

S.D. State Fair Beats Attendance Goal

HURON (AP) — Officials say attendance at the South Dakota State Fair topped 200,000 people. The five-day fair was held Aug. 28 through Sept. 1 in Huron. The final attendance tally was 210,465, which was up 15 percent from last year's event. Fair officials say the number of campers was up 20 percent and the sale of grandstand tickets was up 26 percent over last year. Fair manager Jerome Hertel says exceeding the goal of 200,000 people shows that the event is an "agricultural and entertainment destination."

Board Oks Change For Alcohol Sales

SPEARFISH (AP) — The Spearfish school board has approved a change in a property agreement that will allow the sale of alcohol at a restaurant to be built near an elementary school. The restriction prohibiting alcohol on the property was put in place in 2009 when the school district and the city jointly purchased land from the construction of Creekside Elementary School and open space. The change, if approved by other landowners and the city, would permit the sale of alcohol in a properly licensed restaurant facility with an on-sale full-service restaurant liquor license. The *Black Hills Pioneer* reports that the board voted 4-1 to approve the change. Board member Jeff Sleep, who opposed the motion, says it's unfortunate that realtors overlooked the potential problem.

Delegation Urges Quick FEMA Action

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota congressional delegation is asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a new flood map for Sioux Falls as soon as possible. The request comes after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a report that accredited a \$65 million levee system in Sioux Falls meant to help protect about 1,600 residents and businesses. Sioux Falls Director of Public Works Mark Cotter says it takes FEMA an average of three years to complete new flood maps. The delegation says in a letter to FEMA Director William Fugate that any unnecessary administrative delays in adopting an updated map will result in "prolonged and avoidable financial hardships" on some Sioux Falls residents. A FEMA spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Man Dies In Pine Ridge Hit-And-Run

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Pine Ridge man was killed in an early morning hit-and-run crash on a southwest South Dakota highway, the Highway Patrol said. Cody White Pipe, 21, was hit by a vehicle early Tuesday morning on a highway near Vetat, trooper said. Lt. David Berkely said a passer-by saw White Pipe laying in the middle of the highway at about 5 a.m. and called 911. The caller waited with White Pipe until emergency responders arrived. White Pipe was taken to Bennett County Hospital, where he died from his injuries, Berkely said. Investigators are trying to determine how much time passed between White Pipe being struck and the passer-by calling authorities, Berkely said. "We're still trying to piece together what happened out there and gather any information we can," Berkely told the *Rapid City Journal*. The Highway Patrol and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation are investigating, Berkely said.

Western S.D. To Get 6-7 Inches Of Snow

RAPID CITY (AP) — The strong system bringing to South Dakota its first winter storm of the season could dump up to 7 inches of snow in some areas on the western side of the state. The National Weather Service says rain will transition to snow early Thursday across the Black Hills and northeast Wyoming. Heavy wet snow could lead to tree damage and power outages. A winter storm warning is in effect until noon Thursday for the northern and central Black Hills including the cities of Lead, Deadwood, Hill City and Mount Rushmore. The weather service says many areas across far western South Dakota may experience a hard freeze by Friday morning as temperatures are expected to dip into the 20s and even teens in the Black Hills.

Huron Woman Admits To Starting Fire

HURON (AP) — One of two Huron women charged with starting a fire at the Tailgate restaurant in Huron has pleaded guilty to second-degree arson. KOKK-AM reports 31-year-old Julia Lopez acknowledged her role in starting the March fire in an attempt to collect insurance money. Her attorney, Kent Shelton, said she has no ownership in the restaurant and said Lopez was asked to do it by the owner. The case against 55-year-old Kathleen Wollman has been delayed two weeks so attorneys could try to reach a plea deal. She's also charged with arson and burglary.

Rail

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operation of the line. They cited the benefits for area farmers, including the lower freight costs that would result from competition among carriers. The idea received strong backing from brothers Alex and Dick Huff of Chamberlain, who were in attendance. The Huffs founded Dakota Southern railroad, the current operator on the Napa-Platte line, before selling to the current owners. "To get multiple carrier access in here is important to this line," Alex Huff said. Dick Huff pointed to the possibility of receiving service from BNSF, Union Pacific and two Canadian lines. The rail access shouldn't be limited to one company, Dick Huff said. "The request by Dakota Plains would result in the demise of competitive access

for multiple rail carriers," he said. "With (rail) competition, it will lower transportation costs. Farmers will see more money, and that extra money will go into our local communities." Much of Thursday's meeting was spent working on a 19-point position paper. The paper outlined the Napa-Platte regional railroad authority's stand on issues related to the rail line's future. Thursday's meeting also covered a number of other topics, including discussion on the lease of rail line from the South Dakota Railroad Board. In addition, the board discussed the sub-lease of the rail line to an operator, as well as the tax credits tied to the rail line. Rapid City consultant Pat Beaudette joined the meeting by phone. You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

South Dakota

Fewer Youth Sent To Corrections Facilities

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota judges sent fewer youths to juvenile corrections facilities in recent years, as other programs became more widely available and more frequently used, state and private officials said Wednesday. Their comments came during a roundtable discussion at a state Council of Juvenile Services meeting. "We're really trying to go back to 20 years ago and keep as many cases out of court as we can," said Aaron McGowan, the Minnehaha County state's attorney. "We really try to divert all we can." Nancy Allard, director of trial court services for the state's Unified Judicial System, said the range of choices has grown for handling youths when they get into trouble. In the past year, Allard said, there were 683 informal diversions and 424

monitoring cases, 3,755 standard probation cases and 272 intensive probation cases. Doug Herrmann, director of juvenile services for the state Department of Corrections, said there has been a downward trend in people younger than 18 sent to DOC facilities. There were 348 in 2004, Herrmann said, and 278 in 2013. Numbers of girls dropped from 98 to 55. He said the total dropped to 249 for the 2014 fiscal year that ended June 30. DOC changed some practices. For example, young people no longer remain under DOC's watch until age 18. Now they complete their time in a DOC facility, followed by six months of after-care in their communities, and are released. "We tried to give them a light at the end of the tunnel to be motivated," Herrmann said. Use of private facilities is down about 20 percent since 2008, according

to Betty Oldenkamp, chief executive officer for Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota. "It's because good things are happening for kids and families," Oldenkamp said. She added that some of her peers are "apprehensive" about how the trend could affect their facilities and programs. Virgena Wieseler, director for the state Division of Child Protection Services, said the number of children removed from dangerous home situations in the past year was smaller than the number of children released from protective care. Wieseler also noted that 161 new foster-home families, including 27 American Indian families, were added to the state's rolls in the past year, while 133 left for a variety of reasons. She said it was the first time in at least the past five years that new foster homes exceeded closures.

A Big Year Nets Big Compensation For State Investment Office's Staff

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The leaders, asset managers and staff at the State Investment Office are getting more than \$4.7 million of performance incentives in addition to their salaries for the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to the chairman of the South Dakota Investment Council. Jon Hunter of Madison said the office added more than \$1.6 billion to the value of the South Dakota Retirement System in fiscal 2014 with a net gain of 18.90 percent taking it to \$10.6 billion as of June 30. He said the investment office is coming off the best four years in its 41 years of history. Several trust funds also had double-digit gains the past year. Hunter, state investment officer Matt Clark and several other members of the investment council met Tuesday with the Legislature's Executive Board. The board appoints the council members and they answer to the board. Hunter said the council and the board updated the incentives plan several times in recent years because compensation for the leaders and staff lagged behind the average pay nationally by 30 to 45 percent. The performance incentives range from zero to 200 percent of salary. They are calculated on the person's actual results. "We budget for the maximum possible incentives every year and of course that's never achieved," Hunter said. The total amount of the incentives was \$4,781,236.51. Clark for example was paid a salary of \$405,206 and is receiving incentives equal to 176.97 percent of his salary. That additional compensation comes to \$717,026.02.

Clark said some of the extra compensation that he and the other investment professionals receive is voluntarily placed in a pool for two support staff and four accountants to share. Office-wide the performance incentives were 144 percent of salaries. Clark said some received more than 190 percent and others less than half. Clark spoke with his characteristic candor to the legislators. "Our days of winning are going to be coming to an end," he said. The SDRS portfolio has been ratcheted down to 70 percent equities from 75 percent as part of preparing for bad times. "So when they come we'll have lots of dry powder and our confidence will be high," Clark said. SDRS administrator Rob Wylie said the retirement plan operates on an expected annual average return of 7.25 percent. "The outstanding performance did great things for our funding," Wylie said. Hunter said one key is keeping much of the asset management in-house. That reduces costs below many other pension funds and improves returns. The management expenses were 0.9 percent last year. The target is 1 percent or less. Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, praised the council, the investment staff and SDRS, saying "it's kind of refreshing (to get) not just good news but exceptionally great news." "This is a big piece of our state government and it's nice to know it's in such capable hands," Brown said. Sen. Phyllis Heineman, R-Sioux Falls, made clear she didn't mind the large amount of extra compensation to the investment staff. "We're thrilled to see the incentive increase," she told Clark and Hunter, "and just keeping adding that value."

Wisner Would Fire Anyone Who Knew About Fraud

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Democrat running for South Dakota governor said Thursday that, if elected, she would fire anyone in state government who knew about reported fraud in the EB-5 investment program. Rep. Susan Wisner, of Britton, said she would also sue to get money from the former administrator of the program, Joop Bollen, which should go to the state. Wisner also said that though she earlier offered to let another Democrat sit in for her spot on the Government Operations and Audit Committee at the next meeting on Sept. 24 to avoid a distraction, she "will be that person" who pursues answers. Wisner's statements come a day after state Democratic Party executive director Zach Crago accused some current and former state leaders of keeping secret a lawsuit currently in arbitration in California related to the program. South Dakota was sued in the breach of contract lawsuit.

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