


Weather
 Wednesday NOW is brought to you by:



Tonight:
 Partly cloudy.
 Low 10°.

Today:
 Cloudy.
 Scattered flurries.
 High 31°.

Thursday:
 Mostly sunny.
 Warmer.
 High 37°.

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL • SIOUX FALLS, SD

Happening NOW

•**American Choral Directors:** National Honors Choirs through Saturday in Chicago

Lunch Time at WHS

- Today's lunch:** Grilled cheese sandwich
- A la carte lines:** Spaghetti, quesadilla, hamburger, chef salad, sandwiches
- Representatives visiting WHS:** Tuesday.....Augustana C.-Sioux Falls

Group Meetings

- National Honor Society:** Parade helpers who did not attend this morning's meeting will meet at 3:10 p.m. today in A-141 to discuss the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- All Girls:** Planning on going out for golf this spring will meet at 3:10 p.m. Thursday in A-237. See coach Doug Rinken for details.
- A Rugby:** Informational meeting will be held at 3:15 p.m. Monday in the commons.
- Junior Olympic Volleyball:** Spring tryouts 7:30 p.m. Monday in the gym. See coach Kari Papke for details.
- Wrestling Team:** End-of-season banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the commons.
- Highstepper:** Auditions for the 2011-12 team will take place at 3:30 p.m. March 28-30 in the auxiliary gym. See coach Angela Nieman for details.

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The News of Washington is a publication of the Orange & Black Staff
 Washington High School—Sioux Falls, S.D.
Some material courtesy of American Society of Newspaper Editors/
 MCT Campus High School Newspaper Service

Final fight to reduce impact of education cuts under way

Pair of last-minute bills could reduce impact of proposed cuts

By Austin Ashlock

When newly-elected South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard announced in January that his budget for the next fiscal year would include a 10 percent cut across the board, including education, opinions on such a brash move resonated around the state.

Local parents, lawmakers, administrators and community members have worked tirelessly since that time to find a way around or help ease the impact of an estimated \$10 million blow to the Sioux Falls School District's general fund for the 2012 fiscal year.

And finally this week, with time on the legislative session counting down, those efforts have started to pay off. With Gov. Daugaard's endorsement, two bills being debated in the South Dakota House and Senate hope to reduce the impact of budget cuts to education from 10 to around 6.6 percent. House Bill 1100 and Senate Bill 152 would at the same time deliver unexpected revenue to education while protecting schools from the effect of previously scheduled property tax cuts, all while keeping in place Daugaard's pledge to begin erasing the state's deficit while not increasing the tax burden on residents.

Theoretically, the dual passing of the bills would reduce the cuts to Sioux Falls Public Schools by around \$3 million, allowing for a substantial amount of breathing room when drawing up their budget for 2012, compared to the original proposal.

To put the original and highly controversial

10 percent cut to state education into perspective, the district recently released a statement that puts a \$10 million loss of state aid into theoretical perspective. If the district were to get rid of all busing, discontinue the middle school model (returning to a junior high model with no teaming), discontinue all athletic and fine arts programs and reduce salaries district wide, the budget would still fall short of the full 10 percent cut—not that any cuts have been actually proposed yet.

Contact your legislators:

Find out who your legislators are at: <http://legis.state.sd.us/>, then contact them by clicking "E-mail a Legislator" under the "Contact Information" tab.

Superintendent Pam Homan has been an advocate for not only Sioux Falls Schools, but also for all districts around the state. She says the impact of a cut—even a cut of 6.6 percent—will impact South Dakota education not

only in the short term, but also for years to come.

"Unless our local community fills the gap, this will require us to eliminate some programs and make changes that will significantly impact the students we serve," Homan told the NOW. "Not only will a \$7 million set-back impact today's students, but if we remain under the current funding formula, it will impact children who are not yet even born. South Dakota will feel the effects of this decrease for years to come."

With the regular run of the 2011 legislative session wrapping up Friday, daylight is fading fast on those fighting for the reduction of the inevitable effects on state education. Hopefully, South Dakota residents will make their wishes known in the final days as legislators determine the direction of education for years to come.

Boys state tournament tickets on sale

From NOW staff reports

Tickets and T-shirts are being sold this week in preparation for the Boys AA Basketball Tournament, to be held March 17-19 in Sioux Falls.

WHS will be selling season

pass tickets for the boys tournament today, Thursday and Friday in the lobby in front of the gymnasium from 7-8:30 a.m. and from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$34 for adults or \$22 for students.

Only season pass tickets for the whole tournament will be pre-sold, not individual session tickets.

Tickets for this week's girls tournament in Brookings are only available at the door.

We're NOW on-line at whsnow.com!

Warrior opinions

What would you like to see more school funding go toward?

Assembled by Ann Marie Messerschmidt and Mercedes Bordeaux

Jennifer Lang
Freshman



"I'd like to see more funding go to volleyball so we could get better nets in the mini gym."

Grant Lewis
Sophomore



"I think we should add funding to gym classes because we need better equipment to use in them."

Jaylynn Nash
Junior



"We need additional funding for the fine arts/theatre department because we can't stand to lose 10% of our budget."

Jared Koch
Senior



"I'd like more money for music, so we could keep the programs we have. We already have too many cuts."

Jennifer Hawkinson
Teacher



"I would just like to see the schools appropriately funded for the students' education."

Millions of fish die in California harbor

By Tony Barboza and Kenneth R. Weiss
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. — Researchers have measured critically low oxygen levels in Redondo Beach's King Harbor after a massive die-off in the city's marina.

Brent Scheiwe, program director at the SEA Lab in Redondo Beach, about seven miles south of Los Angeles International Airport, said he took dissolved oxygen level readings in the harbor after the first reports of the dead fish came in Tuesday morning and found them at almost zero.

Your green world



"The levels were critically low," he said. "There was pretty much no oxygen in the water."

Scientists are working to determine what caused oxygen levels to drop so steeply that fish estimated to be in the millions suffocated and deposited a silver sheen of carcasses, many of them sardines, among the rows of docked boats. It may be days before the precise cause is known.

Such fish kills have been popping up around the world in what one Louisiana scientist calls "dead zones." She has spent a career studying America's largest one, which strikes nearly every year in an expanse of the Gulf of Mexico about the size of the state of New Jersey.

The cause of the die-off is nearly always decaying algae. Although the oceans are awash in algae, these microscopic organisms bloom when fed by nutrients such as fertilizers and human and animal waste washing off the land. Stoked by such nutrients and exposed to sunlight, algae flourish and then die and sink to the bottom. Bacteria then take over, breaking down the plant matter and sucking the oxygen out of seawater. That leaves little or none for fish and other marine life.

Give those 'oldies' a chance, Warriors

As I sat in a booth at Pizza Hut with my great friend Nick George recently, I noticed a plethora of great songs playing throughout the restaurant.

Not only was it just great music, but it was also great music that originated in the 1980's and early 1990's. Songs like "Jessie's Girl" by Rick Springfield, "Every Breath You Take" by The Police and "Don't You Want Me?" by Human League are examples of what we heard while enjoying a



Hear me...



Luke Steinborn

nice Italian meal. This launched us into a great discussion between Nick and myself. We concluded that nothing of that genre is produced anymore. It seems like that all that is played on pop radio today is hip-hop and Chris Daughtry.

Now, I don't have a problem with hip-hop (other than the fact that it is over produced), but I cannot stand to listen to Daughtry. I feel like I'm just listening to a deep-voiced man crying.

My challenge to you, WHS, is to take a break from the hip-hop and modern rock you listen to and try out some of the songs I previously mentioned. This genre of music is great when you're in the car with friends, or just sitting at home. I know this sounds cheesy, but the greatest thing about all these songs is the story they tell. After 20-30 years, listeners can still relate to them, which I believe is what makes them timeless classics.

In my opinion, the best part is you don't have to worry about your parents yelling at you to "turn that dang rap off!"

Chances are, your mom and dad will start dancing or singing on the spot and think you are the coolest thing ever. Parents!

Junior Luke Steinborn recommends "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell.

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