

MIDWEST DIGEST

Rogers' Horse Sold To Neb. TV Station

NEW YORK (AP) — Roy Rogers' stuffed horse, Trigger, has been sold at auction in New York City for more than \$266,000. Christie's says Rogers' faithful companion was bought by RFD-TV in Omaha, Neb., at an auction Wednesday of items from the now-closed Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum in Branson, Mo. The television network's chief financial officer says Rogers reflects the company's values. The station calls itself "Rural America's Most Important Network." CFO Steve Campione says the company hopes to start its own museum. He says the company is looking to buy more Rogers items at auction. Rogers had Trigger preserved with taxidermy in 1965. The pre-sale estimate for the horse was \$100,000 to \$200,000. The sale price included the buyer's premium.

Utility Sells 23 Percent Stake In Power Plant

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) — Black Hills Corp. is selling a 23 percent stake in its newest Wyoming coal power plant to the city of Gillette for \$62 million. Gillette will receive about 25.3 megawatts of electricity annually as part of the deal announced Wednesday. Gillette city administrator Mike Muirhead says the deal will give residents a stable source of electricity. Black Hills says the deal makes the city of Gillette the third co-owner of the Wygen III plant, which produces about 110 megawatts annually. Black Hills maintains majority ownership with a 52 percent stake, but Montana-Dakota Utilities owns 25 percent. Black Hills is based in Rapid City and provides power to 760,000 customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Neb., Iowa Authorities Search Missouri River

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities from Nebraska and Iowa are searching for the body of a woman believed to have drowned after jumping into the swollen Missouri River. The Omaha police department sent a helicopter, dive team and rescue boats to the waters around the Mormon Bridge after a witness reported seeing two people jump from the bridge into the water about 4 p.m. Wednesday. Authorities later said only one person — a woman — is believed to be missing. The rescue effort was canceled just before 6 p.m., when crews began searching for a body.

Funeral Set For Saturday For Omaha Soldier

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A funeral service has been set for Saturday for an 18-year-old soldier from Omaha who was killed in Afghanistan. The military has confirmed Pfc. Edwin "Eddie" Wood died of injuries suffered July 5 when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device near Kandahar. A soldier from Virginia also died. Wood's body has been returned to Nebraska. A funeral service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha. Burial will follow in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Wood was assigned to 1st Squadron, 71st Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), based in Fort Drum, N.Y. His death came just a day after returning from a visit with family.


Neb. Businesses In Program Recognized

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Four Nebraska business owners who received assistance from a program that aids people with disabilities have been recognized by Gov. Dave Heineman and Education Commissioner Roger Breed. Forty Nights Photography & Writing in Lincoln, Open Doors Computer Services in Lincoln, Brady Get-N-Go in Brady and Office Genie in Holdrege were recognized on Wednesday. The Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council selected the businesses because of their entrepreneurial spirit and successes. The council also presented an award to South Sioux City administrator Lance Hedquist recognizing his work in and near South Sioux City. The state's vocational rehabilitation program helps people with disabilities find work and live independently in their communities.

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Congratulations



Animal Health Clinic Growth Award

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador's Committee celebrated a "Growth Award" Ribbon Cutting in honor of the Animal Health Clinic at 801 Whiting Dr. The Animal Health Clinic, a companion animal and equine veterinary clinic, is owned and operated by Dr. Bruce Teachout and Dr. Cynthia Franklin. Between the two of them, they have 60 years of experience. They have added a second kennel with indoor runs, an expanded surgery suite and two upgraded exam rooms. The Animal Health Clinic is open M-F, 8-5 and Saturdays 8-12 and can be reached at 665-4291.

YANKTON DAILY
Press & Dakotan

Nearly 140 New Laws To Take Effect In Neb.

BY NATE JENKINS
 Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — Driving, deer hunting, parenting and partying are among the dozens of activities in Nebraska facing new rules beginning Thursday, when nearly 140 state laws passed in the spring go into effect. Compared to previous years, there are significantly fewer new laws with price tags because of a continuing budget crunch. Even without much money, lawmakers and Gov. Dave Heineman found myriad ways to affect Nebraskans' lives. A ban on texting while driving is perhaps the highest-profile of the new laws, but residents may not be fully aware of all its restrictions: Surfing the Web, e-mailing and instant-messaging are also banned. Each will be a so-called secondary offense, much like the state's seat-belt law. Drivers will have to be pulled over for a primary offense, such as speeding, before

being ticketed for defying the ban. Other laws that go into play Thursday include: — Nonviolent juvenile offenders will be allowed to attend school rather than kept in detention facilities. In addition, court records of juveniles who successfully complete court-ordered programs will be sealed from potential employers and others so they can obtain jobs more easily. — Also, names of students who skip school for more than 20 days will be given to county attorneys. Habitual truants could have their driver's licenses suspended, and parents would face fines of up to \$500 or be forced to perform community service. — Wind-energy companies that would export power from the state would be encouraged to develop projects in Nebraska through state policy changes. The state ranks in the top five among states for wind-energy potential, but in the middle for actual production. One reason: It's the only state where all electric customers are

served by publicly owned utilities. The new law eases concerns about public power's eminent-domain authority, among other things. — The Game and Parks Commission now can extend deer seasons by executive order, reducing a growing deer herd many complain makes highways dangerous and eats into farmers' profits. — Owners of at least 20 acres and members of their immediate families have an unlimited number of free permits to kill does during special seasons to pare the herd in some regions. — New penalties will be enacted for people involved in animal fighting. Possession of animal-fighting paraphernalia, including dogfighting pits, could land people in jail for up to a year. — Construction contractors and delivery companies will be targeted if they classify workers as independent contractors when they really meet the legislation's definition of employees. — Firefighters, police officers and other first responders will be

allowed to qualify for workers' compensation if they experience severe mental trauma on the job. — Parents will have to wait longer before enrolling their children into kindergarten. Unless assessments show a child is ready at a younger age, children will have to be 5 years old by July 31 to be admitted. The old cutoff date was 5 years old by Oct. 15 of a given year. — Bars will be allowed to close at 2 a.m. Extending closing times requires approval from two-thirds of a city council instead of a simple majority. The Omaha City Council has already approved the change, beginning early Friday for bars in that city. — Government will be forced to publicize legal settlements, some of which can be costly to taxpayers, and barring the use of confidentiality agreements as an excuse not to open settlements to the public. — The measure was prompted by the disclosure of a secret, \$200,000 payment to an aide of a former Papillion mayor last year.

Judge Blocks New Neb. Abortion Screening Law

BY JOSH FUNK
 Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — A federal judge on Wednesday blocked a new Nebraska law requiring mental health screenings for women seeking abortions because the measure could have made it impossible to get an abortion in the state. U.S. District Judge Laurie Smith Camp granted Planned Parenthood of the Heartland's request for a preliminary injunction against the law, which was supposed to take effect Thursday.

The order will prevent the state from enforcing the law until the lawsuit challenging it is decided. Planned Parenthood said the law could be difficult to comply with and requires doctors to give information irrelevant to abortions. State officials have said it is designed to make sure women understand the risks and complications that may accompany an abortion. Officials with Planned Parenthood and the Nebraska Attorney General's officials were not immediately available to com-

ment after the ruling was released Wednesday morning. Smith Camp said the evidence presented so far showed that the screening law would make it harder for women to get an abortion in Nebraska by requiring screenings that could be impossible to perform under a literal

reading of the law. She also said the law would make doctors who perform abortions at risk of crippling lawsuits. "The effect of LB 594 will be to place substantial, likely insurmountable, obstacles in the path of women seeking abortions in Nebraska," Smith Camp said.

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