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SD Tribal Relations Secretary Named

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has named the state's new tribal relations secretary.

Daugaard on Tuesday announced the appointment of Steve Emery. J.R. LaPlante resigned from the position in April to take a job as an assistant U.S. attorney in Sioux Falls.

Emery has served as the chief judge of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe since 2011. He is also a special judge for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

Daugaard says Emery will help continue to build stronger relationships between the state and tribal governments.

Emery is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. His first day as tribal relations secretary is scheduled for Oct. 27.

Senate Candidates Draw National Support

SIOUX FALLS (AP) - South Dakota U.S. Senate candidates are bringing in top guns to campaign on their behalf as the race draws increasing national attention.

U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin from Iowa will participate in an event in support of Democratic candidate Rick Weiland Tuesday in Sioux Falls, while former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee will be stumping for Republican candidate Mike Rounds on Friday.

Rounds and Huckabee served together as governors, and Rounds was national chairman of Huckabee's 2008 presidential campaign.

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, who along with Huckabee was a presidential hopeful, publicly endorsed Rounds ahead of a Tuesday visit to Rapid City as the keynote speaker of a private event.

Weiland, Rounds and independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie are vying for the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Tim Johnson.

Car Search Yielded Pot, Patrol Says

LINCOLN (AP) — Authorities say the search of a car being pulled on a trailer in Lincoln has yielded nearly 76 pounds of marijuana.

The Nebraska State Patrol says a trooper pulled over a pickup for speeding on Interstate 80 a little after 6:30 p.m. Monday. The patrol says a drug dog taken to the scene indicated that drugs were in the car on the trailer.

The patrol says the pot was found in three duffel bags in the car trunk and passenger compartment.

The pickup driver was arrested on suspicion of possession for sale.

SD Stores Prepare For Pheasant Season

SIOUX FALLS (AP) - South Dakota stores are preparing for the pheasant hunting season that's scheduled to begin this week.

KDLT-TV reports that the stores have been getting ready for the past two months.

Tony Naatjes is a manager at Gary's Gun Shop. He says he expects to be between 10 and 15 percent up in revenue compared to last year. He says a lot of the revenue will come from selling shells.

About 100,000 hunters converge every year on the state's hunting fields. South Dakota officials say those hunters spend more than \$200 million on their passion.

Naatjes says hunters should stock up before hitting the fields Saturday. He adds that the recent drop in gas prices could help drive more people to his store.

Neb. Man Pleads Guilty To Tax Evasion

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha man who prosecutors say ran a sports bookmaking operation has pleaded guilty to tax evasion.

Forty-three-year-old Todd Bartusek faces up to five years in federal prison when he's sentenced on Jan. 9. He entered his plea earlier this month.

Prosecutors say an Internal Revenue Service investigation determined that Bartusek worked as a bookie from 2007 through 2010 and didn't report his income. Prosecutors say Bartusek owes the IRS nearly \$257,000 in taxes on that unreported income.

PRESS&DAKOTAN

School Officials Studying Omaha Learning Community

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Superintendents in the Omaha area are studying the effectiveness of the Learning Community and have released a draft of their first joint report.

In 2007, the Legislature created the Learning Community, comprised of 11 school districts, to improve academic achievement among economically disadvantaged students and increase diversity in Omaha area schools.

The report called "Learning Commu-nity: Time for Change?" said an openenrollment student transfer system is more costly than before and hasn't done much to improve socio-economic diversity in schools. It also questions whether school districts alone can bring about the blending of poor and more affluent students, suggesting that state lawmakers consider other ways to combat poverty, such as city housing policies and jobs programs.

However, the report also notes strong support from school officials to expand early childhood education for students from low-income families. It said the partnership involving the Learning Community, districts and the Buffett Early Education Institute is a great example of "coming together to take on a tough opponent: the learning of children in poverty.

The draft doesn't include concrete recommendations from superintendents, which officials said will be a part of the final report given to the Nebraska legislature this winter, the Omaha World-Herald reported.

"The recommendations will be the real meat of this," said Elkhorn Superin-tendent Steve Baker, noting the report's goal is to make the Learning Community better, not to "blow it up.

The report states that the common property tax levy is a barrier to improving the collaboration between the Learning Community and school districts.

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The levy system has caused "stifling" revenue losses for two districts, according to the report. Most of the school districts got less funding under the levy system than they would have without it, while others like the Omaha Public School District directly benefited from it. The district received about \$1.6 million from the levy system.

"As long as the levy system creates 'winners and losers' at least in the perceptions (of) LC school district residents, and as long as the state does not fully contribute to the required LC efforts, then there will remain a tension between the Learning Community, member school districts and member school district superintendents," the report says.

Northern State Working Toward Confucius Institute

ABERDEEN (AP) — Northern State University officials including President James Smith are in China and Japan for the next two weeks as the school works to finalize plans for a Chinese language and cultural center known as

a Confucius Institute. Smith told the American

News that he hopes the trip will be the final step in getting approval from Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing, known as Hanban. "It's been about a year,

year and a half in development, so we're excited to hope that it all comes to a nice close here in the next few weeks," Smith said.

State legislators also must agree next to year to provide \$400,000 for the effort, which would include a partnership with the University of Jinan.

There are hundreds of Confucius Institutes around the world. Northern State would be the first university in the Dakotas to have one.

Dickinson State University in North Dakota tried to establish one about three years ago but the effort fizzled. A majority of faculty members had voted against the idea and state officials also had found that the university had given Chinese exchange students hundreds of unearned diplomas.

The University of Chicago recently ended its agreement with the Confucius Institute program over questions about undue Chinese oversight. Some professors in the U.S. and Canada also have urged universities to cut ties with the program unless the agreements are reworked to ensure academic freedom. Smith said that hasn't caused any worries at Northern State.

"I seldom worry about what other universities do because we're all so very different," he said.

Sanford Health Opens Children's Clinic In China

SIOUX FALLS (AP) -Dakotas-based Sanford Health has opened a children's clinic in China.

Sanford is operating the clinic in the city of Kunming in collaboration with a stateowned health care system in China, YMCI Calmette Medical Investment & Management Co. Inc., which already operates a nonprofit hospital in the city. The two-story, 18,000-square-foot children's clinic includes 14 exam rooms, six treatment rooms. an education and training room and office space. It will be staffed by up to 10 doctors.

Kunming has a population of more than 6 million people and needs more health care.

"This partnership and new clinic will greatly benefit thousands of children and

families," said Li Li, general manager of YMCI Calmette and president of its hospital.

Sanford, based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Fargo, North Dakota, bills itself as the United States' largest not-for-profit rural health care system, with facilities in 126 communities in nine states. It also is developing clinics in Ghana and

Mexico. "This area of Kunming is a perfect fit for our International Clinics initiative," said Jim Slack, vice president of Sanford International Clinics. This partnership with YMCI Calmette, its work to build a state-of-the-art hospital and the growing population of Kunming all fit together with what we hope to accomplish.

Nuclear Plant Reports Maintenance Mishap

BROWNVILLE, Neb. (AP) - No injuries, damage or radiation leakage occurred in a maintenance accident over the weekend at the Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville, the Nebraska Public Power District said.

Authorities say contractors were replacing underwater control blades when one fell onto a reactor at the nuclear power plant, closed in late September for a planned 30day refueling outage, the Lincoln Journal Star reported. There was no fuel in the reactor at the time of the accident and no fuel was reported damaged.

"The key issue: Was there any fuel damage?" district spokesman Mark Becker said. "And based on the camera footage on what they were able to view with the cameras, there was no damage to the fuel.'

Control blades are about 14 feet long and shaped like the letter X. The Nebraska Public Power District said the fallen blade has been safely removed from the reactor and placed in its proper location. It said the accident hasn't put the public's health at risk.

The district alerted the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the accident, and they also confirmed that there were no indications of bad effects to the station's fuel or radiation levels.

Becker said the district is working with the contractor on an internal investigation.



