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Midwest



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Berget To Face Execution In May

Inmate To Die For Prison Guard Death

BY CARSON WALKER
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The second of two men who killed a South Dakota prison guard is scheduled to die by lethal injection in May, though it could be delayed with an appeal. Rodney Berget, 52, is scheduled to be put to death sometime between May 3 and May 9, Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday. The warden of the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls will choose the spe-

cific time and day and announce it within 48 hours prior to the execution.

Berget has twice delayed his execution through appeals. His defense attorney, Jeff Larson, said last month he would likely request a stay. Larson was out of the office Monday and unavailable for comment.

Berget was serving life sentences for attempted murder and kidnap-

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AG Asked To Review Curriculum Standards

Legislator Questions
The Legality Of The
New K-12 Standards

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A South Dakota legislator said Monday he would ask the state attorney general for an official opinion on the legality of the state Board of Education proceeding with two new rounds of K-12 education standards.

The standards are "inappropriate and unlawful," according to Sen. Phil Jensen, R-Rapid City.

Jensen made his remarks to the state board during a public hearing on the standards for fine arts, education technology, social studies and science.

No one spoke against the fine arts and technology standards.

Earlier this year the Legislature approved a measure that expressed many lawmakers' frustration with the state board's adoption of national Common Core standards for reading and math.

Signed into law by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the anti-Common Core legislation prohibits the state board until July 1, 2016, from adopting any uniform content standards drafted by a multi-state consortium intended for adoption in two or more states.

The law also intensified an existing requirement that the state board hold at least four meetings for public comments in Aberdeen, Pierre, Sioux Falls and Rapid City before adopting standards and that there be prominent public notice.

The hearing Monday was the second on the fine arts, technology and science proposals and the first for the social studies proposal.

Sam Shaw, a state department official who proposed the science and social studies standards, said the standards aren't part of Common Core.

Shaw, who is part of the Next Generation science standards or-

New Tests May Generate Lower Scores

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The new student achievement assessments known as Smarter Balanced are more difficult than the Dakota STEP tests they replace and probably will generate weaker scores by students at least initially, a state official said Monday.

The nationally designed Smarter Balanced covers listening and writing in addition to reading and math, and therefore students' performances shouldn't be compared to the state-written Dakota STEP, Jan Martin told South Dakota Board of Education members.

"That's a really critical piece to keep in mind," Martin said. She is administrator for the department's office of assessment.

Smarter Balanced will use four achievement levels similar to No Child Left Behind but they will be labeled as "thorough" for the highest, "adequate" for proficient, and "partial" and "minimal" for the bottom two.

The goal remains for stu-

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ganization nationally, said they are South Dakota standards that are judged appropriate by South Dakota teachers.

Jensen said Senate Bill 64's intent was to put a hold on further Common Core standards. He was

STANDARDS | PAGE 13

Learning Opportunities



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

The Northeast Community College (NECC) branch campus is officially welcomed to Hartington, Nebraska, during Monday's program. The ribbon-cutting duties are shared by (from left) NECC instructor Karen Flamig, NECC President Michael Chipps, NECC board members John Davies and Steve Anderson, Hartington Chamber of Commerce President Karma Schulte and NECC regional coordinator Russ Flamig.

NECC Opens Hartington Site

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — At Monday's open house, Northeast Community College (NECC) officials from Norfolk, Nebraska, dedicated their newest branch at Hartington — and announced interest in opening another site a little further north.

NECC President Michael Chipps expressed pleasure at opening the satellite campus in Hartington.

"This is a really vibrant community up here," he said. "The community really wants to move ahead with this project."

The NECC presence may expand across the state border into Yankton, Cripps said. The community college has talked

with Yankton businesses about their workforce training needs, he said.

An arrangement with Yankton employers would benefit northeast Nebraskans, Chipps said.

"In Yankton, one-third of their working population is Nebraska residents," he said. "Thirty-three percent of their workers cross the (Missouri) river, and many of those workers live in and around Hartington."

During Monday's program, Chipps praised Hartington's leaders for pursuing local post-secondary training to benefit the workforce and quality of life.

Hartington officials had approached NECC administrators

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Dream Of B&G Club Facility In Yankton Gets A Big Boost

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The dream of a new facility to house the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton is finally taking flight.

The local organization has received \$412,000 of a \$1.5 million community block grant approved last week.

Tara Mills, director of development, said receiving the grant was an integral part to move forward on the endeavor. "It's been a dream for a long time, so this was one of the initial things we needed to do to get the project going," Mills said.

She added that this has been a goal ever since the club came to Yankton in 2009.

"I think it's been a dream for the people of Yankton since the Boys &

Girls started to have a great club for the kids," she said. "It takes time to get there sometimes and they've been working really hard as a community. We have a local advisory council and community leaders that guide and govern the organization and give it direction. They just really believe in the kids in Yankton as our greatest resource and believe we need to invest in them, so they've been working hard to make this happen for years."

Currently, the club operates in a small facility on Broadway Ave. Mills said one of the desires for a new location is to add what is lacking at the current facility.

"There's still not a lot of specifics in place, but the goal is to build a facility

FACILITY | PAGE 13



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Chad Dean, band director at O'Neill, Nebraska, wields Thor's hammer to conduct a version of "The Screaming Eagles," from the movie "The Avengers," while directing the 2014 Region I Middle School Honor Band Monday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Middle school and high school musicians from 16 area schools took part in the festival, which concluded with Monday night's concert. Dr. Rolf Olson of the University of South Dakota conducted the high school band. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

AP: Charles Manson Gets Marriage License

CORCORAN, Calif. (AP) — Mass murderer Charles Manson has gotten a license to marry a 26-year-old woman who visits him in prison.

The Kings County marriage license, viewed Monday by The Associated Press, was issued Nov. 7 for the 80-year-old Manson and Afton Elaine Burton, who left her Midwestern home nine years ago and moved to Corcoran, California — the site of the prison — to be near Manson. She maintains several websites advocating Manson's innocence.

The license does not specify a wedding date and indicates the couple has 90 days to get married or they will have to reapply.

Burton, who goes by the name "Star," told the AP that she and Manson will be married next month.

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