

## Noem, Robinson Disagree On Pipeline

MITCHELL (AP) — U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and her democratic challenger in November's election Corinna Robinson disagree on the fate of the Keystone XL pipeline. Noem and Robinson expressed their differences during a debate Tuesday at the annual DakotaFest farm show in Mitchell. The *Argus Leader* reports Noem got the loudest applause of the day after voicing her support for the pipeline's construction. Robinson told the audience she sees the pipeline as a long-term mistake because it would jeopardize water supplies with potential leaks. Keystone is intended to transport over 800,000 barrels of Canadian tar sands oil a day to refineries on the Gulf Coast. Supporters say the pipeline will aid energy independence. Environmentalists warn of possible spills and say tar sands oil is especially "dirty" and will contribute to global warming.

## Fed Board Hears Testimony On Mine

RAPID CITY (AP) — A licensing board of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it will use testimony from expert witnesses to determine whether Native Americans were adequately consulted regarding a proposed uranium mine. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board held the first of its three hearings Tuesday in Rapid City on the proposed Dewey-Burdock uranium mine. The mine is being proposed by Powertech Uranium Corp. The board will also determine whether legal requirements for protecting historical and cultural resources have been met. The Oglala Sioux Tribe says NRC staff didn't consult all necessary Native American tribes before completing an environmental assessment of the mine. Staffers say all affected tribes were consulted but that several Sioux tribes ultimately decided not to contribute to the assessment. The hearings will resume again Wednesday morning.

## SD: 90% Of Kids Finished High School

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota's Department of Education has put out this year's report card on school performance. It found that 90 percent of eligible students finished high school, with just under 83 percent doing so in four years. Both of those figures are about the same as last year. The report also found that just over 67 percent of students who took the ACT met the South Dakota Board of Regents' benchmark in math and just over 75 percent met the benchmark in English. The state says those figures showing college readiness are slightly lower than last year. Report card results for school districts are online at <http://doe.sd.gov/reportcard/>.

## Pardons Board Rejects A Sister's Plea

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Board of Pardons refused to grant a hearing to a man imprisoned more than 45 years for killing two people. The three-member board last week rejected pleas from the sister of Brian Adams, 65, *The Lincoln Journal Star* reported. Vivian Adams Dennison shared her family's story with the board as she asked them to grant her brother a commutation hearing. She said their father had beaten her brother, who had been "taught his entire existence that he was worthless." "Our life was totally different when we were children," she said. "No one, not friends, not family, not the church, not the state, no one came to help us." Brian Adams was 18 when he fatally shot a gas station attendant twice during a robbery. He shot another gas station attendant who worked at a different location a few days later. Adams was convicted and began serving two life terms in 1968. He escaped about 10 years later and was caught in Kansas.

# Accused Of Child Sex And Porn, Lawyer Gives Up Law License

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota Supreme Court disbarred Christopher Jansen last week while he waits in jail without bail, accused of engaging in sex with boys younger than 13 and distributing pornographic images of some of his alleged acts. A document obtained Tuesday from the clerk's office of the South Dakota Supreme Court shows Jansen submitted a statement of resignation to the disciplinary board of the State Bar. The Supreme Court accepted the resignation and disbarred him from practicing as an attorney and counselor at law in all of the courts of the state. The judgment cancels and revokes his license to practice law in South Dakota. The disbarment took effect Aug. 15, just four days after he was charged in federal court and less than three weeks

after he was first arrested on state charges. The disbarment order is a public document. However, the affidavit that Jansen submitted as notice of his resignation remains in a closed file at this point. State law sets requirements for a lawyer who resigns while under the disciplinary board's investigation. The lawyer must briefly describe in writing his alleged misconduct and any violations of the court's rules of professional conduct or state laws. State law prohibits publicly disclosing the affidavit without an order by the Supreme Court. That is so the Supreme Court clerk can remove references to the complaint filer or other persons who have a privacy interest they wish to protect. A reporter for this newspaper and six other daily newspapers in South Dakota has requested the redacted version of the affidavit.

Jansen, 34, is a former Walworth County state's attorney who held the office starting in 2009 and resigned from it in 2012. He currently is held in the Hughes County jail without bond. He is accused in state circuit court of child rape involving a victim younger than 13. The act for which he was originally arrested allegedly took place at Blunt, a small community in eastern Hughes County, on July 29. He initially was charged with three counts of child rape. Jansen subsequently was charged in federal court Aug. 11 on one count of sexual exploitation of a minor and one count of distribution of material involving the exploitation. On Aug. 13, a Hughes County grand jury indicted Jansen on six counts of child rape. His next court appearances are pending.

## Nebraska

# Report Indicates Stun-Gun Misuse

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska law enforcement officers have misused stun guns several times in recent years, with targets that included an elderly man, a mentally ill woman and a 9-year-old, according to a report released Tuesday. The report by the ACLU of Nebraska criticizes officers for using the weapon against vulnerable people, who could suffer extreme physical and mental health problems as a result of the shock. The report — "Dangerously Out of Bounds" — faults the departments for a lack of consistent training and reporting requirements, and for not adopting the U.S. Justice Department's recommendations for using the device. "The lack of oversight and guidance for law enforcement officers who may be using a Taser is beyond appalling," said ACLU of Nebraska Legal Director Amy Miller. The ACLU of Nebraska filed open-records requests with 11

departments for how and when stun guns were used in recent years. The review uncovered instances when stun guns were used against an elderly man with dementia in Omaha, a man who "stared down" Grand Island police from a hospital bed, a Hastings man with hepatitis C who spat on officers, a woman in Grand Island with a mental illness, and a Kearney public school student who was 9 years old at the time. According to police reports, an unidentified Grand Island man in a hospital bed was "very drunk" and not complying with officers who told him to sit back in his hospital bed. The report, dated 2009, says the man swore at the officer after he was warned and pulled away, at which point the officer used the weapon in his left pectoral area. In another Grand Island case in 2013, police records say a woman ignored orders to stop walking away from police and continued to resist once she had sat down on the ground. An officer used the stun gun on her back for five seconds until she

allowed herself to be handcuffed, records say. The Kearney case took place in November, with a student who was 9 years old at the time. According to a police report, the student pushed an officer down and attacked the officer, who in turn used the stun gun on the child. The report also cites a 2012 incident involving 79-year-old Rodell Cole in a nursing home. According to the report, Cole lived in the home because of dementia and weighed 106 pounds. He reportedly turned belligerent after an employee began cleaning his room while he was asleep, and threatened officers with safety pins. He also threw objects at officers, a reaction that's typical for patients with dementia, the report said. The ACLU of Nebraska examined 63 use-of-force reports from the Kearney, Scottsbluff and Grand Island police departments, as well as the Adams, Douglas and Sarpy county sheriff's departments. Of those cases, subjects were actively aggressive and stun-gun use was justified in 23, ac-

ording to the report. The Plattsmouth and Seward police departments said there were no reported incidents between January 2013 and May of this year. The Bellevue and Hastings police departments did not supply use of force reports. The group also sought information about each department's written policies for the weapon, which releases 50,000 volts of electricity to jolt the body's central nervous system. According to the report, the Omaha and Lincoln police departments did not provide any records despite cooperating in the past. Miller said the denial of the record requests was "one of the most disturbing instances of police withholding public information that we have ever seen." "When a device can kill or severely injure someone, people have a right to know how that device is being used in Nebraska," she said. Hastings and Grand Island police departments could not immediately be reached for comment about the report.

## Dr. Mike Rosmann

# Is Mental Health A First Aid For Farmers?

BY DR. MIKE ROSMANN

Mental Health First Aid is a course to train people to assess warning signs of behavioral health concerns that is gaining advocates in many countries around the world, including the U.S. It can have particular benefits for farm and other rural residents where there is a shortage of behavioral health professionals and sometimes a reluctance to seek mental health and substance misuse treatment even when needed. The intent of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is to improve caregiving to persons with behavioral health symptoms through better understanding by trained peers who undertake preliminary mental health assessments and refer persons for appropriate professional follow-up care. MHFA is designed to improve the well-being of people dealing with behavioral health issues and to prevent their suffering and self-harm. The National Council for Behavioral Health, which facilitates the MHFA project, says that as of December 2013, more than 140,000 persons in communities across the country have been trained in this type of first aid through a network of 3,000 certified instructors. MHFA training began in Australia in 2001 and has spread through many countries, including Cambodia, Canada, China, England, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Sweden, as well as the U.S.

**TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**  
Certified MHFA trainers must complete and pass a

forty-hour course and providers must pass an 8-12 hour course and recertify every three years. The provider course trains people:

- To recognize signs of behavioral health problems, including panic, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, eating disorders, addictions and deliberate self-harm
- To not be judgmental, but to assess objectively and offer understanding
- To connect persons needing help with resources for diagnosis and healthcare, such as professionals, but also helping to secure such benefits as self-help, peer and social supports
- To provide emotional stabilization in times of need
- And, while focused on 12-25 year-olds, MHFA offers basic tools for assisting people of all ages

**COSTS**  
The cost for the week-long instructor training currently is approximately \$1,500 and the cost for the shorter and more focused provider training is about \$120. The website, [www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org](http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org), offers additional information about training courses for persons interested in becoming instructors or providers.

**AN EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE**  
The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has determined that MHFA improves the behavioral health knowledge and skills of its trained caregivers and also benefits the

recipients of mental health first aid. A growing number of scientific studies that have met requirements for objectivity and sound research methods have demonstrated proof of these hypothesized effects. The training demystifies mental health and increases the awareness of unhealthy behaviors. Several Australian studies that compared experimental and control groups found that MHFA saved lives, but additional empirical testing elsewhere is needed to clarify MHFA's role in saving lives. SAMHSA has determined that MHFA is a promising practice.

**CAUTIONS**  
A potential concern is that some persons who complete the provider course may think they are able to identify and diagnose behavioral health problems, but this course does not qualify them for these responsibilities. Only licensed medical professionals such as physicians, and licensed behavioral health professionals may make diagnoses. The MHFA program screens prospective trainers and providers who might be prone to assume capacities for which they lack training and certification and who may be otherwise unsuited. MHFA is particularly suited for providers who wish to aid their peers and the public, such as law enforcement personnel, emergency medical technicians, school and college staff, veterans,

employers, and persons who have a duty to care for others, such as family members of a person who experiences behavioral health problems. MHFA focuses on prevention of self-harm. It is understandable why MHFA was devised in Australia, a highly rural country with a greater rate of intentional self-harm among rural residents than among urban dwellers. Like Australia, the U.S. and many countries have a higher rate of intentional self-harm resulting in death among rural than urban dwellers. Access to professional care may require traveling long distances; MHFA providers can undertake the preliminary screening, stabilization of the person needing follow-up care, referral and transportation as necessary. MHFA shies away from using words like commit suicide, and for good reason. These words have acquired a pejorative connotation that makes them seem like sinful acts similar to commit murder or adultery. The motives of most persons who undertake apparent self-imposed death are usually uncertain and often associated with depression, medical illness or circumstances others are not in a position to judge. The terms, intentional self-harm and apparent self-imposed death, are less judgmental. Persons who harm themselves often do not end their own lives, and their behaviors amount to "a cry for help." MHFA aims to detect per-

sons in need of assistance and protection so as to prevent self-harm. Farmers, ranchers and other rural residents are starting to take a look at MHFA as a type of training and service that will particularly benefit their communities.

Mike Rosmann is a rural psychologist who lives near Harlan, Iowa. He can be contacted through the website: [www.agbehavioralhealth.com/](http://www.agbehavioralhealth.com/).  
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