

## Ceremony To Welcome Home Neb. Soldiers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — About 160 members of a Nebraska Army National Guard company are returning home from Afghanistan. The guard says the soldiers of the 623rd Engineer Company based in Wahoo with a detachment in Hastings will be welcomed home Friday night at the Wahoo High School football field. The company has been in Afghanistan for a year. The guard says the soldiers were responsible for a number of construction projects, including running a pre-fabrication shop while building barracks, guard towers and running electrical lines. A number of dignitaries are expected at the welcome home ceremony, set for 8:30 p.m., including Gov. Dave Heineman and Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, adjutant general for Nebraska.

## Jury In S.D. Convicts Man Of Sex Trafficking

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls jury has found a 40-year-old Iowa man guilty of commercial sex trafficking. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says the federal jury convicted Daron Jungers, of Sioux City, Iowa, of arranging to purchase sex with an 11-year-old girl in Sioux Falls through an online advertisement posted by an undercover police officer. The advertisement was part of "Operation Crossing Guard," an online undercover operation conducted by The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations and the South Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Jungers was arrested after he arrived at the undercover location. Jungers faces at least 15 years in prison and a maximum of life imprisonment.

## Driver Killed After Crashing Into House

HURON (AP) — Authorities believe an 81-year-old who died after crashing into a house in Huron was having medical problems at the time of the crash. KELO reports (<http://bit.ly/vtUy0p>) that Huron police say 81-year-old Richard Boomsma was driving a pickup that was pulling a trailer when it crossed traffic Thursday. Boomsma hit the house and landed partially in the basement. Boomsma was not wearing his seatbelt. No one was inside the house at the time.

## Arrest Made In Sioux Falls Casino Robbery

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls police have arrested a suspect in the armed robbery of the Executive Casino nearly three months ago. The 53-year-old man was arrested on a warrant Thursday. Police say the Executive Casino was robbed at knife-point in the early morning hours of Aug. 4 by a man who had been playing video lottery.

## Refugee Official Says Sioux Falls Tension Low

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The director of the Lutheran Social Services Refugee and Immigration Center in Sioux Falls says he does not think the area's refugee population has a higher rate of violence than other groups. Tim Jurgens tells the *Argus Leader* (<http://argusne.ws/uuW30m>) that when population numbers are taken into account, the rate is comparable to other groups. A Sudanese man was charged this week with killing his neighbor after a months-long dispute. Some other killings in recent years have involved refugees, including an apparent murder-suicide earlier this fall involving a Sudanese couple. The refugee population in Sioux Falls numbers in the thousands, and it has grown in recent years. Jurgens says some come for jobs or an education, but most come because it's a safe place for them.

## Hunters Asked To Report Signs Of Deer Disease

RAPID CITY (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials are asking hunters to watch for and report signs of disease in white-tailed deer. Game, Fish and Parks officials say they have confirmed a few cases of the disease known as EHD that's transmitted by midges and is deadly to white-tailed deer. Biologists are trying to determine the extent of the disease in South Dakota. There have been outbreaks of EHD in other states this year, including North Dakota and Montana. In North Dakota, it prompted wildlife officials earlier this month to suspend the sale of some hunting licenses and offer refunds to the holders of thousands more. Wildlife biologist Steve Griffin in Rapid City says the main South Dakota counties affected so far appear to be Sully, Hughes, Stanley, Jones, Lyman and Tripp.

## Woman Pleads Guilty To Trafficking In Eagles

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Rosebud woman has pleaded guilty to unlawfully trafficking in eagles. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says that 41-year-old Noella Red Hawk appeared before District Judge Roberto Lange on this week. Johnson says that in September 2009, Red Hawk illegally sold an eagle feather fan and dance bustles with eagle feathers. The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Red Hawk was released on bond pending a Jan. 18 sentencing hearing. She faces a maximum penalty upon a year in prison or a \$100,000 fine.

# Protesters Ride In S.D. Against Pipeline

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Opponents of a proposed oil pipeline from Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast rode horses and bicycles and walked Thursday along a route from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation toward the Rosebud Reservation in southern South Dakota. The protesters included tribal elders, ranchers and actress Daryl Hannah, who was arrested last summer outside the White House in a protest against TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The 1,700-mile underground pipeline, which would travel through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, ending up on Texas's Gulf Coast, would carry an estimated 700,000 barrels of oil a day, doubling the capacity of an existing pipeline from Canada. Hannah, speaking by telephone after the short ride, said the pipeline threatens to contaminate the Ogallala Aquifer, a massive water supply in South Dakota and seven other states, and would further increase the nation's dependence on oil. "This pipeline will only shackle us to a future of being absolutely dependent on this dirtiest of fossil fuels," she told The Associated Press. President Barack Obama said Wednesday

that his administration has made no decision on whether TransCanada Corp, the Calgary-based company building the pipeline, can move ahead with its plans. A message left Thursday with a TransCanada spokesman was not immediately returned. The company last week offered new safeguards it said would limit the effect of a potential spill, but company executives maintained they cannot move the proposed route at this point in the federal permitting process. Supporters say the \$7 billion project could significantly reduce U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil, while opponents say it would bring "dirty oil" that requires huge amounts of energy to extract and could cause an ecological disaster in case of a spill. Tribal members said that the proposed route also crosses the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System, directly threatening the water supply of both reservations. They also questioned TransCanada's use of eminent domain along the route. Alex White Plume, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said cowboys along the proposed pipeline route are the new Indians, having their land stolen from them by a foreign intruder. "Now cowboys and Indians are united in our fight against TransCanada's tar sands oil pipeline," he said in a statement.

Hannah said it was special to visit the Pine Ridge reservation and see tribal elders and ranchers working together in their efforts. She said the Occupy protests throughout the country have given residents hope that they can be heard above large corporations. "People realize they have a voice," she said. "They don't have to be the silent masses anymore. They can speak up against the injustices, whether they're economic, environmental or social." The Rosebud Sioux Tribe in 2008 also opposed the original Keystone pipeline built to move crude oil from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma. Tribal representative Russell Eagle Bear said at the time that although the route did not cross tribal land, he wanted to make sure that cultural properties important to Native Americans were protected along the route. The Rosebud Sioux and three other tribes in the Dakotas also filed a federal lawsuit to block construction of the original pipeline, arguing that treaties, as well as federal laws and regulations, were broken during the environmental assessment of the route and granting of a presidential permit. A judge dismissed the complaint in 2009, saying the tribes didn't show a treaty basis or that the government failed in its duties.

# S.D. Winter Road Plan Emphasizes Public Notice

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota's winter road maintenance plan will seek to give drivers quick updates on road conditions in the wake of a reporting breakdown last winter that left more than 150 vehicles stranded overnight in a blizzard on Interstate 29 in the northeast part of the state, officials said Thursday. Construction and maintenance engineer Jason Humphrey said Transportation Department officials are working with maintenance crews, law enforcement officers and others to make sure reports on winter road conditions are quickly made available to the public. The Safe Travel USA website also has been updated to make it easier to use, and a new free service called ClearPath511 will soon

let people sign up to get email or text messages when roads are closed or no travel is advised on routes specified by those subscribers, Humphrey said. "We're putting the knowledge right in people's hands," Humphrey told the state Transportation Commission. The commission, an appointed panel that sets policy for the Transportation Department, approved the state winter maintenance program Thursday. State Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist said motorists got stranded on I-29 during the early February blizzard because the 511 system did not warn them of how bad conditions had become. The road condition was updated after snowplows had first come off the road that night, but were not updated when conditions worsened and plows went back out on the interstate later that night.

Bergquist said the state had the right policies and procedures in place last winter, but the problem on I-29 occurred when those policies and procedures were not followed. Changes were made to make sure road reports were updated every time plows hit the road. "It was not a shining moment for us," Bergquist told the commission. "We just had to make sure we were doing what we were supposed to," Bergquist said. Commission members noted that the problem on I-29 occurred in an area where winds coming off nearby hills can be much stronger than in the rest of the region. Cars and trucks stopped on the roadway that night because drivers could not see through blowing snow. Humphrey said a camera has been installed in the area so the department can respond quickly

if the wind whips up. The department updates road conditions on weekdays before 7 a.m., between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., with more frequent updates when road and weather conditions change. On weekends and holidays, road reports are to be updated before 9 a.m. and between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Humphrey said this year's winter maintenance plan has not been changed much from last year, but it emphasizes communicating with the public, training of maintenance crews and using scientific measurements to determine how to handle each storm based on specific conditions. Snowplows normally operate from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m., but this winter's plan calls for extended hours of operation on interstates and some other major highways in the Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas.

# Neb. Forecasting Board Predicts Revenue Growth

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The board that forecasts Nebraska tax revenue predicted a revenue boost Thursday driven by booming farms, low unemployment and an economy trudging out of the recession. The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board projected higher overall revenue for the two-year budget that ends in 2013. Several members said the state's farm economy and net population gains showed Nebraska in better shape than most of the country. The board forecast \$51.9 million of additional revenue for the fiscal year that ends June 30, and a \$61.4 million increase for the following fiscal year. The \$113.3 million will cover the two-year budget. But a law requiring transfers to the state's cash reserve will limit the amount available to lawmakers to about \$50 million. Board member Gerald Conway of Wayne said a strong corn crop, low unemployment and reconstruction from flood damage helped stoke his region's economy. "It's slow, steady, solid growth," Conway said. "I think the ag-related industries in my region are doing well. I even caught a farmer smiling." Others pointed to recent indicators that Nebraska's economy is healthy compared to the rest of

the nation. The state's median household income grew more than any other state's last year, according to survey results released last month by the U.S. Census Bureau. But statewide poverty also increased, and median household income dropped by 1 percent in Douglas County, where more than a quarter of all Nebraska residents live. Nebraska was one of only five states, along with Washington D.C., where the median income grew. The state's 4.2 percent unemployment rate is less than half the national average of 9.1 percent in October and trails only North Dakota. Board members also cited the state's net population gains, which they said could drive the housing markets and expand the tax base. Census estimates showed Nebraska's population growing at a faster rate than the total U.S. population for two years in a row between 2008 and 2010. The population grew nearly 1 percent to 1.83 million between July 2009 and July 2010. Still, several board members voiced concern about consumer nervousness and the national economy. "From a national perspective, Nebraska is outperforming the rest of the country," said board member Tonn Ostergard. "I just hope we're able to maintain that."

# Hearing Set For Four In Neb. Kennel Child Abuse Case

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — A judge set preliminary hearings Thursday for four North Platte residents charged with child abuse and false imprisonment after police found two young boys locked in a dog kennel in the trailer home they all shared. A judge will determine from preliminary hearings on Nov. 10 whether there's enough evidence to try the boys' mother, Ashly Clark, 22, and three others — Lacy Beyer, 20; Bryson Eyten, 25; and Samantha Eyten, 24 — on charges of felony child abuse, first-degree false imprisonment and misdemeanor child abuse. The four were arrested late Monday after police found two boys, ages 3 and 5, in a 30-by-42-inch wire dog kennel inside a filthy trailer strewn with trash and animal feces. Police say Clark told officers she put the boys in the kennel at

night to keep them from climbing out a window. The two boys and two children belonging to the Eytens have been placed in state protective custody. Police say that while the Eytens' children were not kept in the dog kennel, the adults all knew that Clark's children were kept there and did nothing to intervene or report it. The four adults, who are jailed on \$50,000 bail each, have received court-appointed attorneys. Attorneys for Clark and Beyer did not immediately return messages left for them Thursday afternoon. Michael Nozicka, who is representing Bryson Eyten, declined to comment, saying he has had little time to speak with his client. An attorney for Bryson's wife, Samantha Eyten, said Thursday that she has never been in trouble with the law before.

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED

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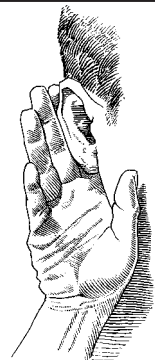
The USD Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is seeking children ages 7-13 years and adults 18-25 years with no history of language, learning, or hearing problems to participate in a research study focused on updating normative values for diagnostic tests of Central Auditory Processing. Participation will require two test sessions at the USD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic in Vermillion. Each session will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and can be scheduled at your convenience (including evenings and weekends). All participants will receive a free hearing test and central auditory processing evaluation. Participants also will be compensated for their participation. **To participate you must:**

- Have no history of language, learning, or hearing problems.
- Have normal hearing
- Speak English as your primary language
- Be between 7-13 or 18-25 years of age

For more information, contact:

Jennie Bellis Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders The University of South Dakota (605) 202-1345 • jbellis@usd.edu	Allison Root Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders The University of South Dakota (775) 313-4449 • Allison.Root@usd.edu
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Teri James Bellis, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA, F-ASHA  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
The University of South Dakota  
(605) 677-5474 • tbellis@usd.edu



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