



Sunny And Warm

9 a.m.: 60 | 3 p.m.: 74 | DETAILS: PAGE 2



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INSIDE TODAY



American Profile

* * *

Panel OKs Changes To Legislative Districts

Kloucek To Represent Similar District

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A panel of state lawmakers voted along party lines Tuesday to approve a plan for redrawing the boundaries of South Dakota's 35 legislative districts, a proposal majority Republicans called fair but Democrats said would hurt their party's chances in future elections.

The proposal, passed 10-3 by the Legislative Redistricting Committee, will be submitted to an Oct. 24 special session of the Legislature, which will have the final say on creating new districts.

"We are trying to be as fair as possible," said House Speaker Val Rausch, R-Big Stone City, chairman of the panel.

However, Rep. Susan Wisner, D-Britton, said the Republican-approved plan amounts to gerrymandering because it divides some communities to give Republican candidates an advantage in House and Senate elections. Based on each party's share of registered voters, 45 percent of legislators should be Democrats, but the party has only about half that strength because of Republican redistricting efforts in the past 30 years, she said.

"We are not here to perpetuate a dynasty. We are here to see the people are represented as fairly as possible," Wisner said.

Sen. Larry Rhoden, R-Union Center, said Democrats have made the same complaints during the past three redistricting efforts, but have made gains in legislative seats in every election following those past efforts.

"If we're doing gerrymandering and doing these back-room deals,

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S.D. Public College Numbers Dip Slightly

USD Adds Largest Freshman Class In School History

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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While the University of South Dakota (USD) has the largest freshman class in its history this fall, the total number of students enrolled at the institution is down almost 2 percent.

The decline at USD is similar to the overall drop in headcount enrollment at South Dakota's six public universities, which shrunk by 337 students to 36,103 — a less

than 1 percent slide. It ends a 13-year streak of setting overall enrollment records in the university system.

"We've had an uninterrupted string of continuous headcount enrollment growth," said Jack Warner, the South Dakota Board of Regent's executive director and CEO, during a teleconference Tuesday afternoon. "This (decline) was not entirely unexpected, given that last year's enrollment growth was a record for the system."

In 2010, the universities experienced 8

percent growth in headcount enrollment.

Meanwhile, the number of full-time equivalent students for the fall 2011 term, a number that is based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system, increased by 94.5 students to a total of 26,719.5.

"The pattern we're seeing is very slightly fewer students in the head count, but they're taking more courses on average

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The Numbers

FALL HEADCOUNT

	2010	2011	Diff.
Black Hills St.	4,722	4,415	-307
Dakota State	3,101	3,102	+1
Northern State	3,296	3,580	+284
S.D. Tech	2,354	2,311	-43
S.D. State	12,816	12,725	-91
So. Dakota	10,151	9,970	-181
TOTAL	36,440	36,103	-337

TREND (1996-2011)

YEAR	System	%Change
1996.....	26,508	—
1997.....	25,719	-2.98%
1998.....	26,560	+3.27%
1999.....	26,616	+0.21%
2000.....	27,134	+1.95%
2001.....	28,446	+4.84%
2002.....	29,533	+3.82%
2003.....	29,716	+0.62%
2004.....	29,844	+0.43%
2005.....	30,720	+2.94%
2006.....	30,901	+0.59%
2007.....	32,148	+4.04%
2008.....	32,943	+2.47%
2009.....	33,779	+2.54%
2010.....	36,440	+7.88%
2011.....	36,103	-0.92%

SOURCE: S.D. BOARD OF REGENTS



The 2011 paddlefish season begins Saturday on the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam. This year's record flooding on the river will not halt the annual fishing season, but officials are advising anglers to use caution, particularly along shorelines that were submerged much of the summer or were filled with riprap as crews worked to hold down erosion and shore degradation.

Few Snags For Saturday's Paddlefish Season Opener

BY DEREK BARTOS
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While flooding wreaked havoc on many activities this summer, higher waters will not endanger one of the area's most popular fishing rituals this fall.

Based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicted water releases from Gavins Point Dam, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has decided to hold its paddlefish-snagging season as previously planned.

The season begins Oct. 1 and runs through the end of the month. The area open to paddlefishing is the Missouri River below Gavins Point.

Due to high water levels during the summer, both South Dakota and Nebraska were forced to close their archery paddlefish seasons, which normally are held in July and August.

With waters now receding, the area is again available for paddlefishers.

However, damage from the high flows to the shoreline is currently being assessed and access could be impacted at times by issues associated with repair work.

OUR TOWNS

Yankton County

"We're sending out letters with all our licenses to all the paddlefish tag holders reminding people that access could be limited, especially for shore fishing, due to the uncertainty of what the bank is going to be like there," said Yankton County Conservation Officer Sam Schelhaas.

Gary Ledbetter, lake manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the main reason for any restricted access is public safety.

"We want to make sure everything is safe before we allow anybody to walk on the rocks," he said. "We don't expect any major problems, but there may be some areas that need to be addressed."

While shore access might be limited, Ledbetter said both boat ramps are open and will be accessible.

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County To Seek Funding For Stone Church Road

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton County Commission decided Tuesday to seek assistance in building up 431st Avenue to withstand future James River flooding.

The artery — which is commonly referred to as "Stone Church Road" — is closed annually because it is overrun by water that sometimes does severe damage. Residents in the area have expressed frustration because they say the subsequent detour creates a hardship on them.

Yankton County Highway Superintendent Alan Sorensen told commissioners that he had received word from federal and state highway officials that work on the road could qualify for major damage permanent restoration program funds. That would leave the county with only 20 percent of the bill.

Through the program, Sorensen said the state would take care of environmental permits, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers permits, design work, engineering and bid letting.

A federal official estimated it would cost \$343,000 to lay down fabric along the sides of the road and pile riprap, which is done elsewhere in the

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COMMUNITY GIFT

Mike Johnson (left) of the Boys and Girls Club of Yankton receives a check for \$5,000 from Father Mark Lichter and Peg Schiedel, a volunteer with the One Mind, One Heart, One Spirit ... in Christ Capital Campaign. Similar checks were presented to the Lewis and Clark behavioral Health/Children's Department and the Sack Pack Program by the campaign, which distributes 5 percent of the funds collected to community causes. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



First S.D. Flu Case In Clay County

From P&D Staff Reports

South Dakota's first influenza case has been reported in Clay County, it was announced Tuesday.

In a press release, the state Department of Health reported the state's first laboratory-confirmed influenza case of the season is a Clay County resident in the 40-49 age group. The individual had influenza A and was not hospitalized.

"While this case is a little sooner than we typically see, it's not unheard of to report flu this early," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist, in the press release. "The good news is the vaccine is widely available this year and now is a good time to be vaccinated."

He encouraged parents to take advantage of the free flu vaccine the state offers for kids from six months to 18 years. Kids account for a significant number of flu cases and hospitalizations each year and also help spread the illness in the community. Vaccinating children protects them and the people around them.

Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone, but some groups are at higher risk for complications and should be sure to be vaccinated. High risk groups include pregnant women, people over 50 years and people with chronic medical conditions. Health-care workers and household contacts of high risk populations, especially those with young infants in the household, should also be vaccinated.

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TOMORROW: City Debates Daycare Ordinance

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET