

S.D. Education Head: Tests A 'Call To Action'

PIERRE (AP) — A state education official says new test results showing student performance plateauing in South Dakota is a call to action for the state.

Education Secretary Melody Schopp says South Dakota was one of only two states to see its scores for reading at the fourth grade level drop on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, while the national average remained steady for the third year. South Dakota is now on par with the national average for fourth grade reading.

The state remains above the national average for reading at eighth grade and both grades for math.

Schopp says the results are reflective of the state's own tests.

She says adopting new standards in English language arts and math would help address the issue.

Man Dies In S. Dakota Industrial Accident

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Minnesota man has died in an industrial accident in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls police say the 58-year-old man was operating an electrical lift at a post office Tuesday morning when he became trapped between the lift and an object attached to the ceiling. Workers called 911, but authorities found the man dead at the scene.

Officials have not released the man's name.

Sting Operation Recovers 24 Husker Tickets

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A 29-year-old Lincoln man has been arrested and 24 stolen Nebraska football tickets have been recovered in an undercover police operation.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that Mark Perez was arrested last week.

The 24 tickets were first reported stolen in late September. Then a ticket broker called police on Oct. 26 to report that a man was offering to sell 24 tickets.

Police had the broker set up a meeting for Friday morning outside a grocery store. An undercover officer went instead and arrested Perez.

Perez told police that he didn't steal the tickets. Police say Perez is believed to have bought them for \$1,500 from a man on Sept. 17.

A phone listing for Perez could not be found. Online court records don't list the case yet.

2 Sioux Falls Men Sentenced For Bank Fraud

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two tellers accused of stealing from a Sioux Falls bank have been sentenced on fraud charges.

Thirty-four-year-old Vivian Mason was sentenced to five months in prison to be followed by five months of home confinement, and ordered to pay about \$30,300 in restitution.

Thirty-five-year-old Michael Smith was sentenced to five months of home confinement and about \$35,500 in restitution.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says both men stole from a Wells Fargo branch and were indicted for bank fraud. Both pleaded guilty in August. They each will be on supervised release for five years following their sentences.

ACLU To Probe If S.D. Breaks Child-Protection Laws

BY AMBER HUNT
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating whether the South Dakota Department of Social Services violated federal law by removing Native American children from their homes and placing them in foster care instead of with relatives.

Tate Walker, an ACLU spokeswoman in Sioux Falls, said the civil rights organization has fielded individual complaints for years from families who said the state violated the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. The law directs officials to place Native American children removed from homes with their relatives or tribes except in unusual situations.

But the cases had been too scattered and disparate to tackle, Walker said, until a recent National Public Radio series accused the state of routinely breaking the law and disrupting the lives of hundreds of Native Americans each year.

"That aired and then boom: We're getting calls left and right," Walker told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "The outcry was phenomenal, not only from people demanding that something be done, but also from several potential plaintiffs."

The ACLU investigation could lead to a potential lawsuit that would unite complainants as plaintiffs against the state.

The three-part NPR report described Na-

tive American children as being placed in South Dakota's foster care system at a disproportionate rate: More than half of all children in foster care are Native American, despite them accounting for just 15 percent of the state's child population.

The series suggested that the motive might be money, since the state gets federal financial assistance for each child removed from his or her home. It also suggested a conflict of interest in Gov. Dennis Daugaard's work for Children's Home Society of South Dakota when he was a lieutenant governor. That organization received millions of dollars for housing Native American children under contracts the state awarded without competitive bid.

The governor's office criticized the report and went on the defensive even before the series began airing last week, releasing a memo titled "Setting the Record Straight" that accused NPR's reporter of being unfair and biased. According to the memo, Children's Home Society has had contracts with the state since 1978, long before Daugaard became its chief operating officer in 2002.

While Walker commended the NPR report, she said the ACLU isn't out to attack the governor.

"It's not about the governor. It's about these kids," she said. "They deserve someone to check into this."

At the center of the conflict, she said, is a

Midwest Economic Survey Takes A Negative Turn

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — For the first time in nearly two years, the overall Business Conditions Index for a nine-state region of the Midwest and Plains has taken a negative turn.

A report released Tuesday on the survey of supply managers and executives said the index dropped to 49.9 in October, from 52.2 in September.

The survey uses a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Organizers have said that any survey score above 50 suggests growth while a score below 50 suggests decline for that factor.

Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, said one reading slightly below a growth-neutral 50 doesn't signal a recession.

"But if the index continues to weaken in the months ahead, the likelihood of a return to recessionary economic conditions becomes a real possibility for 2012," said Goss, who heads the university's Economic Forecasting Group. "It is evident that the weakness in the national economy has now hit the regional economy," he said.

The survey states are Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

One of the brighter spots in the survey was the confidence index, which looks six months ahead. It rose to a still weak 49.5 in October from 40.5 in September.

The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of raw materials and supplies, dropped to 56 from September's 66.3.

"This is the lowest reading for our inflation gauge that we have

recorded since June 2009, the last month of the recession," Goss said. "Lower inflation in the pipeline will give the Federal Reserve more flexibility to further stimulate the economy."

Other components of the October index:

- New orders dropped to 45.4 from 49.6 in September.
- Production or sales dropped to 48.5 from 50.4.
- Employment dipped to 49 from 49.6.
- Trade rose to 48 from 45.5.

OBITUARIES

George Keller

George Keller, age 83, of Yankton, SD passed away Sunday, October 30, 2011 at the Wakonda Heritage Manor, Wakonda.



Keller

Memorial Services will be at 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 4, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with Pastor Bob Cappel officiating. Burial of George's cremated remains will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton with military graveside rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791, Yankton.

Visitations will be from 6-8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton with a 7:00 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

George was born in Yankton, SD on March 28, 1928. He married Patricia Mowbray in San Diego, CA in June of 1950. George was in the Merchant Marines prior to joining the Marine Corp. He served his country during the WWII War and the Korean War.

George had a trucking business. He then worked for Anderson Pub & Package Liquor for eight years. George became a liquor salesman for Famous Brands until he retired in 1990. In 2004 George had several health issues and went to live at Wakonda Heritage Manor Nursing Home. He enjoyed his life there, playing cards and teasing the nurses. George was a lifetime member of the VFW, Moose Lodge and the American Legion. He received several awards for recruiting members for these organizations. George was a generous person to those who knew him and worked with him.

Pat and George have three children: William (Bill) of Denver, CO; Georgia Musil (Ken) of Greeley, CO and John (Stephanie) of Tahoe City, CA. George had three grandchildren: Jared Musil of Denver, CO; Amanda Gustafson (Eric) of Eaton, CO and Kiel Musil (Jessica) of Denver, CO, and four great granddaughters.

George was preceded in death by his parents; his two brothers, Lawrence and Floyd and six sisters, Katherine Anderson, Florence Olson, Genevieve Donovan, Louise Nelson, Bernice Reedstrom and Beatrice Scoblic.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Humane Society or Yankton Senior Center.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 2, 2011

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.

Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Fennet Swanson

Clarence Fennet Swanson, (Fennet, no one called him Clarence), son of Joseph Sven and Lillian (Wrasse) Swanson, was born February 19, 1930, in a sod house on the homestead, about 5 miles north of Westerville, Custer County, NE. He attended Mt. Custer School until at age 10; his family moved to Dannebrog, NE. He graduated from Dannebrog High School in 1947.

Fennet attended Bethel College in St. Paul, MN, where he met his lovely wife Carol. They united in marriage on August 25, 1950, at First Baptist Church in Anoka, MN. They made their home in Dannebrog, close to his parents, east of town, for a year and then moved south of town where they developed the cattle ranch and raised their boys. They moved to Grand Rapids, MN in 1982 and owned Mickey's Restaurant for several years, before moving to Pequot Lakes, MN. They eventually retired in Mission Hill, SD where they lived for over 23 years. Fennet, age 81, died peacefully at home from heart failure, with his wife at his side.

As an active member of First Baptist Church, Dannebrog, he was a Deacon, youth leader, and served on the Board of the Baptist General Conference. He accepted Christ as his Savior there as a teen. He always said that he came to Christ because God led the family to a Bible preaching church. Most recently a member of Calvary Baptist



Swanson

was a man of integrity, who loved greatly and worked hard.

Fennet was a salesman. He sold BMA Insurance for 10 years and won a number of sales awards, but he was a cattleman at heart, working with his boys to develop a fine herd of Charolais and then Marchigiana cattle. He served on the board of the National Marchigiana Association and imported the first full-blooded 'Markey' bull in the United States. His bulls won honors at the Denver Livestock Show.

An avid sportsman he was a diehard Cornhusker football fan and died the day his favorite baseball team, the St. Louis Cardinals, won the World Series. He loved hunting ducks, geese, pheasants and deer with family and friends. He spent many hours fishing on Leech Lake in Minnesota with his sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His 35lb Muskie was a special trophy triumph caught on his 45th wedding anniversary, with help from his wife.

Survivors include Carol (Bergsten) Swanson, his wife of 61 years, and five sons: Raymond (Rina) Swanson of Sweden; Norman (Deborah)

Swanson of Grand Forks, ND; Arlan (Linda) Swanson of Fulda, MN; Charlie (Cindy Fitzgerald) Swanson of Kearney, MO and Vernon (Christie) Swanson of Lowell, AR; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Jarda, brothers Melvin, Leonard, Arvid, an infant brother Theodore, and one great-grandchild.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." I Thessalonians 4:13-14

Memorial Services:
• Calvary Baptist Church, Yankton, SD Friday, November 4, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.; fellowship time following the service.

• First Baptist Church, Dannebrog, NE Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.; fellowship time following the service.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, SD is in charge of the arrangements.

Yankton Press & Dakotan

November 2, 2011



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Obama: What's Best To Guide Pipeline Ruling

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says what's best for the American people and the economy will guide his administration's decision on whether a Canadian company can go ahead with a transnational oil pipeline to Texas.

The proposed pipeline has prompted protests across the country. Demonstrators have also been arrested in front of the White House.

Obama said Tuesday that

among the factors to be evaluated is whether the pipeline would threaten drinking water supplies in places where it would be located. He said a decision will be based on what's best for the economy and the American people, including their health. The State Department is leading the review because the pipeline crosses an international border.

Obama commented in interviews with local TV stations from Omaha, Neb., and Houston.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Lola Smith

10:30 AM, Wednesday
Wintz Funeral Home
Crofton

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644



WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Harrington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

NOMINATE THE 2011

Yankton Citizen Of The Year

Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, Nov. 30

Please Mail Your Nominations To:

Citizen Of The Year
Yankton Press & Dakotan
P.O. Box 56, Yankton, SD 57078
or visit www.yankton.net/coy

My nomination for the 2011 Yankton Citizen of the Year is:

This person should be the Citizen of the Year because:

MY NAME: _____

MY ADDRESS: _____

MY PHONE NUMBER: _____