

SD Spanish Immersion School On Track

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Plans for a Spanish immersion school in eastern South Dakota are back on track despite a proposal by state lawmakers to put new limits on K-12 capital budgets.

The *Argus Leader* reports Sioux Falls school officials have approved the closure of an elementary school where a new facility will eventually be built to house the district's Spanish immersion programs.

Officials had delayed voting on the closure because they didn't want to risk losing the school without knowing they'll be able to replace it. Officials after the vote said they could reverse their decision should lawmakers approve a funding cap.

Some lawmakers are proposing a limit on public schools' capital outlay funds. Sioux Falls officials plan on paying for the new building with increases to the district's capital outlay levy.

Red Cross Volunteer Returns From NY

ONIDA (AP) — A South Dakota woman is returning home after volunteering for a week with Red Cross efforts in Buffalo, New York, following a strong winter storm.

Volunteer Nancy McKenney was deployed to the area Monday to help with managing the shelters set up to help those affected by the blizzard.

As much as 7 1/2 feet of snow blanketed the city in western New York last week. The lake-effect snow was blamed for at least a dozen deaths.

McKenney tells KCCR-AM that she was scheduled to be in Buffalo for up to two weeks due to serious concerns about flooding. But the region dodged the kind of widespread flooding that weather-weary residents had feared.

The Onida woman says those who are still in need of housing are being given hotel rooms.

Man Accused Of Stabbing Older Brother

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police have arrested a man suspected of stabbing his older brother outside a movie theater in eastern Omaha.

Officers say the 20-year-old man was upset with his 30-year-old brother, possibly over a fire a few blocks away. Police say the younger man stabbed his brother near the Midtown Cinema and then fled. He was arrested a few blocks away inside a grocery store that had been broken into.

The man was arrested on suspicion of burglary, assault and other crimes. Online court records don't yet show that he's been charged.

His brother was taken to a nearby hospital. Police say he's expected to survive.

Man Faces Murder Charges In SD Death

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A homeless sex offender is facing murder charges in the strangulation death of a 39-year-old Sioux Falls woman.

Fifty-seven-year-old Arthur Brundige is charged with alternate counts of first- and second-degree murder and manslaughter in the death of 39-year-old Sabrina White.

White's body was found in her home Monday. Police say she was killed Saturday night.

Brundige was arrested Wednesday. It wasn't clear if he had an attorney. He's due in court on Monday.

Brundige is a registered sex offender due to sexual conduct convictions in Minnesota and Nebraska in 1982 and 1989. He is on probation in Minnehaha County for failing to register.

Pierre Grocery Stores Are To Be Sold

PIERRE (AP) — Rapid City-based Lynn's Dakotamart is buying grocery stores in Pierre and Fort Pierre.

Lynn's Dakotamart General Manager Dave Johnson tells the Capital Journal that the Sutley's Super Savings Store in Pierre likely will be closed, and officials will look at "other options" for the site.

The Sutley's Town and Ranch Market in Fort Pierre will remain open, likely under the name of Lynn's Dakotamart, which already has a location in Pierre.

Sutley's co-owner DeWayne Strohfus tells KCCR radio that he's 72 years old and now is the right time to sell.

Man Sentenced For Sex With A Minor

PIERRE (AP) — A man accused of having sexual contact with a minor in an Indian reservation in South Dakota has been sentenced.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 20-year-old Francis Kills In Sight has been sentenced to more than 3 years in prison. He was also ordered to spend eight years on supervised release.

A federal grand jury indicted Kills In Sight on October 2012 for aggravated sexual abuse. He pleaded guilty in March to abusive sexual contact.

The conviction stems from a September 2012 incident that occurred in Rosebud, a town located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Authorities say Kills In Sight engaged in sexual contact with a child younger than 12 years old.

Carjacking Thwarted By Girls' Presence

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The presence of two little girls may have thwarted a carjacking in Omaha.

Police say the two 6-year-olds were in the back seat of a car a little after 7 p.m. Thursday when the father of one went inside the other girl's home to get his hat. That's when someone else got in behind the wheel and sped off.

Police say the man driving stopped the car less than a block away after noticing the girls. He got out and ran away, leaving the girls in the car, unharmed.

Trooper Finds Victim Hours After Crash

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska state trooper has found a woman who'd spent hours in the wreckage of her vehicle after it crashed off a highway south of Omaha.

Omaha television station KETV reports that 51-year-old Laura Hazen thinks her sport utility vehicle crashed around 8 p.m. Wednesday. The SUV ran down into a ditch off the west side of U.S. Highway 75 about three miles south of Plattsmouth and rolled onto its top. The wreckage was all but invisible to motorists whizzing past.

Trooper Eric Aho noticed scattered dirt and damaged trees, though, as he passed by around 8 a.m. Thursday. He stopped and soon found Hazen in the back seat of her SUV, trying to keep warm and complaining of rib injuries.

Hazen was taken to a hospital.

Kern Brings Experience To South Dakota Supreme Court

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The newest justice on the South Dakota Supreme Court says her 11 years as an assistant state attorney general in Pierre and nearly two decades as a circuit court judge in Rapid City have given her plenty of experience to bring to the high court.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced the serving of Judge Janine Kern on Tuesday. She will succeed Justice John Konenkamp, who will retire at the end of the year after two decades on the court.

"I will do everything I can to live up to the high standards set by my friend and mentor, Justice John Konenkamp,"

Kern said in a statement.

Kern was appointed to the 7th Circuit bench in 1996 by then-Gov. Bill Janklow.

"My 18 years here have given me a broad base of experience," she told the *Rapid City Journal*.

Kern had spent the previous 11 years as an assistant attorney general, serving under three attorneys general: Mark Meierhenry, Roger Tellinghuisen and Mark Barnett. She also worked alongside former Attorney General Larry Long when he was the chief deputy attorney general.

"I learned a great deal from each one of them," Kern told the newspaper.

Kern, 53, is the daughter of retired Judge Paul J. Kern, who served as a circuit judge from 1975 to 1995, and has asked him to swear her in on the Supreme Court. She will become the 49th justice in the South Dakota history. She has filled in as a temporary justice numerous times.

"Judge Kern is known for her rigorous legal mind, her conscientious work ethic and her commitment to fairness and equal justice under the law," Daugaard said in a statement.

It will be the first time in state history that two women will serve on the five-justice panel. Justice Lori S. Wilbur was appointed in 2011.

Beatrice Police Working Through Disruptions

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — Officers, dispatchers and others have been working through the disruption caused by installation of new heating and cooling equipment in the Beatrice Police Department building.

The \$155,000 project began about two weeks ago. Officer work stations have been moved and interview areas and technology have been altered to accommodate the process, which is expected to last until February.

City administrator Tobias Tempelmeyer told *The Daily Sun* that Beatrice has been spending a lot of money on repairs over the last several years.

"The decision was made that this time it was more feasible to replace it than repair it," Tempelmeyer said. "It's never fun to move out of your comfort zone, but we have to tear ductwork out of the ceilings above. Removing that suspended ceiling takes

time and creates a mess."

Police Sgt. Jay Murphy said the new system will be welcomed.

"The investigations office, half the time it was either 30 degrees or 90 degrees and nothing in between," Murphy said. "It wasn't working the way it should be working."

Department workers are bracing for the day when the heat goes out. It's unknown when the current heat system will go offline or for how long. Public Properties Director Mark Pethoud said he hopes the transition takes only a day or so to get the new equipment running right.

Officials decided to do the installation in winter because the building is poorly ventilated and would have been more uncomfortable for workers to be without air conditioning for a time in the summer than without heat in the winter.

High Hopes Set In Pierre-Denver Flights

PIERRE (AP) — A regional airline based in Ohio has high hopes for a Pierre to Denver flight after city leaders in South Dakota's capital selected the carrier to provide the subsidized air service.

The Pierre City Commission has voted to recommend Aerodynamics Inc. of Beachwood, Ohio, to provide flights through the Essential Air Service federal subsidy program.

Aerodynamics CEO Scott Beale tells KCCR-AM that Pierre is one of the first routes the company is working on. The company has focused on charter service and is now moving into commercial air service.

Beale says the Pierre-Denver route has the potential for strong ridership. The company is proposing 12 flights per week to and from Denver, with a stop in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

New Home For Nebraska Guard Museum Slowly Shaping Up

SEWARD, Neb. (AP) — The new Seward home for the Nebraska National Guard State Museum is slowly taking shape as it's transformed from its previous mission as a Guard armory.

The historian involved, Gerald "Jerry" Meyer, has been sifting through what he estimates is at least 11,000 pieces in the Guard collection that were moved from the former museum site in Lincoln.

"It's like a treasure trove. It's like a treasure hunt every day," Meyer told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

The museum's former home was in the State Arsenal building at what was

State Fair Park in Lincoln. The National Guard moved the museum to make way for the Nebraska Innovation Campus, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln research park being built on the former fairgrounds.

Since 1956 the Seward armory was the primary training center for Seward-based Army Guard soldiers. The units have been relocated to a new training site in Mead. The Seward armory renovation and landscaping are being paid for with a \$2.1 million federal grant, Meyer said.

Visitors eventually will get to see six spires that represent the six aircraft eras of

Good Holiday Shopping Season Expected In Dakotas

BY BLAKE NICHOLSON AND DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Retailers in the Dakotas are expecting a strong holiday shopping season, with the oil boom in western North Dakota expected to be a factor in both states.

The day after Thanksgiving is generally considered the kickoff to the season, with stores offering Black Friday deals that draw shoppers to stores. That was the case in North Dakota and South Dakota, with many shoppers lining up at stores before their doors opened early Friday or even looking for post-meal deals Thursday night.

Shawna Steen, of Maplewood, Minnesota, said Black Friday is an annual outing in Fargo for her and her sisters, and this year's event was remarkably quiet.

"It's a lot different this year. We pulled up and we thought the mall wasn't even open," Steen said Friday morning while shopping at the West Acres Mall. "We're used to crowds and rushes of people right away in the morning, and it wasn't that way. Everyone must have done their shopping yesterday."

Steen's sister, Jerralee Storbakken, of Moorhead, Minnesota, said her family mapped out their shopping plan Thursday night, "then completely forgot about it" once they got to the mall.

"We're looking for the deals. We're winging it," she said.

Nationally, holiday sales are forecast to be 4.1 percent higher than last year, which would mark the biggest increase since 2011, according to the National Retail Federation.

South Dakota Retailers Association Executive Director Shawn Lyons said he expects a similar increase in South Dakota. A recent survey of association members found that 30 percent expected sales to be stable and 48 percent expected sales to be up.

An early October blizzard in 2013 that devastated South Dakota's ranching industry put a damper on many families' Christmas budgets last year.


"The retail economy has rebounded pretty well, and we haven't had the severe weather we had a year ago," Lyons said.

The western North Dakota oil boom also has boosted western South Dakota, where some companies and workers are based.

"It certainly can't be a negative in terms of (holiday) retail sales," Lyons said.


North Dakota Retail Association President Mike Rud said holiday sales in North Dakota might be up 5-6 percent over last year, not only because of the booming energy industry but also because of a strong overall economy.

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Monday, December 1
7:40 am Yankton County Comm (Bruce Jensen, Allen Sinclair)
8:20 am MMC Giving Tuesday (Shannon Viereck, Kristi Tacke)

Tuesday, December 2
7:40 am Yankton Library (Kathy Wibbeis)
8:20 am RiverWalk (Katie Hunhoff)

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April 18 - 26: New Orleans, MC
May 8 - 18: National Park, MC
June 6 - 14: Italy
June 13 - 20: Alaska Cruise Only
June 24 - 28: New York Theater
July 16 - 24: Glacier National Park
July 30 - Aug. 6: Heart of Alaska
Aug. 7 - 19: Alaska Tour & Cruise
Aug. 30 - Sept. 13: Scandinavia
August TBA: Annual Farm Tour
Sept. 30 - Oct. 7: Autumn in New England
Oct. 8 - 12: Albuquerque Balloon Festival
Nov. 4 - 8: New York Theater
November TBA: Branson

Additional tours to be announced at later date