

## High Temperatures Across The Dakotas

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The National Weather Service is forecasting more hot temperatures across the Dakotas on Thursday.

The Weather Service's Bismarck office says Williston, North Dakota, reached 100 degrees on Wednesday, breaking the record of 99 for this day set in 1901. The heat index, which takes into account humidity, is expected to reach 100 in some areas on Thursday afternoon.

The Weather Service's Sioux Falls office says warm and humid conditions will continue into the Labor Day weekend. Afternoon heat index values on Thursday are expected to peak in the mid- to upper-90s. Temperatures topped 100 in Winner on Wednesday.

## New License Plate Honors 150 Years

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska motorists can celebrate the state's 150th anniversary with a new license plate, starting Oct. 1.

Gov. Pete Ricketts and first lady Susanne Shore revealed the design Thursday for the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission's special issue license plate.

The design uses the logo and branding unveiled in July for the anniversary celebration, set for 2017.

Ricketts says the plate will allow Nebraska drivers to share news of the state's anniversary as they travel. The plate was inspired by images of the Nebraska Capitol and the state flower, flag and nature. The logo and brand were developed with the assistance of Bailey Lauerman, a Nebraska-based marketing and advertising agency.

Drivers can purchase the plates for \$70 from the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles.

## SD State Fair Kicks Off In Huron

HURON (AP) — The 2015 South Dakota State Fair kicks off Thursday and runs through Monday.

The annual event in Huron showcases South Dakota's agriculture industry, which generates \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employs more than 115,000 South Dakotans.

Poultry is typically one of the ag aspects featured at the annual event, but all live bird exhibitions have been suspended due to the Avian Influenza outbreak earlier this year.

Thursday's events focus on value added agriculture, with specialty crop mini-seminars for local food production. The fair is partnering with the South Dakota Dairy Producers to hold an ice cream social at 3 p.m.

## Black Sabbath Announce Final Tour

NEW YORK (AP) — After five decades, Black Sabbath will launch a farewell tour next year.

The heavy metal band starring Ozzy Osbourne announced dates for its The End tour, which kicks off Jan. 20, 2016, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Osbourne, guitarist Tony Iommi and bassist Geezer Butler will visit 17 North American cities before heading to Australia and New Zealand for seven shows. More concerts will be announced next month.

Original drummer Bill Ward, who had a falling out with Osbourne, is not part of the tour.

The Grammy-winning group released its self-titled debut album in 1970. They are pioneers of heavy metal music.

Black Sabbath said in a statement: "When this tour concludes, it will truly be THE END, THE END of one of the most legendary bands in Rock 'n Roll history."

## Daugaard To Give \$1M For Conservation

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the state will issue \$1 million in state funding for habitat conservation if a group can privately raise the same amount.

The governor issued the challenge last week to the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Board, a volunteer advisory board that he recently established.

The funding pledged by the governor will match the donations to the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Fund. The fund serves as a permanent funding source for wildlife habitat work in the state.

Private donors have contributed \$425,000 to the fund in the last year and state government has dedicated \$350,000.

The volunteer advisory board needs to raise an additional \$1 million in private donations to meet the governor's challenge.

Daugaard says conserving habitat preserves outdoor traditions and enhances the state's wildlife population.

## SDSU Farm Classes Offered For Women

EAGLE BUTTE (AP) — The South Dakota State University Extension is offering a series of courses aimed at helping women in agriculture.

Topics include farm record-keeping, marketing, communication skills, insurance and retirement and estate planning. The series of six classes begins Oct. 7 at the Tribal Wellness Center in Eagle Butte.

The courses are part of Annie's Project, a program that started in Illinois in 2003 and has since spread to other states. The program is named for an Illinois woman who ran a farm and raised six children in the 1950s.

The deadline to register in Oct. 2. The cost is \$150 per person and could be reduced for tribal members from Intertribal Agriculture Council.

# SDRS Trustees Like Door Closed For 'Retire-Rehire'

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota Retirement System paid millions of dollars extra to people who technically retired from government jobs before age 64 but rapidly returned to their previous employment while continuing to receive their retirement checks.

The SDRS trustees received a report at their meeting Wednesday looking back at what some citizens criticized as double dipping.

The practice, known as retire-rehire, was generally curtailed in 2010 through new restrictions, including a minimum break in service of three months.

Its popularity had grown to the point that approximately 15 percent of new retirees came back to work "almost immediately" in the months before the 2010 changes took effect, according to SDRS administrator Rob Wylie.

"That was a concern on our part," Wylie said.

They received the equivalent of roughly 140 percent of their normal pay through a combination of their salaries and their retirement benefits.

Wylie said there was a promise in 2010 that SDRS would re-visit the topic in five years. That led to the analysis.

SDRS senior actuary Doug Fiddler said retire-rehire allowed those employ-

ees to receive higher than normal total amounts of retirement benefits through the rest of their lives.

All SDRS members paid for those employees' extra benefits but many never had the opportunity to take advantage.

Retire-rehire wasn't consistently available throughout state government or the local governments, school districts and other government units that participate in the system.

Employees contribute 6 percent of their pay into the system and their employer provide a 6 percent match.

The 2010 changes don't prohibit retirees receiving SDRS benefits from returning to work for employers in the SDRS system.

But the changes essentially eliminated the financial advantage and significantly reduced the frequency.

In 2005 there were 92 new retirees who returned to work. The annual totals steadily rose, reaching 141 in 2008, 123 in 2009 and 99 in 2010.

They fell to 19 in 2011 and have averaged 28 per year since 2010.

The SDRS analysis looked at the 123 retire-rehires from 2009.

Ninety came back within three months; the average break for those 90 was 13 days. There were 42 of those 90 still re-employed as of June 30, 2015.

Based on the data for those 90, the

additional cost to SDRS of retire-rehire was \$5.3 million, according to the analysis presented to the trustees.

If the 2010 changes had been in place, the extra cost would be about \$300,000, the analysis said.

Retire-rehire was a common practice in other places such as California, so that law enforcement personnel could retire and change careers to civilian positions.

School districts began to use it in South Dakota more than a decade ago as a way to keep superintendents. From there the practice spread.

The School Administrators of South Dakota group is interested in restoring the practice in some fashion to help address personnel shortages.

Rob Monson, the organization's executive director, recently sent a letter to SDRS trustees.

Monson spoke to the SDRS board Wednesday. He didn't find support.

The 2010 changes were right, trustee James Johns of Rapid City said. He is a police officer. "It's working. We should stay on that horse," Johns said.

Trustee Eric Stroeder of Mobridge, an engineer for the state Department of Transportation and president of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, spoke against it too.

"We don't need to pay and subsidize that," Stroeder said.

# Woman Who Died In Jail Was Being Monitored

KEVIN BURBACH

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A 24-year-old South Dakota woman who suffered a fatal methamphetamine overdose while in custody was asked repeatedly by jail staff whether she had taken any illegal drugs and was moved to a holding cell for special monitoring after her cellmate requested medical attention for her, authorities said Thursday.

Attorney General Marty Jackley, whose office conducted the state investigation, told The Associated Press that the circumstances surrounding Sarah Circle Bear's death on July 5 are unfortunate, but that "the normal jail procedures were followed."

Circle Bear's family is questioning whether the American Indian woman received adequate medical attention before she died, but jail officials in Aberdeen say they did everything they could and there was no indication she was in danger before she was found unresponsive in a holding cell.

Sarah Circle Bear called for jail staff using an emergency call button around 8 a.m. and told staff she had a stomach ache, but didn't ask for medical attention. Brown County Sheriff's deputy and jail administrator Craig Nelson told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Circle Bear's father, Terrance Circle Bear, has said an inmate who was in custody with his daughter in Aberdeen, where Sarah Circle Bear was taken the day of her arrest for ingesting a controlled substance, told him his daughter was suffering and repeatedly asked for help but was ignored.

Her cellmate pushed the help button at 8:18 a.m. and told staff that Circle Bear was acting strange, according to Brown County Sheriff Mark Milbrandt. Jail staff didn't think Circle Bear wasn't acting unusual, Milbrandt said, but they decided to put her in a holding cell after consulting with a nurse, who told them to monitor her vitals.

Milbrandt said it's common for inmates to use the

emergency button to call staff for non-emergencies and that complaints like stomachaches are not unusual. He said Circle Bear had previously been in custody at the jail and made similar complaints.

"We feel saddened by what happened," he said.

"We did what we could do."

Circle Bear was arrested July 3 with her fiancé, Wayne Pahl, following a police chase, according to state authorities. The state Highway Patrol has not released the details, but Pahl's mother, Carla, said her son was fleeing after he and Circle Bear had bought meth in Sioux Falls.

Pahl said her son, who's in custody at the Roberts County Jail, told her that he swallowed the meth and hours later began having convulsions and had to be transferred to a hospital. Pahl said she didn't know what Circle Bear did with the methamphetamine she had.

Jackley said investigators have concluded that Circle Bear did not obtain the drugs while in custody and

that she brought them into the Brown County jail in a way "that was not detectable from regular and acceptable jail procedures."

Jackley said three separate jail workers had asked Circle Bear whether she was under the influence of any drugs, and all three times she said no. Had she told authorities she had ingested drugs, Milbrandt said, she would have been helped immediately.

Circle Bear was monitored on video constantly while in the holding cell and jail staff checked on her every 15 minutes, Milbrandt said. She showed movement in her cell on video about two minutes before she was found unresponsive at 10:37 a.m., and a jail employee administered CPR 12 seconds after not finding a pulse. She was pronounced dead at a hospital later that day.

Terrance Circle Bear has said he's pursuing legal action with out-of-state attorneys but didn't provide further details.

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