

Highway 12 Construction Work Planned

LYNCH, Neb. (AP) — Pavement and other construction work scheduled to begin this coming week are expected to hamper travelers on state Highway 12 in northern Nebraska. The 9.4-mile project will run from the U.S. Highway 281 intersection east to Lynch. The Nebraska Roads Department says flaggers and a pilot car will be used to control traffic. Load widths greater than 11 feet will not be permitted through the project. The work is expected to be finished by early November.

Norfolk Hospital Parts Ways With Doctors

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — A northeast Nebraska hospital has parted ways with two of its top doctors who voiced concerns about the facility. The *Norfolk Daily News* reports Dr. Chris Price and Dr. Joe Metcalf are no longer associated with Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk. Price resigned and Metcalf was fired. Both doctors say they believe they lost their positions because they spoke out about patient care and hospital governance. Hospital officials declined to comment on the personnel changes. Price had been chief of the medical staff and anesthesiology medical director at the hospital. He had been at the Norfolk hospital since 2003. Metcalf was medical director of the hospital's child advocacy center, director of palliative care and director of best practices. He had worked at Faith Regional since 1996.

Onida District Gets New High School

ONIDA (AP) — The school year is starting about a week later than usual at a central South Dakota school district as crews work to complete a nearly \$9 million construction project. Classes are scheduled to begin Aug. 27 at Agar-Blunt-Onida School District amid the construction, the *Pierre Capital Journal* reported. Work includes a new high school, renovations to heating and air conditioning at the elementary school, construction of a bus barn and demolition of an old school wing that dated back more than 90 years. "Things will be ready enough to hold class (by the end of the month)," Superintendent Kevin Pickner said. "They'll be here finishing up with odds and ends I'd say through September."

Nebraska

Family Of Missing College Student Struggles With Loss

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The family of a Peru State College student who disappeared nearly five years ago is still struggling to accept her presumed death and the lack of prosecution in the case. La Tanya Thomas tells the *Omaha World-Herald* she's frustrated that authorities have never filed charges against anyone in the December 2010 disappearance of her 19-year-old daughter, Tyler Thomas. "I know I need to have patience," she said. "Coming up on five years, my patience is wearing thin." La Tanya Thomas said one of the hardest parts is that her daughter's body hasn't been found and authorities haven't determined exactly what happened. "We haven't been able to go through that grieving process," she said. "We're

just halted, suspended in air. Where is she? What happened?"

The family is pursuing a lawsuit against the college in state court for ignoring warnings that fellow student Joshua Keadle was a possible threat to women at the college.

Peru State officials declined to comment on the lawsuit. A federal judge dismissed a similar lawsuit the family had filed.

Keadle told authorities that he and Thomas had sex in his vehicle on the night of her disappearance, but he said he left her alive on a river dock after she threatened to report he had raped her. Keadle was later convicted and sentenced to 15 to 20 years for the 2008 rape of a 15-year-old Fremont girl.

Keadle has denied killing Thomas in

past interviews with media after her disappearance. He will be eligible for parole beginning in late 2018.

Nemaha County Sheriff Brent Lottman said he considers this an open case, and investigators follow up on any new leads that come up.

"It would be great if we would have found her right away," the sheriff said. "It would still be great to find her. I can't think of anything we didn't do or attempt to do."

La Tanya Thomas will always remember the final phone call she had with her daughter when Tyler was so excited about being named captain of the Peru State dance squad.

"I got to tell her that I loved her and that I was proud of her," La Tanya Thomas said. "At least I got to tell her that."

SD Advocates For Hiring People With Disabilities

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota officials and a state retailer group are making a push for businesses to hire people with disabilities.

Officials with the State Department of Human Services and the South Dakota Retailers Association see people with disabilities as being an untapped labor market, the Argus Leader (<http://argusnews/1h9oa8v>) reported. Since

the state has such dramatic workforce needs, hiring people with disabilities seems like a no-brainer, according to Shawn Lyons, executive director of the Retailers Association.

Because one in four jobs in South Dakota is tied to the retail and hospitality industries, here's no question that we have a demand for workers right now," Lyons

said. "It seems like that's a labor market we would want to tap into."

Kevin Olinger, who is disabled, previously worked on parts assembly at the old Sioux Vocational Services, but he wanted to be out in the working world, mingling with the public and conversing with people on a regular basis. For the past 31 years, he has worked at an Ace Hardware

location in Sioux Falls, where he sweeps floors, cleans the bathrooms and stocks the shelves.

"He started out with our manager having to draw stick men to have him understand what we needed to have done in his job," store owner Kevin Nyberg said. "Now I would tell you that he has performed for us many times more than a lot of people without a disability."



Send Your Kids Back To School Safely

School bus safety tips to impart to youngsters

Danger zone

The danger zone is a 10-foot radius around the outside of the bus. Bus drivers and other motorists find kids in the danger zone are more difficult to see, and children can get struck by either the bus or oncoming cars that fail to stop when the bus is picking kids up or dropping them off.

Knowing the safety rules

- * Get to the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes prior to the assigned pickup time. Rushing last-minute can lead to injury, especially if you're chasing down the bus.
- * Remain on the sidewalk or grass at the bus stop. Do not step off the curb into the street until the bus has arrived and is completely stopped.
- * When boarding the bus, go directly to a seat and sit down. Buckle up if there are seatbelts on the bus.
- * Be careful when getting off the bus. Hold on while going down the stairs.
- * Only get off at your designated stop unless you have permission to get off elsewhere.
- * When exiting the bus, walk at least 10 steps past the front of the bus and cross in front where the driver can see you. Do not cross behind the bus.
- * Wait for the driver to give you a signal that it is safe to cross. Be sure to check that all cars on the road have come to a complete stop.
- * Get to the sidewalk or off the street as quickly as possible.

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