

MIDWEST DIGEST

DCI Closes Case Of Dead Man Near Menno

MENNO — State investigators have concluded that a Nebraska man found dead in a burning pickup near Menno died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Sara Rabern in the attorney general's office said the state Division of Criminal Investigation considers the case closed.

The body of 46-year-old Adrien Pelletier of Lincoln, Neb., was discovered when firefighters responded to a March 20 call of a burning pickup along a rural road.

Rabern told the Daily Republic that the DCI would not disclose what caused the fire, in part because the case has been ruled suicide.

Neb. Sales Tax Measure For Cities Advances

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A measure that would allow Nebraska cities to raise their local sales tax rates as high as 2 percent with voter approval has advanced through a first-round legislative vote.

Lawmakers voted, 27-14, to advance the proposal by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford. The bill (LB357) is intended to help cities generate revenue for local projects, or to pay for property tax reductions. The increase would require voter approval, and cities would have to explain on the ballot how they plan to spend the money.

The bill must clear two more votes before it proceeds to Gov. Dave Heineman. Heineman has said he will oppose any tax increases. To override a veto, lawmakers would need 30 out of the 49 members in the one-house Legislature.

SDSU Getting \$1.7M In Bioenergy Grants

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is giving South Dakota State University more than \$1.7 million in research grants to spur production of bioenergy and biobased products.

They're part of nearly \$36 million in Sustainable Bioenergy Grants awarded across the country that USDA announced Tuesday.

The Brookings university is getting \$1 million to design a feedstock production system for bioenergy, just under \$600,000 to develop carbon activation technologies and \$150,000 to produce polysaccharide (paw-lee-SAK'-uh-ryd) gums from prairie cordgrass.

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is receiving a grant of nearly \$43,000 to buy equipment to help develop products from lignocellulosic biomass and microalgae.

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S.D. OFFICIAL:

Execution Drug Helps Fight Appeals

CHET BROKAW

Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota recently bought a scarce lethal injection drug partly to help fight against appeals by the state's two death row inmates, Attorney General Marty Jackley said Tuesday.

The purchase of sodium thiopental at least settles the question of whether the state would have the sedative in the event executions are set for the two men, although other issues remain in the appeals that challenge the constitutionality of the lethal injection process, Jackley said.

"One of the bases for the state to obtain the drug at this time, even though there's no execution date scheduled, is not only the existence of the shortage, but to take that issue out of the litigation," Jackley said.

The attorney general announced last week that South Dakota paid \$5,000 for 500 grams of sodium thiopental, enough to carry

out the execution of the two death row inmates. He has not said where the drug was obtained.

Sodium thiopental is part of a three-drug injection cocktail used by most of the 34 death penalty states. Sodium thiopental renders the condemned person unconscious, while the other two stop the breathing and heart.

The sole U.S. manufacturer of sodium thiopental stopped making the drug last year, and a pharmaceutical company in India announced last week it was no longer selling the drug to American prison officials.

Both South Dakota death penalty cases have long and complicated histories. The South Dakota Supreme Court upheld both men's convictions and sentences in their direct appeals, but both have pursued secondary appeals.

A federal court appeal by Donald Moeller argues that the state did not follow proper procedures in setting its execution method. Moeller also contends the execution method

violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment, partly because drugs obtained from foreign sources not approved by federal agencies could be flawed and cause pain during the execution.

The other death row inmate, Charles Russell Rhines, also is challenging South Dakota's method of execution. Rhines, 54, convicted of killing 22-year-old Donnivan Schaeffer during a 1992 burglary of a Rapid City doughnut shop, has appeals tied up in both state and federal court.

Moeller, 58, was sentenced to death for the 1990 rape and killing of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell of Sioux Falls.

A federal judge has rejected Moeller's arguments that mistakes were made in his trial, and that part of his case is now pending in a federal appeals court.

However, the second part of Moeller's appeal remains in federal court in South Dakota, where he has asked a judge to prevent his execution because of constitutional flaws in the state's execution scheme.

Nebraska Labor Commission Proposal Draws Fire

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Criticism is mounting against a bill that would change the state body that resolves labor impasses between public worker unions and employers.

The Platte Institute for Economic Research, a conservative Omaha-based think tank, argued Tuesday that proposed

changes to the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations would not substantially reduce government spending. The executive director said the legislative proposal also could intrude on private businesses, because the commission might have to subpoena them to compare public and private sector wages.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop has said his bill — created after months of talks with government

and labor groups — represents the "comprehensive, significant and meaningful" changes Gov. Dave Heineman and commission critics have sought. Hastings Sen. Dennis Utter, a critic of the commission, called the bill a vast improvement over the current setup.

A hearing on the bill is scheduled for Wednesday before the Legislature's Business and Labor Committee.

John McCollister, the institute's executive director, said the current proposal doesn't give local governments enough control over their budgets.

"We taxpayers should have some reasonable assurance of cost containment, and Nebraska's political subdivisions must have greater ability to exert control over the most significant portion of their respective budgets," McCollister said.

OBITUARIES

Brianna Knoll

Brianna Marie Knoll, age 25, of Yankton, South Dakota died Saturday, April 9, 2011.

Funeral services are 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with her aunt, Delight Paulson officiating.

Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service, video tribute and time of sharing at 7:00 p.m.

Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Sam Knoll, Dan Knoll, Tim Paulson, Matt Evans, Spencer Bose and Jake Stange. Honorary pallbearers are everyone who loved and cared for her.

Brianna was born August 22, 1985, on her mother's 30th birthday, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota to Jeff and Bonnie (Janda) Knoll. She attended Webster School, Yankton Middle School and graduated from Yankton High School in 2003. While attending school, Brianna also worked at Yesterday's Café and then later the Lighthouse Café. She always enjoyed talking to "the regular" coffee drinkers. Brianna moved to Vermillion and after the Lighthouse closed, she became a waitress at



Knoll

Raziel's in Vermillion. She attended National American University in Sioux Falls and online. She graduated as a Pharmacy Tech and received her certification a few months later. In November of 2009, Brianna started working at Roger's Pharmacy in Yankton which was a wonderful and challenging job for her. In August of 2010, she bought her own house in Yankton. She was so proud of that house and spent many hours painting and cleaning to make it as nice as she could. She felt that all of her hard work was finally paying off. In 2009, Brianna and her dad went to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and saw Devil's Tower. After that experience, Brianna wanted to take motorcycle safety training class, so someday she could have her own Harley and go to Sturgis with her parents. Brianna loved shopping with her mom and one or two of her friends. She was mechanically savvy and told her dad many times what was wrong with her car. He always disagreed, but Brianna was usually right. He encouraged her to be a mechanic, but she didn't want to get so dirty! She also loved her dogs, Indie and Buddy. Brianna was a

beautiful, intelligent, ambitious girl and she will be dearly, dearly missed.

Brianna is survived by her parents, Jeff and Bonnie Knoll of Yankton; sister, Carly Margaret Knoll of Sioux Falls; uncles, Curtis Knoll of Yankton and Aaron Janda of Yankton; aunts: Delight Paulson of Yankton, Crystal (Charles) Archer of San Diego, CA, Amber (Mark) Johnson of Menominee, NE and Kimberly Dingman of Scotland; and many cousins and her dogs, Indie and Buddy.

Brianna was preceded in death by her grandparents: Emil and Leona Janda and Peter and Murl Knoll; and an uncle, Eldean Paulson.

Memorials will be used for the education and support of domestic violence victims.

To send an online message or to view her video, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 13, 2011



Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

James Donahue

James W. Donahue, 92, of Wakonda, SD died Sunday, April 10, 2011 at Wakonda Heritage Manor.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 15, 2011 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Wakonda with Fr. Scott Traynor officiating. Burial will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery rural Wakonda.

Visitation will be Thursday, April 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. with a Scripture service beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Jim Donahue, son of John and Ella Dwyer Donahue was born February 25, 1919 in Bethel Twp. Clay County, SD. He graduated from Wakonda High School in 1937 where he played basketball and also the violin in the orchestra, but his favorite spot was behind home plate as a catcher. He attended a business college in Sioux City, IA for one year. He married Eileen Fitzgerald June 25, 1947 at St. Columba's Church of Mayfield Twp. They were married almost 64 years. He farmed all his life in Star Twp. even though his first ambitions were to either play major league baseball or go into banking. Jim loved his parish of St. Patrick, where he greeted all newcomers, taught religious education and was the faithful bell-ringer for many years. He was an avid supporter of the Wakonda community, serving on the board of the Wakonda Heritage Manor, and helping with the support and construction of the Wakonda Café. Always enjoying sports, he was the boys' basketball score keeper for over 20 years and helped coach his daughters' softball teams during their winning years of the 1970s.

Jim was very proud of his 100% Irish heritage. On his mother's side, the Dwyers arrived from Illinois to the Wakonda area about 1868 and were part of the founding fathers of the community. The Colgans (Cologans) arrived from Iowa in the 1870s and Jim farmed their homesteaded land one mile north of Wakonda all his life. On his father's side, the Donahues (Donohoes) arrived from Iowa in 1909.

Jim was preceded in death by his father in 1960, his mother in

1986, his infant brother, John Lawrence in 1925 and his beloved sister, Betty McCarty in 2007.

Jim is survived by his wife, Eileen, six children, Pat (Teresa) Donahue of rural Wakonda, Kathleen (Jim) Koenig of Tyndall, Mary (Wayne) O'Connor of Faribault, MN, JoEllen (Virgil) Klein of Dell Rapids, Jim

Donahue of San Francisco, CA and Brigetta (Steve) Klein of Sioux Falls. Also surviving are 17 grandchildren, Christine, John and Brian Donahue; Carolyn Koenig Gleason, Kevin Koenig and Maureen Koenig McFarlane; Angela O'Connor Cina, Michael and Nicholas O'Connor, Maureen O'Connor Hauge and James O'Connor; Sister Marie Estelle, Theresa and Erin Klein; Mary, Laura and Tony Klein and five great-grandchildren, Quynlyn Gleason, Megan and Caitlin Cina, Liam and Keira O'Connor. Also surviving are his cousins Cleo Crusan, Elizabeth and Donna Dwyer, Jim (Ardis) Dwyer, Veronica Frederickson, Lovella Matson, his brother-in-law Donald J. McCarty and sister-in-law Colette Fitzgerald Kehrwald, two nieces Mary Hinton and Maureen McCarty and two nephews, Jim and Kevin McCarty and their families.

The family would like to thank the Wakonda Heritage Manor for all their wonderful care during the last year of his life.

For obituary and online condolences visit hansfuneralhome.com

May Jim's "Irish Eyes" be smiling on all of us from heaven!

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Dennis Bockholt

SAN FRANCISCO — Dennis Bockholt, 55, of San Francisco and formerly of Crofton, Neb., died unexpectedly Dec. 10, 2010 at his residence.

A Memorial Mass is at noon Saturday, April 16, 2011, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Constance, Neb., with the Rev. David Fulton officiating. Burial of his ashes will be in the St. Joseph's Cemetery in Constance. The family will receive friends one hour prior to services at church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington, Neb.

Alice Anderson

Alice Matilda Anderson, 104 of Elk Point died Tuesday (April 12, 2011) at Prairie Estates Care Center in Elk Point.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Anderson-Sieck-Kober Funeral Home, Elk Point.

Frances Schriever

Frances Schriever, 93, died Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, Viborg, SD.

Frances Simmens was born in 1917 near Centerville. In 1934 she married George F. Schriever. The couple farmed in the Davis/Hurley area moving into Davis after retirement. George died in 1994.

She was a member of the Bethel Reformed Church and the Davis Senior Citizens.

Survivors: seven children: Gary (Patricia) Schriever, Sioux Falls, Lee (Darlene) Schriever, Hurley, Darlene (Don) Stewart, Ramona, Pearl (Jerry) Kellen, Alton, IA, Rose (Gordon) Gause, Yankton, Linda (Kim) Richman, Hastings, NE and George Schriever, Jr., Sioux Falls; 23 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren and one sister: Dorothy (Nick) Boccumini, Palm Springs, CA.

Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Apr. 15 at the Bethel Reformed Church, Davis, SD. Visitation will begin at noon Thursday at Dindot-Klusmann Funeral Home, Lennox with the

family present from 7 to 8 p.m. Online go to dindotklusmann.com.

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Anthony (Tony) Taylor

OLIVET — Anthony (Tony) Taylor, 60, of Olivet died Jan. 26, 2011, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Time of Sharing is from 1-1:45 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 2011 with a Memorial service beginning at 2 p.m. at the Olivet United Methodist Church, Olivet, with the Rev. Tom Petersen officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be in the Wittenberg Cemetery, rural Olivet, SD following the service.

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

George Ufford

VERMILLION — George Franklin Ufford, 75 of Vermillion died Tuesday (April 12, 2011) at Sanford/USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Iverson-Sieck-Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

Mabel Nielsen

VIBORG — Mabel Nielsen, 89, died Saturday (April 9, 2011) at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Burial is in the Elim Cemetery, rural Irene.

Register online at www.viborg-funeralhome.com.

Ben Schlaefli

Ben Schlaefli, 74, of Yankton died Monday, April 11, 2011, at his residence.

A memorial service is at 2 p.m. Friday at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with the Rev. Dani Jo Ninke officiating. Inurnment will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

A gathering of family and friends will be one hour prior to the service on Friday at the funeral home.

To post an online sympathy message to the family, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Harold M. Kuehler

10:30 AM, Wednesday
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
Crofton

Brianna Marie Knoll

1:00 PM, Thursday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton

Ben Schlaefli

2:00 PM, Friday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton

Dennis Otto Bockholt

12:00 PM, Saturday
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Constance

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