

Senators Meet With Secretary



U.S. Senate Photo
U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-South Dakota) and Tim Johnson (D-South Dakota) met with U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James Tuesday to discuss the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex. In their meeting, the senators reiterated the importance of expanding the airspace to provide pilots and personnel with adequate airspace to conduct the needed training in conditions that more closely resemble combat missions.

5 Writers Subpoenaed In Beef Product Lawsuit

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Several food writers, including a *New York Times* reporter, have been subpoenaed by a meat producer as part of its \$1.2 billion defamation lawsuit against ABC regarding to the network's coverage of a beef product dubbed "pink slime" by critics.

The subpoenas were issued to five writers — three reporters for the online Food Safety News, *Times* reporter Michael Moss and noted food writer Michele Simon — asking each to supply copies of any communications they had with ABC in 2012.

Beef Products Inc. sued the network in 2012 seeking \$1.2 billion in damages for the coverage of the meat product the industry calls "lean, finely textured beef," which critics dubbed "pink slime." BPI said ABC's coverage misled consumers into believing the product was unsafe and led to the closure of three plants and roughly 700 layoffs.

ABC's attorneys say that in each of its broadcasts about the product, the network stated that the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture deemed the product safe to eat. They say BPI might not like the phrase pink slime, but like all ground beef, it's pink and has a slimy texture.

A spokesman for ABC on Tuesday declined to comment on the lawsuit and the subpoenas. Attorneys for the network and BPI have proposed a February 2017 trial date.

Attorney Bruce Johnson in Seattle is representing the editor of Food Safety News, Dan Flynn, reporter James Andrews, and former reporter Gretchen Goetz. Johnson on Tuesday said the subpoenas were "over-reaching" and that the publication would fight the requests.

BPI attorney Erik Connolly said the subpoenas are "appropriate and would be enforced."

A spokeswoman for the *New York Times* said Moss's subpoena had been stayed.

Simon said she has responded to the request, but did not provide any documents because she doesn't keep emails dating back to 2012.

"BPI's lawyers are engaging in a fishing expedition by spreading the subpoenas so far to every journalist and food blogger that

has ever said anything about pink slime," Simon said.

The plaintiffs have also sought subpoenas for two food-safety research labs and a blogger who has written about the meat filler.

The product is made using a process in which butchered cow trimmings are heated, lean meat is separated from fat, and ammonia gas is applied to the meat to kill bacteria.

A social media-fueled outcry about the product in 2012 prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer school districts that get food through the government's school lunch program choices in ground beef purchases.

Manufacturers of the filler say sales of the meat have risen since the height of the controversy two years ago.

In addition to ABC, the lawsuit names ABC news anchor Diane Sawyer, correspondents Jim Avila and David Kerley; Gerald Zirnstein, the U.S. Department of Agriculture microbiologist who named the product pink slime; former federal food scientist Carl Custer; and Kit Foshee, a former BPI quality assurance manager who was interviewed by ABC.

Some Nebraskans Call For Investigation Of Sentencing Errors

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Some Nebraskans are calling for an investigation of the Department of Correctional Services and possible legislative action after internal emails showed officials knew sentences were being calculated incorrectly for hundreds of prisoners and didn't correct the problem.

The *Omaha World-Herald* reported earlier this week on emails that show corrections officials disregarding a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling last year on mandatory minimum sentences.

Nearly 600 sentences had to be recalculated after the problem was discovered earlier this summer. Most of the sentences that had to be extended were for inmates still in prison, but dozens of prisoners had to be tracked down after being released early.

Omaha attorney James Martin Davis said the internal emails make it appear the sentences were calculated incorrectly on purpose. That could make it a criminal matter, so Davis said an outside investigation is needed.

"This wasn't just simple negligence. It was intentional acts," Davis said.

In the emails the *World-Herald* obtained, the department's retired records manager told her bosses in February 2013 that complying with the Supreme Court order and recalculating hundreds of sentences would be a "real mess."

She went on to recom-

mend sticking with the department's tried-and-true method of determining sentences so prison population wouldn't increase more than needed.

Gov. Dave Heineman said Tuesday that a Lincoln law firm hired by the corrections department will conduct a thorough review of what happened and why certain decisions were made. That review is expected to be completed shortly, but it doesn't have a firm deadline.

"Once these facts are known, decisions can be made and appropriate actions can be taken," Heineman said.

A legislative committee that was created to investigate a separate case plans to widen its probe to include the sentencing errors, and the committee has already subpoenaed thousands of documents. Omaha state Sen. Steve Lathrop, who leads that committee, said the first hearing will feature Bob Houston, the corrections department's former director.

"The important question in all of this is was the prison overpopulation driving the decisions," Lathrop said.

State Sen. Heath Mello, of Omaha, who leads the Appropriations Committee, said the Legislature needs to provide more oversight over the corrections officials and that he may propose creating an inspector general's post that would oversee the department.

"I think the department of corrections has broken the public trust," Mello said.

Congratulations on 75 Years National Field Archery Association

The National Field Archery Association (NFAA), Yankton, will host the NFAA Outdoor Nationals today (Wednesday) through Aug. 3, followed by the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Archery Championships from Aug. 4-8. Each tournament will average approximately 300 participants, who will compete on new field ranges located to the south of the NFAA complex, 805 Archers Lane, Yankton.

In addition to the two tournaments, the NFAA will officially dedicate and open to the public a museum inside the NFAA Easton Complex. The museum includes historic bows, some dating back to 1939. A number of other artifacts will also be on display in the museum, which will be open to the public. The dedication is slated for 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3, with a NFAA 75th Anniversary Celebration/Archers Appreciation BBQ to be held at 6:30 p.m.

The NFAA is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the sport of archery, and is the largest field archery organization in the World. Founded in 1939, the NFAA now consists of 49 chartered state associations and nearly 1,000 affiliated clubs. The NFAA is a member of the International Field Archery Association and a national allied

organization of USA Archery.

The NFAA promotes numerous shooting styles including freestyle, freestyle limited, barebow, competitive bowhunter, bowhunter freestyle, freestyle limited, recurve, and traditional. NFAA competition divisions include

Cub, Youth, Young Adult, Adult, Senior, Silver Senior, Master Senior and Professional. Several national championship tournaments — outdoor, indoor, marked and unmarked 3D — are hosted each year, and draw more than 3,000 archers. The organization also hosts eight sectional indoor and eight sectional outdoor championships. The NFAA sanctions more than 100 state-championship level tournaments and thousands of club shoots, in addition to many popular league programs and mail matches. The most well-known NFAA event is the annual 3 Star Tour. The Tour includes The Vegas Shoot in Las Vegas, NV, the NFAA National Indoor in Louisville, KY, and the First Dakota Classic in Yankton, SD. The 2014 3 Star Tour totaled nearly 4,000 archers and thousands of spectators. Archers that compete in all 3 Star events can participate in a shoot-off for a new car or \$10,000 during the First Dakota Classic.



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Senator **Jean Hunhoff**
Welcomes all archers to Yankton & wishes the NFAA a Happy 75th Anniversary!