

S. Dakota Horse Sculpture To Be In International Exhibit

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A Lakota carving of a horse that seems to be dying of battle wounds, a signature piece held by the South Dakota State Historical Society, is about to hit the road.

The Horse Effigy dance stick will be included in an exhibit featuring American Indian art from the Great Plains that will be displayed over the two next years at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

Jay D. Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, said the 3-foot-long wooden carving is believed to have been made in about 1870 by a Lakota artist or warrior as a tribute to a horse that died in battle. The carving, used in various dances, is so highly regarded that it serves as the society's logo.

Red paint, representing blood, seems to seep from wounds on the carving, which also features a real horsehair mane and tail.

"It looks like it's leaping and there's obviously blood coming from different spots on the body. Whether it was shot

with bullets or arrows, we don't know," Vogt said. "Obviously, it's a horse that's in its last throes of life."

Gaylord Torrence, senior curator of American Indian Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, said the horse carving will be part of a 140-piece exhibit that features objects from private and museum collections from North America and Europe. The exhibit, "Art of the Plains Indians," will feature some of the greatest icons of Native American art from a region stretching from the Mississippi River Valley to the Rocky Mountains and from Texas to Canada, he said.

Torrence, guest curator for the ex-

hibit, said it will open in Paris in April 2014 at the musee du quai Branly, which features indigenous art from around the world. It will move to Kansas City in September 2014 and New York in March 2015. The exhibit will include items from before Europeans made contact with Native Americans in the region to the present day. Some items in the exhibit were collected by the Lewis and Clark expedition that explored the American West in 1804-1806, he said.

One of the most famous pieces will be the South Dakota horse carving, which gained fame in a 1976 exhibition that also traveled to Europe, Torrence said.

"In the world of American Indian art, all you have to do is talk about the famous horse effigy and everybody knows what you're talking about. It's a famous thing," Torrence said.

Vogt said South Dakota officials are a little nervous about having the carving leave the state. But he said the exhibition will gain international attention that could bring visitors to the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, where the carving is displayed in the American Indian section of the center's museum.

"We loan artifacts to other museums, but this is just very high profile and our signature piece. It's a big deal," Vogt said.

Debate Begins On Nebraska State Budget Bills

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lawmakers have started to debate a series of bills that will make up Nebraska's next state budget.

The proposals that won committee approval allocate about \$7.8 billion for the new two-year budget cycle, which begins on July 1. Sen. Heath Mello, the Appropriations Committee chairman, presented the measures Tuesday to the full Legislature.

The budget includes higher-than-average spending increases for higher education, state equalization aid for schools, funding for the developmentally disabled and for state employee retirement plans. It also allocates money to comply with requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

The budget was released after the state board that projects tax revenue predicted a roughly \$51 million increase in the upcoming budget years.

Lawmakers are expected to continue their debate on Wednesday.

New Chief Resigns In S.D. Town That Fired Chief

WORTHING (AP) — A southeastern South Dakota town that fired its police chief late last year for alleged unprofessional conduct is without a chief again.

Brion Kimball was on the job in Worthing for only about a month before resigning last week. The *Argus Leader* newspaper reported Tuesday that Kimball also is the chief for Centerville and found that trying to work both positions was untenable.

"Once I was working both places, I decided Worthing wasn't the right fit for me," Kimball said. "It just wasn't for me."

Mayor Eric Saugstad said Kimball's resignation came as a surprise.

"It wasn't something we were expecting," Saugstad said. "We'd expected him to stay on as our chief."

Lincoln County deputies will patrol Worthing until a new chief is hired for the town of about 900 people.

The city fired longtime chief Roger Knutson in December. Knutson said at the time that personal conflicts with City Administrator Jeffery Tanner were at the heart of the problem.

Feds: Man Mailed Dog Feces To County Official

PIERRE (AP) — Federal prosecutors say a South Dakota man tried mailing a package of dog feces to a county official.

The *Argus Leader* reports that 49-year-old Tom J. Parsons, of Pierre, has been charged with mailing injurious articles, which is a misdemeanor.

An indictment filed Monday alleges Parsons mailed a first-class package containing dog feces addressed to Dewey County Treasurer Kelli Mowrer.

Mowrer says Parsons was doing business with her office because he was a lien holder on a vehicle being sold in Dewey County.

Mowrer says the postal service called her to say the package smelled bad and asked for permission to keep it and investigate. Court records do not indicate that Parsons has a lawyer.

Nebraska Lawmakers Raise Arguments On Charter Schools

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Lawmakers who support a bill previously considered dead that would allow charter schools in Omaha forced a debate on the issue Tuesday while discussing an unrelated measure to fund teacher retirement plans.

Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh of Omaha resurrected the issue during a debate on the teacher-retirement bill, which is required to meet Nebraska's legal obligation to fund their pension plans.

Lautenbaugh introduced the charter-schools bill and presented it in February to the Education Committee, where it was indefinitely postponed.

"We talk a lot about education, and unfortunately it's usually in the context of 'We need to increase funding,'" said Lautenbaugh, whose district includes Omaha Public Schools. "But that's not the only solution. That's not even a realistic solution anymore. That's not even a solution anymore, I would argue."

The charter-schools bill was opposed by the state Department of Education, Omaha Public Schools and a union that represents thousands of Nebraska teachers. It was endorsed by the Platte Institute and Americans for Prosperity-Nebraska.

Lautenbaugh said the nation has 4,936 charter schools in 39 states, as well as the District of Columbia. The outcomes have

varied by school, but Lautenbaugh argued that the charter schools could offer an alternative to poorly performing schools. He said his bill only would have authorized a maximum of five charter schools.

Charter schools are funded with public money, but operate independently of local school boards. A similar measure to allow them in rural districts died in 2010. Opponents have argued that charter schools would divert money away from school districts and are unnecessary because, unlike many of the states that allow charter schools, Nebraska's laws give districts wide latitude to have creative forums for educating students.

Sen. Norm Wallman of Cortland said lawmakers should look instead at year-round school or other changes to the existing public-school system.

"If we can't make public schools work, how can we make charter schools work?" he said.

The move came less than a week after supporters of a stalled Medicaid-expansion bill raised that issue during legislative debate on an unrelated proposal. But supporters of the teacher-retirement bill warned that failing to pass it would blow a hole in the state budget and eliminate funding for this year's pending legislation. Lawmakers advanced the retirement bill Tuesday afternoon with an emergency clause to set it into effect right away.

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