

SDSU Offering New Programs

BROOKINGS (AP) — South Dakota State University is offering new programs to meet the demands of a changing food industry.

The Tri-State Neighbor reports the school now offers a precision agriculture minor, and it will be offering a new meat science minor and food science major this fall.

The school's only food science offerings used to emphasize nutrition and diets from the perspective of how humans consume food. But the new program will deal more with making food products that are healthful and nutritious.

The newspaper reports that some of the fastest growing agriculture career fields are those supporting producers who grow the food, including precision agriculture, genetics and food manufacturing.

The new food science major could lead students to careers in meat or grain processing and development of new food products.

Man Sentenced For Trespassing On Res.

PIERRE (AP) — A Chicago man accused by federal authorities of repeatedly violating an order banning him from entering the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota has been sentenced to one year in prison.

Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says 44-year-old Steven Nichols was also ordered to spend one year on supervised release and to not re-enter the lands of Todd County and the reservation.

On September 2011, Nichols was barred from the reservation and escorted off tribal lands. The reason wasn't immediately clear.

Federal authorities say Nichols violated that tribal order at least three times, and as a result, he was sentenced to nine months in federal custody in September. He was placed on a work release program, but he was again found on tribal land in January.

Nichols was charged with criminal trespass following the January incident. He later pleaded guilty to the charge.

Omaha Police Investigate Fatal Stabbing

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police are investigating the stabbing death of a 31-year-old man.

Police Officer Michael Pecha says police were called to the southeast Omaha neighborhood around 1:30 a.m. Sunday. Officers found David Silva-Avalos lying near the home's garage door. He died at the scene.

Anyone with information about Silva-Avalos' death is encouraged to contact police.

The fatal stabbing is the fourth homicide in Omaha in the past six days.

Hospital Starting Work On Expansion

DE SMET (AP) — Crews are starting to work on a hospital expansion and renovation at Avera De Smet Memorial Hospital.

Groundbreaking will be Monday for the \$3.2 million project in the town between Huron and Brookings.

The hospital says the \$3.2 million plan involves adding new space and equipment as well as transforming existing space to be more efficient, patient-friendly and offer of state-of-the-art health care.

It includes remodeling two emergency rooms, remodeling the inpatient wing for private rooms, an expansion of physical therapy, a new radiology department, upgrading the facility's appearance and infrastructure, adding space at the main entrance and improving the emergency entrance.

A capital campaign raised \$1.7 million, more than double the original goal of \$750,000.

The project should be done in 18 months to two years.

Nebraska

Town Slowly Recovering From Tornado

BEAVER CROSSING, Neb. (AP) — A year after tornadoes caused significant damage to Beaver Crossing, residents say the eastern Nebraska town is still recovering.

Village Clerk Shannon Chesnut tells the *Lincoln Journal Star* that he's still finding glass and nails in his yard even after five clean-up efforts.

"We've raked it, we've combed it. And there is still glass and nails," said Chesnut, who works as the Beaver Crossing village clerk. "It's like the dirt eats it and spits it back up."

The town of about 400 people lost 30 buildings in the storm last Mother's Day, but fewer than 10 families left. About 20 of the homes that were lost have been or are being rebuilt.

Most homes in town now have new roofs and windows. Chesnut said Beaver Crossing is working to help anyone who is short on money for repairs.

Pastor Tamara Holtz of Beaver Crossing United Methodist Church says the Seward County town has mostly started to feel like itself.

But living through the storm and the recovery has been difficult, said Pastor Eric Wiezorek, whose Hope Center church was destroyed.

"It's the hardest thing we've ever had to go through," Wiezorek said.

The Hope Center congregation plans to start building a new church this summer, but it's still raising money because insurance won't cover all the cost of the new 12,500-square-foot facility.

This spring, Beaver Crossing held a festival to thank the roughly 3,000 people who helped with the cleanup right after the storm.

"Everybody was positive and worked hard. We got a lot of work done in a relatively short while," Village Board Chairman Dick Pariset said.

The town lost most of its large trees, so this spring volunteers have planted hundreds of saplings to replenish Beaver Crossing's canopy.

Kenny Pankoke, owner of Beaver Hardware & Supply, estimates that he has fixed or replaced more than 900 windows and screens in the past year. His own store on Main Street was heavily damaged in the storm and had to be replaced.

Pankoke said Beaver Crossing has come a long way since the storm, but it did lose several businesses after the storm.

"Any time you lose a business in town, it hurts the other businesses," Pankoke said. "It's not good for the community."

Pressler Reflects On Public Life, Future

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Election Day 2014 is six months past, but former South Dakota U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler is still eager to discuss the motivation for his independent Senate bid: the current system is poisoning American politics.

Pressler, who previously served in office as a Republican, sent out a call ahead of President Barack Obama's visit on Friday for the state to thank him for coming. Pressler also used the opportunity to push for civility in the political discourse and to argue for compromise.

He waged an effective campaign on a shoestring budget in the Senate race but ended up taking third. Pressler, 73, landed back in the news in April when Senate Minority

Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, gave a blessing to Pressler to confirm him as a member of the faith. Obama shortly after sent Pressler a note congratulating him on his confirmation.

Pressler, who said he keeps faith separate from politics, recently discussed his past, his transition into "joyful anonymity" and his confirmation with The Associated Press.

Q: Can you talk about shutting down the campaign?

A: There's a lot of regulation in a campaign ... and I ended up with a debt which I wrote off personally. ... I'm happy that I ran, but it's hard to recommend young people to run because it's such a negative, brutal process.

Q: Do you feel like you've done enough, or do you feel like you've been thwarted

from doing more?

A: It's a happy feeling. I would have liked to have done more if I'd gotten into the Senate another term, but I've done my best, and I was defeated, and I can now go into retirement fully feeling that I've done everything that I can do, and I think everybody's got to try to do something. I think we have to be idealistic. ... I was opposed by the left, right and center of the Washington establishment because they were so afraid of an independent really getting into the Senate because that might begin to reform politics, really reform.

Q: What is the favorite job that you've done?

A: When I'm able to serve others in charity. Eighteen years in the United States Senate, that's a great gift from God to have had that. I like to

do things where I am helping others. ... I love my wife and my daughter and my grandchildren. That's certainly a great pleasure, and I'll have more time for that in this new chapter, which I expect to last 10 or 20 years, I hope.

Q: Can you talk about formally joining the (Mormon church)?

A: I won't go there very much except to say that I'm the sort of person, I've always been a spiritually driven person. I believe very deeply in God and service to God, and ... I see it as a joyous opportunity to serve in certain ways and pray in certain ways, but I don't think one religion's any better than another. My basic religious beliefs have not changed. A lot of this has been a long time in coming.

100-Year-Old Rapid City Firehouse Given New Life

RAPID CITY (AP) — The historic Main Street firehouse in Rapid City is still serving a purpose in the community 100 years after it opened, if not for what it was originally intended.

The station served as the headquarters for the Rapid City Fire Department for 60 years. But the department outgrew the building, moving to a new headquarters several blocks down Main Street.

The building is now being used as a restaurant, brewery and playhouse, the *Rapid City Journal* reported. Building owner Bob Fuchs opened Rapid City's first microbrewery in the old firehouse in 1991, and he has planned a centennial celebration for the building that is now home to The Firehouse Brewing Co.

"It'll be wonderful," Fuchs said of the event scheduled for Saturday. "There's no doubt it's going to be a fun weekend."

The firehouse was built in 1915 due to a growing need for downtown headquarters for the city's fire department. Volunteer firefighters, who were split into competing hose companies, previously didn't have a place to store

an expanding supply of hose carts and hook-and-ladders.

"They had all this equipment, but no place to put it," said Lt. Jeff Bauer, historian for the Rapid City Fire Dept. "They used to keep carts in barns, wherever they could find space."

The building was located on a dirt road in the heart of a busy business district that included a theater, hardware store, department store and cafe.

"They finally had a place they could meet and stay overnight while they were on duty," Bauer said.

Happy National Hospital and Nursing Home Week! May 10 – 16



As part of National Hospital Week and National Nursing Home Week, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital would like to give a thank you to our dedicated employees and the people of southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska for their support of local, world-class health care.

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