### **Sturgis City Park To Host Rally Events, Upsetting Some**

STURGIS (AP) — City officials plan to allow vendors and motorcycle shows in Sturgis City Park during this year's bike rally, a move that has upset some business owners and residents.

The decision was made without any opportunity for residents to comment because the matter was not listed on the agenda of the Feb. 2 City Council meeting during which it was approved, businessmen Bob Davis and Rod Bradley told the Rapid City Journal.

'A lot of people are not happy about it," Davis said.

The City Council voted after going into an executive session that was closed to the public to enter into a

#### Minnesota

lease agreement with a promoter to create and manage a venue at the park. City officials aren't releasing details of the contract but say the park activities are designed to enhance the experience of everyone visiting Sturgis during the 75th anniversary rally Aug. 1-8.

"The council was very adamant with the promoter that it would be family oriented," City Manager Daniel Ainslie said. More information will be released later, he said.

The park traditionally has served as a rally-free refuge for residents during the event that draws hundreds of thousands of people to the Black Hills town, Davis said.

#### Dave Wilson, a Sturgis resident whose daughter is a soccer player, said the city has crossed the line allowing vendors in the park.

Our kids go down there during the rally and practice soccer," he said. "We have a very nice park. Leave it alone. It's there for the citizens.'

Ainslie said having rally events in the park is somewhat of an experiment.

<sup>•</sup>Frankly, this is something the council is trying for a year," he said. "It's not something that might happen again in the future. If it doesn't turn out well, there is no desire on the part of the council for it to continue on.'

## Gov. Dayton To Railroads: Pony Up For Safety Upgrades

#### BY KYLE POTTER

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Gov. Mark Dayton gave railroad companies and Republicans a public tongue-lashing Friday for their resistance to his tax plan to fund safety improvements across Minnesota's railroad network.

Seven trains haul North Dakota crude across Minnesota daily - an influx that has contributed to backlogs of agricultural shipments and raised safety concerns after a string of recent explosive derailments.

With a throng of officials from towns dealing with the headaches of heavier train traffic behind him, Dayton called it "totally unacceptable" that railroads would oppose contributing more money to the state's safety

efforts. The governor and other fellow Democratic lawmakers have proposed a series of tax increases and annual fees on railroads to upgrade railroad crossings and ease congestion across Minnesota.

"That is the responsibility of the railroad," Rep. Paul Marquart, DFL-Dilworth, said of improvements.

By taxing train cars and levying an annual fee on Minnesota' four major freight railroads, the state would net \$330 million over the next decade, mostly for improvements at railroad crossings. Dayton's plan would also fund increased training for first responders, including a new statewide training facility.

The governor is also planning to carve out \$76 million from a bonding bill this year

to build underpasses or overpasses in Moorhead, Prairie İsland, Coon Rapids and Willmar, where passing trains block crossings for hours

every day. Railroad companies such as BNSF Railway, the state's largest freight railroad and a major shipper of Bakken crude, balked at the governor's proposal. In a statement, spokeswoman Amy McBeth said the company believes Dayton's proposed taxes violate federal law "because they single out railroads for discriminatory taxation.

The other three major freight railroads operating in Minnesota are Canadian Pacific, Union Pacific and Canadian National.

Majority House Republicans have also signaled they're not on board with the tax increases.

"While the governor and I agree that our railroad crossings need improvements, the funding source is still the main issue," said Rep. Tim Kelly, the Republican chair of the House Transportation Finance committee. Dayton criticized Republi-

cans for not supporting his plan, but he saved his strongest words for the railroad companies.

The governor said state officials believe they're on solid legal ground to foot railroads with a larger tax bill. And he remained defiant in the face of a possible lawsuit from railroads if his proposal goes ahead.

We're going to do what we know is right for Minnesota. If they want to take us to court, that certainly shows their true colors," Dayton said.

ayes in Hunhoff, Otten, Democrat Angie Buhl O'Donnell of Sioux Falls, Republican Blake Curd of Sioux Falls and

The debt collectors' lobbyists picked up three in Republican Bruce Rampelberg of Rapid City and Democrats Jim Bradford of Pine Ridge and Troy Heinert of Mission.

#### Lawmakers Work To Finalize SD Budget

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are wrapping up the main run of this year's legislative session and are poised to pass a spending plan Friday for the fiscal year that begins in July.

The Joint Appropriations Committee plans to finish work on the approximately \$1.4 billion state budget Friday so the House and Senate can pass the spending measure by the end of the day.

Lawmakers on Wednesday adopted revenue estimates that were lower than projections the governor made for his December budget. They're now wrestling with how to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Legislators will return to the Capitol for a final day at the end of the month to consider any vetoes issued by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

#### Flames Blacken Fields In Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Flames fanned by brisk winds in low humidity have blackened fields in several parts of Nebraska. On Thursday firefighters battled blazes west of Grand Is-

land in south-central Nebraska, as well as in Antelope, Colfax and Madison counties on the east side of the state. One of the fires near Grand Island stopped just west of some homes in a subdivision.

No injuries have been reported.

On Friday the National Weather Service issued hazardous weather outlooks that warned of the continuing fire danger.

#### **Rounds Touring Guantanamo Bay, Cuba**

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds along with other members of Congress is touring the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

Rounds was at the base Friday with fellow GOP members Sens. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Joni Ernst of Iowa and James Lankford of Oklahoma.

The Republican from South Dakota is part of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.

The United States seized Guantanamo Bay from Spain during the Spanish American War of 1898, and signed a lease in later years with the Cubans guaranteeing access to the 45square-mile area.

The naval base has been a key strategic location for U.S. naval forces in the Caribbean. In 2002, the site became infamous as a detention camp holding the post 9/11 terrorism suspects.

#### Southeast Tech Rolling Out New Lab

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls is sending its newest nursing lab to towns across South Dakota in an effort to boost rural health care.

The lab is a converted semitrailer that has mannequin-like robots, hospital beds and other amenities.

It's one of two mobile units the tech school will deploy to offer health care training opportunities to students who live far from the Sioux Falls campus. The Argus Leader newspaper reports that the lab is making its first stop in Chamberlain next week. About 10 students taking nursing classes online will practice clinical work in the mobile lab.

Nursing Program Director Kristin Possehl says improving health care in small towns begins with education.

The \$500,000 mobile lab is being paid for with federal grant money.

#### **SD Day Care License Suspended**

SIOUX FALLS (AP) - The license of a South Dakota inhome day care has been suspended after police found methamphetamine at the facility.

Sioux Falls officials suspended the license after the drug was discovered Thursday. A 33-year-old woman and a 32-yearold man were arrested after a tip led an area task force to the

The pair had been arrested on drug-related charges in the mid and early 2000s. The woman became licensed to operate the day care in February 2014, but authorities didn't see the previous arrests because a criminal background check for the license only goes back five years.

Debt From Page 1

required a two-thirds majority for passage.

The 20 percent surcharge will flow into the state treasury and the new contractor will be paid from it.

If debt is subsequently placed with outside collectors, they could charge the 20 percent too.

The South Dakota Collectors Association opposed the plan. Sen. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark, said nothing prevents "the bureaucrats" from engaging with the private sector now. The promise that \$800,000 will be brought in the first year is "pie in the sky," according to Greenfield. He said its supporters are trying to "hastily push this through, with some promise of green pieces of paper flowing from the process, that I don't think is plausible to presume.' One of the retired judges now in the Legislature gave his perspective. Sen. Art Rusch, R-Vermillion, said he was frustrated when he ordered guilty people to make payments and he knew they could ignore it. "I think we need to put some teeth in our methods for collecting that," Rusch said. Democrat Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton was one of the five senators who switched from nay to aye. Hunhoff said he was "very much persuaded" by Rusch's comments and said the executive and judicial branches need some flexibility to pursue debt. They're trying to do the right thing," Hunhoff said about the governor's legislation. "Let's see how it looks a year or two down the road. Another who switched to aye was Republican Ernie Otten of Tea, who said he was "a very strong no" until a conversation with a constituent. The question I asked him was, when does it reach the magnitude of doing something?" Otten said. It's now, Otten realized. "I am going to change a vote to the affirmative. The center will operate under the state Bureau of Administration and will be required to report to the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee. The legislation passed 18-17 on its first trip through the Senate when the chamber's president, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, ruled that a simple majority was needed.

House Speaker Dean Wink of Howes stuck to his interpretation that two-thirds was needed and changed his position after the conference committee amendments

were made. Rusch had been ill and wasn't present Thursday. His return Friday put the count at 17-17, based on the first round of Senate voting

March 10; the eighteenth ave came from Sen. Dan Lederman, R-Dakota Dunes, who has been excused for several days.

A tie vote would have allowed Michels to cast the tiebreaker Friday. Instead both sides worked to get senators to change sides. The governor's lobbyists

managed to find five new

Republican Deb Peters of Hartford.





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