

Land Owners Fight DOT Over Land Value

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Two Sioux Falls businessmen say the South Dakota Department of Transportation has greatly undervalued land taken for an Interstate 90 project. Property owners Tom Walsh and Robert Miller want more than \$500,000 for the properties for a new Cliff Avenue interchange. But in the DOT's petition to condemn the land, the agency determined just compensation to be \$20,100 on one of the properties.

The *Argus Leader* reports everyone involved met Monday in preparation for a January trial.

An attorney for the state asked the judge to rule in the DOT's favor without going to trial. The lawyer for Walsh and Miller asked that they present their own land appraisals.

Circuit Judge Susan Sabers declined to rule on either motion but said she'd make a decision within two weeks.

Flooding Expected On S. Platte River

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Nebraskans are bracing for flooding along the South Platte River later this week when the water from Colorado's torrential rains arrives.

The National Weather Service is warning about flooding in low-lying along the South Platte beginning Wednesday and continuing for several days.

Recording flooding is expected in rural areas along the South Platte as it runs along Interstate 76 and near Interstate 80 at Roscoe.

Some flooding is also expected in the city of North Platte and near where the South Platte joins with the North Platte River east of that city.

The Weather Service hasn't yet issued a forecast for the river downstream of Brady.

Lincoln County officials are preparing for flooding in southwest North Platte.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is sending a team to Ogallala to help.

Roof Being Raised Over Events Center

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The roof is being raised over a \$117 million events center being constructed in South Dakota's largest city and the facility should be fully enclosed by the end of November, in time for winter weather.

The *Argus Leader* reports the six main trusses over the 12,000-seat Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls started going up at the end of July, with one installed each week. A seventh, smaller truss will be the last to be installed.

Jason Miranowski with Mortenson Construction says the project is on schedule and under budget. He says that by late November officials should be able to nail down a completion date in the fall of next year.

City Projects Manager Kendra Siemonsma says event bookers are eyeing September 2014 as the target date.

Three Horses Hit By Truck, Killed

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Minnehaha County authorities are investigating a hit-and-run that killed three horses.

The sheriff's office says the horses escaped from a fenced area and were struck by what authorities believe was a pickup truck early Saturday. The driver left the scene without reporting the crash.

Officers have recovered evidence from the truck at the scene. They're asking anyone with information to contact them.

Gov.'s Tourism Advisory Board To Meet

VERMILLION (AP) — The Governor's Tourism Advisory Board is meeting in Vermillion this week to discuss the 2013 season and plan for 2014.

The board is appointed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and includes visitor industry and citizen representatives from across the state.

Board members serve as liaisons between businesses in their area and the South Dakota Department of Tourism. The board also offers input about marketing strategies for the department.

Members will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday at the University of South Dakota's Muenster University Center.

State Board Wipes Away \$20,000 Of Inmates' Debts

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — More than \$20,000 of debts owed by former inmates to the state Department of Corrections were written off as uncollectible Tuesday by the state Board of Finance.

Most of the money was owed by 22 men and women from 2003 in amounts from \$51.76 to \$2,410.96. Two others were from August 2011.

"It's two years from the date of delinquency," Jeff Hallem, a top member of the

state attorney general's office, explained to the other board members.

The board routinely considers debt write-offs after unsuccessful efforts by state departments, state universities and outside collection agencies.

The board works under the office of Secretary of State Jason Gant. His staff will ask the state departments and universities to start using a new standard document for debt write-offs in the coming weeks, rather than submitting the requests

in a variety of formats.

Gant's staff also will be asking that moving-allocation requests be submitted on a new standard form too, with signatures required of the employee and an agent of the hiring department or university. The new form is designed to prevent the inadvertent public disclosure of an employee's Social Security number as happened in the recent past.

Gant, who didn't attend the meeting, is trying to get the board's meetings notices posted earlier than the mini-

mum 24 hours required under state law.

The board typically meets on a Tuesday each month and Gant is asking that applications for moving allowances and debt write-offs be submitted to his office no later than the Thursday before the meeting.

The board members, who represent a cross-section of state constitutional offices, reviewed the new forms and policy Tuesday and didn't raise any objections.

Gant: Group To Study Use Of Federal Voting Funds

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant said he's forming a task force to address whether federal Help America Vote Act funds can be used to open satellite registration and early voting offices on three Native American reservations.

But the head of a Mission-based voting rights group is calling Gant's move a delay tactic.

"They don't need a committee," O.J. Semans, executive director of Four Directions Inc., said Tuesday. "He has the authority to do it."

The 2002 Help America Vote Act was passed by Congress to address voter access issues identified during the 2000 election. Poverty on South Dakota's reservations and the long distances to polling places hamper Native Americans' ability to vote, Semans said.

Semans has asked U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to look into the matter, and the American Civil Liberties Union and the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association support the request.

Gant made his announcement in a release sent about 9:30 p.m. Monday. His staff on Tuesday morning said the secretary was unavailable, and Gant did not immediately return a telephone message or email seeking comment. On July 31, Four Direc-



Gant

Fort Thompson on the Crow Creek Reservation, Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Reservation and Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

All three predominantly Native American towns are far away from the courthouses in county seats where in-person absentee voting takes place.

State Board of Elections members declined to take action on the request, saying they weren't sure they had the authority to use the federal money, said Richard Casey, a board member from Sioux Falls.

Gant, who serves as the board's chairman, said he wanted to get an advisory opinion from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, a four-person board that has been vacant since 2011 and hasn't been able to reach a quorum since 2010.

Monica Evans, the commission's grants management director, responded to Gant on Sept. 10, saying the commission can't issue opinions. But she said that any "material change" in how South Dakota spends its HAVA money would need to be revised and published.

Casey said that if the EAC would have to approve changes to the state plan, "then we're back to square one because they don't exist for all intents and purposes."

"I don't know what 'review' consists of when they don't have a quorum," Casey said. "They can't take any action."

Bret Healy, a consultant for Four Directions, said HAVA money has already been used to establish similar early voting offices in Shannon and Todd counties.

Gant has argued that those counties are different because they don't have courthouses that can provide voting services.

Healy said Gant's argument distracts from the real issue: voting access for Native Americans.

Semans said South Dakota and its counties have more than \$9 million in HAVA funds and the effort would cost less than \$50,000.

Casey said he's glad that Gant has re-established the HAVA task force, which will include Board of Elections members, advocates for persons with disabilities, political party representatives, state legislators, county auditors and representatives of tribal governments.

"Every time we've had HAVA plans and revisions of those plans it's been adopted by the respective task forces," he said.

Gant said the task force should be able to have its first meeting in October.

Nebraska State Capitol Faces Mouse Infestation

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Workers in the Nebraska State Capitol have been armed with glue traps to battle an infestation of mice.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reported Tuesday that mice have been seen scurrying along floorboards and have left droppings or raided food stores in the offices of several state senators, as well as the Legislature's Fiscal Office and the offices of the secretary of state, auditor and treasurer.

Even Gov. Dave Heineman's staff hasn't been spared.

"I had one that was hanging out in the cubbyhole of my desk," said Jen Rae Wang, the governor's communications director.

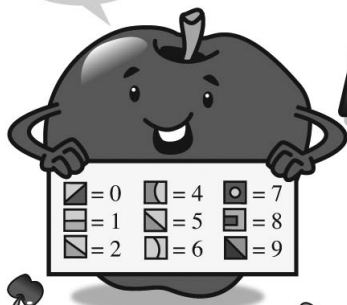
Building maintenance workers have distributed scores of 5-by-8-inch "CatchMaster" glue boards to Capitol offices to help combat the problem.

The unofficial count Monday was as many as 34 mice killed or captured, but Capitol staff said that's likely a small percentage of the rodents in the sprawling building.

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HARVEST OF THE MONTH APPLES

Did you know...

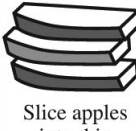
- The average American eats about ☐ pounds of fresh apples each year.
- There are about ☐ varieties of apples grown in the United States.
- Johnny Appleseed spent ☐ years planting apple seeds in the American wilderness.

APPLE DIPPING STICKS

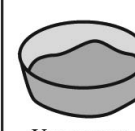
Here's a healthy snack you can make with a parent.



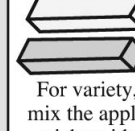
Wash apples. You can use red or green apples.



Slice apples into thin sticks. Don't remove the peel.



Use peanut butter, yogurt or hummus as your dip.



For variety, mix the apple sticks with sticks of your favorite cheese.

To peel or not to peel?



Apples are best eaten with the peel, because that is where most of the fiber and antioxidants are found.

The fiber from apple peel (sometimes called roughage) helps keep your digestive system healthy. And antioxidants help your body fight off illness and disease.



STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- One "apple" (a foam ball or bean bag) for each pair of players

- Whistle or music

- Small box for each pair of players

SET UP:

- Pairs of students sit cross-legged on the floor facing each other, with their hands on their knees.

- Place a box, with an "apple" on top, between each pair of players.

TO PLAY:

- Get the game started by blowing a whistle or starting some music.

- At that moment, players try to grab the "apple" before their partner.

- Place the "apple" back on the box and start again.

- The first player to grab the "apple" 10 times wins.

CRUNCH TIME:

- After the game, everyone should enjoy a snack of REAL apples!

MAKE "GRAB THE APPLE" MORE CHALLENGING:

- Call out a specific hand (left/right) to grab the "apple."
- Start with hands on shoulders.
- Start in sit-up position (on back, knees bent) or facing backwards.
- Have each player close their eyes and try to grab the "apple" first.

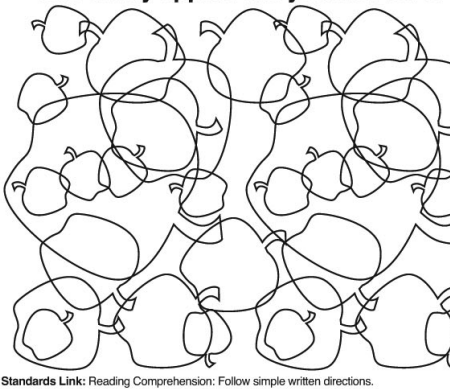
Extra! Extra! News Harvest

Andy and Alice are gathering a harvest of words that begin with the letter A. How many can you find on the front page of today's newspaper?

Standards Link: Phonemic Awareness: Distinguish initial sounds in words.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

How many apples can you find here?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

WILDERNESS	K N E E S A E S I D
APPLESEED	A R O U G H A G E P
VARIETIES	V A R I E T I E S P
ROUGHAGE	E S K C I T S L F E
DISEASE	S S E N R E D L I W
APPLES	E N S L L A E P B R
STICKS	E E A P P E N A E B
CHEESE	H O P C P P R I R T
FIBER	C A A S K G A R T Y
SNACK	
KNEES	
GRAB	
BEAN	
PEEL	
PAIR	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

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Market Math

Look through the grocery advertisements in the newspaper. Make a shopping list that includes things listed in the ads. Add up the cost of purchasing everything on your list.

Standards Link: Number Base Ten: Solve problems with addition.

Write On!

Water Ride

Invent a water ride for an amusement park. What would you call it? Describe the ride.

Deadline: October 13 Published: Week of Nov. 10
Please include your school and grade.

Send your story to:

Press & Dakotan
C/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Weekly Writing Corner

Apples or Oranges?

Write a paragraph comparing an apple to an orange. How are they the same? How are they different?

They are different because they have different seeds and different colors. They are also different shapes.

Lisa, 2nd grade
Apples and oranges grow on trees. They are both fruits. Apples have leaves on the stem and oranges don't really have leaves. An orange is bumpy and an apple is smooth. An apples comes in many colors and an orange is just an orange.

Natalie, 4th grade
Apples are red. Oranges are orange. You have to peel an orange. You can bite an apple. Both are fruit. Both are healthy. Both come from trees. One has a stem, and one does not. One is juicier than the other.

Annalise, 2nd grade
Let me tell you about apples and oranges. To me, both are yummy and tasty! My mom makes a fruit salad with them. She puts whipped cream on them. They are fun to peel and cut into little pieces. Plus they are round, but the apple is red, and the orange is orange. I love fruits. Do you?

Andrea, 4th grade
I like apples and oranges. Apples are sweet and crunchy, and oranges are soft and so good. Both have a lot of vitamins. Both grow on trees. You can make juices out of apples and oranges and you don't have to add sugar. The sugar is in the apples and oranges. Also, they taste very different.

Tania, 4th grade