

Work Set For Northern State Arts Center

ABERDEEN (AP) — Construction is set to begin later this week on the Johnson Fine Arts Center at Northern State University after months of delay. University President James Smith told the *American News* in Aberdeen that all of the bids have been certified and contracts are being issued. The \$14 million project came in millions of dollars over budget. Smith said officials now have the money to build the project but not enough to completely equip the facility. He said they're still raising money and that they have a year to do it. The project will add more than 18,000 square feet to the 48,000-square-foot center and give existing spaces updated looks and equipment. Changes include new seating and acoustic improvements in the theater, lobby improvements, a new black box theatre and new office spaces in which faculty can also teach. "To be in that facility, which was a state-of-the-art facility in its day, it's just gotten old. It's 40 years old," Smith said. "There just was not enough space to not do it. We had to do it." The expected completion date is June 2016. The Johnson Fine Arts Center has gone unused this school year. Productions have been moved elsewhere on campus, as well as the Capitol Theatre in downtown Aberdeen.

Petition Seeks To Save Job Of Gay Teacher

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Students, parents and alumni of an Omaha Catholic high school have signed an online petition calling for the school to reverse its decision to fire a teacher over his same-sex relationship. The change.org petition seeks to save the job of Matthew Eledge, an English teacher and Skutt Catholic High School's speech team coach. His team recently won its fourth straight state championship. According to petition organizer and Eledge's assistant coach, Kacie Hughes, Eledge was told his contract would not be renewed if he went ahead with plans to marry his partner. Eledge was traveling Tuesday and could not be reached for comment. Skutt President John McMahon declined to comment, citing the school's personnel confidentiality policy.

Police Subdued Man With Bean Bags

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Sturgis man who police subdued with bean bag rounds after he allegedly threatened to kill himself has been charged with simple assault. Authorities in Rapid City say they met with 69-year-old Robert Spangler in March after it was suspected that he accidentally shot and injured a 29-year-old Rapid City man. After talking with police, officers say Spangler got out of a vehicle in the parking lot of the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn and threatened to kill himself with a knife. Police say they shot at least nine bean-bag rounds at Spangler before he dropped the knife. He was transported to Rapid City Regional Hospital on March 18. Spangler was arrested and booked at the Pennington County Jail on Friday. He's charged with one count of simple assault.

18-Year-Old Faces Charges In Stabbing

ODESSA, Neb. (AP) — An 18-year-old from Cincinnati has been charged with three felonies, accused of stabbing another man several times in south-central Nebraska. Online court records say Caleb McDonald is charged with assault, terroristic threats and possession of a weapon to commit a felony. Online records say McDonald remained in Buffalo County Jail on Tuesday. His attorney didn't immediately return a call from The Associated Press, seeking comment about the case. McDonald is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on April 27. Authorities say McDonald stabbed 38-year-old Johnny Quintana on Friday afternoon. The Buffalo County Sheriff's Office says the two were traveling in separate vehicles on a county road in Odessa when they exchanged words and got out of their vehicles. The Sheriff's Office says McDonald then began stabbing Quintana, of Elm Creek.

Nebraska Bill May Allow Disabled Adults To Save

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A bill that may allow adults with intellectual disabilities to place as much as \$100,000 into special saving accounts is being considered in Nebraska. The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that saving accounts for most intellectually disabled adults are not allowed to exceed \$2,000 because of the benefits they receive from the government, including health coverage through Medicaid. The bill would allow up to \$100,000 in savings to use for qualified expenses without counting against the \$2,000 limit. If the amount is ex-

ceeded, then benefits could disappear. The Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act was passed by Congress last year, allowing states to set up their own ABLE account system so that family members of adults with intellectual disabilities could deposit up to \$14,000 in funds. "Where it's going to be ideal is where you have an individual who earns some money and has a real strong drive to be independent," said David Rowe, a Lincoln attorney who specializes in estate planning for families of disabled people. "There's

a sense of self dignity... that I think is an important value that will be served by the ABLE account." The mother of Spencer Mitchell, a working adult with intellectual disabilities, says her son is fixated on the \$2,000 limit. "He gets really hung up on this \$2,000" his mother said. "He obsesses and obsesses and obsesses, because he's really worried he's going to lose his services." The Nebraska bill advanced from a legislative committee last month, and is likely to be debated this year.

Many More Oil Trains To Cross Nebraska, Iowa This Spring

BY JOSH FUNK
 Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The number of trains carrying at least a million gallons of volatile crude oil across Nebraska and Iowa surged this spring to as many as 30 a week. BNSF railroad has told emergency management officials in both states that it is now hauling 20 to 30 trains per week, on average, loaded with oil from North Dakota's Bakken region through the area.

That's up significantly from last summer when federal regulators began requiring railroads to notify state officials about trains carrying at least one million gallons of oil. Last summer, BNSF initially reported an average of three trains a week that crossed the northwest corner of Iowa before continuing south into Nebraska. In January, the railroad reported hauling about a dozen trains a week through eastern Nebraska. BNSF spokesman Andy Williams said the oil train traffic increased last month in Nebraska and Iowa because the railroad is rerouting shipments from other rail lines while work is being performed on those tracks. Railroad shipments of crude oil are facing additional scrutiny and tougher regulations because there have been several fiery de-



METRO GRAPHICS

railments involving the commodity in recent years. The worst one happened in July 2013 and killed 47 people in a small Canadian city just across the U.S.-Canada border from Maine. Four high-profile derailments involving crude oil have already happened this year. In February, a 100-car Canadian National train hauling crude oil and petroleum distillates derailed in a remote part of Ontario, Canada. And less than two days later, a 109-car CSX oil train derailed and caught fire near Mount Carbon, West Virginia, leaking oil into a Kanawha River tributary and burning a house to its foundation.

In early March, a BNSF train derailed about 3 miles outside of Galena, Illinois, and the Mississippi River. Three days later, a Canadian National train derailed in northern Ontario and destroyed a bridge. In Nebraska, the oil trains enter at the northeast corner of the state and cross 12 eastern counties. Those include Dakota, Thurston, Burt, Dodge, Saunders, Cass, Lancaster, Gage, Johnson, Pawnee, Richardson and Sarpy counties.

Most of the trains cross the Missouri River south of Omaha and cross 16 southern Iowa counties. They are Adams, Clarke, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, Plymouth, Sioux, Union, Wapello and Woodbury counties. New federal rules for the tank cars that carry crude oil and regulations for railroad operations are expected to be released later this spring. The number of carloads hauled nationwide increased again last year to 493,126 from 407,761 in 2013. Before the oil boom took off in the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana as well as in Canada, railroads hauled just 9,500 carloads of crude oil in 2008.

BNSF, which is owned by Omaha-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc., hauls much of the oil produced in the Bakken region. It is based in Fort Worth, Texas.

Omaha Zoo Would Get State Tax Break Under Bill

BY ANNA GRONWOLD
 Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska zoos and aquariums would be exempt from state and local sales tax under a bill that gained strong support in a first vote of the Legislature, but some lawmakers worried that the projected loss of \$2.67 million sales tax over two years would make it harder for lawmakers to deliver property tax relief this year.

The chief beneficiary of the proposal would be Omaha's celebrated Henry Doorly Zoo, ranked first in the world by travel website TripAdvisor with some 1.7 million visitors a year. The Lincoln Children's Zoo and Riverside Discovery Center in Scottsbluff also would benefit. Lawmakers voted 33-5 Tuesday to advance the measure that would allow nationally-accredited zoos or aquariums to avoid charging sales taxes on memberships and admissions. The zoos would keep the percentage usually allotted to state and local governments.

Bill sponsor Omaha Sen. Heath Mello said the measure will grow tourism, the state's third-largest industry. "I think this is good tax policy to provide small strategic state investment to growing our economy, to grow our tourism industry and help these organizations continue to grow regional economies," the bill's sponsor Omaha Sen. Heath Mello said. But opponents worried the bill would set a precedent for other unsustainable tax relief across the tourism industry.

"If we give it here, where does it stop?" North Platte Sen. Mike Groene said. Groene called the measure a "feel-good bill" and said he sees no proof an exemption will bring more visitors to zoos or more revenue to the state.

Sen. Dan Hughes of Venango said he cannot support a bill that will further stray from the concerns of rural Nebraskans. "I don't see the will of this body stepping up to take on the number one problem in the state of Nebraska and that's property tax," Hughes said.

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LIONS: KINGS... OR NOT?

Big Cats
 Lions are one of the world's largest cats. A full-grown male lion can weigh from $\blacklozenge\blacklozenge\blacklozenge$ to $\blacklozenge\blacklozenge\blacklozenge\blacklozenge$ pounds. The average human male weighs about $\blacklozenge\blacklozenge$ pounds.

Meet the Family
 A lion family group, called a **pride**, can have 4 to 10 female lions, their young and one adult male. Young lions are called $\blacklozenge\blacklozenge\blacklozenge$.

A Grrrrreat Roar!
 Male lions roar to tell other lions to stay out of their territory. A pride doesn't like strange lions in its territory. A lion's roar can be heard as far as \blacklozenge miles (\blacklozenge km) away!



Start **LION LIFE DETECTOR**
 After reaching each statement about lions below, do each math problem. If your answer is an even number, that statement is TRUE. If the answer is an odd number, the statement is FALSE.

Lion cubs have spots. $12 + 4 =$

In the wild, lions can go a week without eating. $9 + 9 =$

Lions have five legs. $5 + 8 =$

Lions are herbivores. $17 - 6 =$

A full-grown lion can eat 75 pounds of meat at one time. $14 + 6 =$

Finish

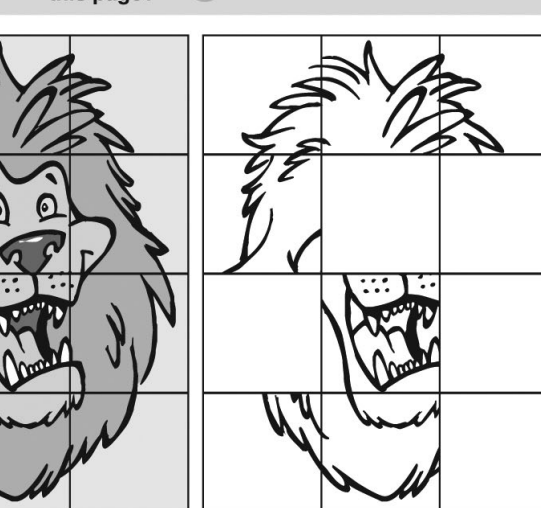
Use the lion code to find the missing numbers and letters above.

LION CODE

$\blacklozenge = 0$ $\blacklozenge = 8$
 $\blacklozenge = 1$ $\blacklozenge = B$
 $\blacklozenge = 3$ $\blacklozenge = C$
 $\blacklozenge = 5$ $\blacklozenge = S$
 $\blacklozenge = 6$ $\blacklozenge = U$

Open Wide
 A lion's teeth are made for eating meat. They have four pointed canine teeth that they use to kill prey and to tear off bites to eat. They have no molars or teeth for chewing. They swallow bites of food whole!

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have different structures that serve different functions in growth.



Word Family Pride
 Groups of one-syllable words that have the same vowel sound can be called a **word family**. For example, **at, cat, bat, fat, hat** and **sat** would be a word family.

Look through the newspaper for words in a word family. Use letters to spell words you can't find. Put the words in ABC order.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Change target sounds to change words; Spelling: Arrange words in alphabetic order.

Hide and Seek

Lion cubs are easy prey for other carnivores. A special camouflage helps to keep them safe. The golden tan of the cub's fur and the dark brown of the spots blend in with the light and shadow of the grassy savannah.



Standards Link: Grammar: Recognize verbs in writing; differentiate between parts of speech.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

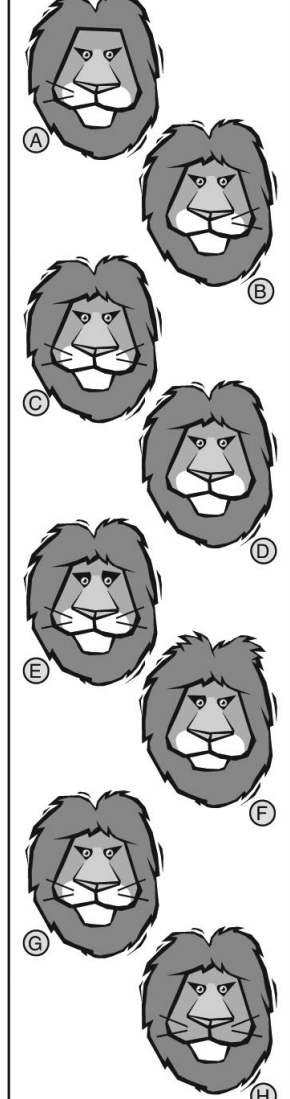
PRIDE
 ROAR
 LIONS
 CANINE
 WHOLE
 SAVANNAH
 MEAT
 TERRITORY
 GRASSY
 BITES
 MANE
 PREY
 FEMALE
 WILD
 TEETH

Y M T B L T F Z W U
 R G P E I L E T H O
 O W R N O F J A O E
 T I C A N I N E L L
 I L T M S N H M E A
 R D A E A S Y V D M
 R W C V E O Y E I E
 E R A O R T K J R F
 T S E T I B H L P P

Standards Link: Letter sequencing; Recognizing identical words; Skim and scan reading; Recall spelling patterns.

Look-alike Lions

Can you find the two lions that are identical?



ANSWER: C & G

Kid Scoop-doku
 Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word PRIDE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

E	D	I	R	P
			P	
			P	
P				R

Write On!

The Lion's Tale
 Write a story about a lion. It can be about a sad lion or a happy lion, a brave lion or a cowardly lion. You decide!