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Troopers Find Gift-Wrapped Marijuana During Stop

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska state troopers have unwrapped more packages containing marijuana this holiday season.

The *Journal Star* in Lincoln says a trooper stopped a pickup truck Monday afternoon on Interstate 80 near Lincoln. A drug-sniffing dog searched the vehicle and found 42 pounds of marijuana in a several gift-wrapped boxes.

The driver of the pickup, 55-year-old Randy Fleener of California was arrested on suspicion of possessing marijuana with intent to deliver.

A state patrol spokeswoman says it's the third time this holiday season that troopers have stopped vehicles containing gift-wrapped marijuana. Those traffic stops both occurred on Dec. 16 and nearly 48 pounds of wrapped marijuana was found.

State troopers in Iowa also stopped a vehicle on I-80 in Council Bluffs that contained 65 pounds of gift-wrapped marijuana last month.

Rhino At Great Plains Zoo Gets New Name

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The eastern black rhino calf at the Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History has its new name.

The winning name, "Kiano," won about 1,900 out of nearly 4,500 votes. The name "Abasi" came in a close second.

Kiano was one of 30 names submitted during a five-week contest. The zoo asked people to suggest names — with a \$20 donation for each name submitted — and then vote on their favorite for a \$1 donation. The zoo says the contest brought in \$3,600 in donations.

YOUR NEWS!
The Press & Dakotan

Nebraska High Court To Weigh Pay For Longtime Volunteer

BY **TIMBERLY ROSS**
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — An Omaha woman who spent almost 30 years typing reports, arranging foster home placements and handling other duties for the state's juvenile parole office shouldn't get \$447,000 in back pay because she volunteered her services, state attorneys said in an appeal to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Lucille Kilgore, who died in July at age 88, was never paid nor asked to be paid for her work.

But in 2004, she sued the state and juvenile parole workers for overworking and taking advantage of her. A Douglas County district judge awarded her the back pay, saying the state had violated labor laws and unjustly benefited from Kilgore's service.

The state claimed in its appeal that labor laws don't apply in Kilgore's case because she was a volunteer, not an employee, and therefore not entitled to payment.

"Kilgore enjoyed working with juveniles," the appeal says. "She also understood the number of hours she volunteered at any given time was up to her."

But Ray Aranza, an attorney for Kilgore's estate, said in court documents that the ailing woman often worked 80 hours or more a week on tasks typically handled by parole officers, such as curfew calls.

"Kilgore was performing the required acts of the position that she assumed — the role of parole officer," Aranza said in the appeal.

Kilgore began working for the office in 1974 on a volunteer, part-time basis alongside juvenile parole officer Melvin Washington, according to court documents. She took on more work over the years. After a series of strokes, heart attacks and other health problems struck in the mid-1990s,

she began working from home and continued to do that until 2002.

Kilgore wanted from the beginning to be a parole officer, but she was told she lacked the qualifications, court documents said. She volunteered as a way to get her foot in the door.

"She described her ambitions as being like that of a walk-on football player for the Nebraska Cornhuskers — that if she got accepted as a walk-on, she would eventually be allowed on the field," according to court documents.

They also claim she ignored her doctors' orders to scale back her work in the late 1990s because she was afraid of Washington and his temper.

Washington, who no longer works for the juvenile parole office, told The Associated Press that he and Kilgore had been friends and declined to comment on the allegations.

Kilgore lived by herself, had no children and came to depend on the help of parole officers who took up food collections for her and took her to doctors' appointments, her appeal said.

Upon learning of the situation in 2002, the Department of Health and Human Services ordered Kilgore to stop volunteering, launched an investigation and took precautions to protect her. DHHS oversees the juvenile parole office.

DHHS spokeswoman Kathie Osterman referred questions Tuesday to the Attorney General's Office, which declined to comment.

Kilgore's attorney has filed his own appeal seeking interest on the back pay and compensation for attorney's fees.

The case went before the Nebraska Supreme Court last year, but the justices determined the lower court's ruling wasn't final and couldn't yet be appealed. It has now scheduled arguments for Jan. 4.

Higher Gold Prices Prompt Surface Mine Expansion In The Black Hills

BY **KEVIN WOSTER**
Rapid City Journal

LEAD — Wharf Resources (USA) Inc. wants to expand its surface-mining operations near Terry Peak in Lawrence County, a proposal that worries some nearby landowners and could force the relocation of more than 200 graves in the Terry Cemetery.

Inspired by gold prices that have risen to more than \$1,300 per ounce, Wharf is proposing an expansion that would affect 430 acres. Some of those acres are not far from the family cabin that Tom Hilt of Rapid City uses for skiing each winter. And Hilt wonders how the Wharf proposal will affect his view and his property prices.

"My concern, first of all, is that the public knows what's going on. I think at the present it's not widely known," Hilt said. "My perspective would be just what it might do to property values and whether those who use the mountain for skiing will be disappointed in what happens to the area."

Mike Cepak, natural resources engineering director for the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Pierre, said the rise in gold prices prompted the Wharf expansion.

"It's price-driven," he said. "When they were doing their mining at Wharf during the last 10 years, the price of gold was much lower than now."

Cepak said that if the expansion plan were approved — a probability that is still months away — it would mine an area just north of the Barefoot Condominiums, close to Terry Peak. It would affect Green Mountain and Bald Mountain to the east. The existing mine operation at Foley Ridge, north

of Terry Peak, went "right up to the ridge line. This expansion will go a little farther south, over the ridge line," Cepak said.

Mining in that new area near Terry Peak area would not be allowed during the ski season, Cepak said.

Cepak said the expansion would include the new ground and also the reopening of an area of the former Golden Reward mine, where some of

of S.D. Highway 473 could be moved. So could graves in the Terry Cemetery if that area were mined.

"It's possible they could mine that, too," Cepak said. "That obviously brings a lot of people and questions into the permitting process. They'd have to move the cemetery, some 240 graves, relocate them."

Wharf is the last large-scale gold mine continuing to operate in the Black Hills. Last year, it handled 10.4 million tons of waste rock, processed 2.9 million tons of ore and produced 67,700 ounces of gold. It also produced 242,000 ounces of silver.

Cepak said the price of gold has to be at \$600 to \$700 per ounce for a mining company to "even consider" a mining expansion in the area with production costs these days. The proposed project could extend the life of the Wharf mining operations to about 2020. Operations were otherwise expected to cease in 2012 or 2013, he said.

If Wharf is permitted to expand, it will need to put up bonds for reclamation, post-closure needs and cyanide spills. Those new bonds could be in addition to Wharf's existing bond on existing operations — \$15.5 million for reclamation, \$9.9 million post closure and spill bond of \$537,000.

The bonds are intended to provide resources to pay for cleanup, reclamation and other needs if something goes wrong and the company doesn't handle it. Cepak said work on the expansion could start late next fall if the application process proceeds and is approved without serious complications.

"They could get some work in before next winter," he said.

"My perspective would be just what it might do to property values and whether those who use the mountain for skiing will be disappointed in what happens to the area."

TOM HILT

the old pits at the base of Terry Peak would be expanded.

Wharf took the first step in the application process for the expansion in September, submitting its notice of intent to mine and a request for determination of special, exceptional, critical or unique lands. If lands are so designated, it wouldn't necessarily prevent mining that area. But it would require special provisions to protect the resources there.

People have until Jan. 11 to nominate lands for the special or unique list. Information is available online at the DENR website (<http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/wharfs-appeal.aspx/>).

After the special lands process is complete, Wharf will move on to the application to mine. Cepak said he expects that next step to come in "the next couple of months." That would lead to a hearing before the regulatory panel, the state Board of Minerals and the Environment, by late summer or early fall, Cepak said.

Among other disturbances likely to be caused by the expansion, a portion

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Cherry or Oak Quilt Rack	\$49	\$24	Black TV Stand	\$717	\$358
Animal Print Round Table	\$194	\$129	Oak TV Chest	\$1,400	\$699
Cherry Heart Curio Table	\$84	\$44	Eggshell Entertainment Stand	\$1,190	\$476
Black Oriental Painted 2 Door Cabinet	\$490	\$245	LEATHER		
Mission Bench with Storage	\$405	\$243	Red, Cream or Black Bonded Leather Sofa	\$897	\$566
Black Bombe Chest	\$899	\$539	Matching Loveseat	\$750	\$469
Black 3 Drawer Chest with Marble Top	\$869	\$521	Matching Chair	\$537	\$299
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BEDROOM					
Bunkbed	\$297	\$199	Brown Bicast Sofa	\$761	\$380
5 Drawer Chests in 3 Finishes	\$192	\$99	LIVING ROOM		
Twin Headboards	\$135	\$79	Charcoal Gray Reclining Sofa	\$1,480	\$592
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Round Glass & Metal Dinette Set	\$1,330	\$665	www.hatchfurniture.com		
Black Granite Table & 6 Chairs	\$1,405	\$699	hatch		
42x64 Cherry Table	\$2,111	\$211	FURNITURE & FLOORING		
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32" Medium Oak TV Stand	\$209	\$119	©2010, King Features Syndicate, Inc.		

MIDWEST DIGEST

Jailed Mom A No-Show After Furlough

RAPID CITY (AP) — A woman who begged a circuit judge to let her spend Christmas with her daughters in Rapid City has failed to return from a furlough.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Judge Mary Thorstenson granted Gena Heffner's furlough request after learning that she has a daughter with leukemia.

The 35-year-old Heffner was released into her mother's custody at noon on Christmas Eve with orders to report to the jail on Sunday morning, but she did not return.

Heffner had three court appearances scheduled for Tuesday, involving charges of forgery, second-degree burglary and grand theft. Authorities say an escape charge has been added.

Man Sentenced In Shooting Rampage

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty in connection with a shooting rampage that left two dead has been sentenced to 115 years in prison.

KETV-TV says Edgar Cervantes was sentenced Tuesday for his role in the 2008 robbery and shootings in Omaha.

He pleaded guilty to six counts of robbery and various weapons charges in exchange for his testimony against two other people involved in the shooting that also left one person wounded.

The 18-year-old Cervantes won't be eligible for parole until he's 66 years old.

Man's Death In Fire Ruled Suicide

WATERTOWN (AP) — Authorities say a man whose body was found in the debris of a burned barn at his farm near Watertown on Friday died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Codington County authorities announced Tuesday that the death of 58-year-old David Jungers has been ruled a suicide.

Authorities say firefighters found a .22 caliber pistol while searching through debris.

Authorities say the barn was a total loss.

Aberdeen Beef Plant To Get Financing

ABERDEEN (AP) — Officials announced Tuesday that a long-delayed beef packing plant near Aberdeen will get state financing.

The *Aberdeen American News* reports that state aid will help pay for construction at the Northern Beef Packers plant.

Construction has started again at the plant after years of delays since the project first started in 2005. The full plant is now expected to open late next summer or in early fall.

The \$70 million plant is planned to eventually employ 560 people and process 7,500 head of cattle a week.

Company President and CEO David Palmer did not return messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

S.F. Deer Hunt Deemed A Success

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Officials are calling Sioux Falls' first city-limit bow hunt a success.

The *Argus Leader* reports that 20 does have been harvested with less than a week left in the season. The season began Sept. 29.

The special hunt was organized to thin out an estimated 300 to 400 deer in the city that have caused problems such as car accidents.

Officials hope to organize the hunt again next year. Earlier this year, Sioux Falls Animal Control officers shot 15 deer to thin out the herds for safety reasons.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 40 Pertness

1 Place for valuables

5 Test software version

9 Homer work

11 Heaps

12 Strong suit

13 Switzerland neighbor

14 Common title word

15 Chapel top

17 Cup holders

19 Fixed

20 Left over

21 A pop

22 Intent look

24 Night flier

26 Stock unit

29 Spot to jot

30 Shelf item

32 Stuck, so to speak

34 King topper

35 Like Superman

36 "Frasier" pooch

38 Pays for a hand

39 Wide inlet

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Yesterday's answer

- 11 Bakery
- 16 Spy's crime
- 18 Play group
- 21 High point
- 23 Aegean island
- 24 Split level?
- 25 Conforms
- 28 Los Angeles
- 29 Print units
- 30 Auction nods
- 31 Title documents
- 33 Honey bunch
- 37 "How — thee?"

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