



Pictured are Jeff Berens, CNO, Brittney Leloux, August Employee of the Month, Gayle Matzke, DON.

# University PD to increase use of bikes on campus

In an effort to go green and to be seen, the University Police Department at the University of South Dakota is stepping up its use of mountain bikes on patrol this fall.

Eight UPD officers have completed the 32 training hours required to patrol campus on mountain bikes – three Specialized Rockhoppers equipped with headlights, front suspension and disc brakes. Sgt. Sam Nelsen, one of only two police officers in South Dakota to be a certified IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) instructor, provided the training. The mountain bike patrol is part of the overall community-oriented policing effort that allows UPD officers less restricted access to campus at all hours of the day and during special events.

"Bicycles are ideal for a college campus," said Dallas Schnack, assistant director, University Police Department. "If you're driving a car, campus isn't as open, has less public roadways and parking lots are usually congested. With mountain bikes, patrol officers have the added ability to move quietly and interact better

with the community."

As much as the addition of mountain bikes benefits the department with more visibility for police officers and less restrictions, there's also an expected cost savings that comes with the new wheels.

"Outside of the startup costs of around \$5,000, the mountain bikes will eliminate wear and tear on patrol cars, and reduce the amount of gas and maintenance costs annually," added Pete Jensen, director, University Police Department. "Our response times should also be faster as the mountain bikes offer greater accessibility to certain areas of campus that were difficult to get to in a patrol car."

According to Schnack, University Police began using bicycles as far back as 20 years ago but not to the extent that they'll be used in the future.

"Over the years biking in general has really picked up," Schnack said. "Twenty, even 10 years ago, biking wasn't a program as it is now for many police departments."

In addition to the mountain bikes, University Police has added a Polaris utility vehicle to its fleet. The utility vehicle is electric and doesn't utilize fuel to drive around campus. It seats two and was acquired to address several concerns of the campus community, including an opportunity to efficiently patrol and respond to areas of campus that are inaccessible to larger vehicles.

"These are good assets for us," said Schnack. "If you see an officer on a mountain bike or driving the utility vehicle, it starts a conversation. You don't have that opportunity in a car. It's not the same."

University Police, located in the Davidson Building on the USD campus, has 10 full-time police officers, and four full-time and two part-time public safety staff members. Full-time University Police Officers are sworn in as Vermillion City Deputy Police Officers and must attend the South Dakota Law Enforcement Academy for training. For more information, please call (605) 677-5342 or email universitypolice@usd.edu.

## Leloux is Sanford Vermillion PRIDE employee

Brittney Leloux, CNA, Sanford Care Center Vermillion was selected as the August 2012 PRIDE Employee of the Month. She has been employed here since 2010.

Nominations for Leloux included the following comments:

A resident was sick and Brittney rushed to her side. It was so nice to have this resident tell me how wonderful Brittney was to her and how she showed such concern. Brittney is a hard worker and a good employee at all times. She is patient, kind and caring.

"Brittney does a wonderful job with the residents. She is very conscientious with her duties and she is flexible and a team player amongst her co-workers," said Gayle Matzke, DON, Sanford Care Center Vermillion.

Brittney is a native of Alvord, IA and currently resides in Vermillion. She attends USD majoring in nursing. Brittney is engaged to Thomas Bierhout and a December wedding is planned.

## Vendor sales tax revenues released for 2012 Sturgis rally

Overall tax revenue from the 2012 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is up slightly, at 4.9 percent, when compared to last year at this time, according to the latest figures available from the South Dakota Department of Revenue.

Tax revenues in the Black Hills from this year's rally will continue to be collected over the next few weeks, even though the last official day was Aug. 12.

Total tax revenue so far during the rally period is \$1,183,042 compared to \$1,127,552 a year ago. The Department of Revenue reports that sales and tourism tax revenues collected from temporary vendors at this year's rally totaled \$950,556 in the Northern Hills, which includes Sturgis and all other communities in Meade and Lawrence counties. Those revenues are up 4.7 percent, or \$42,602 from last year's total of \$907,954.

Of the \$950,556 collected so far this year, \$525,863 was state sales tax, \$221,264 was municipal sales tax, \$7,405 was municipal gross receipts tax, and \$196,024 was state tourism tax revenue.

There were 1012 vendors displaying and selling products at the 2012 Sturgis Rally, compared to 976 in 2011 and 1,040 in 2010. Gross vendor sales totaled \$13,146,571 this year in the Northern Hills area – an increase of \$583,131 from last year's gross sales of \$12,563,439.

The Southern Hills – including Rapid City, Custer, Hill City, and Keystone, along with Pennington County – posted vendor sales tax revenues of \$232,486. Of that amount, \$123,780 was state sales tax, \$60,206 was municipal sales tax, \$2,086 was municipal gross receipts tax, and \$46,414 was state tourism tax. Those revenues are up \$12,888, or 5.9 percent, from the \$219,598 reported in 2011.

Gross vendor sales from the 2012 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally totaled \$3,094,503 in the Southern Hills – an increase of \$160,725 from 2011 gross sales of \$2,933,778. There were 156 vendors displaying and selling products, compared to 162 in 2011.

Tax rates for the biker rally varied, depending on the types of merchandise sold and the locations of the concessions.

## PUC candidates to debate at State Fair Sept. 1

South Dakota Farmers Union will host a debate Saturday, Sept. 1, from 3:15-4:30 p.m. on the Dakotand Stage at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds featuring candidates for the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Republicans Chris Nelson and Kristie Fiegen, both current commissioners on the PUC, Democratic candidates Nick Nemecek and Matt McGovern, and Libertarian candidate Russell Clarke have all agreed to attend.

Nemecek is challenging Nelson for the four years remaining on the term Commissioner Nelson was appointed to fill after Dusty Johnson resigned. McGovern, Clark and Fiegen are running for a full six-year term on the commission. Fiegen was appointed last year to finish the final year of the six-year term vacated by Commissioner Steve Kolbeck.

All five candidates will be on the Dakotand Stage during the debate. The public is invited to attend and will have the chance to ask the candidates questions. The debate is part of the family farm organization's 'Farmers Union Day' at the State Fair.

"PUC commissioners make major decisions that affect agricultural producers all across South Dakota," said Farmers Union President Doug Sombke. "This will give the public a chance to see the candidates vying for a spot on this important commission and learn more about where they stand on the most pressing issues of the day."

Zach Nelson of Performance Radio in Huron will serve as the debate's moderator.

## Governor's driver licensing plan working

Seven weeks after Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced a comprehensive driver license improvement plan, most wait times have been reduced significantly at Sioux Falls exam stations.

The governor ordered the plan implemented on July 11 after learning that some applicants for driver licensing services were waiting for 120 minutes or longer at the two Sioux Falls exam stations. Since the changes were implemented, wait times at the two exam stations have ranged from 20 to 45 minutes on most days.

The improvement plan included extended hours, paying overtime as necessary, emphasizing hiring and training to fill vacant examiner positions and encouraging applicants to seek temporary permits and then go through the renewal process in the fall when stations traditionally are less busy.

To continue improving convenience and efficiency for applicants, the Driver Licensing Program is announcing today that applicants may:

- Go online ([http://dps.sd.gov/licensing/driver\\_licensing/default.aspx](http://dps.sd.gov/licensing/driver_licensing/default.aspx)) to schedule appointments for renewal services at the Westport exam station in Sioux Falls. Online appointment scheduling will be expanded to the other Sioux

Falls station and to stations in Rapid City and Aberdeen within a month.

- Call (800) 952-3696 to schedule an appointment for renewal services in Sioux Falls. That service will be available in Rapid City and Aberdeen within the month, also.

- Follow SDDriverlicense on Twitter for updates on wait times at the Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen exam stations and for other news and general information on the Driver Licensing Program.

Citizens can make their driver licensing renewal experience more pleasant by using online or telephone services to schedule an appointment and checking status of wait times on Twitter, said Cindy Gerber, director of the Driver Licensing Program.

"We will have periods when wait times are higher than the average and others when they are very low," Gerber said. "The start of the day often is busy, and noon hours can be slower as we give our examiners lunch breaks in shifts. Occasionally, longer than average wait times are unavoidable because large numbers of people show up at the same time. However, we are committed to making our services as quick and convenient as possible. Giving our customers the opportunity to schedule appointments and

providing real-time information on wait times through Twitter help us to meet that commitment. The first seven weeks of the improvement plan show we are going the right direction."

Fridays tend to be busy times at the Sioux Falls stations. On the Friday before the improvement plan was implemented, July 6, average wait times were about 43 minutes at the Administration site and 64 minutes at Westport. On Friday, Aug. 24, average wait times were slightly less than 21 minutes at Admin and slightly more than 23 minutes at Westport.

Daugaard also directed the Driver Licensing Program to move forward as quickly as possible with self-service kiosks and online renewal services. Those services will help driver license customers not only in Sioux Falls but also in the other exam stations across the state.

A combination of the normally busy summer months and a series of unexpected staff vacancies created the long-line situation at the Sioux Falls stations, Gerber said. The improvement plan eased the waiting while new staff members were hired and trained. Gerber says while occasional wait times still are longer than desired, those tend to be a few complicated issues.



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