the midwest

S.D. Harvest Advances, Soybeans Nearly Done

SIOUX FALLS (AP) - South Dakota's row crop harvest advanced again last week with the soybean harvest nearing completion.

The U.S. Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop and weather report that light showers teased parts of the state over the weekend but make no significant dent in the growing season precipitation deficits.

Precipitation was fairly widespread but totals were fairly lim-ited. Topsoil moisture is rated at 5 percent adequate, 18 percent short and 77 percent very short.

The corn for grain harvest is 78 percent complete and the soybean harvest is 94 percent complete. Both are ahead of the fivevear averages.

Cattle conditions are rated at 65 percent good to excellent, 30 percent fair and 5 percent poor.

Moeller Says He Wants Attorneys Dropped

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A convicted killer scheduled to be executed within the next month has written a federal judge saying he no longer wants to be represented by the Arkansas attorneys who've been challenging the constitutionality of South Dakota's execution protocol.

Donald Moeller is set to die for the 1990 slaying of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell. He wrote Judge Lawrence Piersol from the state penitentiary on Tuesday.

Moeller wants the federal case bearing his name dismissed.

The attorneys say Moeller's incompetent and incapable of mak-ing voluntary and rational decisions. They want to press forward with arguments.

The case focuses on whether South Dakota's use of the lethal injection drug pentobarbital in a one-drug method would inflict cruel and unusual punishment.

Adventurer Completes Swim Down Mo. River

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — British adventurer Dave Cornthwaite has completed a 1,000-mile swim down the Missouri River.

Cornthwaite embarked on the 1,004-mile journey on Aug. 10 in Chamberlain, S.D. He and his team of helpers reached St. Louis 58 days later.

"I've swum into obstacles beneath the surface, risked hypothermia and spent much of the past three weeks vomiting in the river," he told The Associated Press in an email late Monday. "But if you just keep swimming you eventually get to St Louis, and we did."

Cornthwaite's swim was part of his effort to complete 25 thousand-mile journeys using non-motorized transport, to raise money for charities that raise awareness of breast cancer and support rural schools in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He has now completed seven journeys, including paddleboarding the Mississippi River and skateboarding across Australia.

S.D. Surgeon Convicted Of Income Tax Fraud

RAPID CITY (AP) - A federal jury has convicted a Rapid City surgeon on 13 felony charges related to income tax evasion.

Edward Picardi, of Sturgis, was accused of sending millions of dollars of income out of the country and filtering the money through offshore accounts to avoid paying taxes on it. His trial lasted three weeks.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the 55-year-old Picardi faces up to 55 years in prison and \$3.25 million in fines. He also could be forced to pay more than \$1 million in back taxes, interest and penalties. A sentencing date was not immediately set.

Powerball Ticket Sold Worth \$10,000

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A Powerball ticket sold in Sioux Falls is worth \$10,000 in the Saturday drawing.

South Dakota lottery officials say the ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball to win the game's third prize. The odds of doing so are one in about 649,000.

South Dakota **Panel Suggests New Name For Meade Co. Creek**

BY CHET BROKAW Associated Press

PIERRE — A South Dakota panel responsible for getting rid of offensive place names recommended Tuesday that Negro Creek in Meade County be renamed Howes Creek in honor of the nearby post office and store.

Press&Dakotan

The state Board on Geographic Names is using the western South Dakota creek as a test case for a new process aimed at increasing public involvement in changing offensive names of places, most of which use the terms "Negro" or "Squaw."

After receiving dozens of suggestions for new names, the panel last month narrowed its list to three candidates.

The board on Tuesday voted unanimously to recommend that the small waterway be renamed Howes Creek because it's near Howes, an unincorporated settlement that includes a post office, gas station and general store at the intersection of South Dakota Highways 34 and 73 about 100 miles west of Pierre.

Board member Jay Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, said Howes was established as a post office in 1940. It was named for W.W. Howes, who ran unsuccessfully for South Dakota governor in 1920 and served as an assistant U.S. postmaster general from 1933 to 1940.

If anyone objects to the proposed name in the next 45 days, the board will hold a public hearing in the area near Howes. If no one objects, the name will be submitted to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which has the final say on naming places.

The board also had considered naming the creek Bob Lee Creek in honor of western historian and writer Bob Lee, or Rebecca Buffington Creek for a woman reported to have died of diphtheria nearly a century ago while treating Native Americans ill with the same disease. Vogt said Lee lived in western Meade County, far from the creek on the county's eastern edge, and Buffington apparently lived near Shadehill, about 90 miles north of the creek.

LaVonne Hansen, postmaster and owner of the Howes Store, said area residents who gather for morning coffee at the store prefer the board's choice.

"They say if they're going to change it, they just as well change it to Howes and not some of those other long names," she said.

State Rep. Dean Wink of Howes asked the board earlier this year to make Negro Creek its test case for the public involvement process. He said the 9-mile creek that runs through his ranch was apparently named Negro Creek because a black family lived there decades ago.

Board members said they would prefer to name the creek in honor of that black family, but no one knows the family's name.

'We just can't find it," Vogt said. "People are still looking, but it does not appear to be an easy find.

The 2001 South Dakota Legislature passed a law to start eliminating offensive names, and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has since changed the names of 20 places in the state. Another state law passed in 2009 listed 15 names that hadn't been changed and created the new state board to tackle the job.

However, the federal board has deferred action on some name changes, partly because it said the state had not sufficiently involved the public in renaming creeks, gulches and other offensively named places. Most places are so small they do not appear on most maps, officials have said.

The state board decided Tuesday to deal next with name changes in Shannon County, which includes a big part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. At least four places in Shannon County include the name "Squaw."

The panel plans to hold a meeting Dec. 4 somewhere on the reservation to get initial public comments on renaming those four places.

Neb. Gov. Increases Push To Hire Veterans

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska officials are launching a new campaign to find jobs for military veterans, increase the state's population and help employers recruit quality workers, Gov. Dave Heineman said Tuesday.

The effort includes a new series of Nebraska job fairs aimed at veterans, as well as a fourminute online video in which Heineman — a veteran himself makes a personal sales pitch.

"Nebraska hires veterans,' Heineman said at a news conference. "We have the jobs that fit their skill sets, and employers who appreciate the quality that veterans bring to the work force.'

The campaign is targeting veterans who have recently left the military, most of whom are younger and willing to move to new places, said Catherine Lang, director of the Nebraska Department of Labor. The state has already helped organize a series of job fairs in Lincoln, Omaha and Norfolk that drew more than 600 veterans and 200 employers.

The department also offers career assessment and counseling services, assistance with resume and interview preparations, and access to jobplacement programs, Heineman said. Lang added that those programs are serving more than

8,000 veterans statewide. Heineman, a former Army

Ranger, said veterans offer the work ethic, discipline and skill sets desired by employers. And with the nation's second-lowest unemployment rate, he said, more Nebraska employers are looking to hire. For example, he said, some businesses are willing to pay \$60,000 a year as a starting salary for welders.

"I feel very strongly as a veteran that it's our patriotic duty to help these men and women,' Heineman said. "They've done so much for us. And secondly, we have the opportunities now.

Heineman said campaign targets veterans with Nebraska ties, but also those who have traveled the world and are seeking a permanent home.

The video, which cost \$6,000, was produced by the Nebraska Department of Labor to attract job-seeking veterans to the state.

Lang said more "Hiring Our Heroes" job fairs are scheduled for Alliance on Dec. 4, Papillion on Jan. 16 and Beatrice on Feb. 5. The program is co-sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Included in the video was TJ Chrastil, an Army National Guard veteran who spent a year in Iraq before returning to his native state. Chrastil, 28, works for News Link, a Lincoln-based business that produces company newsletters.

"The economy's good here, and I can get good educational opportunities," Chrastil said. "When the country gets hit economically, Nebraska's usually pretty sound.'

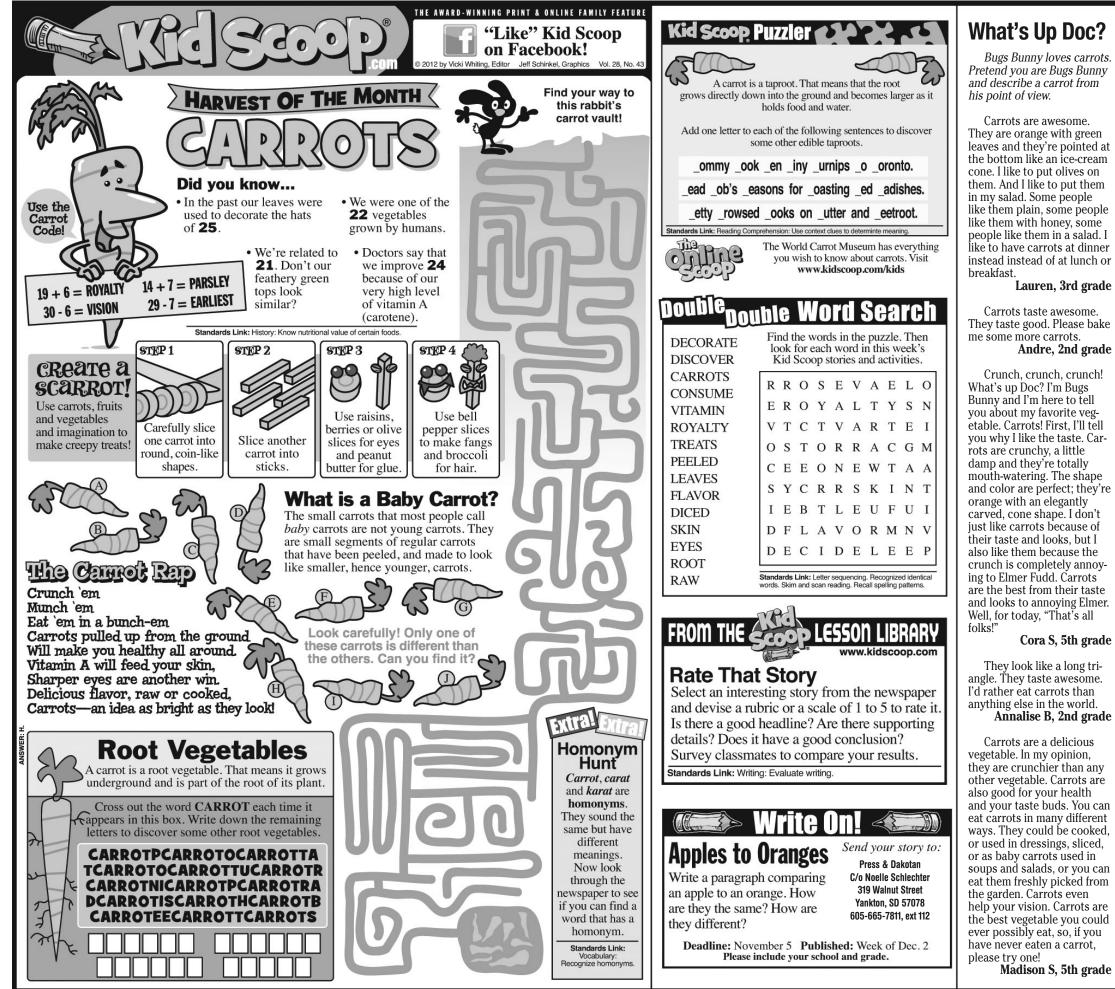
Nebraska Dems **File Complaint Against Fischer**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Democratic Party has filed an ethics complaint with the state against Republican U.S. Senate candidate Deb Fischer, accusing her of not dis-closing a conflict over a piece of land that was later involved in a bill she introduced.

Fischer and her husband unsuccessfully sued their neighbors in 1995 claiming ownership of a disputed parcel of land along the Snake River.

In its complaint filed Tuesday with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, the Democratic Party says that a bill by Fischer in 2011 hampered the sale of that land to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Fischer's campaign has called the conflict charge "outrageous," noting that her legal conflict over the land was long over by the time the bill was introduced.



7

Carrots are awesome. They are orange with green leaves and they're pointed at the bottom like an ice-cream cone. I like to put olives on them. And I like to put them in my salad. Some people like them plain, some people like them with honey, some people like them in a salad. I like to have carrots at dinner instead instead of at lunch or

Lauren, 3rd grade

Carrots taste awesome. They taste good. Please bake me some more carrots. Andre, 2nd grade

Crunch, crunch, crunch! What's up Doc? I'm Bugs Bunny and I'm here to tell vou about my favorite vegetable. Carrots! First, I'll tell you why I like the taste. Carrots are crunchy, a little damp and they're totally mouth-watering. The shape and color are perfect; they're orange with an elegantly carved, cone shape. I don't just like carrots because of their taste and looks, but I also like them because the crunch is completely annoying to Elmer Fudd. Carrots are the best from their taste and looks to annoying Elmer. Well, for today, "That's all

Cora S, 5th grade

They look like a long triangle. They taste awesome. I'd rather eat carrots than anything else in the world. Annalise B, 2nd grade

Carrots are a delicious vegetable. In my opinion, they are crunchier than any other vegetable. Carrots are also good for your health and your taste buds. You can eat carrots in many different ways. They could be cooked, or used in dressings, sliced, or as baby carrots used in soups and salads, or you can eat them freshly picked from the garden. Carrots even help your vision. Carrots are the best vegetable you could ever possibly eat, so, if you have never eaten a carrot.