

Bait Shop Owner Wants Walleye In Black Hills

RAPID CITY (AP) — The owner of a Rapid City bait shop is gathering signatures for a petition in effort to add walleye in Black Hills reservoirs.

Mike Cummings, who owns The Rooster bait and tackle shop, told the *Rapid City Journal* that walleye would be popular among anglers and would help to reduce the overpopulation of other fish. He wants to see more of other game fish, too.

"Angler diversity and opportunities make the most sense to us," Cummings said. "But the guys that are fishing regularly want some game fish and we're just trying to give them the opportunity to have a voice."

Cummings said the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department's proposed five-year management plan focuses too much on trout. The department has extended its comment period for its management plan through April 26, a department spokeswoman said.

"We're not against trout;

we want to make that extremely clear," Cummings said. "The other game fish should have a chance."

Walleye is popular among anglers in spots near Hot Springs and Belle Fourche, as well as in lakes on the

Missouri River.

Gene Galinat, regional fisheries manager with the department, said it would take "intense management" to stock walleye in Black Hills reservoirs.

"I don't think we're quite ready to go there," Galinat said.

The white sucker is the only fish native to the Black Hills, where the lakes are man-made. Brook, brown and rainbow trout are stocked yearly. Cummings said fish popular with customers are perch, crappies, bluegills, bass, northern pike and lake trout.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission will consider approval of the department's management plan after hearing public comments at its May 1-2 meeting.



BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A South Dakota company set up to recruit wealthy foreign investors in an investment-for-visa program that became entangled in scandal and eventually swept up into in last year's U.S. Senate race must pay a state banking tax.

The state Department of Revenue also said it will examine whether it can retroactively collect taxes from SDR Inc., the private firm founded by Joop Bollen.

The Department of Labor and Regulation Division of Banking earlier this month issued a license to SDR, the Aberdeen-based firm managing loans to projects in the EB-5 program, that allows it to be a nonresidential mortgage lender. That means the firm must pay the state's bank franchise tax, said Banking Division director Bret Afdahl.

"It was my opinion that they needed to be licensed and in the end they obviously agreed because they applied for the license," Afdahl said.

The Revenue Department received notice of the license last week and will collect the tax moving forward. It will also determine whether it can assess and collect taxes from before the li-

cense was issued, Jason Evans, property and special taxes deputy director, told The Associated Press.

"From a department perspective, we're interested in collecting all those taxes that are duly owed to the state and the department," Evans said, noting that no taxes have been collected yet.

It's unclear what the firm's tax burden is moving forward. It's also not certain how much money is at stake if the department decides to collect potential back taxes, but it will begin examining the issue very soon, he said.

"It's not something that happens very often," Evans said. "We don't very regularly have to collect taxes from prior years."

The license is a reminder that many of the loose ends from the EB-5 scandal, which eventually got swept up in the state's 2014 Senate campaign, still remain unresolved.

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen, a former state administrator who oversaw the program as a public employee and then with SDR, and the late Richard Benda, a former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary. The program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in ex-

change for green cards.

Benda's October 2013 death was ruled a suicide. At the time, Attorney General Marty Jackley was preparing to file felony theft charges against Benda amid allegations of financial misconduct at GOED surrounding EB-5.

Bollen initially ran the EB-5 program for the state when he was in charge of the South Dakota International Business Institute at Northern State University. He privatized it in 2009 and turned it over to SDR, a company he founded. The state ended its contract with SDR in September 2013 amid state and federal investigations.

Bollen, reached Saturday at his home, declined to comment.

It came out last fall that the Division of Banking was examining whether SDR should be considered a financial institution because it administers loans. Afdahl said the process to make the determination took slightly longer than usual.

Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said the Division of Banking notified the governor's office about the license, though it's not directly involved. Venhuizen said the case is being treated the same as any other one like it.

Person Being Monitored For Ebola Was Given CPR From Bystander For Heart Problem

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

containment unit that treated three patients with Ebola last fall.

Health officials estimate the current Ebola outbreak has killed more than 10,000 people since it began last year. Most of those deaths were in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The individual who had a cardiac issue Saturday was one of five people who were brought to Omaha earlier this month after they were exposed to Ebola in Sierra Leone when one of their colleagues became ill with the deadly virus.

Hospital spokesman Taylor Wilson said a bystander performed only chest compressions on the individual before paramedics arrived, not mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Wilson said all five of the individuals had remained free of any symptoms of Ebola and were nearing the end of the monitoring period. Ebola has a 21-day incubation period.

The five individuals have been staying on the Nebraska Medical Center's campus for the past two weeks while they were being monitored. Wilson said that for most of that time the individuals remained in their rooms, but they had recently been allowed to venture out.

The hospital has been following recommendations from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the monitoring of these individuals, said Dr. Adi Pour, director of the Douglas County Health Department.

"These five patients are being monitored twice daily for the possibility of Ebola symptoms, which have never developed," Pour said. "All five patients are still not an infection risk."

The person with Ebola who worked with the five is being treated at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

In addition to the five people being monitored in Omaha, five other people who had been working for the nonprofit Partners in Health in Sierra Leone are being monitored at other U.S. hospitals. The Boston-based organization said Thursday that none of those individuals were showing symptoms of the virus.

Dam Gate Repair Beginning Soon

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — Repairs will begin soon on the hard-to-move gates at the Harlan County Dam in south-central Nebraska.

The initial \$12.3 million project will deal with corrosion on six of the dam's gates, and the rest of the gates will be repaired over the following two years.

Ken Stark, the project manager and an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, told the *Kearney Hub* the whole project is expected to cost \$25.7 million.

The corrosion built up over more than 50 years of use. And the dam's gates are also hard to move because of friction problems with the bearings, so the repairs are a high priority.

Stark says the repair crew is getting set up now and assessing the gates.

Aquatic Center Construction To Begin

SIoux FALLS (AP) — City officials say construction will begin this week on Sioux Falls' first indoor aquatic center, which will replace the outdoor pool at Spellerberg Park.

The construction will begin this week on the project that's expected to open in fall 2016.

City Council members voted in February to approve spending more money on the aquatic center. The project was expected to cost \$19.8 million, but the estimate increased due to rising construction costs and several changes to the plan.

Council members voted to push the project cost to \$23.7 million. Most of the additional money likely will come from money leftover in last year's city budget.

The City Council approved the initial price tag after voters last April said they wanted to replace the outdoor pool at the park.

Comment Period For Fisheries Extended

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials have extended the public comment period on two proposed management plans for fisheries in the Black Hills.

Officials with the state's Game, Fish and Parks Department say people can now comment on the two five-year plans through April 26. One plan is for streams and the other for reservoirs.

The current streams plan in the Black Hills is more than 20 years old.

John Lott is the department's chief of aquatic resources. Lott says public input is "essential" in the planning and implementation process.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission is expected to take final action on the plans during its May meeting in Custer.

IRS Scams Flourishing In Eastern SD

BROOKINGS (AP) — Authorities in eastern South Dakota say phone scams in which con artists pose as IRS agents to bilk people out of thousands of dollars are flourishing as the April 15 federal tax-filing deadline approaches.

Brookings County Assistant Sheriff Scott Sebring tells *The Brookings Register* that a couple of scam cases have been reported in the county. The scammers threaten residents with jail time or the loss of a driver's license unless a payment is made.

Sebring says a resident recently lost several thousand dollars, while another one took the threat of prison so seriously that he showed up at the jail to turn himself in.

Sebring says the scammers don't target a particular demographic. He adds the IRS usually begins communication with taxpayers with a letter and not by phone.

BY NICK HYTEK
Sioux City Journal

WAYNE, Neb. (AP) — Football may be king of the American sports scene. And nearly everyone right now has an eye on his or her NCAA basketball tournament brackets.

Yet neither tugs at the heart or brings out the sense of history and nostalgia like baseball.

Given fans' nostalgic tendencies, it's easy to understand the shock, then sadness, that folks in Wayne felt in June when a windstorm swept through town and snapped off a giant tree outside Hank Overin Field, the city's baseball park.

The tree crashed onto the park's historic wooden grandstand, built in 1939 or the early 1940s as a Works Progress Administration project and renovated in 1980.

Residents by the dozens drove past to check out the damage.

"It's an integral part of our community and it's important to us," said Pat Melena. "It's near and dear to my heart. I spent a lot of time there as a player and a parent and fan."

Thoughts immediately turned to what happens next. For Melena, there was only one solution.

"The first thing that went through my mind after I saw the damage is we've got some work to do," he said.

He wasn't alone.

It didn't take long for a committee to form. Named the Rebuild Hank committee, the 10-member group of coaches, former players, parents and supporters decided the grandstand must be replaced, said Melena, the committee's chairman.

"Obviously, many ball fields have unique characteristics, but a covered wooden

grandstand is not common anymore," he said. "We definitely are going to rebuild the wooden grandstand to much like what we had before."

Fortunately, the playing surface was not damaged, and Wayne's American Legion baseball teams, in Melena's words, "limped through" the remainder of last season at the park.

The grandstand was found to be unstable and had to be torn down in December. It was a tough day for many in Wayne, the Sioux City Journal reports.

"It was pretty emotional. One of the guys who played baseball there as a kid was running the backhoe," Melena said.

By that time, planning had begun in earnest for the future grandstand and the whole park. As they talked about rebuilding, committee members decided it was a good time to

make improvements that had been talked about for a long time.

"They're all things that needed to be done," Melena said. "The storm just put things on the fast track."

Plans include upgraded restrooms, a new storage building and media accommodations, new lights for the field and a plaza area outside the grandstand entrance.

Construction of the grandstand will begin in July, once the Legion baseball season is over. A new backstop has been installed, and temporary bleachers will be placed behind home plate. The field is ready for the first high school game on Thursday, Melena said. But it sure looks strange without the grandstand.

"It's definitely going to be different for players and fans alike," he said.

Farmer Tries To Find Balance With Genetically Modified Crops

TOLSTOY (AP) — A farmer in South Dakota's northern half is taking a middle road as to whether he should use genetically modified seeds.

Tolstoy farmer Corey Johannsen told the *Aberdeen American News* that he grows crops that are genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, as well as those that aren't. The subject is a touchy one among farmers, he said.

"When you mention non-GMO crops at meetings, I love

to see eyes roll," Johannsen said.

Those who favor non-GMO crops have some legitimate concerns, Johannsen said. But he said "well over 90 percent" of South Dakota farmers make their money from GMO crops.

Farmers might use GMO crops as a "catch-all" for problems found in fields, Johannsen said. Such crops are genetically engineered to handle insect attacks, weed killer chemicals and drought condi-

tions. But he said such resistance isn't always needed.

It can be difficult to talk with people on both sides of the GMO debate, Johannsen said.

"I'm pretty passionate about this," he said. "I've learned to tread lightly when I talk to people."

Johannsen got interested in non-GMO crops because of consumer demand but also over concerns about using a herbicide called glyphosate for

weeds.

About a third of the farm he runs with his dad and brother was planted with non-GMO crops last year. This year, the plan is to make it about half.

"I know I'll make some mistakes, so I have a five-year plan to proceed as long as the market is there," Johannsen said. "I started connecting the dots on our farm. It was time to change the vision."

<h1>Business AD-vantage</h1> <p>Where You Find Business & Professional EXPERTS!</p> <p>A NEW BREED OF YELLOW PAGES</p>									
APPLIANCE SALES/ SERVICE Larry's APPLIANCE 920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461 		AUTO BODY Riverside Auto Body www.riversideautobody-gonegreen.com 402-667-3285 AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE Fox Run Quik Lube 2501 Fox Run Pkwy., Yankton 665-1810 BANKING Services Center Federal Credit Union 609 W. 21st, Yankton, SD First Dakota National Bank 225 Cedar St., 665-7432 2105 Broadway, 665-4999		CLEANING Steamway CLEANING & RESTORATION •Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning •Duct Cleaning •Fire/Smoke •Water Restoration •Mold Testing & Remediation 665-5700 1-800-529-2450 CONVENIENCE STORE TJ's Convenience Store and Bait Shop 3703 W. 8th St., 665-5070		ELECTRICAL Johnson Electric, LLP Commercial • Residential • Trenching 500 W. 12th, Yankton 605-665-5686 L&S Electric Harry Lane, Contractor 665-6612 • 661-1040 Advertise Here! Call 665-7811 FAMILY MEMORIALS Yankton Monument Co. 325 Douglas, Yankton 605-664-0980		FUNERAL/CREMATION Wintz & Ray FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. Yankton • 605-665-3644 <i>Garden of Memories Cemetery</i> Wintz FUNERAL HOME Hartington, Coleridge & Crofton 402-254-6547 wintzrayfuneralhome.com <i>Trusted For Generations</i>	
HEATING & COOLING Larry's HEATING & COOLING 920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461 Turn to the Experts Also online at www.yankton.net		LANDSCAPING Harley's Curb Appeal Landscaping, Inc. 3109 Old River Rd. Yankton, SD 57078 605-661-0856 MEDICAL CLINIC Lewis and Clark Family Medicine 2525 Fox Run Parkway, Ste. 200 Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100 RESTAURANTS JoDean's Restaurant 2809 Broadway, Yankton, 665-9884							