

### School District Tries To Get Issue Ok'd

PALMYRA, Neb. (AP) — In its third effort to pass a bond issue, a southeast Nebraska school district will present voters in November with two bond measures that would help fund building and athletic improvements.

In 2013, Palmyra school district residents rejected an \$8.6 million measure, and then one for \$12.4 million in 2014, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported. Superintendent Rob Hanger said the school board opted to go with two bond issues instead of one after getting feedback from district residents.

Palmyra-Bennet District OR-1 covers parts of Lancaster and Otoe counties and has a high school in Palmyra and an elementary school in Bennet.

The first bond issue would pay for renovations and additions to the two schools, while the second would pay for a new track and football field. Storm shelters reinforced with concrete and steel would be built in both schools. Together the projects would total almost \$13 million.

Hanger said small monthly group meetings were held between January and July to discuss the district's needs, explore options and review plans. He said attendees saw the building improvements and track and field projects as separate.

The two bond issues aren't contingent and one could be passed without the other.

### Tour Offers Insight Into Students' Lives

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Teachers and other Omaha elementary school staffers have visited several community organizations that many students' families turn to for housing, transportation and after-school care.

Kellom Elementary employees boarded a bus on Wednesday to visit the local agencies, and learned more about how to connect families with the help they need, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported. The school's principal, Carri Hutcherson, said it's an effort to build stronger connections with the groups that regularly work with their students and their families.

"This work we're doing, there are others doing the same work," Hutcherson said. "We're not alone in this. It's about who we can call and collaborate and work together with to help students and families."

Several employees, including early childhood resource teacher Lindsey Tisthammer, said they appreciated the tour. Tisthammer said it was a great way to explore and learn more about the neighborhoods where students and their families live. Early childhood coach Roxanne Harris said, "A lot of times we come to work and we don't know what's around us."

One of the organizations that Kellom educators met with was the Southern Sudan Community Association. Education and outreach coordinator Scott Larsen said Omaha has become a big resettlement hub for refugees from countries, such as Myanmar, Nepal and Somalia, and noted that refugee families often face an overwhelming process of adjusting to life in the United States.

"It's really good to be aware of these populations, because a lot of the time they're invisible," Larsen told the teachers.

More than 12 percent of Kellom students last year were refugees.

This is Kassie Johnson's first year working at Kellom as a speech-language pathologist. She said she appreciated the chance to learn more about the people, organization and neighborhoods that surround the school.

"I thought it was a really beautiful opportunity to collaborate and see where our kids are coming from and the resources that they need," she said.

### Singer Accused Of DUI After Sturgis Stop

STURGIS (AP) — Puddle of Mudd singer Wes Scantlin faces his second DUI charge in less than two weeks, this time in South Dakota near the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

A state Highway Patrol trooper pulled Scantlin over early Wednesday for a traffic violation east of Sturgis. The rock group has had concerts in the area.

The 43-year-old music star has been charged in Meade County for DUI and possession of up to two ounces of marijuana.

Scantlin's ticket says he declined a blood alcohol content test after being pulled over in a minivan. He posted bail.

Scantlin was charged in Minnesota in July with drunken driving and fleeing police after a chase that reached speeds of about 100 mph.

As of Thursday, the patrol has made 150 DUI arrests in the Sturgis rally area.

### Ban Down On Same-Sex Foster Parents

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska judge has struck down a policy that prevented same-sex couples from serving as foster parents or adopting wards of the state.

Lancaster County District Judge John Colborn declared the rules unconstitutional, citing the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed same-sex marriage. The Nebraska attorney general's office said in a statement Thursday its attorneys would ask the judge to reconsider his decision.

The administrative policy was put in place in 1995, but the ruling says that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services quietly stopped enforcing the ban in 2012.

According to the ruling, the lack of enforcement created confusion within the department and among state contractors who work with state wards.

Same-sex couples were also forced to undergo a rigorous five-tier review from a DHHS caseworker, supervisor, two administrators and the director of the state's Children and Family Services Division. Opposite-sex couples only required approval from a caseworker and supervisor.

"This is a special victory for thousands of children in Nebraska who now have more options to find loving and stable homes," said Danielle Conrad, executive director of the ACLU of Nebraska, one of three groups that sued the state on behalf of three same-sex couples.

Colborn ruled that the policy violated the due process and equal protection clauses.

State officials "have not argued, nor have they identified, any legitimate government interest to justify treating gay and lesbian individuals and gay and lesbian couples differently than heterosexual individuals and heterosexual couples in this review process," the judge wrote.

The attorney general's office, which defended the policy, said the ruling was broad and could require the department to treat unrelated, unmarried adults who are living together the same as married couples when placing children in foster care.

# Plan To Nix Repeat Of Prison Riot Released

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's prisons chief released a plan Thursday outlining steps the Department of Correctional Services will take after a May prison riot that left two inmates dead and heavily damaged the state prison at Tecumseh.

The plan released by corrections director Scott Frakes pulls directly from steps outlined in a June 29 incident report detailing how the May 10 riot unfolded. The steps include an analysis of prison staff, additional staff training and drills, reviewing officials' response to prison disturbances and even buying "new weapon resistant mops and brooms."

The plan also calls for a review of

and recommendations on how to hand out over-the-counter medication to prisoners.

Officials have said the deadly rampage by several hundred inmates started when too many prisoners were allowed to leave their cells at once to get medication.

"Today's announcement represents a step forward for Tecumseh, and will help ensure that the facility runs smoothly and safely," Frakes said.

Updates on the progress of the plan will be released every 60 days, according to the agency.

According to the June report, the prison had 57 staff members to manage 1,024 inmates — the minimum number

allowed — when the riot began.

The inmates attempted to break down doors, windows and walls, the report said, and started fires that filled control centers with smoke and forced prison staff to barricade themselves in parts of the prison.

The 10-plus hour riot caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. Investigators said 19 staff and one volunteer had to be rescued.

Two sex offenders serving sentences at the prison were found dead once order was restored. The Nebraska State Patrol is expected to issue details on its investigation of those deaths.

## Sen. Mike Rounds Supports Huckabee's Presidential Bid

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds has endorsed former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's bid for the White House in 2016.

Rob Skjonsberg, who managed Rounds' 2014 U.S. Senate campaign, said Thurs-

day that Rounds knows Huckabee to be a good governor and a good man.

Huckabee endorsed Rounds last year during his bid for U.S. Senate and later campaigned for him.

Huckabee is considered a popular choice among evan-

gelicals and social conservatives, and he will be one of 10 Republicans participating in the party's primetime presidential debate Thursday evening.

The latest federal campaign finance reports show that Rounds' Peter Norbeck

Leadership PAC donated \$2,000 to Huckabee's presidential campaign in June.

Skjonsberg says the former South Dakota governor likes that Huckabee could bring experience as an executive to the presidency.

## School

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and its impact on a student's future.

"That night, the students actually get their schedules for the first time," Johnke said. "That is really exciting."

The incoming ninth graders will also take a tour of the building and go through each class to learn how to find it easily on the first day. Locker assignments will be included in the schedule, allowing students to try their combinations to avoid a little first-day frustration on August 20.

"Students will know which hallways the teachers are in and how to maneuver the different subject wings," Johnke said. "Getting the students in the door and seeing the building, I think, really puts the students' mind at ease."

Faculty will even cover some of the things that might not seem very crucial. For instance, lunch time sets the social ground work for the rest of the year for ninth graders.

"Surprisingly, figuring out the lunch line is a really big deal," Johnke said. "We have three of them and maneuvering where they are eating in the commons is important to them."

Across the hall in the theatre, parents will learn their different contacts at the high school and how to help their children succeed.

They will get activity schedules and have the opportunity to pay for lunch accounts, activity tickets and any classroom fees associated with their child's schedule.

Although most of the activities have been well under way by the time students hit orientation, Activities Director Ryan Mors will talk about the importance of being involved in an activity, and the range of options that YHS offers.

Most of the YHS staff will be present that night to answer any questions parents or students may have about regular operations. This includes: all the ninth grade homeroom advisors along with all the school secretaries and counselors.

Staff will be available Aug. 17-19 at the Yankton High School Principal's office from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Counselors will be available for schedule changes Aug. 12-14 and 19.

"We like to kick off the year with an orientation to allow us to start meeting the new students and parents," Johnke said. "There is a lot that goes on to get students started for the school year."

## MMC

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Though Long's previous job bears similarity to his current one, the academic aspect is new.

"I've spent a lot of time with interim dean Celia Miner, talking about the programs Mount Marty offers in all three locations," Long said. "I had been involved with some of those issues with my previous job, but I have a different perspective from a presidential role. It's been a great experience to learn about the academic planning."

Long has also gotten invested in local goings-on, the most recent being the announcement of the six finalists for the Onward Yankton campaign.

"It's a great roadmap for partnering with the community for the betterment of both the college and the town," he said. "Focusing on issues like healthcare education, health sciences and

business is a great wave of the future for the college."

Part of what has helped ease Long's transition is the community itself. From the Sacred Heart Benedictine sisters to people on the streets, the locals seem to be doing a good job welcoming Long to his new home.

"The welcome my family and I have received in Yankton has been amazing," said Long. "I really enjoyed the size of Yankton but didn't realize how friendly everyone would be. There is this welcoming sense, an aura, that is pervasive in this community, and my wife and I think we made the absolute right decision in coming here."

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

## Eagles

From Page 1A

biologists.

Now the population of bald eagles is sufficiently strong that more than 140 pairs nested in the state this year.

There have been more than one dozen nests near the refuge in northern Brown County during recent years.

The refuge is a major resting place for migrating geese in the spring and fall.

Golden and bald eagles continue to receive federal protection and generally can be taken only by holders of federal permits.

The bald eagle was one of the first endangered species when the state list was created in 1978.

It has been designated as threatened since 2003.

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Kevin Opsahl, Funeral Director  
Tami Keller, Funeral Director

### OBITUARIES

#### Dorothy Kulbel

Dorothy Kulbel, 90, of Winner, SD passed away on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at the Winner Regional Healthcare Center in Winner, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, August 10 at 10:00 a.m. at

the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Winner, SD. Burial will follow in the Winner City Cemetery.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, August 9 from 6-7 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with a Rosary beginning at 7 p.m.



Today marks one year since God called Joan home. Our family would like to thank everyone who took time to help and support Joan and our family during her illness and after her passing. Whether it was food, thoughts, maybe you said a prayer or stopped for a visit. We are thankful for the love and outpouring show of support our family has received, we are forever grateful. One of the many lessons Joan taught us is how precious and short life can be, embrace and treasure everyday. Though she now dances with the angels, her contagious laughter and stunning smile branded the hearts of many and will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
The family of Joan Walsh  
Jay, Brandon, Alex, Sara,  
Wynter & Riley



### IN REMEMBRANCE

<b>Roger Fay Copper</b> 11:00 AM, Friday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	<b>Kyle D. McGill</b> 2:00 PM, Saturday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton
<b>Robert "Bob" Wiebenga</b> 3:00 PM, Friday Riverview Reformed Church Yankton	<b>Dorothy Reppert</b> 2:00 PM, Wednesday Community Room Sir Charles Apartments Yankton

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