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American Profile

Wine Sales Measure Hits Snag

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A panel of legislators decided Tuesday they need more time to consider loosening South Dakota's laws governing shipments of wine sold directly to consumers.

The study committee's chairman, Rep. Roger Solum, R-Watertown, initially indicated that final changes in proposed legislation could be handled over a conference call in the coming weeks.

But after a long break in the meeting Tuesday afternoon, Solum announced he would seek permission to hold a fourth full meeting that is tentatively set for Oct. 20.

The Legislature's Executive Board likely will rule on his request Tuesday.

The Executive Board's chairman is Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel, a member of the wine-shipping study committee.

The committee needs to deliver its proposed legislation and its final report to the Executive Board in November.

Still in the air is whether the package shippers such as UPS and Federal Express should be required to be licensed by the state Department of Revenue and would need to submit delivery reports to the department.

Also undecided is whether the alcohol tax rate on the direct shipments should be 1 percent on the selling price.

Some legislators prefer 2 percent because that rate is charged on the wholesale price for wine that is sold through the normal wholesale-retail networks.

There also are mixed opinions on the amounts of the licensing fees for the wineries

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Economic Momentum

Report: Midwest Economy Remained Strong In August

By The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The economy remained strong in nine Midwest and Plains states in August, and a monthly survey of business leaders released Tuesday suggests growth will continue in the months ahead.

The region's overall economic index inched up to 57.2 last month from 57 in July. The index reached a three-year high of 60.6 in June.

But as the economy improves, delays in supply shipments are becoming more common,

said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

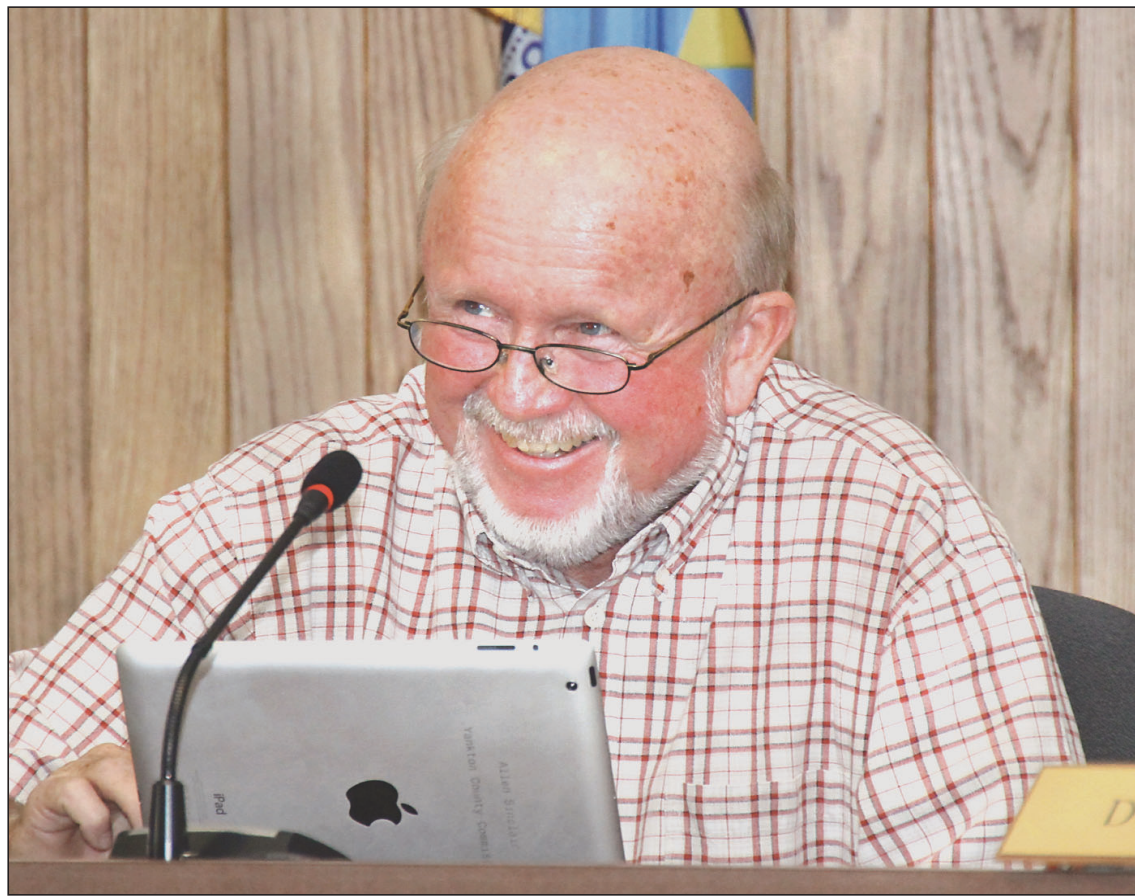
"One supply manager complained that rail shipping had become particularly problematic as shipments of energy products and housing inputs have begun to take up shipping space," Goss said.

Those delays were apparent in the delivery lead time index, which tracks how long business leaders had to wait between placing orders and taking delivery. That index jumped to its highest level in over three years at 60.6 in

August, up from July's 53.7.

The monthly results of the survey of supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers at Creighton University say any score above 50 suggests economic growth, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

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Yankton County Commissioner Allen Sinclair chuckles while conversing with County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt during a presentation during Tuesday's County Commission meeting.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Bill Baggs Road, Sirens Discussed By County

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Bill Baggs Road north of Highway 50 may go from being maintained by the county to being in possession of the city.

County commissioner John Harper told Tuesday's County Commission meeting that he's been in discussions with the city to explore giving the road to the city.

"I brought it up in a meeting with the city," Harper said. "They're willing to look at it. They asked if we're willing to swap it out and take something else, and I said we'll be looking at any options that are available."

Commissioner Garry Moore said the road would be more useful to the city than it is the county.

"The fact of the matter is, it's more benefit to them than it is to us at this point in time north of Highway 50 because what they have plotted out there is annexed into the city," Moore said. "From what I see there, (most of the land around it) is owned by Yankton Area Progressive Growth. If it's beneficial to the city, they can go ahead and do whatever they want in the future. They don't have to have our blessing, they don't have to wait for us to get the money, they can go ahead and do the improvements they need in the property as necessary. (This would be) one less government entity to deal with."

Moore said this would be a move to help avoid confusion over who's responsible for the road's up-

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Video Reports To Show Beheading Of US Journalist

BY ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Islamic State extremists released a video Tuesday purportedly showing the beheading of a second American journalist, Steven Sotloff, and warning President Barack Obama that as long as U.S. airstrikes against the militant group continue, "our knife will continue to strike the necks of your people."

The footage — depicting what the U.S. called a sickening act of brutality — was posted two weeks after the release of video showing the killing of James Foley and just days after Sotloff's mother pleaded for his life.

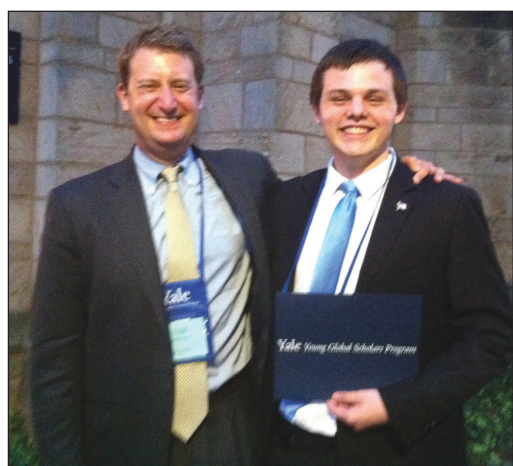
Barak Barfi, a spokesman for the family, said that the Sotloffs had seen the video but that authorities have not established its authenticity.

"The family knows of this horrific tragedy and is grieving privately. There will be no public comment from the family during this difficult time," Barfi said.

Sotloff, a 31-year-old Miami-area native who freelanced for Time and Foreign Policy magazines, vanished in Syria in August 2013 and was not seen again until he appeared in a video released last month that showed Foley's beheading. Dressed in an orange jumpsuit against an arid Syrian landscape, Sotloff was threatened in that video with death unless the U.S. stopped airstrikes on the Islamic State.

In the video distributed Tuesday and titled "A Second

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Yankton High School senior Patrick Binder took part this summer in the prestigious Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) program at Yale University in Connecticut. He is pictured here with Edward (Ted) Wittenstein, one of his instructors at the program.

COURTESY PHOTO

YHS Senior Shines

Binder Attends YYGS Program At Yale University

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Yankton High School (YHS) senior Patrick Binder is no stranger to success. However, this summer the student leader took advantage of an unexpected opportunity to earn the right to attend the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) program at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

"I was at a debate tournament in Brookings," Binder recalled. "I saw a poster about the YYGS program outside the counselor's office and was very interested, so I went in and asked about it."

That chance inquiry led to Binder applying for the highly competitive world-wide program.

"I had about two weeks to get my application in," he said. "I was actually on my way to a state high school student council meeting when I got the news that I had been accepted. I was so excited I called everyone right away."

He should have been excited. Of the nearly 1,000 students that applied for the opportunity to attend the two-week program, only 200 are accepted, and nearly half of them are from countries other than the United States.

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