

S.D. Colleges Receive NASA Grant For Research

RAPID CITY (AP) — Research set to begin this fall at three South Dakota colleges is aimed at making energy in outer space. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Oglala Lakota College and South Dakota State University received a \$750,000 three-year grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to development a way to produce energy while in space. School of Mines professor Robb Winter says the research also will aim to minimize waste during a space mission or use waste to provide energy.

Chatroom Probe Involves Neb. School District

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — The superintendent of the Columbus school district says the district is cooperating with an investigation into sexually explicit dialogue that appears to have taken place between a former employee and someone who identifies herself as a 15-year-old girl. The *Columbus Telegram* reports Friday that Superintendent Troy Loeffelholz says police are looking into transcripts from a chatroom and apparent conversations in April and earlier this month. Loeffelholz told the newspaper that he couldn't be certain who was involved in the chats or if a school computer was used because police are still investigating. In a statement, Loeffelholz says the district is aware of the accusations involving a former employee. He says the female involved doesn't live in Columbus or in Nebraska.

EEOC: S.D. Woman Fired Because Of Cancer

ABERDEEN (AP) — The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit Friday against a nonprofit organization in Aberdeen saying it fired a worker because she had cancer. According to the complaint filed in U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, the Area IV Senior Citizens Planning Council, Inc. terminated Eileen Job in 2008 when she tried to return to work after surgery for colon cancer. Job was a kitchen assistant at the organization's Bowdle, S.D., location. EEOC says Area IV fired Job because of possible symptoms that could result from her course of chemotherapy treatments. EEOC is seeking to bar any future discrimination, back pay and damages. No one was available to comment on the lawsuit at the Area IV Senior Citizens Planning Council Friday afternoon.

Pair Sentenced For \$3.3 Million Scam

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two of the three men behind one of the largest loan scams in recent memory were been sentenced to prison today. The *Argus Leader* reports that 56-year-old Wesley Wayne Austin, of Madison, and 75-year-old Kenneth Michael Cahill, of North Liberty, Iowa, received 11 years and 12 months, respectively, for wire fraud in a Ponzi-like scam that bilked investors out of more than \$3.3 million. A Sioux Falls lawyer will be sentenced for his role later Friday. Austin and Cahill traveled the county in late 2007 and 2008 offering quick turnaround loans for huge up-front origination fees. They promised later victims of big returns for investments in a phony biofuels company. Austin got a stiffer sentence due to a history of fraud convictions. He also admitted to being the mastermind.

S.D. Murder Trial Under Way In Cab Dispute

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The lawyer for a man charged with strangling another during an argument over a cab after a night of drinking says his client acted in self-defense. The *Argus Leader* reports that 45-year-old Lloyd William Wilson's trial began Thursday. He faces alternate counts of murder and manslaughter in the death of 42-year-old Brent Moe. Authorities say Moe died in the hospital about a month after the Oct. 17 altercation. Prosecutors say Wilson was the aggressor from the beginning, but Wilson maintains that he acted in self-defense and that Moe hit him first. Authorities say the men were intoxicated when they called separate cabs from a bar. Just before 2 a.m., they both climbed into the one that responded to Moe's call. They immediately began to argue over whose cab it was.

Tyson Proceeds With \$48M Project In Iowa

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (AP) — Tyson Foods Inc. is moving ahead with a \$48 million renovation at one of its plants in Council Bluffs. The Springfield, Ark.-based company says Friday it will convert its cooked meats plant into a dry sausage and pepperoni operation. The project includes new equipment and a 60,000 square foot addition. The company says operations will be temporarily suspended while the project is under way. Officials plan to scale back production in late September and close the plant in October. The pepperoni operation is expected to begin in spring 2012. Officials say 135 of the plant's 170 employees will be temporarily laid off, while the remainder will help during the project. Tyson's other plant in Council Bluffs, which produces case-ready beef and pork, isn't affected.

Debt Debate Splits Minn.'s Lawmakers

BY MARTIGA LOHN
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — As Congress struggled to act before a potential U.S. debt default, Minnesota's politically split delegation showcased the range of opinion in Washington, from Democrats pushing for a longer-term debt limit increase to Republicans focused on containing spending. Republican Rep. Chip Cravaack, the state's newest member of Congress, was one of the conservative House freshmen who helped derail GOP Speaker John Boehner's debt-ceiling proposal before a scheduled vote Thursday. Some Republicans were concerned it didn't cut spending aggressively enough. Spokesman Michael Bars confirmed Friday that Cravaack opposed that version of the Boehner plan and remained undecided on an altered version being pushed toward a Friday vote. "We have to solve the problem of spending," Cravaack told WCCO-AM Radio on Thursday. "And unless — I understand about raising the debt ceiling, I get it — but at the same time unless we also have a cure to this disease, I mean, all we're doing is basically

facilitating it." Without congressional action, the federal government may not be able to pay all its bills after Tuesday. Minnesota Democrats including Sen. Amy Klobuchar are pushing for a longer-lasting hike in U.S. borrowing authority to avoid another political impasse before the 2012 presidential election. Klobuchar said Friday that she expects negotiations to yield a bipartisan compromise that might not need the votes of tea party conservatives or some liberals to pass. She said there are enough common points between opposing plans pushed by Boehner and Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to find a way out of the standoff, which has dragged on for months. "The most important thing is that people want to get this done, the American people," Klobuchar said in an interview Friday. "They want us to get together and put politics aside and do what we're elected to do." Cravaack, who represents northern Minnesota's 8th District, is aligning with Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann, the 6th District representative leading opposition to the debt limit increase from the presidential campaign trail. The state's two other GOP House mem-

bers, Reps. John Kline and Erik Paulsen, have backed the increase paired with spending cuts. "I can't support any plan that begins with the assumption that we have to raise the debt limit and yet doesn't offer a fundamental restructuring of government spending habits. I won't do it," Bachmann said in a speech to the National Press Club on Thursday. Other Minnesota Democrats in Congress emphasized the need to avoid a federal default and protect the U.S. government's top credit rating. Earlier in the week, Sen. Al Franken circulated a list of federal spending by county and warned of "economic disaster." He said a default could raise interest rates on credit cards and mortgages and lead to higher prices for utilities, food and fuel. A spokeswoman for Rep. Tim Walz, who represents southern Minnesota's 1st District, said failure to act would lead to "unprecedented and completely avoidable harm to our still recovering economy." Rep. Keith Ellison's campaign spokesman warned of the consequences of a default in a fundraising message on Friday. "If we do default, working families will feel even greater economic pain," it said.

West Nile Found In North Platte Mosquitoes

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Mosquitoes collected from a pool of water in North Platte tested positive for West Nile virus, health authorities said. Shannon Vanderheiden with the West Central District Health Department told North Platte television station KNOP on Thursday that the sample was collected about two weeks ago. Heavy rains and flooding this year created the potential for a bumper crop of mosquitoes, prompting Nebraska officials to launch tracking efforts earlier than usual for any threat of West Nile virus. West Nile virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. State authorities said that last year in Nebraska, there were 48 confirmed human cases and two deaths from West Nile. State health records said only four pools of mosquitoes and one dead bird have tested positive for West Nile so far this year. Mosquito pools in Madison, Dawson and Douglas counties also have tested positive for the virus this year. An insect expert at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has said that West Nile virus risk depends on how long floodwaters remain standing. There are floodwater mosquitoes and standing-water mosquitoes, said entomologist Roberto Cortinas. The floodwater types lay eggs in dry areas in anticipation of flooding or rain, he said, but the floodwater types "are not the key player" in the spread of West Nile virus from person to person. Experts have said people should take precautions that include applying a mosquito repellent that includes DEET and wearing loose, long-sleeved shirts, plus pants, shoes and socks when outdoors.

SPECIAL VISITOR



PHOTO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Attorney General Eric Holder and President John Yellow Bird Steele of the Oglala Sioux Tribe are shown at the Wounded Knee overlook earlier this week on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Holder held talks with tribal leaders and also participated in a special wreath laying ceremony at Wounded Knee.

Updated For Yankton's 150th Anniversary

YANKTON: THE WAY IT WAS

By Bob Karolevitz

In 1999 Bob Karolevitz compiled all his weekly Press & Dakotan columns into a book, "Yankton: The Way It Was!". This book is now being reprinted with new additional columns. The new edition will arrive in August of 2011 and we are giving readers the chance to prepay and reserve a copy now.

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