the midwest

Press&Dakotan

Daugaard Names Lentsch Ag Secretary

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is getting a new leader.

Agriculture Secretary Walt Bones has announced that he's retiring from his position effective April 29. The Parker native said he's returning to his farm.

"It has truly been an honor to serve as Secretary of Agriculture," Bones said. "I've served with a group of dedicated public servants from the Governor, who really understands the role of agriculture, to his staff and Cabinet members, our Legislature, and especially Department of Agriculture employees, everyone has worked hard to promote and protect the best interests of our industry."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he's appointing Lucas Lentsch of Pierre to replace Bones.

Daugaard said the 39-year-old Lentsch is well-known across the state and well-respected in the ag community.

"Lucas will be an effective advocate for South Dakota's farmers and ranchers," Daugaard said.

Lentsch serves on the board of directors of South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Inc. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from South Dakota State University, majoring in dairy manufacturing.

Adult, Child Killed In Sioux Falls Apartment Fire

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — One adult and one child died in an apartment fire in Sioux Falls on Tuesday, while three other children were taken to a hospital, authorities said.

The victims had all been inside the same apartment, and it ap-peared that the adult took three children outside to safety before attempting to go back in for the fourth child. The adult and that child died, Jeff Helm, division chief with Sioux Falls Fire and Rescue, told reporters.

Names have not been released. The child has been described as about 5 years old. A pastor from the Calvary Chapel in Sioux Falls told the Argus Leader newspaper that the adult victim was a member of his church and mother of five girls.

The four- or five-unit apartment was engulfed in flames when crews arrived about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sioux Falls Fire Chief Jim Sideras said.

There is significant damage to the apartment," said Sideras, who added that fire damage was contained to that apartment. "It is going to take a little bit of work to go through that."

KSFY-TV reported that intense flames made it difficult for firefighters to initially reach the victims. Smoke still billowed from the apartment a half-hour after rescuers arrived.

'There was a lot of smoke, and flames were coming out," neighbor Juan Donis told the newspaper.

S.D. Lawmakers Approve Livestock Inspection Fees

PIERRE (AP) — Despite opposition by a major livestock owners group, a legislative panel on Tuesday approved the state Brand Board's decision to increase the fee for livestock inspections designed to prevent the theft of cattle, horses and mules in western South Dakota.

The unanimous vote by the Rules Review Committee allows the Brand Board to go ahead with its plan to boost the inspection fee from 90 cents a head to \$1, the second increase in a year. The increase, expected to take effect July 1, is aimed at keeping the inspection program running in the black for the next few years.

Larry Stearns, the board's director, said it decided last month to raise the inspection fee to cover the rising costs of the inspections required when livestock are sold, slaughtered or moved out of the inspection area west of the Missouri River. Farmers and ranchers have

been reducing their cow herds because of the persistent drought, which means fewer calves will be produced, sold and inspected in the next few years, he said.

"Cows are the factories when you get in the livestock business. With these cows already leaving the country, our future inspections for the next couple of years are going to be reduced considerably," Stearns told the legislative panel.

Jeremiah M. Murphy, a lobbyist for the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, said the group agrees the inspection fee should be raised, but only by a nickel to 95 cents a head. A 95-cents-a-head fee would allow the Brand Board to end its budget year in the black in the next few years, but the \$1 fee would let the board build up an unneeded cash cushion, he said.

"Money that is stockpiled, money in a bank

account, doesn't go to the ongoing operation of the Brand Board," Murphy said.

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But Stearns said the board needs a cash cushion at the end of each budget year in June to pay for operations in July through September, months when few cattle are sold and few inspection fees are collected.

The program has been inspecting about 1.5 million head of cattle a year, but that is likely to drop to 1.2 million head this year because of the drought, Stearns said.

 $\ensuremath{\text{Murphy}}\xspace$ had asked the legislative panel to require the Brand Board to take another look at the issue.

But Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, said he supports the 10-cents-a-head increase because it shows the board is planning ahead to make sure the inspection program is properly funded. "I feel they are acting in a prudent manner," Vehle said.

ment officers tend to work in

crime neighborhoods often

plagued by poverty.

obvious.

tags

greater concentrations in high-

more police assigned in areas

where you might have a more di-

verse population," he said. "But

that has the unintended side effect

of making your expired plate more

Casady said the numbers also

may reflect the larger prevalence of

poverty among motorists who are

stopped. In many cases, he said,

cause they can't afford to renew

their license plates or registration

motorists may get stopped be-

"It makes perfect sense to have

Report Shows Disparities In Lincoln, Omaha Area Stops

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Blacks in two of Nebraska's largest metro areas continue to be stopped by police at roughly twice the rate of their percentage of the local population, according to a yearly crime report released Tuesday.

The findings closely resemble last year's numbers, which also showed blacks were stopped in disproportionate numbers relative to how many live in those areas.

Blacks accounted for 21.9 percent of drivers stopped by Omaha police last year, even though they represent 12.2 percent of the city's population. They made up for 8.7 percent of drivers stopped in Lincoln, although they comprise 3.3

percent of the city's population. Nebraska Crime Commission executive director Michael Behm cautioned that the numbers by

themselves may not indicate racial profiling. The commission compiles the data from local agencies, but does not analyze what is causing the trend. For instance, the numbers may reflect increased patrols in neighborhoods with large minority populations.

Behm said the report was intended for use by local law enforcement agencies.

'This is a good snapshot of what's going on with traffic stops across Nebraska," Behm said. "But it's summary data. We only require

summary data be collected. It's no way to track any individual instance, or to get to a granular level of analysis.

Lincoln public safety director Tom Casady said the department uses its local traffic data in its officer training, partly to initiate a discussion about racial profiling in law enforcement.

"I'm probably one of the few law enforcement executives around Nebraska that would I say I really do believe racial profiling occurs be-cause of bias," Casady said. "I just think that's a very small, almost minute part of the total explanation of the disparities. Casady noted that law enforce-

the potential of adding to the

area. It is a win/win situation."

workforce of the greater Freeman

By offering welding courses,

the FCDC wanted to show its in-

terest in manufacturing, Nelsen

said. Freeman sees itself as part

of a regional economy reliant on

"We are trying to get better

skilled workers who are trying to

We are creating an opportu-

nity for people to go to work and

to earn a decent wage," he said.

advance their careers," he said.

RTEC sees the welding

ment, Svatos said.

courses as economic develop-

a strong labor pool, he said.

"People can settle in Freeman, raise their family and reinvest

When it comes to economic development, diversification is the key, Svatos said.

"Manufacturing offers highly skilled jobs and higher pay. Manufacturing is no longer dark, dirty and dangerous. It's high tech and requires special individuals," he said.

savvy. They have done an exceltive community.'

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

Freeman

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development corporations to ensure they are aware of the available resources out there. We couldn't be more pleased than when communities take the initiative and utilize GOED programs to help meet their needs.'

Freeman took a three-pronged approach in targeting people for the welding course, Nelsen said.

"We started out within the companies and their existing needs," he said. "We had a halfdozen (course participants) each

at Rural Manufacturing and Wildcat Manufacturing.' The Wildcat course was of-

fered Friday evenings and Saturdays so it didn't take away from production time at the plant, Nelsen said.

The effort then opened up for adult education, reaching laborers who wanted to acquire or improve their job skills, Nelsen said. Four open slots at the Wildcat Manufacturing sessions were provided to the general public.

"For the third tier, we went into the two schools, Freeman Public and Freeman Academy," Nelsen said. "We wanted to give the high school kids a skill. Maybe they don't want to go to college, or they want to go to votech school and are deciding whether to get into welding. Here, they got exposed to it."

The partnership between Freeman and the Yankton center proved a win-win situation,

Nelsen said. "It's good for us, and it's good for RTEČ," he said.

Svatos appreciated the ability to reach a wide audience with the Freeman presentations.

"We hit a captive audience that we weren't able to get before. Otherwise, there were hurdles for them to overcome, such as family, work and travel," he said. "Everything that got in the way before, it was pushed aside and individuals had the opportunity to take classes.³

At Freeman Academy and Freeman Public, the welding simulator meshed with the schools' technical classes, Svatos said. He devoted six weeks to each school, paying a weekly one-hour visit and leaving the simulator at the school during the week.

Two high school seniors took their training a step further, attending the courses at the manufacturing plants, Svatos said.

"It opens a few doors that may not have been open. This (course) gave students a snapshot look at a career opportu-nity," he said. "(The schools) are doing a mighty fine job, and this just enhances the work they are

already doing." Freeman Public School princi-pal Kim Krull said the RTEC welding simulator complemented the school's course in Agricultural Metal Fabrication Technology.

"Having students work on this kind of simulating technology is significant to our school, our community and the students in that Freeman is an agricultural community as well as has two industries in which commercial welding plays a large role," Krull said.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE Weekly Writing Kid Scoop Puzzler "Like" Kid Scoop 0 Corner on Facebook! Cut out these shapes and assemble them to reveal © 2013 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 29, No. 16 the answer to this riddle: **Dimples!** Why did the golfer need a new pair of pants? YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. Chevron and the United States Golf Association (USGA) are

"With this in mind, the benefits to the students and commutheir money into the nity are equally important. It exposes students to a skill that community. they not only use in an agricultural setting, but it also provides

"Freeman is very business lent job in aggressively marketing themselves, and they know what it takes to be a strong, ac-

