

March for Babies Carpenter is Lavender Lecture guest at USD is April 12

The South Dakota March of Dimes will be holding a March for Babies in Vermillion on Saturday, April 12, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to gather on the east lawn of the Muenster University Center on the USD

campus, and register by 2 p.m. that day.

There will be family teams, company teams and people walking with friends to raise money for babies in the community.

For more information, call (605) 334-8203.

The OUTlaws at the University of South Dakota School of Law will be hosting the second annual Lavender Lecture at 2 p.m. on April 7 with guest lecturer Dale Carpenter, Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law at the University of Minnesota School of Law.

Carpenter writes in the areas of constitutional law, the First Amendment, and sexual orientation and the law. His presentation will focus on sexual orientation and the law with emphasis on the topic of marriage equality. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the courtroom at the USD School of Law.

In 2007, Carpenter was appointed the Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law. He was the Julius E. Davis Professor of Law for 2006-07 and the Vance K. Opperman Research Scholar for 2003-04. He is a frequent television, radio, and print commentator on constitutional law, the First Amendment, and sexual orientation and the law.

Carpenter received his B.A. degree in history from Yale College in 1989 and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 1992.

At the University of Chicago he was Editor-in-Chief of the University of Chicago Law Review.

He received both the D. Francis Bustin Prize for excellence in legal scholarship and the John M. Olin Foundation Scholarship for Law & Economics. He is also a member of the state bars of Texas and California.

The Lavender Lecture was inaugurated by the OUTlaws in 2013 as a venue to bring discussion and education to South Dakota on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues and the law. Former Iowa Supreme Court Justice Michael Streit was the first Lavender Lecture speaker. Carpenter continues this newly-minted tradition.

Johnson named director of University Center

VERMILLION – Craig Johnson, director of Winona State University-Rochester, has been named executive director of the University Center, Sioux Falls.

As executive director of the University Center, Sioux Falls, Johnson will be responsible for the Center's leadership and daily operations.

With the position administratively attached to the University of South Dakota, he will report directly to USD President James W. Abbott. Johnson's appointment was announced jointly today by USD and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

"The Regents are pleased to welcome Craig Johnson to our public university system, I look forward to working with him," said Jack Warner, the regents' executive director and CEO.

"I am very excited to have Craig Johnson in this leadership role at University Center, Sioux Falls," stated James W. Abbott, president of the University of South Dakota, part of a consortium of South Dakota's public universities (USD, Black Hills State, Dakota State,

Northern State and South Dakota State) that serve the needs of the Sioux Falls community. "Craig has demonstrated the ability to manage diverse programs and facilitate educational collaborations that will serve him well as executive director of University Center."

As Winona State University-Rochester Director, Johnson oversaw leadership and management of campus operations.

Prior to Winona State University-Rochester, Johnson served for seven years as campus administrator for the West Bend campus of Moraine Park Technical College in southeast Wisconsin. He is in the process of finalizing the requirements for his Ed.D. in graduate studies, which he will receive from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities next year.

Johnson also has master's degrees in art history from Tulane University, and higher education/administration and organization from the University of Minnesota; and a B.S. in art from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Legislators want to ensure teachers get extra money

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations decided Monday that a letter of intent should be sent to all school districts throughout South Dakota explaining the extra 0.3 percent of state aid is meant for teacher salaries only.

The appropriators agreed without a formal vote however they aren't telling districts how to distribute the \$2.2 million among the approximately 9,500 certified teachers.

"How they divide it up is up to them as a local school board," Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, said.

"Different districts can do different things with it," Rep. Dan Dryden, R-Rapid City, said.

School districts will receive varying amounts based on their enrollments. The additional \$2.2 million came on top of the 3 percent increase made in the per-student allocation.

The 3.3 percent total increase takes the allocation to \$4,781.14 per student for the coming school year.

While each school district decides how to budget its per-student allocation, the additional 0.3 percent this year must go to teacher salaries. On average that's approximately \$225 per teacher.

The average teacher salary in South Dakota during the 2012-2013 school year was \$39,018, according to the state Department of Education. The average teacher experience was 15 years.

Rep. Susan Wismer, D-Britton, said the letter of intent isn't needed.

"It's demeaning. We're not respecting our local school boards to make decisions," said Wismer, who's running for the Democratic nomination for governor.

Sen. Deb Peters strongly disagreed. Peters, R-Hartford, said "about a dozen" superintendents and school board members contacted her seeking clarification.

"That's why we need the letter of intent," Peters said. She chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee and the joint Senate-House panel.

The letter can be an important tool for superintendents to take to their school boards, said Sen. Bill Van Gerpen, R-Tyndall.

"It's only point-3 percent (0.3) but it's meant a lot to them," Van Gerpen said.

The appropriators members informally agreed there should be a look at teacher salaries and school districts' available funding.

The extra \$2.2 million was an important first step in improving teacher salaries, according to Dryden.

"It is my hope we continue that. How we're going to go about that, I don't know," he said.

Peters said the work should be on a broader basis than just the 18 appropriators.

"Come up with a coordinated effort in the Legislature," she said.

South Dakota ranks last nationally in average teacher pay.

"I think we're going to be running against nothing short of a teacher shortage in the near future," Sen. Billie Sutton, D-Burke, said.

The appropriators held their discussion Monday morning after the Legislature adjourned the 2014 session. Various matters were considered for letters of intent regarding additional money that was budgeted.

The extra bump in school aid gathered the most attention.

Early in the 2014 legislative session, a majority of Republican senators without saying a word against it rejected a resolution from a special legislative committee that looked at teacher availability last year.

During the House discussion of the extra \$2.2 million, House Democratic leader Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton said South Dakota would need to pay its teachers an additional \$2,800 apiece to pull ahead of Mississippi into forty-ninth place among the 50 states.

VERMILLION POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

03/23/14 01:14 – Caller reported a group of men vandalizing a recycling bin. Officers checked the area but were not able to identify the suspects.

03/23/14 01:18 – Caller reported a possible DWI. Officers located and stopped the vehicle. The driver was underage and had been drinking but was not intoxicated. The driver's privilege to drive was revoked. The driver was cited for driving revoked and underage consumption of alcohol.

03/23/14 11:38 – Caller reported his truck stolen by unknown person(s) the night before. The caller located his truck and called officers to investigate. Under investigation.

03/26/14 10:59 – Caller reported receiving a fraudulent phone call. He would terminate the call before the caller could ask for money or other compromising information.

03/26/14 19:04 – Officers conducted five alcohol compliance checks. Four of the establishments passed, one failed. The employee at the failing establishment was cited.

03/26/14 20:23 – Officers found a deceased cat on the roadway and removed the body. The cat had no collar. It was mostly black with some white and orange stripes.

03/27/14 01:44 – Officers responded to a report of a man knocked unconscious by another man outside a bar. Responding officers stopped and contacted two men fleeing the area. Witnesses identified one of the men as the suspect. He was arrested for simple assault.

03/27/14 03:03 – Caller reported three people fighting outside a trailer. Officers responded and searched the area but found no sign of the participants of the fight.

03/27/14 09:29 – Officers responded to an assisted living center where a subject had threatened other and himself. Officers spoke to the man who apologized and agreed to seek help.

03/27/14 13:41 – Officers provided a funeral escort.

03/27/14 14:10 – Caller reported unknown person(s) had entered his home and stolen several

items, including a firearm. Under investigation.

03/27/14 17:13 – Caller reported the window on their van had been broken out by unknown person(s) while parked in the high school parking lot. Investigation has not revealed a suspect.

03/28/14 05:10 – Caller reported an ongoing dispute with her husband. Officers responded and found that the husband was drunk and argument had occurred, but no violence had occurred.

03/28/14 13:25 – Officers responded to a report of loud arguing at a neighbor's apartment. Investigation revealed a dispute between parents and their teenage daughter. No crimes had occurred.

03/28/14 20:05 – Officers stopped a vehicle for expired registration.

The driver was suspended and was cited. Subsequent investigation revealed the license plate on the vehicle belonged to another vehicle and the driver admitted he had taken the plate off his old vehicle when he got his new vehicle. The driver was charged with possession of revoked or altered license.

03/28/14 22:17 – Officers investigated a possible violation of a protection order.

03/28/14 23:59 – Officers contacted a man who was walking on the side of the road with an open Bud Light container. The man was underage and was cited for open container and underage consumption.

03/29/14 00:24 – A vehicle was stopped for not having its headlights on. The driver had been

drinking and was under age. He was cited for minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.

03/29/14 00:49 – A vehicle was stopped for having an out brake light. The car reeked of the odor of burnt marijuana. The driver admitted to smoking marijuana. A subsequent search found the remains of several marijuana roaches. The driver was arrested for ingestion and possession of paraphernalia.

03/29/14 12:59 – Caller reported she was too weak to get to her car to go to the hospital. Officers responded and provided

care until the ambulance arrived.

03/29/14 23:11 – Officers responded to a noise complaint and found a large party at the suspect residence. Officers contacted the renters and asked for consent to search for minors, one of the renters admitted there were minors in the residence, another renter refused consent. The residence was secured and a search warrant was obtained. Forty-five minors were cited for consuming alcohol. The renters were cited for noise prohibition and disorderly house.

Total Records: 21

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