dakota for their college or tech-school educations and they in turn have been more likely to remain in the state after getting their diplomas, according to Peters.

Approximately 12,200 students have received Opportunity scholarships since the program began. Peters said the average has been about 1,100 students annually.

Two other student-aid programs, for college students entering their third year who plan to teach in a critically needed area, and for post-high school students who have income needs, are in uncertain territory as well.

The House kept the funding bills for those two programs alive Tuesday by amending them from \$150,000 apiece to \$2 — two dollars — apiece.

They go back to the Senate and probably will be sent to a conference committee where they'll wait on hold until later this week.

Sen. Bill Van Gerpen, R-Tyndall, asked for the Senate to resist passage of the Opportunity expansion. He said parents of students pay sales tax but some families' students benefit from the scholarship while other families' students don't.

"I think it's unfair. I don't think it's right," he said, adding that he'd rather see the money go to long-term care providers for recruitment and retention of care staff.

"Those people need that. And they're important to our society and they're important to our state," he said. No one else spoke.

The Senate's amended version of the Opportunity bill, HB 1147, passed 27-8 and now returns to the House for a decision whether to agree to the phase-in plan.

Sampling Of Signatures Could Be On The Way For Candidate Nominating Petitions

BY BOB MERCER
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PIERRE — South Dakota's secretary of state would become responsible for determining the validity of registered voters' signatures on statewide candidates' nominating petitions, under a change that received final legislative approval Tuesday.

The state House of Representatives voted 68-0 for the measure, SB 68. It requires the secretary of state to conduct checks on a 5 percent random sample of the signatures.

The Senate had previously approved it 34-0 on Jan. 22. The legislation now goes to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for his decision whether it should become law.

Rep. Jim Bolin, R-Canton, said "many problems" developed in the 2014 election campaigns

involving people that Bolin said were trying to subvert the political process.

Then-Secretary of State Jason Gant said he wasn't authorized to check validity of petition signatures.

New Secretary of State Shantel Krebs worked with the state Board of Elections on the legislation that would allow the 5 percent sampling.

The 5 percent sample is used on ballot measures.

Bolin called the change "a good first step."

"In the past it was left to citizens to make these challenges," he said.

If the sampling proves insufficient to thwart problems, the secretary of state should be given more authority, Bolin said.

No one else spoke.

The change is part of a package of reforms brought by Krebs and the state board.

New Research Halted At Nebraska Federal Livestock Facility

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A new report says no evidence of mistreatment of animals was found during a recent inspection of a federal livestock facility in Nebraska, but regulators have halted new research there.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack shut down new research at the Meat Animal Research Center near Clay Center until improved animal welfare oversight procedures are put in place, *The Omaha World-Herald* reported Tuesday.

A draft report by an animal welfare panel for the U.S. Department of Agriculture was released Monday, saying no mistreatment was found during a three-day visit last month. But the report also found a lack of clarity on specific lines of authority and responsibility for oversight regarding animal care in the cooperative arrangement between the facility and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Vilsack ordered center officials to more clearly define their partnership with the university related to animal welfare.

"It is imperative that all USDA research activities be carried out in a manner consistent with our high standards of humane and responsible treatment of animals in our care," Vilsack told the *World-Herald*.

The 50-year-old center conducts scientific studies to improve the quantity and quality of U.S. meat production.

The panel's report came in response to a *New York Times* article in January that alleged systematic abuse of farm animals at the Nebraska facility.

The allegations also prompted legislation in Congress that would apply all requirements of the Animal Welfare Act to federal livestock research facilities. The centers currently are not held to the same standards that must be met by university and private researchers.

A public comment period began Monday on the findings of the report, posted at www.ree.usda.gov.

The panel plans to issue a second report at a later date based on its review of animal welfare practices at three to five other federal research facilities.

Prisons May Add More Health Services

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's corrections director is reviewing a plan that would concentrate more mental health services at a state prison in Lincoln.

Director Scott Frakes told lawmakers Tuesday that having mental health services scattered throughout the state isn't an effective use of resources.

The plan would increase the number of residential mental health beds at the Lincoln Correctional Center, while reducing beds at the state prison in Tecumseh.

Frakes says the Department of Correctional Services needs to house offenders based on their treatment needs so it's easier for them to access services. The state has struggled to fill mental-health specialist jobs outside of Lincoln and Omaha.

Frakes says it's too early to know whether he needs money that was set aside for behavioral health services, an assertion that some lawmakers challenged.

SD Residents Select Health Insurance

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Federal health officials say 21,393 South Dakota residents selected health insurance plans during the second enrollment period under a provision of the Affordable Care Act.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the new enrollment numbers Tuesday. The figures are through Feb. 22.

Officials had estimated that up to 27,626 South Dakota residents were eligible to select health plans through the federal marketplace healthcare.gov.

The federal report shows that 86 percent of those who selected plans in South Dakota qualified for a tax credit, and the credits averaged \$228 per month. The report says 47 percent of South Dakotans paid \$100 or less per month after tax credits.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a challenge to the subsidies in South Dakota and other states where residents depend on the federal marketplace, rather than state-established websites. The court's decision is expected in late June.

Manager Pleads Guilty To Embezzlement

FORT PIERRE, (AP) — The former office manager of the Fort Pierre Development Corporation has admitted that she stole money from her former employer.

The *Capital Journal* reports that Joni Boub has pleaded guilty to one count of grand theft by embezzlement and two counts forgery. Forty-four counts of forgery were dropped as part of a plea agreement.

Boub was arrested after the Development Corporation discovered that she had been writing herself checks from the group's bank account. She was accused of forging 46 checks and stealing more than \$38,000 between July 2013 and November 2014.

Boub during her arraignment Tuesday told the presiding judge that she had "substantial" medical bills when she committed the crimes.

Boub faces up to 20 years in prison. A hearing was scheduled for April 28.

SD Man Arrested After Car Chase

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City man who escaped after a sentencing hearing has been arrested after a high-speed chase that at times exceeded 100 mph.

Police in Rapid City say the 30-year-old man escaped from the Meade County Courthouse before noon Tuesday, got on a car and began driving eastbound on Interstate 90.

Officers deployed spike strips near two mile markers and managed to slow down Hopkins who then continued to drive into Rapid City. Police say the man later abandoned the vehicle and fled into a home, where he remained for several minutes.

The Rapid City Journal reports the man emerged from the house holding a knife and threatened to commit suicide. Officers then fired several non-lethal beanbag rounds, striking him at least once.

Police say he again attempted to flee, but was subdued by officers using a stun gun. The man hasn't been charged in connection with the incident.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Louisa May Alcott

Louisa May Alcott was born on November 29, 1832. She was the second oldest of four girls. Her love of her sisters helped her to become one of America's most beloved children's book authors.

If she were alive today, how old would she be?

2015 - 1832 =

“I b_l__ve sch__ls sh__ld be a pl__ce wh_r ch_ldr_n enj_y l__rn_ng!”

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Money Troubles

Louisa's family did not have much money. To help out, Louisa started taking on as many jobs as a young girl could find. She read for an elderly man and his sister. Louisa and her sister Anna taught young children and mended and washed laundry.

In 1852, Louisa's first poem was published in a magazine, and she made her first money from writing.

Use the code to find out the name of Louisa's first published poem.

SECRET CODE

B = ●	I = ○	S = ⊕
G = ▣	L = ▤	T = ⊙
H = ✕	N = ✎	U = □

Teacher in the Family

As a child, Louisa and her family moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where her father, Amos Alcott, set up a school based upon his beliefs about education.

Put the vowels back in this sentence to find out what Amos Bronson Alcott believed about education.

Writing Success

In 1855, her first book, *Flower Fables* was published.

In 1862, Louisa went to Washington, D.C. to serve as a Civil War nurse. Like many other nurses, Louisa contracted typhoid fever. Although she got better, mercury in the medicine caused her suffering for the rest of her life. In Washington, Louisa continued to write and she published two more books.

Her publisher, Thomas Niles, asked that she write “a girl's story.” Having spent her life with three interesting sisters, Louisa wrote *Little Women* based on her own experiences. The novel, published in 1868, was an instant success. It has now been a favorite book for generations.

Discover the names of the sisters in *Little Women* by crossing out every other letter.

✕MUETGL

✕JTOK

✕ARMBYM

✕BAEGLHP

Extra! Extra!

Responsibility

Though poor themselves, Louisa's family always tried to help people who were worse off than they were. Look through the newspaper to find a person or people you could help.

Standards Link: Civics: Understand how character traits help fulfill personal responsibilities.

Rights for Women

Louisa worked hard to help women get the right to vote. She wrote articles about equality for women and went door-to-door encouraging women to register to vote. In 1879, Alcott became the first woman in Concord, Mass., to register to vote when she cast a ballot for the village school committee.

19 + 7 =

18 - 5 =

14 + 8 =

21 - 9 =

12 + 14 =

16 - 7 =

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Two of the books below were not written by Louisa. Do the math and cross out the two with odd-numbered answers.

19 + 7 =

LITTLE WOMEN
by Louisa May Alcott

18 - 5 =

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE
by Louisa May Alcott

14 + 8 =

JO'S BOYS
by Louisa May Alcott

21 - 9 =

GOOD WIVES
by Louisa May Alcott

12 + 14 =

LITTLE MEN
by Louisa May Alcott

16 - 7 =

HEIDI
by Louisa May Alcott

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Louisa's parents encouraged her to follow her dreams and to hold on to her freedom in life. Her father Amos had very advanced ideas about childhood and education. In fact, many people believe he is the founder of this part of the school day.

Assemble these puzzle pieces to reveal the answer.

QUEEN

ELDERLY

Standards Link: Historical Understanding: Understand that specific decisions impact history.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

LOUISA	B	C	E	Y	L	E	V	O	N	S
ELDERLY	T	A	N	Y	R	D	N	U	A	L
TYPHOID	N	S	L	A	J	U	O	Y	Y	E
MERCURY	A	T	L	S	V	C	E	L	W	
MEDICINE	S	P	A	T	R	T	U	N	E	V
INSTANT	N	O	E	S	R	O	W	O	D	M
VOTE	I	E	I	R	E	V	E	F	L	N
BALLOT	G	M	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M
WORSE										
VOWELS										
LAUNDRY										
POEM										
FEVER										
NOVEL										
CAST										

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Scan and reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Women in the News

When Louisa May Alcott was alive, not many jobs were available to women. Look through the newspaper and make a list of all of the jobs a woman with the right experience and training could get today.

Standards Link: Career: Understand general preparation for entering the workforce.

Write On!

Woman I Admire

Write about a woman you admire. Include reasons why you chose this woman. If possible, write about someone other than your own mother.

Kid Scoop Together: Newspaper Blackout Poetry

Louisa Alcott loved poetry. She loved to read it and to write it.

Modern day poet Austin Kleon came up with an idea for creating poetry with a newspaper, a black marker and creativity.

Here is an example of a poem he made by clipping an article from the newspaper and crossing out all the words, except for the ones he wanted in his poem:

BEFORE

The home needed extensive refurbishment. Jim Meadows, a local architect, was hired to supervise the project. He designed the award-winning Laurel Street Library in 2003.

Meadows worked with local historian Yolanda Henderson, who said, "Tradition and style were essential on this project."

AFTER

The local architect designed Laurel Street with Tradition

Make a Newspaper Blackout Poem

- Grab a newspaper.
- Grab a marker.
- Find an article.
- Cross out words, leaving behind the ones you like.
- Pretty soon you'll have a poem.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word LOUISA in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

L	O	U	I	S	A
O	U		A		
U				S	
S				U	
A					O
I					O