

Head Start Cutting 200 Students In S.D.

RAPID CITY (AP) — About 200 children will be removed from South Dakota's Head Start programming during the school year as part of a 5 percent budget cut, organization officials said Tuesday.

Youth & Family Services officials anticipate closing Deadwood's program by May 31, eliminating 20 students and a staff of four, the *Rapid City Journal* reported. Another 12 or 13 students enrolled in home-based Early Head Start programming in Rapid City also will have to look for an alternative.

The program had allotted about \$20.6 million for South Dakota, but the Office of Head Start called for nationwide cuts in a March 1 memo.

Youth & Family Services "regrets the impact these cuts will have on children and communities," said its associate executive director, David Miller, in a news release. But Miller added that the organization "will continue to advocate for effective early childhood services that prepare children for school and for life."

South Dakota Head Start Executive Director Kathy Kruse said cutting just staff or training wouldn't be enough to stop enrollment cuts.

"We can't say we're going to cut out training to keep kids," she said. "If we are going to cut teachers, we can't maintain adequate programming. The idea is to maintain the quality of the program."

She added, however, that cutting students was the last thing program directors want to do.

Head Start spokeswoman Sally Aman said deciding what to cut falls on local program directors. She said options to make ends meet include cutting hours or reducing the number of days in the school year, staff or enrollment.

"Each program has to decide what works for them," she said.

Governor Welcomes Guard Troops Back Home

RAPID CITY (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch welcomed home members of a Rapid City-based Army National Guard unit Tuesday morning.

KOTA television reports that the 935th Support Battalion returned home to the Black Hills on Monday night.

The unit spent 10 months in Kuwait providing aviation maintenance and repair support to the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Daugaard says soldiers and airmen put their lives on the line, and it's important for those in government and the private sector to express their appreciation.

Staff Sgt. Shawn Jensen says he's looking forward to getting back to mowing the lawn and sitting on his deck.

Wheat Prices Down 1 Cent From Last Month

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The April preliminary winter wheat price in South Dakota is down a penny from last month but up more than a dollar from a year ago.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that the price of \$7.30 per bushel is down 1 cent from last month but up \$1.13 from last April. The spring wheat price of \$7.80 is 17 cents lower than last month and 33 cents lower than April.

The April soybean price of \$13.90 per bushel is 50 cents lower than last month but 20 cents higher than last year.

Corn, at \$6.45 per bushel, is down 59 cents from last month but up 38 cents from last year.

Sunflowers at \$24 per hundredweight are down 40 cents from last month and down \$3.30 from last year.

Judge Dismisses Suit Over Upfront Card Fees

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A federal lawsuit that aimed to stop a watchdog agency from enforcing credit card rules limiting upfront fees has been dismissed.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier on Tuesday dismissed the suit by First Premier Bank and Premier Bankcard against the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and its director, Richard Cordray.

A provision of the Credit Card Accountability and Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 was to limit the amount companies could charge before issuing a new card to 25 percent of the card's credit limit.

But both sides filed motions to dismiss after the bureau changed the proposed rules so they do not apply to fees paid prior to account opening.

Neb. Lawmakers Advance Child-Care Quality Bill

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska spends nearly \$95 million a year on child-care subsidies for working, low-income families, but the state isn't tracking the quality of care those children receive.

Lawmakers gave first-round approval Tuesday to a bill that would rate child-care providers based on staff training, outcomes for children and other factors. The program would be voluntary for smaller providers, and mandatory for those that collect at least \$250,000 per year from the state.

It also would expand the number of families who are eligible for the child-care subsidy by increasing the maximum income needed to qualify.

"It isn't enough to establish safety and health standards for early childhood care and education centers," said Sen. Kathy Campbell of Lincoln, the bill's chief sponsor. "We need to be concerned about quality."

Campbell said many of the children who rely on the child-care subsidy are often the same ones who lag their peers developmentally — and end up costing the state more through medication and special-education classes.

She argued that quality standards for the

largest providers could help children bridge the gap early, without burdening smaller child-care services and those in rural Nebraska.

The bill would have applied to 62 private providers who met the threshold last year. They served more than 12,000 children, at a combined state cost of \$27 million.

Lawmakers also voted to increase the maximum income for families to qualify for a state subsidy. Current law sets the maximum at 120 percent of the federal poverty level — roughly \$23,400 for a family of three. The proposal would ratchet up the income threshold to 130 percent, or about \$25,400, by 2015.

Sen. Danielle Conrad of Lincoln, a member of the Appropriations Committee, said the move was intended to restore some of the funding that was cut in 2002. The state originally offered a subsidy for families who made 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Conrad said families who participate in the program are required to make a co-pay to enroll their children, based on what they can afford. Nebraska also ranks 50th among U.S. states, with the tightest income requirement for families to receive the subsidy, Conrad said. The bill would increase Nebraska's ranking to 44th.

"There's no free lunch for anybody in this program," Conrad said. "This program rewards work. It incentivizes work."

Supporters argued that the bill would also

increase the likelihood that parents are able to place children in care, instead of leaving them at home. The average yearly cost of full-time infant care at a child care center was a little more than \$7,600 in 2002, according to Child Care Aware, an information source for providers and parents. The cost for home-based care was nearly \$5,900.

"The least safe child is a child who should be in care, but isn't," said Sen. Kate Bolz, of Lincoln.

Several conservative lawmakers took issue with the bill's cost, which is expected to hit \$8.2 million in Nebraska's next two-year budget.

"We are not we had to cut the budget severely in 2002," said Sen. Dave Bloomfield, of Hoskins. "Let's look at the possibility that maybe we were a little too generous to start with, which is why we had to cut back."

Sen. Bill Kintner of Papillion said well-intentioned lawmakers have embarked on a spending spree this year to try to solve the state's problems.

Kintner said the state should focus instead on economic development to attract more businesses, some of which might offer child-care services themselves.

"We've gotten a windfall. Give it back to the taxpayers," he said. "We've taken too much. Give them back their money."

South Dakota

Membership Fees Divide Lawmakers

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Democrats and Republicans are at odds over using taxpayer money to pay for state lawmakers' memberships in an organization that describes itself as a nonpartisan think tank dedicated to free markets and limited government.

The South Dakota Legislature's Republican-dominated executive board voted recently to pay the \$50 annual membership fee in the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, for all 105 state lawmakers, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported. Republicans say the council involves both parties, along with businesses, and is aimed at developing better state-level public policy.

"I would look at it as education, education, education," said Sen. Deb Peters, R-Hartford, South Dakota state chairwoman for ALEC. "Our legislators will get better the more they get to interact with other legislators (from other states)."

Democrats say it is inappropriate for the state to pay for lawmakers' membership in an organization that Democrats believe is a conservative group dominated by Republicans and big business.

"Clearly, they're a very pro-large corporation advocacy group," said House Minority Leader Bernie Hunhoff, D-Yankton. "They have a right to exist. The problem is taxpayer dollars shouldn't be supporting that."

The \$5,250 cost to buy ALEC memberships for all South Dakota lawmakers is cheap compared to the other two groups in which the Legislature participates — the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments, both long-standing nonpartisan groups of state officials.

The current year's dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures are \$118,689 for the entire Legislature, or around \$1,130 per lawmaker. It costs \$90,249 for South Dakota to be a member of the Council of State Governments, though that cost also includes the executive and judicial branches of state government.

Critics of ALEC say its dues are cheaper because of contributions from billionaire business people who control the group's agenda and influence state legislation.

S.D. Robo-Call Case Might Go In Different Direction

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota state senator is considering filing a federal complaint against those who operated a robo-call campaign criticizing some Republican legislators last year.

Dakota Dunes lawmaker Dan Lederman has already filed a civil lawsuit in an effort to find out who backed the anonymous campaign that targeted some lawmakers for their votes on veterans' issues. Lederman's lawsuit also aims to clarify the bounds of election law for legislators subject to such campaigns and the citizens who might hear them.

State Circuit Court Judge Stuart Tiede questioned Monday whether anyone but the secretary of state or prosecutors can use the courts to enforce election law, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported.

"This is not the attorney general bringing an action on behalf of the secretary of state to enforce campaign finance laws," Tiede said of Lederman's lawsuit. "This is a private individual, essentially becoming a private attorney general to enforce campaign finance laws."

Tiede did not immediately rule

on a defense motion to dismiss the case.

Lederman's attorney, Joel Arends, said he might file a complaint under a federal act that restricts unsolicited telephone marketing calls and the use of automated and prerecorded telephone messages. The Federal Communications Commission can levy fines against anyone who violates the rules.

"We still believe that Lederman and (his political action committee) have standing in the case," Arends said. "The judge may not agree with that. We may not get a favorable ruling out of him this time. But ... we're moving in the direction of Telecommunications Consumer Protection Act violations."

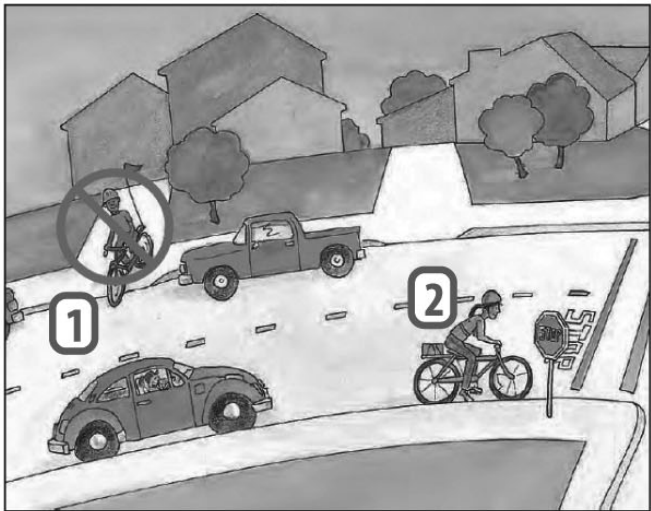
R. Shawn Tornow, attorney for GOP activist Daniel Willard, a defendant in the civil case who also has been charged criminally, said he was "pleased the judge seemed to indicate that he, too, had significant concerns." But he added that he was "troubled" by the report that Lederman might file a new complaint.



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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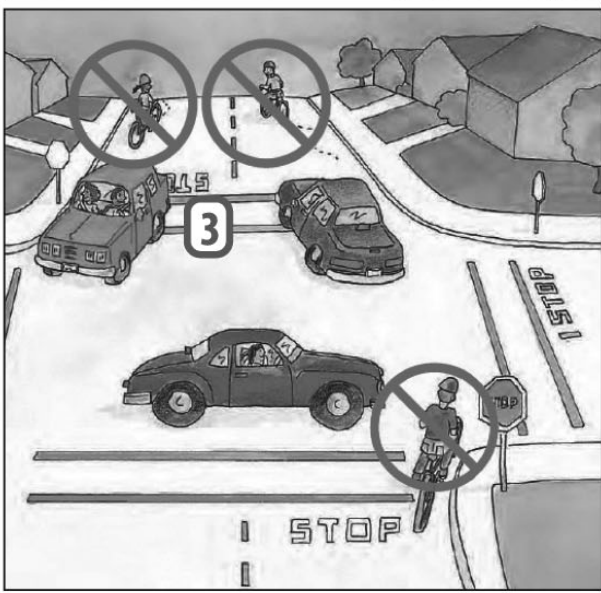
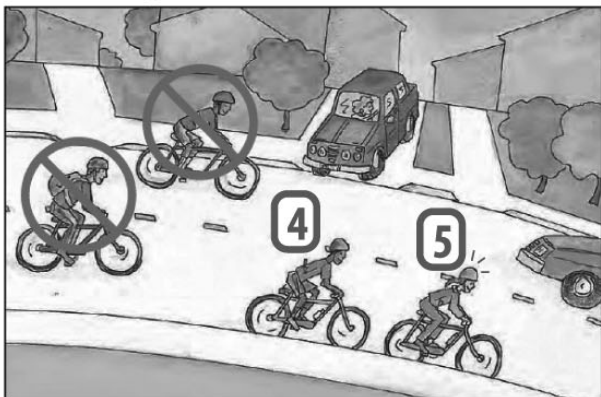
May is Bike Safety Month



5 Rules to Live By When Riding a Bike

Number each safety rule to go with numbers in the pictures that best illustrate that rule.

- Be careful when checking traffic and don't swerve when looking over your shoulder.
- Always wear your helmet.
- Don't dart out of driveways or between parked cars.
- Stop at all stop signs.
- Always go with the flow of traffic and keep to the side of the road.



Special thanks to our friends at AAA for their help with this page. For more about safety, visit AAA.com/childsafety



Extra! Extra!

Wheels and Work

Wheels make different kinds of work easier. Look through the newspaper to find examples of machines that have wheels. How do the wheels make different tasks easier?

Standards Link: Physical Science: tools and machines are used to apply pushes and pulls (forces) to make things move.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Unscramble the safety word on each sign.



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

Double Double Word Search

CHECKING
APPROVED
TRAFFIC
CAREFUL
SAFETY
HELMET
CHARGE
RULES
ROADS
SIGNS
NIGHT
LIGHT
PLANS
BIKE
CLIP

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

B E G N I K C E H C
D L U F E R A C T L
E H E S S A E R H I
V E G S A K A L G P
O L R F I F I S I P
R M A B F G E E N L
P E H I H L N T A A
P T C T U L W S Y N
A A Y R O A D S S S

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Good Example/Bad Example

The newspaper is full of examples of things that are safe and unsafe. Clip out three examples of things that are either safe or unsafe. Glue each to a piece of paper and write a safety rule that applies.

Standards Link: Health; Students recognize safe and unsafe situations or behaviors.

Write On!

Underground Living

Would you like to live underground? If so, describe your underground home and what you like about it. If not, tell five reasons why not.

Deadline: May 26 Published: Week of June 23
Please include your school and grade.

Send your story to:

Press & Dakotan
C/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Weekly Writing Corner

Safety Rules

What are the safety rules you need to know when riding your bike?

Bike safety rules are important. Rule #1: You need a helmet. Rule #2: You need a bike and you need to learn how to brake. Rule #3: You need knee pads. Rule #4: You need arm pads. Rule #5: You need sneakers or you'll get hurt. Those are the safety rules. Don't forget, safety rules are important.

Dakota, 2nd grade

Always wear a helmet in case you crash. Make sure you have a reflector at night. Don't go riding a bike without permission from a parent. Stay on the right side of the road while riding. Look left and right before crossing a street.

Calvin, 2nd grade

You need knee pads and elbow pads and a helmet.

Elizabeth, 1st grade

When I ride my bike I will not go fast but I will wear a helmet. I will keep my eyes on the road and wear safety pads on my elbows and knees.

Liliana, 1st grade

Rule 1: Close your eyes and ride downhill with no helmet or safety pads — JUST KIDDING!

#1 Always wear a helmet.

#2 If you a new to riding, wear knee pads.

#3 Don't do fast turns.

#4 Stop when a car comes.

#5 Always stop at stop signs.

#6 Always wear tennis shoes - no sandals.

#7 Always put your bike inside the garage — not outside where it could get stolen or rusty.

#8 Always make sure screws and bolts are secure and tight.

#9 Check your tire pressure.

Samuel, 2nd grade

The safety rules you need to know when riding your bike are: to wear a helmet and some knee pads.

Katelyn, 2nd grade