

Authorities Say They're Aware Of Gang

RAPID CITY (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in western South Dakota are preparing for a meeting this weekend by members of a motorcycle gang, but aren't expecting major problems.

Rapid City Police Chief Karl Jegeris says his department and other agencies have been in contact with leaders of the Bandidos motorcycle gang to ensure that their gathering in Rapid City this weekend happens "in a safe and law abiding manner."

Members of the motorcycle group are expected to begin arriving in Rapid City Thursday for the Bandidos' annual "national run."

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom says authorities don't believe "significant events or confrontations" will take place during the gathering.

Members of the Bandidos were among the nine people who died during a shootout at a Texas restaurant in May.

Retirement System Mulling New Plan

SIoux FALLS (AP) — During the upcoming legislative session, state lawmakers could weigh a new retirement plan for future public employees that includes a two-year increase in the normal retirement age to 67 for many new workers.

The South Dakota Retirement System's governing board voted Wednesday to draft the new plan. If approved at a later meeting, the measure would go before lawmakers for their consideration during the 2016 session.

The measure is intended to maintain the sustainability of the South Dakota's retirement system.

The changes would remove subsidies for early retirement to pay for an increase in base benefits for a broad class of public employees that includes teachers and city and county workers.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels says that the changes represent "stewardship" meant to maintain the system for future beneficiaries.

Teens Who Escaped Facility Arrested

BROOKINGS (AP) — Four teenagers who escaped from a juvenile placement facility in Sioux Falls have been arrested in Brookings.

Brookings Police Lt. Derrick Powers says the two boys and two girls were arrested Wednesday after law enforcement authorities received a report that the teens were in the Brookings area in a stolen vehicle.

Powers says the girls were arrested following a brief vehicle chase that ended when the driver hit a street sign and lost control.

Officers later located the boys near a Wal-Mart, but they attempted to flee on foot. They were arrested around 2:30 a.m.

Powers says the girls are facing charges in juvenile court in connection with the chase. He says he expects additional charges in connection with the stolen vehicle.

The teens are between 14 and 16 years old. It wasn't immediately clear what facility they escaped from.

Revitalization Plan Unveiled For Town

DEADWOOD (AP) — An ambitious master plan has been unveiled by architects in a move to breathe new life into the Black Hills tourist and gambling town of Deadwood.

The plan calls for the removal of at least two non-historic buildings to make way for park-like settings, fountains and streams, and an Outlaw Square similar to Main Street Square in Rapid City, the *Rapid City Journal* reported. The square would be designed to host historical re-enactments as well as concerts, farmers markets and other activities.

The revitalization plan developed by TSP of Rapid City and RPG of Omaha was conceived after nearly two years of meetings gathering input from residents, business leaders, government officials and civic organizations. The Deadwood Revitalization Committee, which operates under the umbrella of the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce, has spearheaded the effort, said Chamber Executive Director Lee Harstad.

"Above all else, what these projects have done is brought this community together," Harstad said Friday. "People may have had differing opinions, but they've all come to the table and discussed the possibilities for tomorrow. That's exciting."

Officials plan to acquire and demolish the Franklin Motor Lodge and the CenturyLink building because they're not considered historic, said Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Kuchenbecker.

"The buildings identified in this plan are two that do not contribute to the historic character of the district and, in fact, are intrusions on the fabric of the historic district," Kuchenbecker said Thursday.

Estimated construction costs would exceed \$8.8 million. The plan has many supporters, but some city officials are reserving judgment until they can ascertain the actual costs.

Gas Line Affecting Road Reconstruction

RAPID CITY (AP) — A project to reconstruct and beautify a Rapid City road considered the gateway to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore National Memorial is undergoing changes because of a natural gas line.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports the 6-inch line runs the length of Mount Rushmore Road and is preventing project leaders from planting trees or placing below-ground-level water gardens in areas between the curb and sidewalk.

The city is expected to see some savings because of the needed changes. The Mount Rushmore Road Group had asked the city council to pay an additional \$1 million for trees and other landscaped areas.

Instead of vegetation, the Rapid City Public Works Committee is recommending that the city pay for colored concrete.

About 24,000 vehicles use the road each day.

Store Robbery Suspect Arrested

MITCHELL (AP) — A woman who authorities say robbed more than \$500 in cash from a convenience store in Mitchell has been arrested in western South Dakota.

Mitchell Police Sgt. Dean Knippling says the 51-year-old woman was arrested Tuesday on Interstate 90 between Wall and Rapid City. Knippling says the woman is a former employee of the Dakota Sunset store.

Knippling adds the woman was cooperative when she was arrested, and police were able "to verify her statements leading to the fact that she was the individual responsible for the crime."

Authorities say the woman knocked on a door of the store shortly after 5 a.m. Tuesday, was let in by an employee, and then took the cash.

The Mitchell woman is being held at the Pennington County Jail. Formal charges are pending.

Fog Leads To Bus Crash, Children Absent

BLUNT (AP) — Dense morning fog contributed to a school bus crashing into a sunflower field near Blunt on Wednesday, but no kids were on board.

Blunt volunteer firefighter Ron Moehring tells KCCR-AM that Steve West of Onida was driving the bus on 306th Avenue one mile east of the Blunt junction when the bus missed the corner and went into a ditch.

Moehring says West was transported to an area hospital with back pain.

The bus was being driven for the Agar/Blunt/Onida school district. It was on its way Onida to pick up students.

Nursing Home For Native Americans To Open Next Year

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A long-awaited Nebraska nursing home on the border with South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation will begin accepting Native American residents early next year to ease a severe care shortage in one of the nation's poorest regions, a project official said Wednesday.

The facility is under construction on a 600-acre patch of tribal land in Whiteclay, a tiny Nebraska village on the South Dakota border that is known for selling millions of cans of beer each year to residents of the neighboring dry reservation.

The nursing home will open for any member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe, but most will likely come from the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said Ron Ross, the president of the Lincoln-based Native American Health Management LLC, which will manage the facility.

"The need is severe," said Ross, a former Nebraska state treasurer. "I think it will give people a reason to think differently about Whiteclay. It's going to take care of elders and provide good jobs for people."

Whiteclay has fewer than a dozen residents, but its four alcohol stores sold the equivalent of 3.9 million cans of beer and malt liquor last year, according to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

Critics say the town fuels the alcoholism on a reservation with widespread

poverty, unemployment and one of the nation's highest alcohol-related mortality rates. Tribe members voted in 2013 to legalize alcohol and use the profits for education and treatment programs, but the Oglala Sioux tribal council hasn't taken the formal steps required to allow sales and possession. The main Pine Ridge village sits in Oglala Lakota County, formerly Shannon County, which had the nation's third-highest poverty rate in 2010, according to U.S. census data.

The 51,000-square-foot facility will have 60 beds once complete, with room to expand to 80. Ross said he expects the first residents at the home in February or March.

The home will create between 80 and 100 jobs. Project officials have already received employment applications from residents in Gordon and Rushville, Nebraska, Ross said, and they hope to make use of the nursing program at Oglala Lakota College on the reservation.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe is paying the construction costs with a \$13.5 million loan from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota, which owns and operates that state's largest casino, and \$3 million of its own money. The federal government will repay the loan and reimburse the home's operating expenses through Medicaid and private payers.

Even though most nursing homes are funded with a combination of state and federal Medicaid dollars,

Ross said Nebraska will not shoulder any of the cost. The Whiteclay facility will rely partially on federal Medicaid dollars, and the federal Indian Health Service will cover the state's usual share.

The project is located in Nebraska because of a moratorium on new South Dakota nursing home beds imposed in 1988. The reservation is subject to the moratorium despite the tribe's status as a sovereign nation, according to the South Dakota Department of Health.

South Dakota has 110 nursing homes and 175 assisted living facilities throughout the state, but many are concentrated around Sioux Falls and Rapid City, the state's two largest cities.

"There's an ample number of beds overall in the state, but there are some areas that don't have enough," said Tom Martinec, deputy secretary of the South Dakota Department of Health. "It's one of the drawbacks of the moratorium. In some cases, they're not located in the right places."

Martinec said the moratorium was imposed to promote the development of other long-term care options that are less expensive, but can still serve patients who don't need around-the-clock nursing care.

South Dakota passed a law in 2010 that granted Pine Ridge an exemption to the moratorium, but the exemption was set to end in June 2012 and tribal officials didn't act on it right away. A 2012 law later removed the time limit for South Dakota

Indian reservations, but project planners had already broken ground for the Nebraska facility in 2011.

The lack of nursing homes forces some elderly tribe members to move to facilities that are far from their families, culture and native Lakota language, said Leonard Little Finger, 76, who serves on the nursing home's board. Little Finger said an estimated 400 elderly residents who once lived on the reservation have left for nursing home care elsewhere.

"They're beyond the reach of their families, who can go up for maybe an occasional visit," said Little Finger, who lives in the reservation village of Oglala, South Dakota. "Families can't go 200 to 300 miles every weekend just to visit grandma. The nursing home at Whiteclay is a dream that came true."

Little Finger said the closest nursing home is in Martin, South Dakota, about 45 miles east of the main Pine Ridge village. Another is located in Kadoka, more than 100 miles from the main village. The reservation is about as large as Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

The parcel of Nebraska land owned by the tribe was part of a 10-mile-wide, 5-mile deep buffer zone that was created in 1889 to protect the reservation from whiskey peddlers. President Theodore Roosevelt returned all but one square mile of that land to the public domain in 1904, and white settlers flocked to the area.

Woman Gets Probation For Leaving Children To Die In Cold

BY BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — A South Dakota woman who authorities said left her two young daughters to die in North Dakota won't serve any more jail time if she continues getting her life turned around.

Rosebud Sioux member Michelle Wounded Face pleaded guilty in June to child abuse and neglect charges and was sentenced Wednesday to the six months she's already served behind bars, and three years of supervised release. She'll spend up to the first six months of her probation in the Mandan halfway house where she's been living since July 1. She also must pay a \$200 court fee.

Authorities say Wounded Face in January abandoned her 2- and 4-year-old daughters in a car in a rural area of the Fort Berthold Reservation, where she was living at the time, without adequate clothing for the bitter-cold weather. They survived and are living in Minot with their father. He and Wounded Face are divorcing.

Wounded Face told an FBI agent after her arrest

that she had left the children in the car to die. She had planned to rely on an insanity defense until U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland ruled in mid-May that she was competent to stand trial after she underwent a mental health examination at a Federal Bureau of Prisons medical center in Texas.

Wounded Face told Hovland during her arraignment in June that she had gone on a monthlong hallucinogenic-drug binge late last year after the death of a close aunt and did not remember leaving her children. Authorities said she exhibited odd behavior in jail following

her arrest, including drinking toilet water and claiming to be the daughter of gods.

Wounded Face on Wednesday told Hovland that she is taking steps to rebuild her life, including getting a full-time job at a fast-food restaurant, seeing a counselor and getting reacquainted with family, including her mother and sister who were in the courtroom. Wounded Face and her family declined comment after the sentencing.

"I'm very sorry for what I did to my girls," Wounded Face told Hovland. "It's very

hard for me. ... I miss them every day."

Hovland told Wounded Face that she seemed to be "a very pleasant, smart young lady."

"I really hope you can get on the right track here," he said.

Wounded Face said her goal is to get her own apartment and enroll in college. Hovland ordered her to also complete any substance abuse or mental health counseling or treatment her probation officer deems warranted.

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April K. Willman MD, FAAP, Board Certified Pediatrician

Dr. Willman completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of Missouri in Columbia and received her medical degree from the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. She completed her undergraduate work at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Dr. Willman will join Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. September 22, 2015. She specializes in pediatric care for newborns and children up to 18 years and has expertise in caring for premature babies, providing support for parents and children to develop healthy lifestyles, and cares for acute and chronic illnesses in children. Part of her practice is the evaluation and care for physical and emotional development, including ADHD.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Willman and her husband, Dave, are the parents of two children and reside in Yankton.

Dr. Willman will begin seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. September 22, 2015.



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