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American News

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION

Juvenile detention center to stay open

'In this area of the state, it's needed'

BY SHANNON MARVEL
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The Brown County Juvenile Detention Center will not close as the result of statewide juvenile detention reforms.

Closing the JDC was an option in the wake of the reforms passed by the Legisla-

ture last year with an aim to keep more young offenders out of detention centers and other correctional facilities. The changes resulted in more work at the Brown County JDC, and commissioners worried that the new requirements might be a significant financial burden.

But Brown County Com-

Online

See a replay of the Brown County Commission meeting in a video at AberdeenNews.com.

mission Chairwoman Rachel Kippley said local officials have decided against closing the JDC anytime soon.

"In this area of the state, it's needed," she said. "It just

kind of depends where we're at in the future, but for now, it's absolutely not closing."

During Tuesday's Brown County Commission meeting, state Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative coordinator Elizabeth Heidelberger provided commissioners with an update on data gathered between July 15 and Jan. 15. Commissioners said they would look at the informa-

tion from those six months before making a decision on the Brown County facility.

One of the reforms made the Brown County Juvenile Detention Center a regional intake center, opening it to more young offenders from across northeast South Dakota. The initiative also required JDC workers receive training to determine

See County, 5A



Kippley



Rachael Langley builds with cardboard at the family engineering night at Ellendale Public School earlier this month. The event was part of the Great Plains STEM Education Center's profession development program for area teachers. Courtesy photo

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Participation

North Dakota schools with teachers in the Great Plains STEM Education Center's professional development program:

- Edgeley
- Ellendale
- Enderlin
- LaMoure
- Lidgerwood
- Litchville-Marion
- Kensal
- McClusky

STEM program benefits school in Ellendale, ND

BY KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND
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Students in Ellendale, N.D., have been getting more hands-on in their science and math classes this school year.

That's thanks to a Valley City State University program geared at increasing the number of young people interested in science, tech-

nology, engineering and math careers.

Kindergarten teacher Michelle Vance said she is excited to bring the projects into her Ellendale classroom.

"They are so engaged when they do hands-on projects," Vance said of her students. "The inquisitive nature of kindergartners obviously generates a lot of excitement to work on projects to get them learning."

She'll get kids from older grades to come help her kindergartners with the projects, fostering bonds between the students.

"They get so excited," she said. "It's so much fun to watch as they go, 'Look what

happened!' and to be able to put two and two together to learn."

More and more, schools are trying to use experiment-based learning in classrooms, said Jamie Wirth, director of the Great Plains STEM Education Center at Valley City State.

"All of the research points to active learning, hands-on learning, student engagement as opposed to sit and get, meaning 'Everybody be quiet and I'll tell you everything that you need to know,'" Wirth said. "That model of education has long been disproven."

With a grant of nearly

See STEM, 5A

NEWS & NOTES

ABERDEEN

1-vehicle rollover puts man in hospital

One person was taken to Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center following a single-vehicle rollover on Tuesday morning, said Trooper Justin Page of the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Page said that Patrick Hanson, 52, of Aberdeen was westbound on East Melgaard Road when his vehicle left the road and rolled into the south ditch. Hanson suffered minor injuries, Page said.

No information was available from Sanford on Hanson's condition as of Tuesday afternoon.

Page said Hanson was the only person in the vehicle, and that he was cited for overdriving road conditions.

The eastbound lane was closed while law enforcement officials secured the scene. Traffic was blocked while a tow truck righted the car, which was resting on its side west of the road's intersection with 390th Avenue near airport property.

The Brown County Sheriff's Office and Aberdeen Fire and Rescue also responded. The accident was reported at 7:53 a.m.

— Reporter Megan Rosendahl

ABERDEEN

Incoming warm weather will not break temperature records

The weather will be warm, but not record-breaking, through the weekend, according to the National Weather Service forecast.

High temperatures in 30s and 40s are expected starting today. Today's high will be about 41 degrees in Aberdeen, said weather service meteorologist Travis Tarver.

"Looks like we will be in this pattern until early next week," he said.

Projected high temperatures for Aberdeen for the rest of the week will be above normal, according to the weather service:

- Thursday: 35
- Friday: 43
- Saturday: 40
- Sunday: 34

"It's above-normal temperatures, but nothing unheard of. The records are pretty high, in the 50s," Tarver said.

The record high for Jan. 27 was 53 set in 1934, according to weather service data. It's 53 for Jan. 28 and 58 for Jan. 29. Those records were set in 1931.

The normal high for this time of year is closer to 25.

Today will be a bit windy, and there's a 20 percent chance of minimal precipitation on Friday.

— Reporter Kathy Jensen; follow @kjensen_AAN on Twitter.



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From left, Quinn Peterson and Annah Thorpe make boats as Annah's father, Matt Thorpe, helps at the family engineering night at Ellendale Public School earlier this month. The event was part of the Great Plains STEM Education Center's profession development program for area teachers. Courtesy photo

STEM
From 1A

\$300,000 from the federal government, Valley City State's STEM Education Center was able to create a professional development program geared at teachers in North Dakota districts with fewer resources to build interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

Ellendale was one of eight school districts that could to send teachers to a 10-day professional development program at Valley City State — five Saturdays during the school year and a five-day camp in June.

Vance and science teacher Peter Sykora were the delegates from Ellendale.

Participating in the program means more than just teacher training, Wirth said. Each school hosts a family engineering night and a STEM design challenge night.

The family engineering night is geared to elementary students, while the design challenge is more for middle- and high-schoolers, he said.

"They'll take on one large design problem, and they'll have about two hours to figure it out," Wirth said.

While there's a big push for college students to choose science, technology, engineering and math careers, an interest in those subjects needs to start early, Wirth said.

"We probably do more work with elementary-aged students than anyone," he said. "Students have indicated by fourth grade whether or not they

like math or science, and a lot of the students give up on that kind of stuff very young."

The program is a one-time offering for now, Wirth said. But if another grant were to be awarded, he said the center would offer it again to eligible teachers.

In order to send teachers to the program, schools had to be receiving Title I funding — money from the federal government given to districts that have a large number of children coming from poor households — or have a large number of kids eligible for free and reduced-cost lunches, he said.

"A lot of these schools that were on the list, they are the schools that just don't have the resources like your Fargo schools do," Wirth said.

Follow @kgrandstrandAAN on Twitter.

COUNTY
From 1A

whether an alternative treatment or home placement would better address the needs of juveniles taken to the center after getting into trouble.

Workers at the JDC will have to take intake officer training at least once a year.

Heidelberger said the number of juveniles placed in correctional facilities statewide during the six-month stretch was 299, with 74 of those in the Brown County. Of those 74 juveniles, 30 were from Brown County and 29 were from Roberts County. The other surrounding counties referred one to three juveniles each.

Those numbers are similar to what they were before the juvenile reforms, Kippley said. But there are more young offenders from outside Brown County than there were before.

"Population in the center has varied a lot just because they haven't had those lower-level kids," Heidelberger told commissioners.

Brown County JDC supervisor Amy Lake-Harmon talked about how workers handled being an intake center for Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, Spink and Walworth counties.

"It was really an adjustment. It was something new for us to do, but we're acclimating well," she said.

Creating an alternative treatment program

within the community is the next step for Brown County.

"At this point, it would be really hard to identify what that alternative looks like," said Heidelberger. "We need more data to back that up."

Lake-Harmon said the other 5th Judicial Circuit counties have yet to create any alternative juvenile programs in their communities. Those counties also have the added responsibility of transporting young offenders to Brown County, when needed.

In other action Tuesday, commissioners:

- Authorized Brown County Welfare Director Cliff Rhodes to reject a welfare claim for an individual who neglected to apply for medical assistance.
- Approved Brown County Chief Information Officer Paul Sivertsen's request to hire a summer intern for the information technology department. Sivertsen has already selected an applicant for the internship. Pay will be \$11 per hour.
- Approved the decision to copyright BC Connect as the name of the new county document management software. Sivertsen said program implementation will likely be completed within nine months.
- Approved a five-year fair contract with Theatrical Media Services to provide stages services, such as lighting, sound, audio and video, during entertainment events during the Brown County Fair.

Follow @smarvel_AAN on Twitter.

Militia occupation leaders arrested in Oregon

1 person dead, 1 injured as incident unfolded

BY MATT PEARCE
Los Angeles Times

One person died and at least seven others were taken into custody Tuesday when authorities confronted an armed protest group responsible for a nearly month-long occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon, officials said.

Shots were fired, and self-styled protest leader Ammon Bundy was among a group of five people arrested on a state highway, officials said. One other person was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

The incident began at 4:25 p.m. on Oregon Highway 395 when agents of the FBI and Oregon State Police "began a law enforcement action" to take into custody those associated with the armed occupation of the refuge, authorities said in a statement.

The person who died was not identified, and no

information was given on the cause of death. Officials said that this suspect "was a subject of a federal probable-cause arrest."

Police said they made a separate arrest of another man, Joseph O'Shaughnessy of Cottonwood, Ariz., who was taken into custody in Burns, Ore., where the refuge is located.

About two hours after the initial confrontation, authorities also arrested Internet radio host Peter Santilli, a supporter of the occupation who has documented the case on his program and via livestream since it began.

All of those taken into custody, including Santilli, face a federal felony charge of conspiracy to impede federal officers through the use of force, intimidation or threats, authorities said.

Leaders of the group have been largely holed up at the wildlife refuge outside Burns since Jan. 2, protesting the federal sentencing of

a local rancher and the government's administration of public lands.

They had been expected to appear at a community meeting Tuesday night in the city of John Day, but never arrived.

In addition to Bundy, a resident of Emmett, Idaho, those arrested included his brother, Ryan C. Bundy, 43, of Bunkerville, Nev.; Brian Cavalier, 44, also of Bunkerville; Shawna Cox, 59, Kanab, Utah; and Ryan Waylen Payne, 32, of Anaconda, Mont.

"Isn't this a wonderful country we live in?" Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, Ammon's father, said sarcastically when the Los Angeles Times informed him about the arrests and the death.

Ammon Bundy and a group of about 15 other men took over the wildlife refuge after a march in support of a pair of ranchers, Dwight and Steve Hammond, who had been sentenced to prison

for illegal fires and alleged poaching on their land.

The protesters made a muddled set of demands about what they wanted from the occupation. They demanded freedom for the imprisoned Hammonds and asked that local land be returned from the federal government to local landowners, the county and the town of Burns.

They made it clear they were willing to resort to violence if the federal government moved against them, but also said they did not want such a confrontation.

Through it all, the renegades won support from around the country, and also among some local residents. But they also angered many. Around Burns, signs popped up declaring: "Bundy militia go home" and "No Bundy caliphate."

The occupiers repeatedly said they were protesting on behalf of their fellow citizens.

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