

MIDWEST DIGEST

S.D. Unemployment Down Slightly In April

PIERRE (AP) — The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics says South Dakota's preliminary unemployment rate for April was 4.7 percent, down slightly from 4.8 percent in March and 4.9 percent in April 2009.

State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts says the number of job openings in South Dakota continues to grow. She says there are 8,000 openings this week, the largest number in a year.

Roberts says hiring also is on the increase across the state as employers become more optimistic about the economy.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from 9.7 percent in March to 9.9 percent in April.

S.D. Honored For H1N1 Vaccination Effort

PIERRE (AP) — The state's H1N1 immunization effort has been honored at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit.

The South Dakota Department of Health received the Summit Award in Arizona Tuesday for outstanding efforts and partnerships during the 2009-2010 H1N1 vaccination campaign.

Health Secretary Doneen Hollingsworth credited the partnership between the governor, media outlets and residents with helping the state achieve some of the highest immunization rates in the nation.

South Dakota vaccinated 34.4 percent of adults 18 and over for H1N1, which is more than 260,000 South Dakotans.

Mumps Case Confirmed In South Dakota

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota Health Department says a case of mumps has been confirmed in Minnehaha County.

State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says officials do not yet know if the case is linked to cases outside the state.

The Health Department issued a mumps advisory last week, after cases were confirmed in Iowa and Nebraska.

The mumps virus typically causes swollen salivary glands, fever and a rash. A spring outbreak in South Dakota four years ago infected nearly 300 people and prompted an immunization effort.

Service Gaps For Nebraska Kids Remain

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers were told there's been progress helping families with troubles like those who dropped children off under the state's old safe-haven law, but challenges remain.

Lawmakers were told Wednesday that some parents still feel forced to make their children state wards so they can get needed services.

Lawmakers were also informed the system for troubled families is hard to navigate.

And officials who run new services for families say adoptive parents told them they weren't fully informed of problems their adopted children would have, such as issues caused by biological parents' alcohol or drug use.

Three dozen children — most of them adolescents — were dropped off at hospitals in 2008 before lawmakers put a 30-day age limit into the safe-haven law.

Graduation Dress Dispute In S.D. Ends

OEIRICHS (AP) — An American Indian high school senior in South Dakota who fought a losing court battle to wear traditional Lakota dress to his graduation says he won't be at the ceremony, but not because of the dispute.

Aloysius Dreaming Bear says he will instead be attending the funeral of his grandfather, who died over the weekend.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken of Rapid City on Tuesday ruled that the Oelrichs School District could require Dreaming Bear to wear a cap and gown on Saturday.

Dreaming Bear had argued that such a requirement infringed on his First Amendment rights.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

FUNERAL PROTESTS

Kan. AG Asks States To Support Ban

BY JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas Attorney General Steve Six asked attorneys general from across the country Wednesday to join him in a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a case that aims to prevent protests at funerals.

Six intends to file the friend-of-the-court brief in an appeal by the family of Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder.

Snyder's father, Albert Snyder, sued Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka after members picketed his son's 2006 funeral. The church contends U.S. military deaths are God's punishment for tolerating homosexuality. The lawsuit accuses the church of invading his privacy and intentionally inflicting emotional distress.

The Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether the actions of the Westboro protesters, led by the Phelps family, are protected by the U.S. Constitution's free speech amendment — no matter how provocative and upsetting.

Six said other states need to stand up for a family's right to mourn loved ones in dignity. More than 40 states, including Kansas, have enacted laws regulating funeral protests.

"Funeral goers are a captive audience and they are engaged in a deeply personal and private mourning process," Six said. "The Constitution does not give the Phelps the right to hijack solemn proceedings such as funerals in order to spread their hateful ideas."

As of Wednesday, 10 states had agreed to join Six in his brief and he hoped to have a final list of participants by May 26. Joining Kansas are Connecticut, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Sean Summers, the family's lead attorney, said the Snyders appreciated Six taking the initiative to get all states to join the court filing.

"Frankly, I think it will carry a lot of weight, given what Kansas has been through for the past decades," Summers said, referring to the attention that the Phelps family brings to the state.

Matthew Snyder, 20, died in a Humvee accident in Iraq. His family lives in York, Pa., about 85 miles west of Philadelphia.

The Phelps contacted the police before protesting Snyder's funeral in Westminster, Md., and the protest was confined to a designated public area 1,000 feet from the church.

Albert Snyder won the first round decisively, when a jury in federal court in Baltimore awarded him \$10.9 million in dam-

ages in October 2007. A judge later reduced the award to \$5 million.

Last September, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the verdict, ruling Westboro's protest was constitutionally protected free speech. In addition, the lower court ordered the Snyder family to pay the Phelps family \$16,510 in court costs.

The Phelps family says they intend to use the money to continue their protests across the country. The ruling prompted an outpouring of support and donations for the Snyders, including from Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly and the American Legion. Summers said the Snyders have received a lot of support from Kansans, many of whom begin by apologizing for the Phelps family and their actions.

Six helped Kansas legislators draft a revised funeral picketing law that was struck down in part by the Kansas Supreme Court on technical grounds. He said his brief would argue that such regulation of conduct was constitutional and that families deserved privacy during funerals.

Summers said he had contacted state officials around the country to encourage them to get their attorneys general to join the Kansas petition.

"Our goal is all 50 states, but we're realistic about the chances," Summers said.

State Parks, Sites Among Most Endangered In U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — When chunks of plaster began falling from the ceiling of the national cathedral of African Methodism last year, one of Washington's oldest black congregations nearly had to abandon its sanctuary.

Instead, the people of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church — where funerals were held for member Frederick Douglass and, a century later, Rosa Parks — have begun emergency repairs. They brought in a scaffolding with wood planks to block falling debris. Now they worship under yellow construction lights strung overhead.

On Wednesday, the church was among the sites named America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places because it needs \$11 million in critical repairs. Also, for the first time, one of the spots on the list was reserved for all state parks and state-owned historic places in the country, as a nod to the widespread state budget cuts that are affecting such sites.

The 1886 red brick Victorian Gothic-style church deteriorated over time. Once among the largest integrated meeting halls in the segregated nation's capital, it suffered cracks and water damage as its residential neighborhood was few blocks from the White House was swallowed by downtown development.

"It's an expense the congregation by itself simply cannot afford," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "We all need to help."

State-owned properties are also among those listed as needing help, as about 30 cash-strapped states turn out the lights on as many

as 400 sites and slash their budgets.

New York state alone is shutting down dozens of parks and sites, including abolitionist John Brown's farm where he is buried near Lake Placid. It has been open to the public since 1895.

Vandals could cause costly damage at such sites if states turn off the heat and water and abandon aging structures, Moe said.

Some states have cut their budgets for state parks and sites by as much as 75 percent in recent years, he said, threatening sites from New Jersey to Arizona.

The group is urging states to follow Ohio's example by pursuing public-private partnerships to keep sites open with fewer tax dollars. Among the most endangered sites on the 2010 list is one of the last surviving Negro League ballparks, Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, N.J. The 10,000-seat Art Deco stadium was home to the New York Black Yankees.

In Lincoln, Neb., the Industrial Arts Building could meet the wrecking ball. And in the Silicon Valley, the oldest structure in Palo Alto, an 1844 adobe home built by one of the original Hispanic residents of San Francisco sits abandoned and could be demolished. The Juana Briones House recalls California's Spanish and Mexican heritage.

Other endangered sites according to the National Trust are:

— Black Mountain in Harlan County, Ky. — The historic mining towns of Benham and Lynch have built up heritage tourism that is

now threatened by possible new deep mining permits around Black Mountain.

— Merritt Parkway in Fairfield County, Conn. — The National Trust said Connecticut has neglected maintenance on the scenic roadway with its decorative bridges and landscaping.

— Pagat in Yigo, Guam — A large military buildup in the westernmost U.S. territory is threatening remnants of the ancient settlement of Pagat, home to the Chamorro people.

— Saugatuck Dunes in Saugatuck, Mich. — About 2,500 acres of natural sand dunes and wetlands along Lake Michigan are threatened by a proposed 400-acre development of homes, hotels, restaurants and shops.

— Threefoot Building in Meridian, Miss. — A 16-story Art Deco building lavishly decorated but vacant since 2000 could face demolition after the city has been unable to deliver financing to help a developer restore the 80-year-old structure.

— Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia — Near the site where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant first met in one of the bloodiest Civil War battles, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. intends to build a Supercenter. Preservationists are fighting the plan in court, saying it will attract more sprawling development within the battlefield boundaries.

In Washington, members of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church gathered Wednesday to sing hymns with hopes their building can be saved.

Neb. Human Services Chief Seeks Answers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The official overseeing Nebraska's efforts to reform the system for troubled children and families says the state is still searching for answers to early problems with contractors hired to help spearhead reform.

Kerry Winterer is chief executive officer of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. He told a legislative committee on Wednesday

that the department has to understand why the issues arose and learn from them, because the state can't go back on reform.

In April, the state learned that two of the five contractors hired to provide essential services to more than a third of the 6,380 state wards would be lost.

The two agencies, one of which has since shut down, have complained the state didn't pay enough.

APOLOGY

From Page 1

President Barack Obama signed it in December. Lawmakers have described the resolution as a symbolic gesture that would help promote a renewed commitment by the federal government to the tribes.

Brownback has said the resolution was not meant to authorize or support any claim against the U.S. government or serve as a settlement of any claim. His office did not immediately return messages Wednesday seeking comment.

In the text, the resolution "acknowledges years of official depredations, ill-conceived policies and the breaking of covenants" by the U.S. government toward tribes and "apologizes on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native

Peoples for many instances of violence, maltreatment and neglect inflicted on" American Indians by U.S. citizens.

Creek Nation Second Chief Alfred Berryhill called the apology "a historical step" in the relationship between the U.S. government and the tribes, which he said "maintain ourselves as sovereign" nations.

"We feel as if this took effort on the part of the U.S. government," Berryhill said. "We do appreciate the effort of the Congress. I know it's hard for our nation to apologize to anybody."

The site of the ceremony, Congressional Cemetery, is the burial site for 36 tribal representatives from 12 American Indian nations who died in the region while representing their people, Cherokee Nation spokesman Cameron Andrews said. Among them are William Shorey Coodey, the author of the Cherokee Nation constitution, who died in 1849, and former Choctaw Nation Chief Pushmataha, who died in 1824.

Where You Find Business & Professional EXPERTS!

Business AD-vantage

A NEW BREED OF YELLOW PAGES

APPLIANCE SALES/SERVICE	CLEANING	FRAMING/HOME DECOR	INTERNET
Kaiser Appliance Center 2000 Broadway, Yankton 665-2082 • 1-888-593-5723	Steamway CLEANING 665-5700 1-800-529-2450 • Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning • Duct Cleaning • Fire and Water Restoration Specialists	LilyCrest Cottage 211 W. 3rd, Yankton, 664-8800 www.lilycrest.com	Your Gateway To Yankton's Virtual Community Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan 319 Walnut, Yankton 605-665-7811 1-800-743-2968
Larry's APPLIANCE 920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461	COMFORT FOOTWEAR Boston Shoes To Boots 312 West 3rd, Yankton, SD 605-665-9092	Also online at www.yankton.net	www.yankton.net
LG Amana MAYTAG	COUNSELING SERVICE A Safe Place, Inc. Tere Berkland, MSW, CSW, PIP (605) 661-5176	FUNERAL & CREMATION	MOVING
AUTO BODY REPAIR	Also online at www.yankton.net	Wintz & Ray FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. Yankton • 605-665-3644 Garden of Memories Cemetery	Bentley Moving (605) 661-9793 Formerly with Vanderhule M&S
The Collision Center 911 Chevy Lane, E. Hwy. 50, Yankton, 665-7670	DECORATING	Wintz FUNERAL HOME Harrington, Coleridge & Crofton 402-254-6547 wintzrayfuneralhome.com Trusted For Generations	PETS
Justas Body Shop 2806 Fox Run Parkway Yankton, 665-3929	Yankton Paint & Decorating 406 Broadway • 665-5032 "Since 1964" • Carpet • Vinyl • Wood • Ceramic & Laminate Flooring • Window & Wall Treatments Benjamin Moore and Pratt & Lambert Paint	HEATING & COOLING	Canine Grooming Center, L.L.C. 718 Douglas, Yankton, 665-8885
Riverside Auto Body www.riversideautobody-gonegreen.com 402-667-3285	BANKING	KPH Heating & Cooling 1901 Broadway, Yankton 665-3970	PRINTING
Services Center Federal Credit Union 609 W. 21st, Yankton, SD	First Dakota National Bank 225 Cedar St., 665-7432 2105 Broadway, 665-4999	Kaiser Heating & Cooling Let our professionals help you with your heating & cooling needs. • Residential & Commercial • Sales • Service • Installation 808 W. 23rd, Yankton 665-2895 • 866-769-2343	Yankton Media Inc. 665-7811 • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS • COLOR COPIES • LAMINATING • FLYERS • POSTERS • ENVELOPES AND MORE!!
BATH & KITCHEN CABINETS	DENTIST	Let our professionals help you with your heating & cooling needs.	RADON SERVICES
The Kitchen Place 309 W. 11th Yankton, SD 605-668-2168 • 1-800-249-3837	Vermillion Dental Health www.smilesforsouthdakota.com 605-624-8695	HEATING & COOLING	Radon Measure & Mitigation Certified (NEHA & NRPP) Delmer Vennard, Yankton, SD 668-0756 • 661-4690
CLEANING	ELECTRICAL	Larry's HEATING & COOLING 920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461 Carrier Turn to the Experts	WINDOWS
FloorTec Professional Cleaning & Restoration 605-665-4839	Johnson Electric, LLP Fast Courteous Service For All Your Electrical & Trenching 214 Capital, Yankton, 665-5686		"MY WINDOW GUY" Professional Window Cleaning Residential & Commercial FREE ESTIMATES 605-336-3939
J&H Cleaning Services If It's Dirty... We Will Clean It 605-661-9211	L&S Electric Harry Lane, Contractor 665-6612 • 6611-1040		
	FAMILY MEDICINE		
	Lewis and Clark Family Medicine, PC 1101 Broadway, Morgan Square Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100		
	Also online at www.yankton.net		

Cool Choices

Turn to the Experts

Carrier

Install a new Heating & Cooling System this Spring and SAVE up to

\$1275 in rebates from **Carrier**

Turn to the Experts

Larry's HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway, Yankton • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461

www.yankton.net