

Football Study Looks At Hits To Head

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A study by a Dakotas-based hospital shows that middle school football players are getting hit just as hard as older kids, but not as often and not enough to cause short-term brain damage.

The Sanford Sports Institute study used in-helmet sensors to measure the force and location of hits to the head for players ages 11 to 13. It focuses on 22 players from the same South Dakota team, the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* reported.

"You could see this as, 'Wow, these middle school kids are getting hit just as hard as high school kids. That's a bad thing,'" project leader Thayne Munce said. "Or you could say, 'These middle school kids are getting hit half as much as the high school kids. That's a good thing.'"

"We're not saying whether it's good or bad. It's just interesting."

The helmets provided real-time results for all nine games and 27 practices. They recorded the gravitational force of 6,000 total hits, which were measured in Gs. Most of the hits were recorded between 10 and 20 Gs. The hardest hit measured was 175 Gs.

By comparison, the highest reading from an Indy Car crash is 214 Gs, and the driver survived.

Worker Fatally Hurt In Fall, Sheriff Says

WEST POINT, Neb. (AP) — A Scribner man has died after a fall at a construction site in northeast Nebraska.

The *Norfolk Daily News* reports that the accident occurred last week in southwest Cuming County. Sheriff Brad Boyum says 52-year-old Loren Wegner was working on the installation of an overhead door when he fell from a raised pallet.

SD Deputy Among 19 Carnegie Heroes

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Hamlin County deputy who helped save a man and his 9-year-old son from drowning after their canoe capsized is among 19 people being honored by the Carnegie Heroes Fund Commission.

The hero awards were announced Monday and honor those who risk their lives for others.

Deputy Jon Barthel came to the rescue when a father and son fell into Lake Poinsett while trying to retrieve a football in April.

Dan Overbo and his son fell into the freezing water when their canoe tipped about 60 yards from shore.

A neighbor heard their calls for help and alerted Barthel, who lives near the Overbos' lake home. Barthel ran to the scene, jumped into the water and pulled the father and son to shore.

'Jail Garden' Reaps Bountiful Harvest

BOX ELDER (AP) — Officials at the Pennington County Jail say their unique "jail garden" produced about 14,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables this year.

The garden is a plot of land in Box Elder that's tended to by inmates from the Pennington County Jail.

The produce is donated to area charities. Some of it is sold to offset food expenses for jail inmates.

Officials say the produce harvested this year was about four times as much as last year.

School Administrators Discuss Grief

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln Public Schools administrators are working with students on grieving properly at school.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports the Lincoln East high school principal encouraged band instructors planning an end-of-semester concert not to include a written or audio tribute for a member who died.

Lincoln police have classified the student's death in November as a suicide but are continuing to investigate.

Principal Sue Cassata says school administrators must treat all student deaths equally. She says administrators worried that the concert could have been changed into a memorial.

Cassata offered to talk to students and parents about the situation but said no one took her up on the offer.

South Dakota

Family Of Girl Killed In Dog Attack Makes Progress On Animal Shelter

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

RAPID CITY — An 8-year-old girl's death from a dog attack on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation a month ago has left her mother drained and too heartbroken to stay in the home they shared. One of the few bright spots for the Griffith family is the steady progress they're making on Jayla's Dream, an effort to improve animal control and start a shelter in her memory on the southern South Dakota reservation.

Jayla Rodriguez's maternal family learned on Friday that the state officially approved Jayla's Dream as a nonprofit. Danielle Griffith, Jayla's mother, said her loved ones have come together to see the process through since Jayla's death. A fundraising campaign started by Jayla's aunt, Camille Griffith, has raised nearly \$5,700 — more than half of the family's initial goal.

"I don't want it to be one of those things where it slowly simmers and doesn't happen and we're ... regretting it later," said Camille Griffith, 25. "I feel like (Jayla's) helping us, too, because normally things don't go this smoothly."

"This is the only good thing that's actu-

ally going on," Danielle Griffith, 26, added.

Tribal police have said that Jayla was killed by a pack of dogs while sledding on Nov. 18. FBI Spokesman Kyle Loven said Monday that an investigation into her death remains ongoing.

Her death renewed concerns among

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CAMILLE GRIFFITH

tribal leaders about the longstanding problem of packs of roaming dogs. Oglala Sioux officials captured and killed an unknown number of dogs on the reservation shortly after Jayla died. But Danielle Griffith says that's not what her daughter would have wanted.

About two weeks before she died, Jayla said she wanted to help animals on the reservation after seeing an injured dog, a wish that inspired Jayla's Dream. Jayla especially loved her own dog, Buppy, a Chihuahua—dachshund mix.

Now, an uncle is interested in donating land a few miles from the city of Pine Ridge to house the shelter; her mother is design-

ing a logo; her father wrote the articles of incorporation for the nonprofit; and a cousin helped build a website. Camille Griffith has put off getting her master's degree to stay close to her family and ensure the organization gets off the ground.

Jayla's Dream had a booth on Friday at the Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City, where the Griffiths got some help from the community — including a number of children — in brainstorming ideas for the shelter. Among the suggestions: "Train pets to dance," "Dinosaur wallpaper" and "Cuddle all the puppies."

Tribal Councilwoman Ellen Fillspipe said she would like to hear from the Griffiths about Jayla's Dream as part of her efforts to improve animal control on Pine Ridge. Fillspipe's son, a friend of Jayla's, was the impetus behind Braedon's Law, an ordinance that in part bans certain types of dogs, after he was attacked by two pit bulls. Fillspipe, now chairwoman of the council's Law and Order Committee, said the directive hasn't been adequately enforced.

"It is so bad that we've had to have this happen — we've had to lose a life in order to become aware again. ... This shouldn't have happened. This shouldn't have happened at all," she said.

Railroads Seeking One-Person Crews

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — When American freight trains delivered cargo after World War II, the steam-belching beasts commonly had seven people aboard — an engineer, a conductor, up to four brakemen and a fireman.

Trains have since grown much longer, seemingly stretching to the horizon and often taking 20 minutes to pass through a crossing. And crews have been reduced in size — to five people in the 1970s and two in 1991. Now U.S. railroads want to put a single person in charge of today's huge locomotives, taking another step toward a future in which the nation's rail-cargo system increasingly could resemble toy train sets — highly mechanized networks run by computers or distant controllers.

For the moment, freight trains generally have two people aboard — an engineer who drives the train and a conductor who oversees the long line

of cars. Railroad executives want to reduce that to a lone engineer, saying advances in safety systems, including a new automatic braking system under development, could minimize risks.

But labor groups and people who live near rail lines are skeptical.

"These trains are 7,000 tons going 50 mph. You have to have two people," said J.P. Wright, an engineer for CSX railroad in Louisville, Kentucky. "It's mindboggling to me that the railroads would go this far with it."

The mayor of Barrington asks how one person could split a stopped train to allow traffic and first responders through in the event of an emergency.

"There may be technology to compensate for some of it, but I would have questions," Karen Darch said.

The one-person crew idea is being pitched at a time when railroads are working to increase train length because delivering more cars usually is more profitable, and they're

working to expand capacity to handle even more freight as the economy improves.

Federal regulators have pushed back against the proposal, saying they may require two-person crews.

The Association of American Railroads trade group says accident data does not support requiring two-person

crews. It has opposed any effort by the government to prohibit one-person trains.

During a cross-country rail journey, the engineer is at the train's controls. The conductor is responsible for the cars behind the locomotive, communicating with dispatchers and providing a second set of monitoring eyes.


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The following deadlines will apply:

- Friday, 12/26 newspaper - Monday, 12/22, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, 12/27 newspaper - Tuesday, 12/23, noon
- Monday, 12/29 newspaper - Tuesday, 12/23, noon
- Friday, 1/2 newspaper - Monday, 12/29, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, 1/3 newspaper - Tuesday, 12/30, 3 p.m.
- Monday, 1/5 newspaper - Tuesday 12/30, 3 p.m.

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