

Jackley warns of paving, roofing scams

Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning South Dakota consumers and business owners about transient paving and roofing scams that are heavily targeting South Dakota citizens.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and local Law Enforcement across the state have received numerous complaints about out-of-state transients going door-to-door promising low estimates because of left over materials from a completed project down the road or needing to keep crews busy between jobs.

Consumers and business owners are reporting poor quality jobs at exaggerated prices, often double or triple what was originally quoted.

"Every single year our Consumer Protection Division receives numerous complaints against transient contractors," Jackley said. "Their main goal is to trick consumers into making hasty decisions in purchasing an inferior product, generally at an inflated price. Catching the consumer or business off guard is their most effective tactic."

Here are a few precautions that may help prevent becoming a victim:

- Do not be pressured into a quick agreement.
- Request a written contact specifying in detail the work to be done and the agreed upon price.
- Be cautious if cash-only terms are required.

- Do not make full payment before the job is satisfactorily completed.

- Ask for local references and call these references to make sure they were satisfied.

- Get bids from local companies to compare prices.

- Consumers have a three-day right-to-cancel, which should be stated on the receipt of contract.

- Sellers must provide the consumer with a copy of the contract or receipt at the time of the sale. This receipt must show the date of the sale, the name and address of the merchant, and a statement to the buyer of his or her right to cancel the contract within three days. After proper cancellation, the seller has 10 days to refund your money.

- Remember that a legitimate offer does not require you to have the work done immediately. Do not get pressured into sale.

- Ask to see their current South Dakota tax license. State law requires all persons selling products or services to have a current South Dakota sales or contractors' excise tax license. But remember that even though they may have this license it does not mean that you will be able to locate them once the work is complete.

Contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 300-1986 or consumerhelp@state.sd.us with questions or concerns regarding transient contractors.

Miskimins new associate dean for research at USD Med School

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

A longtime professor with the USD Sanford School of Medicine has been named to a new leadership role.

Robin Miskimins, Ph.D., was named associate dean for research at the school on July 1, and she couldn't be more excited.

"It's something that I really was looking forward to," she said. "It gives me an opportunity to do a lot more for the school, I hope, in terms of helping them develop their research program."

As associate dean, Miskimins said she will aid the faculty by helping them find funding opportunities, networking and identifying collaborators.

In addition, she will work with medical students "to make sure they get some exposure to scholarly activity and research, and be able to pursue their interests."

"It also goes as far as the residents and clinical faculty that have interests in helping them develop those, and teaching them things they may not know, giving them training opportunities, helping them publish, identifying where that might be, how to write, how to do scholarly activity," she added. "Some of them have a lot of interest, but not much experience, so using my experience to help guide them to do the things that they would really like to do."

In addition, Miskimins will be charged with increasing SSOM's



Miskimins

externally funded research, enhancing the school's academic profile and building collaborative relationships with a variety of partners.

"With her outstanding talents, extensive research background and strong interpersonal skills, Dr. Miskimins will help us continue to advance our institutional goals," said Mary Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P., dean of the Sanford School of Medicine and vice president for health affairs at USD, via a press release.

Miskimins has been at USD for the past 22 years. She began as an assistant professor, and became an associate professor, and a full professor of basic biomedical

sciences, a role she still holds.

"About four years ago I became the director of faculty and research development, which started out within the division of basic sciences in the school of medicine and then expanded to all health affairs, which means it included the school of health sciences," she said.

Miskimins earned her Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Arizona in 1983, her M.S. in genetics from Arizona in 1978 and her B.A. in molecular and cellular developmental biology from the University of Colorado in 1976.

Her research interests include development of myelin in the central nervous system, as well as the relationship of myelin to disease states such as multiple sclerosis and schizophrenia.

She is the recipient of several academic honors, including the 2007 Chester McVay Award presented by the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and the 1999 Board Of Regents Award for Excellence in Research.

When she is not working, her hobbies include woodworking, birding, gardening, golfing and photography.

"I don't have any trouble keeping myself occupied," she said with a laugh.

Miskimins said the aspect of her work that she most enjoys is "the fact that I get to help people do what they are really passionate about."

"For me, that's the essence of what this is," she said.

Good Earth State Park dedicated at Blood Run

Nearly 400 people gathered Friday morning, July 19, to watch South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad dedicate Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, the first South Dakota state park in 40 years.

"Organized efforts to recognize this important cultural site began more than four decades ago," Daugaard said. "Today we celebrate the culmination of those efforts with the dedication of South Dakota's 13th state park."

Good Earth State Park at Blood Run is located southeast of Sioux Falls and is part of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark. The landmark lies on both sides of the Big Sioux River at the mouth of Blood Run Creek and includes more than 3,000 acres of land in South Dakota and Iowa.

"This is a wonderful example of a great public/private partnership," Branstad said. "In Iowa, we are excited to partner with South Dakota to create a state park that encompasses two states."

Blood Run is considered by archaeologists as the most significant Oneota cultural site in the Midwest. European explorers or early settlers are believed to have named the area Blood Run for the reddish flows of an area creek containing iron. The site served as an important gathering place and trading center for American Indians from 1350 to 1700 A.D.

Good Earth was officially designated as a state park during



Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Iowa Governor Terry Branstad cut the ribbon dedicating South Dakota's newest state park, Good Earth State Park at Blood Run near Sioux Falls. Pictured with the Governors are (L-R) Wesley Hare Jr., Yankton Sioux Tribe; Wynema Morris, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska; Calvin Harlan, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska; Gov. Branstad; Gov. Daugaard; Jeff Vonk, Game, Fish and Parks Secretary; Jeff Scherschligt, past president, SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation; Doug Hofer, SD State Park director; Rob Oliver, Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Board chair.

(Courtesy photo)

the 2013 Legislative Session, but the project has been in the works since the National Park Service first designated the Blood Run site a national Historic Landmark in 1970.

This is a special victory for Doug Hofer who has worked as state park director during much of the process.

"Partnerships have been integral to this project from the beginning," Hofer said. "After so many years of

work, it's exciting to know that Good Earth is finally part of the state park system."

Hofer says future plans for the park include a visitor center, hiking trails and programming focusing on the cultural and historical significance of the site.

For more information on Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, visit www.gfp.sd.gov.

Midwest gas prices remain volatile

The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline on July 23 was \$3.67 per gallon. This price is four cents more than a week ago, 10 cents more than one month ago and 20 cents more than the same day last year. South Dakota's statewide average sits today at \$3.697 a gallon. This is just five cents higher than a week ago, four cents higher than a month ago, and 12 cents higher than a year ago.

While the national price at the pump has now technically fallen for five straight days, it has dropped just fractions of a penny and likely represents a temporary respite rather than the start of a return to lower prices.

Midwestern motorists have faced historically volatile gas prices in recent months. Prices spiked in May and early June because of refinery maintenance, tumbled back to earth at the end of June as refineries resumed production, and have raced higher again in July amid new refinery issues, continued tight supplies and oil prices that are at their highest level in more than a year.

As noted, higher crude oil prices have meant a rising tide for gasoline prices across the country.

Entering July, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil had not settled above the \$100 per barrel threshold for more than a year. That streak ended on July 3 and WTI has settled above \$100 each trading day since, including a 16-month high of \$108.05 per barrel last Friday.

Continued unrest in Egypt has contributed to higher crude oil prices globally, but the increase in WTI (the traditional U.S. benchmark) has dramatically outpaced Brent crude (the traditional European benchmark) in recent months.

A barrel of Brent was priced as much as \$20 above a barrel of WTI as recently as February, but this spread has narrowed to near parity in recent weeks. While a number of factors have contributed to this closing price gap, many point to the increased capacity to bring crude oil from the Midcontinent to the Gulf Coast, most notably the mid-May reversal of the Seaway pipeline, which is now bringing 400,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Cushing to refineries on the Gulf Coast where they can be sold at global prices.

Advertise in the Vermillion Plain Talk!

Call 624-4429.

The University of South Dakota Senior Building Maintenance Worker- Carpenter/Off Hours

The University of South Dakota is seeking a carpenter to perform a wide variety of duties in the fabrication, construction, maintenance and repair of University of South Dakota facilities. Successful applicant will have experience in repairing, replacing and modifying wood/metal or other materials utilized in campus buildings/structures and furniture. Applicant must also have a valid driver's license or be able to obtain one. This position requires varied off hour shifts in order to provide staff coverage 24/7 365 days a year.

For more details and to apply, go to <https://yourfuture.sdbor.edu>



EEO/AA

The University of South Dakota HVAC Specialist/Off Hours

The University of South Dakota is seeking an HVAC Specialist. Successful applicant will have significant experience in industrial level HVAC systems and equipment. Preference will be given to applicants with experience working with food service equipment and the candidate must have a Freon certificate or be able to obtain one within 6 months of hire. Applicant must also have a valid driver's license or be able to obtain one. This position requires varied off hour shifts in order to provide staff coverage 24/7 365 days a year.

For more details and to apply, go to <https://yourfuture.sdbor.edu>



EEO/AA



Vice President of Finance/CFO

Imagine working for a company where **integrity** is a valued core principle, team members **inspire** others, employees are **driven** to deliver an exceptional experience and all **share** in the success.

For full description, go to www.LARSONdoors.com

EEO Compliant 7/13

Finding Solutions for Your Financial Needs



Curt Robinson
Financial Advisor
23 Market Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-2028

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC