NO ROOM IN ND

Contributions are lagging for a North Dakota fund aimed at building affordable housing in oil country

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Daugaard budget: Adds 100-plus positions

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE - The budget recommended last week by the governor calls for workforce expansions that total the full-time equivalent of 107.7 positions throughout state government including the court system and the state universities.

If all of those recommendations - and only those - were adopted by the Legislature during its 2013 session, state government in total would have13,810 FTEs in the fiscal 2014 budget that starts July 1 and runs through June 30.

For comparison, state gov-

ernment actually used 13,200.5 FTEs in the fiscal 2011 year and 12,951.9 FTEs in the fiscal 2012 year that ended June 30. The Legislature last winter budgeted 13,702.3 FTEs for the current fiscal 2013 year.

Each year different priorities are proposed by the governor, but the ultimate decision is up to the Legislature in the budget that it passes. Most often the new FTEs reflect difficult situations in our society that need to be addressed or they reflect attempts to seize opportunities for economic betterment.

Such is the case again this year in most of the recommendations made by Gov. Dennis Daugaard. But there are still the occasional clinkers where government does because government says.

The state Department of Education, for example, would get one new FTE. It's for an accountant who would deal with budgeting and reporting required as part of receiving federal education grants.

The Daugaard priorities in his latest budget proposal can be grouped into physics, economic development, corrections and courts.

The governor recommends 20 FTEs for a new doctoratelevel physics program. It would be run by South Dakota School of Mines and Technology at Rapid City and the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. The physics program would

be deeply involved in research and would operate in conjunction with the Sanford underground laboratory at the old Homestake mine in Lead.

He also proposes adding 21 FTEs for the South Dakota Technology Science and Authority, which is state government's manager for the Sanford lab.

The state Board of Regents, whose members govern the state universities and special schools, also would see eight FTEs added for the Agricultural

Experiment Station operated by South Dakota State University at Brookings and another eight FTEs for faculty at Black Hills State University at Spearfish.

Both campuses have been disproportionately under-funded in comparison to the four other traditional universities. The regents also would get one FTE for a janitor at the School for the Deaf campus in Sioux Falls to replace the contract service that's been used.

One emphasis during the past year by Daugaard has been to find ways to slow the rate of cost increases for operating the

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The ceremony in Fort Thompson, which took place Tuesday morning, began with family and friends meeting among a group of flags adorned with Sioux colors, representing the four directions. (Allison Jarrell/Capital Journal)

Ride to Mankato honors past, embraces future

By Allison Jarrell

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FORT THOMPSON, S.D. -Dakota prayers, singing and the breath of horses in the winter air marked the day as more than 25 horseback riders met early Tuesday to begin this year's Dakota 38 + 2 Memorial Ride to Mankato, Minn.

The winter ride began on the Dec. 10 in Lower Brule and will end on Dec. 26 in Mankato; it honors the Dakota who were executed in 1862 and ancestors who were exiled from Minnesota and brought to the west.

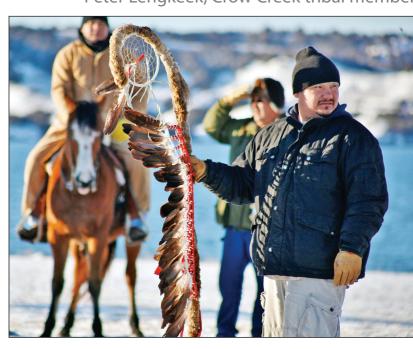
"This ride started from a vision," said Peter Lengkeek, Crow Creek tribal member and a leader of the event. "What keeps these riders ... and these horses going is reconciliation, healing, unity and remembering those 38 that died for us. They had us in their minds when they were on that gallows."

After leaving Fort Thompson, the riders will make multiple stops during their journey in communities where residents have volunteered to provide food and shelter for the riders and their horses. Lengkeek said that having towns welcome them and give coffee and food keeps them going.

"That's what keeps me on that horseback for those 350 miles," Lengkeek said. "It's just so powerful, so beautiful, to see those people that once hated us now standing there with open arms. I see a little bit more every year, and that gives me hope that we can live on this earth together. We can walk hand in hand like the Creator intended us to."

"This highway that we're going down today, that we're going to be on for the next few days, we know it as Highway 34, but it's much more than that,"

Peter Lengkeek, Crow Creek tribal member



A staff is held while waiting for the ceremony to begin. Each feather along the bottom represents a life of one of the 38 Dakota men who were killed in 1862. The two feathers at the top represent two more Dakota lives that were lost after the execution in Mankato. (Allison Jarrell/ Capital Journal)

The riders will be in constant prayer as they travel each day, and Lengkeek noted that they'll pass sacred burial sites along the way.

"This highway that we're going down today, that we're going to be on for the next few days, we know it as Highway 34, but it's much more than that," Lengkeek said while addressing the group. "It's

an ancient trail that our people

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traveled down. In some places, where that road turns and curves, you can see that ancient path."

It's not uncommon for the group to cover 40 or 45 miles before stopping, and by the end of the ride, Lengkeek said that there will be 200 or 300 riders total in Minnesota - riders who join the group as they

See **RIDE**, A8

Jury selection begins in SD attempted murder trial

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Jury selection is under way in the trial of a Fort Pierre man charged with attempted murder.

Derek Boe is accused of shooting out the window of a vehicle occupied by a 24-year-old Pierre woman on a Hughes County road in late January. Authorities say the shotgun blast missed the woman.

KCCR radio reports that about 100 prospective jurors were called for jury selection on Tuesday.

Boe has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and other charges. He has said he was acting in self-defense.

City Commission approves first step for old terminal demolition

By Capital Journal Staff

The Pierre City Commission took the first step to tearing down the Pierre Airport's old terminal Tuesday, approving a contract with a Rapid City engineering firm to assess environmental issues

and prepare plans for the terminal's demolition. The \$46,000 contract with Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson Inc. will be financed primary by an FAA grant, with a small percentage of funds coming from the state Department of Transportation and the city.

The destruction of the old terminal is the end part of the agreement between the city and the FAA when Pierre built the new terminal, which opened in September.

City engineer John Child's said the most limiting factor to the old terminal's destruction is the environmental hazards in the old building such as asbestos, mold and lead-based paint.

Once the assessment is complete the old terminal, he said, "will be flat and a memory by midsummer."

Equipment purchases

The city commission approved the purchase of two loaders for Pierre's water and landfill departments at the cost of \$365,862.

The two John Deere loaders will replace current equipment, which will be sold, and used for excavation and backfill projects, moving bales at the solid waste facility, and assisting in snow removal. Both were items written into the 2013 budget.

Golf course

Pierre resident can purchase 2013 season tickets or gift cards for the Hillsview Golf Course starting Wednesday at City Hall.

The course was closed during last year's flooding, and refund given on 2011 season passes. The commission voted in August to approve the recommendation from the golf courses board of directors to keep Hillsview closed through 2012.

The flooding killed hundreds of trees, and drought conditions during the summer impeded the growth of grass for the course, leading to the recommendation.

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Area News **A2-A3** Opinion **A4** To reach us, call 224-7301 or e-mail us at news@capjournal.com