NEWSROOM: news@yankton.net

Elementary School Slated To Close

NEW EFFINGTON (AP) — An elementary school in the northwest South Dakota community of New Effington will close at the end of this school year.

Sisseton School Board member William Rice tells KWAT-AM the move to close New Effington Elementary School was a business decision forced by a lack of funding. The school has 35 students.

Rice says parents of New Effington students will be able to choose the school that they want to send their children to next fall.

Police Identify Men Killed In Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Omaha police have identified two victims of a weekend shooting.

Police say 21-year-old Jonathan Johnson died from gunshot wounds Saturday at Creighton Medical Center. A second man, 21-year-old Nathaniel Bailey, suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Officers were called to the shooting around 10:40 a.m. Saturday.

Authorities say the investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information should contact Omaha police. People who provide tips that lead to an arrest will be eligible for a \$25,000 cash reward.

High School Wins \$100K For Safe Driving

HARRISBURG (AP) — Students at Harrisburg High School have won a safe-driving contest sponsored by State Farm Insurance.

The insurer awarded the school \$100,000. The Argus Leader reports \$22,000 will go toward safe driving education, as part of the contest's rules, while the rest will be divvied up among various charities and causes chosen by a committee of students.

The school is one of 22 across the country that were named winners of the Celebrate My Drive contest, which promotes safe driving education. Participating schools have to submit videos showing their commitment to driving carefully.

Principal Kevin Lein says the school wants to help people in the Harrisburg School District community until the money runs out.'

Experts To Discuss Syrian Refugee Crisis

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Syrian refugee crisis will be discussed this coming week by a panel of experts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Tuesday panel at the Nebraska Union auditorium will feature several people with direct experience in the crisis.

Abla Hasan came to UNL on a Fulbright scholarship in 2007, but she always expected to return to Syria one day. The ongoing civil war in Syria has eliminated that option.

Hasan now oversees UNL's Arabic Language and Culture program.

The panel will also include two representatives from the Yazidi community in Lincoln. They experienced religious per-secution in Iraq and Syria before fleeing to the United States.

SD Society Hosts Webcast On Traditions

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society is screening a webcast that focuses on American food traditions. The program sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution will

be broadcast Dec. 15 at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. During the nearly 30-minute "Stories from the Vault: Let's

Eat," host and actor Tom Cavanaugh tries his hand at cooking American Indian dishes. He then visits the National Museum of American History to learn the origins of the American coffee break, and finally, he stops by the National Museum of Dentistry, where he learns how some of the foods that Americans love have a less-than-loving relationship with their teeth.

There is no fee to view the program, but visitors wanting to go into the museum's galleries must pay standard admission.

Last Hearings Set For NE Roads Funding

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Two final legislative hearings are scheduled to hear input on ways to pay for Nebraska's roads and bridges.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee is meeting on Tuesday in Bellevue and Thursday in Lincoln as part of its study of the state's highway system, bridges and city streets.

NE Farmers Reaping Bounty From Cover Crop Seeds

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A central Nebraska farm is tapping into a growing national interest in cover crops, which were popular in organic circles but a rarity among mainstream row-crop producers.

Green Cover Seed in Bladen is selling cover crop seed mixtures to farmers across the nation, according to the Lin*coln Journal Star*. The company supports 14 employees, about half of them family members of brothers Keith and Brian Berns.

"We talked for several years about trying cover crops but never got around to it," Keith Berns said. "Seed wasn't easy to get. It's one of those things we just put off.

The brothers finally started experimenting with the crops in 2008, after hear-ing discussions about growing rye or radishes to cover and condition soil. They liked what they saw, and ordered more the following year.

They sell the seeds in mixes to mimic the biodiversity found in nature. The brothers still grow soybeans and corn. but income from the seed business has eclipsed the farm. They grow some of their own seeds and contract with farmers in numerous states to grow more.

"This year we'll do enough seed for about 500,000 acres," Keith Berns said.

Their success is a sign of the growing interest in cover seeds across the United States. Farmers generally don't plant cover crops to harvest. Instead, they're planted for a laundry list of benefits including stopping soil erosion from wind and water, improving soil health, cutting fertilizer costs, holding in soil moisture and reducing runoff that can pollute water.

The idea behind cover crops is that growing something in the soil as long as possible builds up an ecosystem underground for microbes and insects. No-till farming keeps those ecosystems undisturbed. When the plants die, they add organic matter and nutrients back into the soil.

the midwest

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Some of the plants can also be used as forage for cattle and other livestock, but then they're technically not considered cover crops.

With growing concerns over climate change, farmers have a new reason to plant cover crops: They capture carbon. The National Research Defense

Council released a report this month documenting how cover crops can suck carbon pollution from the air and help save water by preventing it from evaporating.

Offutt's Old Runway Stokes Fear That 55th Wing Could Leave

BELLEVUE, Neb. (AP) -Offutt Air Force Base's runway is crumbling.

The runway's poor condition has some community leaders fearing the 55th Mission Support Group could leave Bellevue, according to the Omaha World-Herald.

Nebraska's summer storms and winter blizzards have battered it for 74 years, and it has taken a pounding from takeoffs and landing by 50-ton military jets. Ground crews must watch constantly for loose chunks of concrete that could destroy a \$10 million jet engine if they were sucked

Program Uses Horses As Part Of Therapy For PTSD

gentle way." The man in the center

BY MAX B. O'CONNELL Rapid City Journal

PIEDMONT (AP) - Standing in the middle of a horse pen, one might wait a bit before being approached by one of the shy animals, but having patience is part of the healing process for people with troubled minds.

Learning to be patient, and that good things will come in time, is one of the messages delivered in a session Nov. 17 at the Lazy Y Arena in Piedmont, which uses equine-assisted psychotherapy to aid in healing people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bridget Williams, a mental health professional with Red Horse Healing, swears by the therapy, saying it has helped people who have survived war, domestic violence, sexual assault and other trauma.

'Some say that horses mir-

over the years. At some point, it has to be replaced.' Leaders worry that without rebuilding the runway at a cost of up to \$125 million, the base risks losing the Air

inside. Teams of airmen walk

"It's recognized that Of-

the field every two hours to

futt's runway is the worst of any in the Air Combat

Command," said Col. Matt

Joganich, commander of the

base's 55th Mission Support

Group. "It's been Band-Aided

of the horse pen was Barry

Bettelyoun, who, as the head

of Warriors Healing Warriors,

said that he brought veterans

to the program Nov. 17 to "find

their center again" through the

"That includes family,"

veteran is being treated, family

goes through the same things

someone or something to con-

Bettelyoun said that he

that he has long thought there

is something inherently thera-

peutic about connecting to the

get closer, and as they learn

friends," Bettelyoun said.

to trust you, they become real

Bettelyoun said he was

"You get to know them, you

broke horses as a child, and

Bettelyoun said. "When a

as well, and the kids need

nect to and to listen.

animals.

equine therapy.

pick them up.

Force's largest air wing and its 5,500 military and civilian

Losing the 55th Wing would cost the Omaha area four times as many jobs as ConAgra Foods' decision to move its headquarters to Chicago and cut its workforce.

The threats to Offutt are real," said State Sen. Tommy Garrett, a retired Air Force officer whose Bellevue legislative district includes the base.

Ken Stinson, who heads the Nebraska Military Support Coalition, pleaded with legislators at a forum this month in Lincoln to support the base especially a new runway.

"We have some vulnerabili-ties at Offutt," said Stinson,

former chairman of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc. "Principal among those is the condition of the ... main and only runway at Offutt.'

Twenty-six percent of the base's airfield is rated "high risk" for pavement failures, Joganich said, even though repair crews spend about 400 hours each year repairing it. That's a higher percentage than at any of the 17 bases across the country that fall under the wing's parent Air Combat Command, and far higher than the standard of 10 percent.

Patrol IDs Mitchell Man Killed In Rollover

ARTESIAN (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified a man who was killed in a onevehicle rollover crash near Artesian.

The Patrol says the crash happened Friday night, about five miles west of the town.

In an update Sunday, the Patrol said 62-yearold Michael McCreight, of Mitchell, was driving

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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eastbound Highway 34 and was preparing to turn south on Highway 37 when he lost control of his SUV, which rolled and hit an electrical pole.

McCreight died at the scene. He was the only person in the vehicle and was wearing a seatbelt. The Patrol says the

crash remains under investigation.



employees.

Press&Dakotan

Nebraska lawmakers voted earlier this year to increase the state fuel tax, but some have argued that it won't be enough to address the state's infrastructure needs. Local economic development groups are also pushing for the completion of highway projects that have languished in their areas for years.

The Nebraska Department of Roads has also created a task force that will look at transportation issues and how they can benefit the state economy.

ror our behavior, which they do, sometimes," Williams told the Rapid City Journal. "But other times they help us learn or rediscover something about ourselves. PTSD makes us feel like we stand alone, and this bridges that connection in a

prompted to help veterans and others with PTSD after his company, Native American Environmental, subcontracted with TetraTech to go to Iraq to deal with materials used in improvised explosive devices in a process called "capturing enemy ammunition."

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Saturday's Cryptoquote: SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T SEE YOURSELF CLEARLY UNTIL YOU SEE YOURSELF THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHERS. — ELLEN DEGENERES

Authorities Find Gift-Wrapped Marijuana In Vehicle Trunk

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) -Nebraska authorities say they seized more than 11 pounds of gift-wrapped marijuana from the trunk of a car in Lincoln.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that Lancaster County sheriff's deputies arrested 27-year-old Garrett Scott Brasel of Cambria, Ill., on Wednesday. Brasel had been sitting in the Honda outside a convenience store just off of Interstate 80.

Authorities say Brasel gave them permission to search the car after they received a tip during another traffic stop a few minutes earlier.

Deputies say they tore open two gift-wrapped boxes and found 34 heat-sealed packages of marijuana.

Brasel was jailed on suspicion of possessing marijuana with intent to deliver and possession of a controlled substance. Online court records did not list an attorney for Brasel.

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