

HOME COURT

Former Lady Govs coach Barb Felderman to be honored by SDSM&T B1



GOODWILL

Thrift store retail chain broke ground Wednesday A3



SD panel releases report on expanding Medicaid

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota task force says expanding Medicaid in the state would improve access to preventative care and lower mortality rates, but it would also overload doctors and nurses and limit the state's flexibility in expanding health coverage.

The 29-member Medicaid Opportunities and Challenges Task Force, appointed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to investigate the pros and cons of expanding Medicaid in the state, issued its final report this week.

Under the Affordable Health Care Act, the federal government will cover the entire cost of a state's new Medicaid enrollees from 2014 through 2016

The report said the financial impact of expanding Medicaid in South Dakota will be "considerable," jumping to \$36.8 million by 2020.

See **MEDICAID**, A8



This photo shows one of several wing boxes set up on the Fort Pierre National Grassland to collect a wing from each bird hunters harvest during the upcoming grouse and prairie chicken season. (Daivid Rookhuyzen/Capital Journal)

Forest Service sets up wing boxes on grassland for grouse season

BY DAVID ROOKHUYZEN
DAVID.ROOKHUYZEN@CAPJOURNAL.COM

Just as in other years, hunters seeking grouse on the Fort Pierre National Grassland this season are asked to give up a token of their game harvest to help officials harvest important information about bird populations in the area.

The U.S. Forest Service's Fort Pierre National Grassland set up six wing boxes Wednesday at different parts of the grassland. Hunters are asked to deposit part of the wing of each greater prairie chicken or sharp-tailed grouse they bag to help the Forest Service form a general idea of population conditions for upland birds on the grassland.

The boxes will remain up for the first couple weeks of the hunting season, which begins Saturday. Ruben Mares, a wildlife biologist with the Forest Service, said the number of wings submitted depends mainly on the hunters cooperating. Last year 526 prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse wings

The boxes will remain up for the first couple weeks of the hunting season, which begins Saturday.

See **WING BOXES**, A8

FIERY FURNITURE

By Allison Jarrell
ALLISON.JARRELL@CAPJOURNAL.COM



Jason Dodson, Jeremy Dodson's brother and owner of Leisure Palace, holds a sun design that would produce flames along the outline. (Allison Jarrell/Capital Journal)

Pierre business earns international award

Think bonfire meets fine dining. Jeremy Dodson's invention – the fire table – has already engulfed Pierre and is spreading quickly across the outdoor furniture market as more and more people worldwide enjoy their own personal backyard fire.

Dodson's Pierre-based business, Oriflamme Fire Tables, received a prestigious global award Tuesday from the International Casual Furnishing Association.

After a panel of retailers and design experts chose the top designs from 125 international submissions, the "2013 Design Excellence Award" was presented to Dodson on Sept. 17 at the International Casual Furniture & Accessories Market in Chicago.

Jason Dodson, Jeremy's brother and owner of Leisure Palace in Pierre, said the furniture market is very competitive, which makes this a coveted award.

Oriflamme began eight years ago in Pierre and has moved locations four times within the area since then. Now, the fire tables are sold in more than 400 stores nationwide as well as online. Jason said the company is constantly growing, with 30 percent



An Oriflamme Fire Table with a traditional-style fire is on display at local retailer Leisure Palace. (Allison Jarrell/Capital Journal)



Colored glass, which is shipped from California, adds variety and customization to each fire table. (Allison Jarrell/Capital Journal)

more dealers signing on each year.

The Dodson family is from Pierre, and Oriflamme's corporate headquarters is based in Boulder, Colo., but it was in a San Diego apartment that Jeremy came up with the idea for a unique fire table.

"He couldn't have a true fire pit when he was living in San Diego, so he started messing with propane and an actual table with fire," Jason said. "And he thought, well why can't the flame come up in a design?" So design he did, and

what Jeremy came up with wasn't just a bonfire in the middle of a table. He transformed flames to create suns, flowers – even martini glasses. Star shapes have become a favorite among Dallas Cowboys

See **FIRE**, A8

Dog waste removal business first of its kind in Pierre

By Justin Joiner
JUSTIN.JOINER@CAPJOURNAL.COM

There's no easy way to talk about Brian Merrill's innovative business plan except to say that it's based on the idea that he must take a lot of crap from his clients and keep coming back for more.

In fact he wants to rule the market.

Operating as King Poop Scoop since March, Merrill, who is from Pierre, removes pet waste from people's yards on a monthly, biweekly or

"I have two dogs of my own and I was in the backyard picking up their dog poop and I was thinking, 'I wonder if people need help doing this?'"

Brian Merrill, King Poop Scoop

weekly basis. The idea came to him like a bombshell while doing doggy duty in his backyard.

"I have two dogs of my own and I was in the backyard picking up their dog poop and I was thinking, 'I wonder if people need

help doing this?'" he said. To his surprise, he soon learned that people across the country and state have scooped out a niche in their local areas with this kind of service.

After some encouragement from his son, he checked into it.

"I looked on the Internet to see if there was any type of that business out there and, of course, there is," he said. "There are lots of those businesses out there, but there are not very many in South Dakota."

Merrill's is the first he is aware of in Pierre, but he has found similar operations in Watertown, Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

Although his dogs were really the first to teach Merrill a new trick, he did



Brian Merrill said he was surprised by the response to his business. He currently has 10 customers. (Justin Joiner/Capital Journal)

See **SCOOP**, A8