

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

When the Yankton Middle School dismissed classes for the day, many students were intrigued by the miniature horses and stopped by to pet them. Brasel answered an array of questions the students had about the animals.

Pets

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by the reins, said the miniature horses were her favorite animals of the series.

"I think the horses are really cute," she stated. "I like their little faces.

The "Pets in the Park" program taught her about interacting with animals, Lemon said. Patty Squyres works with Mitchell-based LifeQuest, which is a private, nonprofit, community agency that provides services and

abilities. She is Lemon's companion. Squyres said the animals have a calming effect on people, especially young children. She added that the program has been good for Lemon and others who have attended.

"Lisa is very good about showing them

supports to people with developmental dis-

how to hold the animals and how to groom them," she said. "I think most all of them have the same reaction Ryan does.

Police Chief Brian Paulsen gave Brasel permission to begin the program, and she brings her own pets.

"I use my own animals, because I know how they are going to act around people," Brasel said.

The crowd size has varied from a handful to more than 30, she stated.

Brasel said she would like to do the program again next year because she enjoys watching the interactions. "I try to impress upon everybody that the

animals need care and vaccinations. They get sick, just like people," she stated. "Before you get an animal, you should re-

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ally read about it," Brasel advised.

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turn little health issues into big ones for dogs, Teachout explained.

"A potential upper respiratory infection can become a pneumonia because the body is under such stress from the heat," he said. "It doesn't have a good response to infections. Dogs with bad hearts or other systemic problems can also have their conditions exacer-

Usually, Teachout will see

overheating cases earlier in the summer when it's 80 degrees and doesn't seem that hot to pet owners.

"But it's 80-90 percent humidity, and the dogs make 30 steps for our five and generate a lot of body heat," he

Brasel said she recently wrote an animal cruelty citation for someone who left a dog in the vehicle.

On a 90-degree day, the interior temperature of a vehicle can reach as high as 160 degrees in less than 10 minutes, according to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"Animals can sustain

brain damage or even die from heatstroke in just 15 minutes," the organization's website states. "Beating the heat is extra tough for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paw pads.'

Brasel offered advice for people who feel bad about leaving their dogs at home.

"Buy it a treat or a toy," she said. "It's just too dangerous to leave them in a

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Pheasants

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to 867 this year. The area that appears to have fared worst is Chamberlain. Its 10-year average was 15.83 birds per mile and there were 10.81 last summer. This year the count was

Here's the worst part. Chamberlain happens to be the best of the 13 regions surveyed. Only four others had at least two birds per mile: Winner 2.00; Pierre 2.15; Mobridge 2.12; and Huron 2.04.

Mitchell was at 1.77 and Aberdeen 1.70. Yankton, Sioux Falls, Brookings, Watertown and Sisseton were less than one bird per mile.

That points to a lot of walking for hunters this fall. The low numbers also could lead more hunters to turn to paid preserves where they have reasonable expectations of seeing raised pheas-

In 2012 South Dakota issued licenses for pheasant hunting to 93,225 residents and 98,362 non-residents. The post-season survey by GFP indicated that more than 1.4 million pheasants were harvested: Approximately 600,000 by residents and more than 800,000 by non-residents.

The average bags for hunters were the lowest in a decade, down by one to three birds depending on the year. Hunters took an estimated 2.1 million pheasants in the 2007 season. Harvests have been slipping since that

The five counties where hunters took the most birds last season were Tripp, Brown, Spink, Lyman and Edmunds.

Farmers removed about 17 percent of their conservation-reserve acres in central South Dakota between July 2012 and July this year. The loss of CRP acres in the

northeast region was 14 percent and in the southeast seven percent.

South Dakota overall is now below 1 million acres in conservation reserve, a loss of approximately 50 percent from a decade ago.

The pheasant population could rebound fairly quickly if CRP habitat is restored to the 1.25-1.5 million range, according to Dave Nomsen, vice president for governmental affairs at the Pheasants Forever organization.

Nomsen used GFP's announcement Friday as an opportunity to urge that Congress pass a Farm Bill that keeps conservation reserve, wetlands reserve and other wildlife-oriented pro-

grams in place. Runia said hunters will still be able to find birds. 'Much of the northern Great Plains experienced the same weather and habitat factors that impacted our brood counts." he said in GFP's announcement of the numbers.



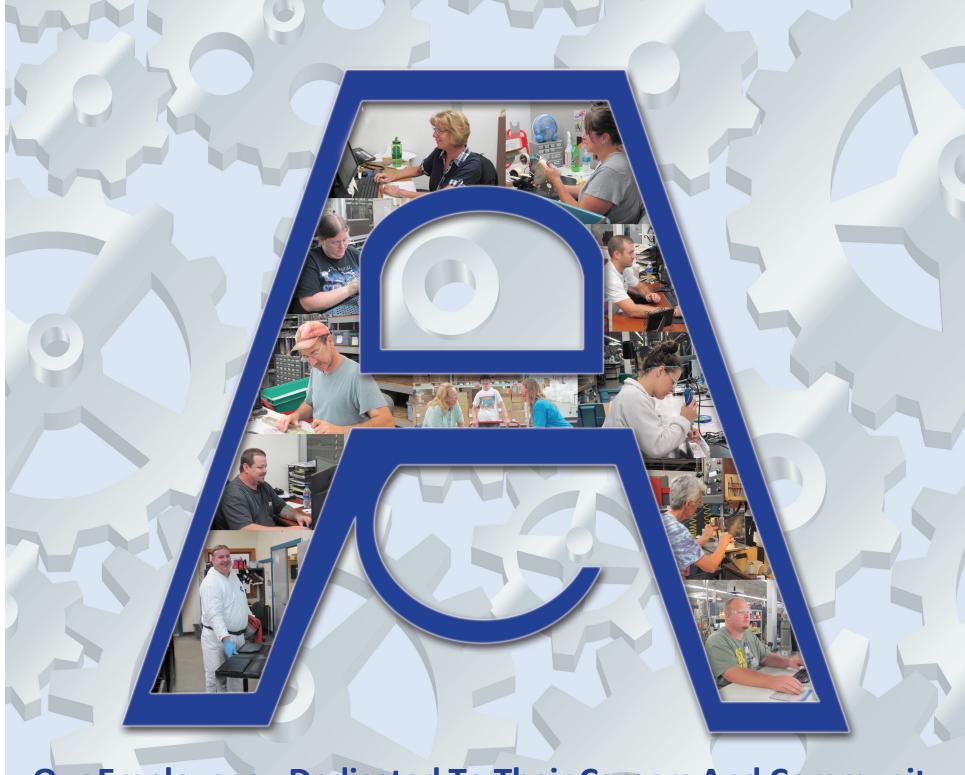
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