

SD Ag Department Holding Forums This Week

MITCHELL (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is hosting three forums this week focusing on the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The sessions titled “The Next Generation of Livestock Production” are scheduled for Tuesday evening in Mitchell, Wednesday in Yankton and Thursday in Sioux Falls.

Farmers and ranchers are invited to talk about the opportunities and challenges in livestock production and the impact of agriculture to rural communities and statewide revenues and infrastructure.

Eight other locations will host forums through March 21.

Deer Decline Cuts Into 2012 Hunting Season

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Drought and disease last year caused significant reductions in whitetail deer populations in Nebraska which cut hunting permit sales and harvest numbers.

KQSK in Chadron reports the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says deer permit sales in 2012 declined 13 percent to 122,214. Total deer harvest fell 30 percent to 60,548.

Kit Hams, the Nebraska Game and Parks’ big game program manager says most herds will recover in four to five years from an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease, which killed thousands of deer last year. Deer numbers also were affected by loss of habitat due to drought and other factors.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Board will meet Friday in Kearney to consider game recommendations for this year.

New Rules May Force District To Buy Equipment

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls public schools officials say new testing rules announced by the South Dakota Department of Education will require the district to buy additional computer equipment.

The state says students must take annual math and reading tests online rather than on paper in 2014.

Bob Jensen, information services director for the Sioux Falls district, tells the *Argus Leader* the schools don’t have enough keyboards for iPads. He says it would cost about \$31,000 for the equipment.

Pam Homan, superintendent of Sioux Falls schools, says the requirement could propel the district to provide access to “technology of some sort” for all children.

Nebraska Urged To Change Election Law

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Secretary of State John Gale is recommending changes to a Nebraska law that deals with providing ballots to voters in nursing homes and hospitals on Election Day.

Gale is asking lawmakers to approve new procedures that are intended to reduce opportunities for abuse or election fraud.

Current law allows county clerks and election commissioners to train registered voters to act on behalf of their office. The ballots must be delivered by two registered voters who are of different political parties. Counties must also report their plans for distributing ballots.

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would also require county officials to report to the state how many ballots were cast, as well as the name and affiliations of those trained to administer ballots.

S. Falls Building Permits Set February Record

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Building permits in February set a record for South Dakota’s largest city.

Sioux Falls officials say \$84.5 million in permits were issued last month, topping the 2006 record of nearly \$73 million.

The figure is a dramatic jump from February 2012, when building projects totaled \$26.5 million.

The Sioux Falls *Argus Leader* reports that several major projects contributed to the record, including \$17.5 million for Scheels sporting goods, \$11.5 million for the Hilton Garden Inn and \$5 million for the Glanbia Nutritionals plant.

Nebraska

Lawmakers Tread Carefully With Budget

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers are treading carefully with the state budget this year, even as revenue trends higher and the economy shows signs of improvement.

The newest proposed spending plan would increase state aid for K-12 schools, special education, and the University of Nebraska. But the recession sticks as a reminder for many senior members who, three years ago, planned for a worst-case scenario of tax hikes to balance the budget.

Now, as the outlook brightens, lawmakers are staying cautious. Speaker of the Legislature Greg Adams said the bullish revenue forecast was welcome news, but he and his colleagues want to keep tight control over the state’s spending growth.

“That’s still where I’m at, personally, and I would bet that most of my colleagues feel the same way,” Adams said in an interview. “The revenue forecast was great — we’re glad it wasn’t the reverse — but our optimism is still couched in caution.”



Adams

The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board approved new projections Thursday that, if accurate, would leave the state with an \$81 million surplus for the upcoming budget. The board revised its forecast upward, predicting that state revenue would grow by an average of more than 4 percent this year and in the next two.

The projections translate to an extra \$53 million for the state’s cash reserve fund, which is expected to increase to about \$493 million by June 30.

The additional revenue gives lawmakers greater flexibility to set a budget. Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said lawmakers on the panel have taken a conservative approach so far with their preliminary budget.

Unlike previous years, he said, lawmakers aren’t facing a huge projected shortfall that forced them to cut their way to a balanced budget. In 2010, lawmakers and Revenue

Committee staff ran through several scenarios to see how much revenue a tax hike would generate. Lawmakers managed to cut their way to a balanced budget.

Lawmakers this year began the session with a projected shortfall of about \$200 million, compared to nearly \$1 billion in previous years.

“Absolutely, it’s different,” Mello said. “We’re making adjustments to the budget requests, but they’re not the same kind of adjustments we’ve made over the last four years.”

Mello said committee members prioritized K-12 schools and early education in their budget proposal, as well as higher education. The committee proposed a \$36 million increase for the University of Nebraska — less than the \$62 million pledged by Gov. Dave Heineman — but Mello said lawmakers plan to look again at the funding.

“To some extent, it really is a rebuilding budget cycle,” he said. “We’ve weathered the storm over the last four years. In this cycle, we’re cleaning up some of the aftermath.”

Park Officials Use Helicopters To Drive Elk From Wind Cave To Custer

CUSTER (AP) — Park officials used a pair of helicopters to drive about 200 elk from Wind Cave National Park into nearby Custer State Park, but one herd refused to budge.

“The east herd, around Boland Ridge, did not cooperate,” said John Kanta, regional wildlife manager with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

The drive is aimed at reducing the elk herd in Wind Cave, which numbers 900 to 950 animals. Officials would like the herd cut in half based on available habitat in the park, the *Rapid City Journal* reported Saturday.

Officials had hoped to move about 500 elk out of Wind Cave on Friday.

Additional elk went out of Wind Cave into a national forest on the southwest side, but Kanta won’t have a count until camera images there are examined. He said the helicopter crews might try to push the Boland Ridge herd again next week.

“All in all, it was a pretty good

day,” he said.

The drive is a cooperative project between Wind Cave and the state Game, Fish and Parks Department.

Kanta and a Custer State Park resource specialist rode in the helicopters to direct the drive, which pushed elk toward special gates and stretches of fence that were removed for the drive.

Helicopter crews from Alaska-based Quicksilver Air Inc. have been in the Black Hills since the middle of February assisting with an aerial survey of elk in the Black Hills. The crew planned to return to the survey work after the drive is finished.

Some roads in the parks and a portion of South Dakota Highway 87 were closed for periods because of the operation.

Pilot Mark Stott of Perrydale, Ore., said the helicopters fly at less than 50 feet in some instances to move the elk along. But elk herd better than deer, and once some animals get started in the right direction, they are often easy to keep moving, he said.

Club Honors Late Teammate, Captures State Berth

TEA (AP) — Members of the Sioux Falls Christian high school girls basketball team say they accomplished what their late teammate would have wanted: The Chargers are going to state.

Sioux Falls Christian defeated Madison 62-32 Saturday to win the South Dakota Region 3A championship in the school’s first game since teammate Alyssa Vollmer and three family members died in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 near Sioux Falls.

Senior forward Hayley McCarron, who led the Chargers with 25 points, called it the hardest week of the players’ lives.

“At the beginning of the week, it was really hard to think about playing a game,” McCarron said. “As the week went on and we started to process things, we knew this is what Alyssa would have wanted. Her big goal was to get to the state tournament. We wanted to finish what she started.”

The Feb. 23 accident killed Alyssa’s parents, Jim and Julie, and her 13-year-old brother, Caleb, who also attended Sioux Falls Christian and played football. The oldest daughter,

Brittany, was away at college at the time of the crash.

The Charger girls honored Alyssa and Caleb by wearing bright green T-shirts — Alyssa’s favorite color — that displayed her basketball number and his football number. Alyssa’s initials were on the front. On the back, the Bible verse John 16:22 scrolled across the bottom of the shirt while the top read, “We Will Always Remember The Vollmer Family.”

The game originally had been scheduled Thursday night. The funeral for the four family members was held Friday.

Junior forward Kristin Stern said the team let out their emotions before the game.

“I knew we were all going to be nervous today and have a lot of adrenaline, but I knew we could keep our composure,” she said. “It was such a long week. We were ready to play.”

Jay Woudstra, Sioux Falls Christian superintendent, said Alyssa “played a big role on this team.” He said the game was about supporting Brittany and the Vollmer family.

Neb. Lawmakers Consider Veterans License Plates

BY ALISSA SKELTON  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb — Nebraska lawmakers will consider proposals that would make it easier for veterans and service members to show their military pride on their vehicles and licenses.

A legislative committee will take up several bills Monday that would create new procedures for current and former members of the military.

Two bills would enable them to buy personalized license plates and another would allow a veteran’s designation on driver’s licenses.

In 2009, the Nebraska Legislature approved the creation of specialty license plates for non-profit groups that have 500 or more advanced orders. Since then, Creighton University and Union Pacific Railroad are the only to get specialty plates.

The Marine Corps in Nebraska came close to getting specialized license plates, but organizers realized anyone would be able to obtain the plates from the DMV after the Marines pre-ordered 500 plate applications, said Eric Williams, an Army veteran who has pushed for the license plate change. For this reason, Marine Corps supporters decided not to get the plates. Veterans groups want the DMV to verify a person is a veteran before issuing veteran plates.

“We don’t want a non-member to abuse our

emblem,” Williams said.

Fremont Sen. Charlie Janssen, a Navy veteran, has proposed ending the 500-order threshold on specialty plates for veterans as well as those actively serving and their spouses. Janssen’s bill would require the DMV to verify applicants are veteran or active service members.

The plates would show the emblems for different military service branch. These plates would be similar to plates that already exist for former prisoners’ of war and those awarded Purple Hearts. The personalized plates would cost \$40.

Because coordinating 500 or more orders can also be difficult, Bellevue Sen. Scott Price wants to lower the threshold to 150 for veterans’ groups.

“Getting everybody on the same plate and the same time it is somewhat problematic,” said Price, a U.S. Air Force veteran.

The bills could face opposition from Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, who said he does not support specialized license plates because he thinks license plates are meant for identifying purposes only. Chambers has long argued against special plates, but the Legislature passed the law to allow nonprofit license plates while was gone from the Legislature due to term limits.

“I don’t think license plates are to be billboards,” Chambers said.

Dan Donovan, president of the Heartland of America chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, said he isn’t interested in special veteran plates, but he understands why military organizations want to show their pride.

“I am proud to have served my country and to be a veteran,” he said. “But I don’t need specialized plates.”

Donovan said he is much more interested in Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas’ bill, which would allow veterans to add a voluntary veteran designation to their driver’s license or state ID card. Dubas’ office said the designation could also help law enforcement identify returning soldiers who might have post-traumatic stress disorder.

Donovan said the designation would come in handy on Veteran’s Day when many companies offer discounts or free meals to veterans. Williams added that some stores also offer discounts to veterans.

“We need better methods for identifying veteran,” he said.

Janssen, Price and Dubas are all members of the Legislature’s Transportation and Telecommunication’s Committee, which will hear the bill on Monday.

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CROSSWORD  
By THOMAS JOSEPH

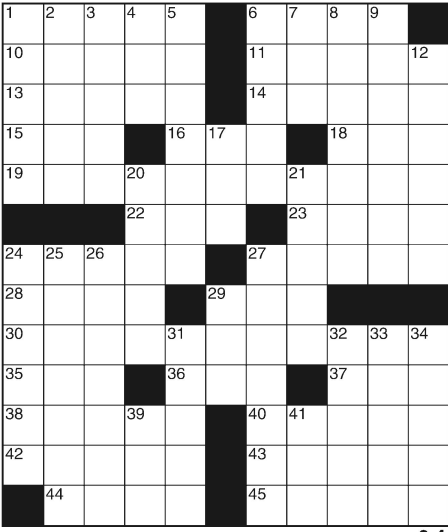
- ACROSS
- 1 Cardiff residents
- 6 Sassy
- 10 Hawaiian hello
- 11 Asserts
- 13 Emergency sound
- 14 Start
- 15 — favor (Spanish “please”)
- 16 Lass
- 18 Commotion
- 19 Road flattener
- 22 Rent out
- 23 — She Sweet?”
- 24 Visit unexpectedly
- 27 Petty quarrels
- 28 Land unit
- 29 King Kong, for one
- 30 Coat-applying tool
- 35 Curry of “Today”
- 36 Play division
- 37 Chopping tool
- 38 David who directed four Harry Potter films
- 40 Surges
- 42 Skilled
- 43 Turn outward
- 44 — at the Races”
- 45 Cars’ scars
- DOWN
- 1 Stinging insects
- 2 Poet T.S.
- 3 Peter of “M”
- 4 That woman
- 5 Gallows fellows
- 6 Painter Picasso
- 7 Night before
- 8 King’s finery
- 9 Poseidon prop
- 12 Horse sounds
- 17 Gallery fill
- 20 UFO pilot
- 21 Jacket flap
- 24 Tropical fruit
- 25 Ottawa anthem
- 26 Used a press

MARK	SLUR
COLON	CASED
ORATE	OMEGA
MASSEUR	SIT
ELK	PRESUME
TEA	BAG OPED
	IDEAL
SPIN	SPOOLS
PIT	STOP RAY
ALA	ONALARK
NOLAN	RANGE
STING	EDGES
SAYS	LEER

Saturday’s answer

- 27 Like leopards
- 29 Curved path
- 31 Delicious
- 32 Burdened
- 33 Wield, as power
- 34 Takes a break
- 39 Clean Water Act org.
- 41 — had it!”

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A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

O B I S Q B M Z O G B . A M I A J S U Z J B

P A Y M Q B G X . N F Z J B U B M F Z Q

J A O B W A D B , S J ’ Q Z G N Z P Q

P A Y M K F A S K B . — N Z P D B W P B M  
Saturday’s Cryptquote: MISTAKES ARE ALWAYS FORGIVABLE. IF ONE HAS THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THEM. — BRUCE LEE

Home

From Page 1

all our personal needs, but with shared common areas like a kitchen, living area, laundry, etc.”

This facility would require some special staff, but many of Hoebelheinrich’s needs have been completed over the years by family, friends and neighbors who were trained to meet daily needs like bathing, changing dressings, making meals and administering medications. The loving dedication from family and friends have helped her live longer than Reeve. It has been 37 years now.

“The last day I remember before my illness is one I will never forget and never regret,” said Hoebelheinrich.

The family had found a boat and went on Lewis and Clark Lake. Hoebelheinrich said it was a tremendous amount of fun. It was the Fourth of July, and in the evening the family went to the home of Hoebelheinrich’s grandfather for fireworks.

The next thing she remembers is waking up in the hospital. She was bitten by a mosquito, and that caused the encephalitis.

Betty Peitz is one of the neighbors who has helped care for Hoebelheinrich over the years. When Peitz’s 10 children were all in school, she was lost. She realized

she couldn’t sit still, so for 17 years she went to her neighbors’ farm and helped with Hoebelheinrich’s full-time care. She remembers when Johanna and her husband, Albin, brought Hoebelheinrich home from the hospital. They were told she would only live weeks — or, at best, months.

“With all those kids, I never had time for anything and never learned to play, so caring for Kathy just fit for me,” said Peitz. “I learned so much, but I also watched young high school girls from the area realize what respect for life is all about. They are trained to do everything for Kathy.”

Many of those young girls made a decision to further their education in the field of medicine.

“The first time I stayed alone with Kathy I was so nervous,” said Peitz. “You know you’re going to be nervous, but when I was faced with the responsibility, I was really nervous.”

Peitz is retired now and only works one day a week, but she is available to fill in when needed. There are always other neighbors who answer the call for help, and home health care nurses also visit.

A total of eight staff is needed to monitor Hoebelheinrich around the clock. Her mother and brother are very aware of Hoebelheinrich’s needs, such as when she is having stress and must get attention.

“It happened when she was little, and this is just how I have always thought of Kathy,” Larry said. “It’s so natural.”

When Hoebelheinrich needs medical care, her doctor is in Sioux

Falls and the family has a van that is equipped to take her places.

A favorite activity of Hoebelheinrich’s is going to mass in Menominee.

This past holiday season, Pat and Leon Wakeley of Crofton opened their patio doors and wheeled Kathy and her family right into the house for a Christmas party.

Wakeley spends time with Hoebelheinrich every week, reading to her or just spending time with her. When the weather was nice, Wakeley even set aside time to take Hoebelheinrich and her mother Christmas shopping.

“I asked (Kathy) what she wanted for Christmas last year, and she kept saying, ‘Nothing,’” Wakeley recalled. “Then one day I asked to see her list, and it was written on a manila envelope, covered front and back.”

Wakeley knew Hoebelheinrich’s hobby is looking for new recipes and that she has an extensive cookbook collection. Kathy had “cookbook” written on her list, so Wakeley knew that would be just the right gift.

Hoebelheinrich said she rarely uses the same recipe twice. For many years, she would pour over cookbooks with her mom, and it is her one passion.

“When I told Johanna I had bought her a new cookbook, she laughed and said, ‘You didn’t, did you?’” said Wakeley. “We have great times together, and I wouldn’t change it for a minute.”

Hoebelheinrich’s best friend is her companion dog, Max.

One day, the family came upon a lost dog on a country road. Hoebelheinrich named him Max. He is her constant companion, having a spot on her bed and keeping her company. He is just one of the many things which keep her busy every day and will need a spot in the new home, too.

Hoebelheinrich is driven by a strong desire to find a home where she can be cared for with other people who have some of the same needs. She is certain there are others who have the same dream and would love to hear from them about ideas they may have.

Hoebelheinrich has thought about such a home so much that she even has a floor plan mapped out in her mind. She would like to correspond with people who share her desire and asks that they contact her at Kathy Hoebelheinrich, PO Box 488, Yankton, SD 57078.

In the vast world of medicine, Hoebelheinrich believes there must be someone with the expertise to make such a facility happen, and she wants to talk to them.

The home should be close to where the residents could all receive medical treatment, such as Sioux Falls, she said. Hoebelheinrich’s second home is a pulmonary unit in a Sioux Falls hospital where the staff is like her family.

“Don’t get me wrong. I’m very blessed with what I have had over the years,” said Hoebelheinrich. “I’m not a victim here. I’m strong and I’m happy. So many people have come along over the years to care for me and faith has gotten me through — lots of prayer.”