

MIDWEST DIGEST

6,000 More Sandbags Filled At Lake Poinsett

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Volunteers continue to fight the rising waters of Lake Poinsett in eastern South Dakota. Another round of sandbagging took place on Saturday, with more than 100 volunteers coming from across the state. Eight truckloads of sand from a nearby state park were used to strengthen flood barriers. By day's end, 6,000 sandbags were filled, bringing the total holding back the lake to more than 90,000. Steve Foss, director of the United Methodist Church camp at the lake, says it's possible those sandbags will need to stay in place for two years. He expects continued high water this year and flooding again next year.

\$200,000 Powerball Ticket Sold In S.D.

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Lottery officials say a winning Powerball ticket worth \$200,000 in Saturday night's drawing was sold in Sioux Falls. The ticket matched the five white balls but not the red Powerball number. The winning Powerball numbers for the Saturday drawing are: 21, 22, 49, 52 and 58; the Powerball is 34 and the Power Play multiplier is 2. Powerball is played in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The odds of winning the \$200,000 prize are 1 in 5.1 million. It's been won three times in South Dakota so far this year. A Rapid City group won in the March 31 drawing, and workers from Minnesota Rubber's Watertown plant won March 17.

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NEBRASKA

Redistricting Could Affect Terry In '12

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — While Republican Rep. Lee Terry has rebuffed challengers to his re-election bids in recent years, that could prove a more formidable task down the road.

Congressional redistricting in Terry's 2nd District could erode the GOP advantage he's relied on, making his seat more vulnerable to a Democratic takeover.

The lines defining the state's three congressional districts are reviewed every 10 years after the completion of the Census, which is being conducted this year.

And, if the third 3rd District loses population, the lines will have to be redrawn to make sure each district has approximately the same population.

The task of redrawing those lines is left to the state Legislature, which



Terry

could shave off the northern portion of Sarpy County currently in the 2nd District — also the piece that carries a large chunk of Republican voters.

Without that region, the 2nd District would likely have more registered Democrats than Republicans. At latest count, Douglas County had 125,211 registered Democrats, 119,750 Republicans and 64,787 independent voters. The section of Sarpy County within the 2nd District held 21,603 registered Democrats, 31,839 Republicans and 16,804 independent voters.

While it might seem geographically logical to put all of Sarpy County within Nebraska's 1st District, currently held by GOP Rep.

Jeff Fortenberry, don't count on the process being that simple, said Randall Adkins, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"The Supreme Court has determined time and time again that you can draw districts for political reasons. They're quite OK with that," Adkins said.

The issue of redistricting has historically been a contentious one across the country, and Nebraska is no exception. In 2001, Saline County Democrats unsuccessfully sued to challenge their county's move into the Republican-dominated 3rd Congressional District.

The Nebraska Legislature's Executive Board will appoint a special redistricting committee in the 2011 session to oversee the redrawing of district lines. One lawmaker familiar with redistricting, Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh of Omaha, plans to make a case for being appointed to

the committee.

Lautenbaugh is a former Douglas County election commissioner, and in 2001, he sued the state to challenge the constitutionality of redrawn political boundary lines for state senators. Lautenbaugh alleged that newly drawn districts in Douglas County violated the Nebraska Constitution because they did not follow county lines.

The lawsuit was later dismissed. State lawmakers are elected through a nonpartisan election, but most declare a party affiliation. And the majority of the state's 49 lawmakers are Republicans — including Lautenbaugh.

He's not ready to predict how lines might be drawn, but Lautenbaugh said he stands behind the basis of his 2001 lawsuit.

"Our mission and our directive is to follow county lines whenever practicable," Lautenbaugh said.

Laurel Finally Embraces Closure With Burial Of Missing Soldier

BY NICK HYTEK
Sioux City Journal

LAUREL, Neb. — The war in Vietnam ended years ago.

But not for communities like Laurel that never were able to welcome all of their sons and daughters home. Hundreds of U.S. personnel remain unaccounted for from that war.

For more than 44 years, Laurel residents knew that Don Grella more than likely had died when the Army helicopter carrying him and three crewmates went down in heavy jungle on Dec. 28, 1965.

But an empty burial plot in the town's cemetery remained. A monument stood as a memorial to him in the cemetery, and a Missing Man Table display signifying his

missing status was erected in the library shared by the community and the Laurel-Concord Public School District.

All were a reminder that Grella never came home, and that a family, a community, still missed one of its own.

Vernal Gade watched how it affected Grella's mother, Alberta Sutton, as the two worked together for 20 years in Gower's Grocery.

"She always believed he'd be found. A lot of people in town were hoping the same," Gade said. "She always hoped and prayed she could get closure before she died."

It wasn't to be. She died in 2006, just after learning that searchers had found the site where the helicopter carrying Grella and his mates had crashed.

But it would be three more years before

the site could be excavated. In July, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command notified Grella's sister, Shirley Haase, who had spent years pressing the government to keep investigating her brother's case, that some of the remains recovered at the site belonged to her brother.

Grella finally returned home in October, when his remains were buried between his mother and father in Laurel.

That burial was a step toward closure. The final step came Friday. Some of the remains recovered from the crash site couldn't be identified, so they were buried together Friday in a grave at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. Gade was among the 36 family members and friends there to pay tribute to Grella. He decided to attend out of respect for Grella's mother.

"The final closure will be heartfelt to me and a lot of people," Gade said earlier this week before leaving for Washington.

After years of hoping and praying that his high school classmate and hunting buddy would someday be found, Bob Dickey said it's great to have him home.

But his long absence still hurts. "For some of us, it will probably linger on a little longer, but it's nice to bring closure after all these years," Dickey said.

Dickey, who was instrumental in having the Missing Man Table display installed at the library, said the memorial would remain in its spot next to the main entrance so that everyone, especially the younger generations, is reminded of the sacrifice made by a 25-year-old man from their home town.

OBITUARIES

Vernet Hein

MENNO — Vernet V. Hein, age 74, of Menno, SD, died on Friday, April 09, 2010 at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with Rev. Brad Danielson officiating. Burial will be in Menno Cemetery.

Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2010 at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with family present at 6:00 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno is in charge of the arrangements.

Vernet Vee was born to Marvin and Annabel (Steffen) Cox on February 26, 1936 in Scotland, SD. She was baptized and confirmed at Olivet EUB Church and later graduated from Menno High School. Vernet married Max Hein on February 26, 1956 in Olivet, SD. Together, they farmed most of their married life and retired to Menno in 2001. She was active in the Unity Lutheran Church until



Hein

closing and then attended Grace Lutheran Church.

Her memory will be cherished by her daughters: Skye (Dale) Thomsen of Brandon, SD and Kim (Tim) Flint of Viborg, SD; four grandchildren:

Heath (fiancé Heidi) and Zachary Thomsen and Jamie and Dakota Flint; sister, Latitia (Wes) Jordan of Mount Lake Terrace, WA and sisters in law: Bea Hein; Delphine Laber and Rita (Milton) Handel.

Vernet was preceded in death by her husband, Max; parents, four brothers in law, one sister in law and one granddaughter.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 12, 2010



Charles Stappert

BOW VALLEY, Neb. — Charles Stappert, age 79 of Bow Valley, Nebraska, died on Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington, Nebraska.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, April 12, 2010 at 10:00 am at Holy Family (Sts. Peter and Paul) Catholic Church in Bow Valley with Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial will be in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Bow Valley with military honors provided by the Wynot American Legion Post 31.

Visitation will be on Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Visitation will be one hour prior to services on Monday at the church.

The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrangements. To share a memory please visit www.wintzfuneralhome.com.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Preston Stappert, Andy Stappert, Justin Zahn, Dillon Stappert, Kristopher Stappert and



Stappert

Jacob Stappert. Charles was born on April 15, 1930 at Bow Valley to Hugo and Matilda (S u d e c k) Stappert. He grew up in the Bow Valley area and graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Hartington in 1948.

He served in the U. S. Army from 1951 to 1953. He married Claudette Becker on May 4, 1954 at St. Helena, Nebraska. He farmed in the Bow Valley area and in 1975 began working for the Wynot Locker in Wynot, Nebraska where he did for about 10 years. He then worked at Prince Hydraulics in Hartington for 10 years retiring in 1995.

Charles was a member of the Holy Family (St. Peter and Paul) Catholic Church in Bow Valley and the Wynot American Legion Post 31. He loved to play cards and visit with his friends.

Charles is survived by his

wife, Claudette of Bow Valley; 7 children and their spouses, Roxanne and Scott Stanard of Omaha; John and Janie Stappert of Norfolk; Michael and Linda Stappert of Basehor, Kansas; Carol Spetman of Scottsdale, Arizona; Karl and Robyn Stappert of Skiatook, Oklahoma; Ron and Claudia Stappert of Palm Harbor, Florida; Joseph Stappert of Omaha; 21 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, 2 sisters, Norma Dendinger of Coleridge and Genevieve Kathol of Hartington.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Jimmy Stappert.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 12, 2010



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Marlen Burbach

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Marlen Burbach, age 77 of Hartington, Nebraska, died on Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 10:30 am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with Rev. Jeffery Loseke and Rev. David Fulton officiating. Burial will be in the St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation will be on Monday from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church.

The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrangements. To share a memory or to view the video tribute, please visit www.wintzfuneralhome.com.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Adam Burbach, Steven Burbach, Andrew Goodenberger, Aaron Goodenberger, Brent Albers, and Jeffrey Burbach.

Marlen was born on September 12, 1932 at Hartington to Adam and



Burbach

Mary (Schmidt) Burbach. He grew up on a farm west of Hartington in 1998 while he continued to enjoy his love of farming. Marlen was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church and was one of the first Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and liked to garden, fish, play cards and spend time with his grandchildren. He and his wife loved to travel and enjoyed many trips together.

Marlen is survived by his wife, Hilaria of Hartington, 9 children and their spouses, Raleigh and Christie Burbach of Hartington; David and Kim Burbach of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Marlene and Paul Goodenberger of McCook,

Nebraska; Joan and Doug Albers of Randolph, Nebraska; Rodney and Linda Burbach of Edwardsville, Illinois; Dale and Vicki Burbach of Lee's Summit, Missouri; Dean and Lisa Burbach of Hartington; Diane and Mark Williamson of Greenwood, Missouri; Linda and Keith Gobel of Lee's Summit, Missouri; 34 grandchildren, 1 great granddaughter, a brother, Bernard and Helen Burbach of Neligh, Nebraska; and a sister, Dorothy Kremer of Hartington.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant daughter, a granddaughter, Jordyn Gobel, 4 brothers, Alphonse, Jerome, Harold, and Raymond Burbach and a sister, Theresa Pinkelman.

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April 12, 2010



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Marie Christenson

Marie C. Christenson, age 99 years, 8 months, and 18 days, passed away early Friday, April 9, 2010, at the Tyndall Good Samaritan Center, Tyndall, SD.

Funeral services will be 1:30 PM, Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor, SD with Rev. David Wildermuth officiating. Burial will be in the Elm Grove Cemetery, rural Tabor, SD.

Visitations will be 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor, and then one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Pallbearers will be Jim Barger, Keith Christenson, Sasha Christenson, Christian Haunton, Jeffrey Haunton, and Larry Schmidt.

Marie was born to Andrew and Mary Schmidt on July 23, 1910, in rural Tabor, SD. She attended school at Elm Grove School and Tabor High School. She married Lowell Christenson in 1935. They were employed on a ranch in Montana and farmed near Meckling, SD until 1941, when they moved to Blair, NE. While raising a son and two daughters, Marie worked as a telephone operator and later as a care giver at the Blair Good Shepherd Home. Lowell passed away in 1977. Two years later Marie moved to Omaha where she remained until 2007. She then moved to Tyndall Good Samaritan Center, Tyndall, SD. She beautified the world around her with the flowers she grew and the paintings she created. She received much enjoyment out of her family.

Her memory is cherished by her son Lowell Keith (Judy) Christenson of Tabor, SD and her daughter Gladys (C. Jeffrey) Haunton of Omaha, NE. 7 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Thelma Christenson; husband Lowell; brothers George, Jim, and Pete Schmidt; Sister Anne Schmidt; and two great grandsons Jesse Rocholtz and Garret Schaffer.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 12, 2010



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Edmund Stotz

MITCHELL — Edmund Stotz, 78, of Mitchell died Friday (April 9, 2010) at Avera Health and Rehab, Mitchell.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Mitchell. Military graveside services will be in Servicemen's Memorial

Cemetery, Mitchell. Visitation is 6-8 p.m. today (Monday) at the church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bittner Funeral Chapel, Mitchell.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Avera Brady Health and Rehab, 500 South Ohlman, Mitchell, SD 57301.

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S.F. Shooting Suspect Had Threatened Her Ex-Boyfriend

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A woman suspected of fatally shooting a Sioux Falls man she'd casually dated before committing suicide had served prison time for threatening to kill an ex-boyfriend, according to court documents.

Kari Jo McFarlane, 45, of Harrisburg spent almost four years in the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre for aggravated assault, having pleaded guilty to the charge in 2005. She was released in February 2009.

McFarlane pulled a gun on her former live-in boyfriend and threatened to kill him, according to court records.

On Tuesday, police say, she shot 28-year-old Clint Vanderpoel with a high-powered rifle in his Sioux Falls home, then drove to a friend's house and killed herself with the same gun.

Officers investigating her suicide found Vanderpoel's body the next day. Police were tipped to his slaying by one of McFarlane's relatives, who found a threatening note at her house after her death and contacted the department.

In the 2005 incident, McFarlane visited her ex-boyfriend in Sioux Falls and talked him into her car, then pulled a gun on him, court records said. He took the weapon and fled. Later, she said she had planned to kill him and officers found a note in her home detailing her plan, court records said.

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HONORING THEIR MEMORY!
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Ruth S. Freng
who passed away on
April 12, 2009

Ervin A. Schempp
who passed away on
April 12, 2009

Theodore H. Sattler
who passed away on
April 12, 2009

Edward Beran
who passed away on
April 17, 2009

Alice Pravecck
who passed away on
April 12, 2007

Edward Kronaizl
who passed away on
April 14, 2000

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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