

Alcohol Sales On State Campuses Are Unlikely To Be Sought In 2016

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Officials for South Dakota's state universities appear to be tempering their interest in selling alcohol on the campuses.

The topic is scheduled for discussion next week at Black Hills State University in Spearfish during the business meeting of the state Board of Regents, whose members govern the state university system.

Mike Rush, the regents' executive director, released a 12-page report Tuesday night summarizing the work of the alcohol sales task force.

His written recommendation calls for board staff "to focus continued study on a more narrow set of statutory and/or policy changes specifically directed to alcohol availability at fundraising and other limited special events on campus (receptions and conferences)."

Staff members concluded there isn't sufficient time to seek a change from the Legislature in the 2016 session that

starts in January and they should look to 2017, when a limited approach might be pursued.

State law bans alcohol sales at state universities.

The matter is on the regents' public agenda for Wednesday, Dec. 2.

The six traditional campuses split on whether to seek authority to permit sales of alcohol, according to the task force's findings:

South Dakota State University officials, led by president David Chicoine, and students showed the strongest interest in allowing alcohol sales at Brookings;

University of South Dakota officials and students at Vermillion are interested too, but president Jim Abbott said they must be cautious;

Northern State University officials and students don't want alcohol sold. Football games are on property owned by the Aberdeen school district;

Dakota State University officials in Madison would accept alcohol in donor and corporate areas at athletic events; Black Hills State University officials

are willing to go either way but don't see a lot of revenue potential and don't want sales in the student union. They would consider adding sales during the Sturgis motorcycle rally; and

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology officials in Rapid City didn't take a strong position either way.

Alcohol sales weren't considered for the university center campuses at Pierre, Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

Staff and task force members said more information needs to be gathered from other universities outside South Dakota and estimates are needed about possible increases in other revenues and in costs.

Chicoine emphasized that university officials would need to work with community and government leaders in their cities for alcohol sales to go forward. Abbott said the South Dakota Retailers Association should be further consulted.

The full report is at https://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2015/December/4_E_BOR1215.pdf.

Statewide Food Bank Nearly Triples Goal To Collect Locally Grown Produce

SIOUX FALLS — This spring, Feeding South Dakota announced the "Plant a Row" challenge, a grass root initiative encouraging local gardeners and farmers to plant an extra row of vegetables or crops to donate to food banks and food pantries across the state. The organization is also celebrating 40 years of service to the local communities with the goal of collecting 40,000 of produce with this challenge.

As of the end of September, more than 119,000 pounds of produce, nearly triple the original goal, has been donated to Feeding South Dakota's three facilities across the state by local gardeners and farmers. The donated produce was distributed to individuals needing food assistance through the Feeding South Dakota Food Panties in Sioux Falls and Rapid City as well as through many of Feeding South Dakota's 350 partner agencies across the state.

Hundreds of gardeners stepped up to aide in the "Plant A Row" challenge including a variety of individuals and organizations. According to Jennifer Stensaas, development associate with Feeding South Dakota, "By donating more than 30,000 pounds of produce, the Gar-

retson FFA was extremely instrumental in helping to exceed our donated produce goal." Moriah Flanagan, Garretson FFA President states, "Since many of the food insecure people in Sioux Falls are children, we believe it is important for our student agricultural based organization to do whatever we can to help with local hunger issues."

In Rapid City, Dr. C.J. Robinson, a retired Rapid City dentist, donated 1,603 pounds of produce to the Rapid City Food Pantry this growing season. Dr. Robinson stops in nearly once a week during the summer to donate. He donates everything from cucumbers and zucchini to onions and tomatoes to the food pantry. "We are so lucky to be the recipient of this wonderful fresh garden produce," states Debbie Renner, development associate with Feeding South Dakota.

"This locally grown produce is so vitally important for the more than 190,000 hungry individuals that we help to serve across the state," says Matt Gassen, executive director of Feeding South Dakota. "Providing more nutritional foods is one of the key initiatives we are working on at Feeding South Dakota."

USD School Of Education Writing Contest Honors Veterans

VERMILLION — University of South Dakota students honored military veterans through a writing contest and oral presentations that were judged by Vermillion members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and USD's ROTC unit. USD's School of Education and the Vermillion VFW collaborated on the effort intended to promote student awareness of veterans' sacrifices and contributions to society.

The winners, chosen Fri-

day: First place (\$150), Destiny Leftwich, a senior elementary education major from Pine Ridge, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; second place (\$100), Catheryn Kunz, a senior elementary education major from North Sioux City; and third place (\$50), Megan Ohlendorf, a graduate student studying clinical mental health counseling from Sioux City, Iowa. Each also will receive a certificate from the Vermillion VFW.

Symptoms Of Being Bullied

Every seven minutes a child is bullied at school. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) defines bullying as "willful and repeated" harmful acts. These acts can take the form of traditional name-calling and verbal threats to physical aggression including tripping, shoving, hitting, and more. The ever-increasing and more subtle form of bullying is cyberbullying in which kids are teased or harassed through social media, text messages or emails. The U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that at least 16 percent of high school kids are cyberbullied. The NASP estimates 160,000 children miss school every day because they are afraid of being bullied.

The earlier bullying is recognized and addressed,

the earlier it can be stopped. Some children may find it difficult to talk about bullying. Empower your child to report instances of mistreatment. Assure him he will not get in trouble by talking about it, that he is not alone and you will help him through it. Some signs of bullying include:

- Frequent complaints of headaches or stomach aches
- Faking illness
- Difficulty sleeping
- Frequent nightmares
- Loss of interest in schoolwork; slipping grades
- Avoiding friends or social situations
- Change in eating habits. Eg. Child may be hungrier after school if they skipped lunch to avoid a bully.

Adults can spend time at the school or other organization to get a sense of the

environment and culture. A pleasant environment with strong leaders where children get along with each other and with the teachers makes it more difficult for bullies to thrive.

It is important to identify bullying as a problem. Children who are the victim of a bully are at an increased risk for mental health problems such as low self-esteem, tension, anxiety, depression and suicide. Bullies are at risk for problems, too. Bullying is violence. Bullying often leads to more violent behavior as the bully grows. Experts estimate that one out of four elementary-school bullies will have a criminal record by age 30. Bullies may also struggle in school and fail to develop healthy relationships or career success that other people enjoy. If you are

concerned that your child is bullied or bullying in school, work with the school administrators and school psychologist.

More tips and information are available through Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership's Healthy Families program. This free service provides personalized, one-on-one, parent- and child-focused support, education and resources into families' homes in Northeast Nebraska. NENCAP Healthy Families follows the national Healthy Families America model that supports nurturing parent-child interactions which are proven to reduce the prevalence of child abuse and neglect. There are no income guidelines for Healthy Families. Call 800-445-2505 or 402-385-6300 to speak to a Healthy Families Advocate.

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