MIDWEST DIGEST

S.D. House Passes Governor's Refund Plan

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota House has passed Gov. Dennis Daugaard's (DOO'-garhdz) plan to continue giving refunds on construction taxes to large industrial projects.

House Republican Leader David Lust of Rapid City says the plan will change the refund program to give refunds only to industrial projects that would not be built in South Dakota without the tax break. He says it will cut spending on the tax refunds from the current \$23 million to only \$16 million a year, a savings of

But House Democratic Leader Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton says it's a bad idea to spend state money on corporate subsidies at the same time the Republican governor is seeking to cut state aid to

The House voted 50-18 to send the bill to the Senate.

lowa Senate Restores Preschool Structure

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Senate has approved a measure restoring the structure of a state-run preschool system.

Backers say they later will set aside \$70 million for the program, a move that will spark intense bargaining at the Statehouse. The state has been spending \$70 million a year on preschool programs, but when the House debated a larger spending package it stripped out language authorizing the program. When the Senate

guage authorizing the state-run preschool. Gov. Terry Branstad has proposed a \$43 million preschool program, with assistance based on the family's income.

debated the same spending package Thursday it put back lan-

The larger spending measure was approved by the Senate on a

S.D. Teen Sentenced In School Threat Case

SISSETON (AP) — A teenager who plotted an attack on his high school in northeast South Dakota was sentenced Thursday to 20 years in prison, with 10 years suspended.

Joseph Hansen pleaded guilty in January to two counts of sale, transport or possession of a destructive device.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said the 18-year-old from Claire City received the maximum 10-year sentence on each count, with five years suspended on each count.

The sentences will run consecutively.

Jackley said the sentence "reflects the serious and dangerous nature of the conduct."

Hansen was arrested last summer after a police school resource officer learned that he had talked about an attack at Sisseton High School. Officials said he possessed weapons, ammunition and components to make explosive devices.

Bill Giving Adoption Information Advances

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A bill that would give adoptive parents access to state files on the child they're adopting is a step closer to becoming law.

The bill (LB94) by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard would provide the opportunity for those seeking to adopt a state ward to read the child's case file kept by the Department of Health and Human

Howard has told of adoptive parents who have learned too late of behavioral needs of children because they had not been privy to the child's file. The bill's intent, she said, is to both prepare adoptive parents for behavioral and health problems the child might face and pave the way to provide treatment for the child's

Lawmakers advanced the bill Thursday to the final of three

Officials: Iowa Inmate Died Of Natural Causes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say an 18-year-old inmate at the Black Hawk County jail in Waterloo died of natural

Justin Johnson, of Waterloo, died Dec. 1 after telling a deputy that he didn't feel well. Johnson was having trouble breathing. He was taken to a hospital where he died.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety says Thursday that the state medical examiner's office determined Johnson died of natural causes. An independent investigation was done by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigations.

The results were forwarded to the Black Hawk County attorney's office. The investigation revealed nothing of a criminal nature, and the county attorney determined no criminal charges were warranted.

Johnson had been in jail since Nov. 9 on an aggravated assault

NE Ethanol Company To Acquire Plant In MN

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha-based company says a bankruptcy court has accepted its bid to acquire an ethanol plant from Otter Tail Ag Enterprises near Fergus Falls, Minn.

Green Plains Renewable Energy Inc. says Thursday the addition of the plant, which has a capacity of 55 million gallons, brings its total production capacity to about 715 million gallons a year. Green Plains says in a statement that it will finance the \$55 mil-

lion acquisition with cash and financing from a group of nine lenders. The company expects to complete the deal in March. Green Plains says it is North America's fourth largest ethanol

producer, with 8 plants in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska and

Otter Tail Ag Enterprises, based in Fergus Falls, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October 2009.

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

OBITUARIES

Esther Herrboldt

Esther A. Herrboldt, age 81, of Yankton, SD passed away early Wednesday (Feb. 16, 2011 at the Akron Care Center, Akron, IA. Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 26 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. Jim Mueller officiating. Burial will be approximately 1:30 p.m. at the Menno Cemetery. Visitations will be 6-8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 25 at the Opsahl-

Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 7 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.





S.D. Rejects Fetus Protection Bill

CHET BROKAW Associated Press

PIERRE — A bill that critics said could provide a "license to kill" abortion doctors in South Dakota was overwhelmingly rejected Thursday by lawmakers after the sponsor agreed that current state law already protects pregnant women from prosecution for killing someone to protect their unborn

The House voted 61-4 to defeat the measure. Its sponsor, Rep. Phil Jensen, R-Rapid City, said he now knows that current law already allows women to use force to protect their unborn child.

"I'm content with the code as it is written," Jensen said.

Critics, both in the Legislature and in abortion-rights organizations around the nation, took issue with language in the bill that would have allowed a woman's relatives to claim justifiable homicide if they killed someone to protect an unborn child. That language was added last week by a House committee and was not originally in Jensen's

Critics said that language could allow someone to claim self-defense for killing abortion providers, including doctors, nurses and other staff at abortion clinics. "It's a license to kill abortion providers," Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, said earlier in

The House rejected the measure only hours after Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he would veto the bill.

The way it's written, I think I could not support it. It does not represent good law. I would not support it," said Daugaard, a staunch abortion opponent.

Existing law includes unborn child in the definition of a person, and legislative leaders say that means protecting an unborn child against attack is covered by self-defense

In his brief speech to the House, Jensen said he sponsored the bill after hearing of a case in which a pregnant woman in another state was punched in the abdomen by her boyfriend. She stabbed him and was convicted of manslaughter even though she lost her quadruplets, but an appeals court eventually overturned her conviction as justifiable homicide, he said.

"A woman choses to bring a child into the world. It's also her choice to use whatever means possible to defend her child against an unlawful attack," Jensen said.

Gibson said she was embarrassed by the attention the bill brought to South Dakota.

"It bothers me intensely that South Dakota is so backward in its thinking,'

Neb. Bill To Unveil Funding For Educators

BY MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — High-ranking administrators at Nebraska's K-12 public schools and universities and colleges would be required to disclose their employment contracts — including payments and benefits from private foundations — under a bill heard Thursday by a legislative committee. The bill (LB143) by state Sen.

Ken Haar of Malcolm follows news two years ago that former Peru State College President Ben Johnson had accepted a deferred compensation package from the college's foundation worth nearly \$500,000 in private funds. Neither the State College System nor the Peru State College Board of Trustees knew of the deal and learned of it only after the state auditor began

questioning the deal.

Johnson agreed to pay a \$1,200 fine for failing to disclose the deal. He committed suicide in Florida last year after being questioned about spending more than \$43,000 in college bookstore profits.

Haar's bill would allow the public to easily get information regarding compensation of public elementary, secondary and post-secondary education officials from the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

"This bill is about full disclosure and transparency," Haar said Thursday to the Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The measure would apply to education officials with the title or function of president, vice president, chancellor, superintendent, assistant superintend-

In a text message to The

Associated Press, her father, Bill

Herkelman, said he understands

"It's nice to get the first win

and have her be on the way to the

medal round," Bill Herkelman

wrote. "I sincerely respect the

decision of the Northrup family

especially since it was made on

the biggest stage in wrestling. I

things about the Northrup family

and hope Joel does very well the

Linn-Mar athletics director

would not penalize Northrup for

defaulting. Because he defaulted

ble to compete in consolation

the consolation rounds.

ment, which began in 1926.

and didn't forfeit, Northrup is eligi-

rounds. Black will also compete in

Wrestling is hugely popular in

Iowa, and this is the first time girls

have qualified for the state tourna-

According to the National Federation of State High School

girls competed in wrestling in

require girls to wrestle boys.

sponsor girls-only high school

wrestling tournaments.

Associations, just more than 6,000

2009-10 — compared with nearly

275,000 boys. Though most states

California, Hawaii and Texas now

Scott Mahmens said the school

have heard nothing but good

remainder of the tourney

Northrup's decision.

ent, chief executive officer, or chief financial officer "or any other senior administrative personnel under contract with the institution performing similar

The employment contract they would file would list their salary and benefits packages and would itemize each benefit provided, the source and value of the benefit, and list any public and private sources, such as foundations, providing the

There is no penalty spelled out in the bill if an education official fails to file his or her compensation package with the

"If this bill is passed and violations become a problem, then we might want to come back and revisit the bill," Haar said.

Representatives with government watchdog group Common Cause Nebraska and the Omaha

World-Herald testified in favor of the bill.

"Gifts such as deferred payments, automobiles, expense accounts and club memberships worth hundreds of thousands of dollars can come to the recipients directly from the foundation and are often not reported," said Jack Gould with Common Cause.

Gould said private foundations are "popping up all across the state" to help public schools and colleges as lawmakers propose deep cuts this session to close a projected \$1 billion budget shortfall.

Currently, only some college and university administrators are required to file financial interest statements with the state. However, they only have to identify foundations in those filings as a "source of income over \$1,000," without revealing how much over \$1,000 the foundation has given them.

Iowa Wrestler Defaults Rather Than Face Girl

BY LUKE MEREDITH Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — An Iowa high school wrestler who was one of the favorites to win his weight class defaulted on his first-round state tournament match rather than face one of the first girls to ever qualify for the event.

Joel Northrup, a homeschooled sophomore who was 35-4 wrestling for Linn-Mar High this season, said in a statement that he him to wrestle Cedar Falls freshman Cassy Herkelman. Herkelman, who was 20-13 entering the tournament, and fellow 112-pounder Ottumwa sophomore Megan Black, who was 25-13, made history by being the first girls to qualify for the state tournament. Black was pinned quickly in her opening round match.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for Cassy and Megan and their accomplishments. However, wrestling is a combat sport and it can get violent at times," wrote Northrup. "As a matter of conscience and my faith I do not believe that it is appropriate for a boy to engage a girl in this manner. It is unfortunate that I have been placed in a situation not seen in most other high school sports in Iowa.'

There were several thousand fans on hand Thursday at Wells Fargo Arena, but many were watching other matches when the referee raised Herkelman's hand to signal her win. There was a smattering of cheers and boos from the crowd before Herkelman was whisked into the bowels of the arena.

Tournament organizers declined to make Herkelman available for questions. Her next match

Funding Announced For Sanford Underground Lab

RAPID CITY (AP) — The National Science Foundation plans to plug a funding gap by providing up to \$4 million this year to maintain the Sanford Underground Laboratory at the former Homestake gold mine in

The NSF money will fill the gap from when state money runs out this spring and the Oct. 1 start of the federal fiscal year. It will be used to continue pumping out water and other maintenance perations at the underground laboratory.

A spokesman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard tells the Rapid City Journal that the governor is pleased by the NSF announcement.

"It's an incremental step, but it shows that the National Science Foundation is still committed to working with us to make the DUSEL a reality," said Tony Venhuizen, the governor's communications director.

The National Science Foundation in 2007 picked the abandoned mine as the preferred site for a Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) that will be 7,400 feet below the surface. South Dakota is building the

foot level so some experiments can begin earlier. We knew from the presi-

Sanford Laboratory at the 4,850-

dent's budget request that there was interest within the administration to go forward with the lab. We believe that this interim funding will help make that happen," said Venhuizen. The National Science Foundation threw the future of

the underground laboratory in doubt in December when its oversight board pulled out the \$29 million it had been expected to spend on the lab. Pumps run continuously to keep water from filling the mine's

lower areas. Keeping the mine dry and other maintenance procedures cost around \$1 million per month. The U.S. Department of Energy has submitted a budget

request for \$15 million to support the mine in the 2012 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. Bill Harlan, communications

director for the Sanford laboratory, said employees at the lab are "all delighted."

"This is great news for the project," Harlan said. "... This is a good sign, and we're continuing



*For **AUTO LOANS** of at least \$5,000 on model years 2006 or newer when using auto-deduct from a FNBSD account. Approval and rate subject to credit qualifications. Some limitations apply.

