

**Man Returned To Iowa To Face Murder Charge**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say a man accused of killing his wife and kidnapping their son is back in Iowa from South Dakota where he was taken into custody.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety says Thomas Petersen, of Greene, was returned to Iowa on Thursday. He's being held in the Butler County jail in Allison pending a court hearing on Friday.

Petersen is charged with first-degree murder in the June 4 stabbing death of his wife, Judy Petersen. Authorities say he fled with the couple's 2-year-old son. He was stopped by police near Kadoka, S.D. several hours later.

A South Dakota judge signed the extradition order on Aug. 4.

Petersen's case isn't listed on the Iowa online court system, and it's not known if he has an attorney.

**2 Hospitalized With Knife Wounds In Sturgis**

STURGIS (AP) — The Sturgis police chief says two people were treated for knife wounds Wednesday night after a confrontation between the Hells Angels and Mongols motorcycle clubs during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally that draws hundreds of thousands of bikers to South Dakota's Black Hills.

Chief Jim Bush told the Associated Press Thursday that two people were taken to a hospital immediately after the incident. He says one was treated and released Wednesday night and the other was released Thursday morning.

The South Dakota attorney general's office says two members of the Hells Angels were arrested. Mark Allen Duclos, 48, was charged with aggravated assault, and George James Caruso, 57, was charged with simple assault.

The attorney general's office could not immediately determine the addresses of the two men arrested.

**Slain Rapid City Police Officer Remembered**

RAPID CITY (AP) — A crowd of Rapid City residents lined streets for a funeral procession and filled the Civic Center Arena Thursday to mourn Officer Nick Armstrong.

The 27-year-old officer died at a Rapid City hospital Sunday, five days after he and two other officers were shot while performing a routine stop in the Black Hills community.

South Dakota Public Broadcasting reports that Armstrong was described as a caring and kind person with a bright smile who never criticized anyone.

Police Chief Steve Allender says Armstrong gave his life to save others and is a hometown hero.

Officer James Ryan McCandless also died in the shooting. Officer Tim Doyle was released from the hospital Tuesday.

**ConAgra Foods To Close Plant In Flooded Town**

HAMBURG, Iowa (AP) — ConAgra Foods plans to close its microwave popcorn plant in the southwest Iowa town of Hamburg, which has been battling Missouri River flooding all summer.

ConAgra spokeswoman Teresa Paulsen says 95 jobs will be eliminated in Hamburg when the plant closes in October. Employees were told Wednesday.

The Omaha-based company decided to close Hamburg's microwave popcorn plant for its Orville Redenbacher and Act II brands to consolidate operations elsewhere.

A separate bulk popcorn plant in Hamburg that employs 45 will remain open.

Much of Hamburg was evacuated in June after a Missouri River levee failed several miles south of the town. A secondary levee was built to protect the town. Residents were allowed to return to evacuated areas last week.

**Higher Corn, Lower Soybean Production For SD**

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The USDA is forecasting higher corn production and lower soybean production in South Dakota for 2011.

The state office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service says corn production is forecast at 676.8 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year's 569.7 million bushels. The forecasted yield of 141 bushels per acre is up 6 bushels from last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 153.9 million bushels. That's down 2 percent from last year's estimate of 157.3 million bushels.

The estimated soybean yield of 38 bushels per acre is unchanged from last year.

**Wind Cave Superintendent Receives Award**

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK (AP) — The superintendent of Wind Cave National Park has been honored by the National Park Service.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports (<http://bit.ly/nVQ953>) that Vidal Davila recently received the service's superintendent of the year award for natural resource stewardship for fiscal year 2010 for the Midwest region.

The region includes 58 parks in 11 states.

Davila was instrumental in fostering the transfer of 23 Wind Cave bison to Mexico for reintroduction into an international bioserve in the state of Chihuahua. He used various counterparts in Mexico from his previous Big Bend National Park assignment to help arrange for the exchange.

**York Schools Tally \$1.1M In Damage From Hail**

YORK, Neb. (AP) — The York school district has tallied more than \$1.1 million in damage from hail that clobbered schools and other district property on May 21.

The *York News-Times* reports (<http://bit.ly/rnuFfb>) that a report to the school board by Superintendent Mike Lucas says \$845,000 in damage was done to roofs, gutters and downspouts.

Lucas told the board at a meeting this week that the damage estimates are still preliminary.

He says the district's building fund will be tapped to pay for the repairs and replaced with insurance money when it arrives.

**OBITUARIES****Darlis Kay Fischer**

Funeral services for Darlis Kay Fischer, 46, of Scotland and formerly of Huron will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, at the First United Methodist Church in Huron with Pastor Don Crippen officiating. Internment will follow in Restlawn Cemetery in Huron. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday. Darlis passed away on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2011 at St. Michael's Hospital Avera in Tyndall. Arrangements are under the direction of Goglin Funeral

Home of Scotland. Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).

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**REGENTS:****Salary Increase Is Top Budget Priority**

CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — Pay raises for faculty members and other workers at state universities should be the top priority in next year's state budget for higher education, the South Dakota Board of Regents recommended Thursday.

In a budget request to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the regents asked that the governor make salary increases for all state employees the highest priority when he recommends a budget to the South Dakota Legislature in December. The 2012 Legislature will have the final say on the state budget for the year beginning next July.

The request does not seek a specific funding level for salary increases, but the board believes a pay raise of 4 percent or more is needed after state employees have gone three years without any salary increases, said Jack Warner, executive director of the Board of Regents. The governor will make a final decision on what kind of pay raise to recommend for state workers, he said.

The regents' budget request also seeks an ongoing increase in state spending to expand enrollment in programs that train new doctors, nurses and other health care workers. Other budget increases would create a doc-

torate program in physics and support courses that Northern State University offers to high school students through two-way television and the Internet. New courses in English and math would seek to prepare high school students for college so they do not have to take remedial classes when they get to a university.

Along with other state departments, the regents' budget for the current year was cut by about 10 percent. That means the university system this year is getting slightly more than \$150 million from state general funds. A much larger portion of the higher education budget comes from student tuition, federal money and other funding sources.

Board President Kathryn Johnson said money for pay raises is crucial because South Dakota's six public universities must compete in a national market to hire and retain faculty and researchers.

Warner said the three-year freeze on pay raises has hurt South Dakota's six public universities.

"We're already seeing evidence that some of our better faculty and better professionals are taking jobs in other places because they've been constrained here as to what they can earn," Warner said.

The board is seeking a \$7.9 million boost in ongoing state funding, with \$5.2 million

going to increase enrollment in programs that train doctors, nurses, physician assistants and other health care workers. Another \$2.4 million would start a doctorate program in physics because South Dakota is one of only two states without such a program, regents said. More than \$300,000 would go to NSU to support the Internet and televised classes offered to high school students.

Warner said the universities need to train more medical professionals to deal with a projected shortage of health care workers. Current funding constraints prevent the medical school and other programs from admitting all the students who seek to enroll, he said.

The board also requested \$4 million in one-time funding to promote research and support programs that help keep more students in college to complete degrees. About \$2 million would be used to try to graduate 400 additional students each year by 2025. The other \$2 million would provide start-up funds for research projects that would pay back the money as they get established.

A final priority seeks \$10.6 million in state funding to replace the federal stimulus money that is being used to support higher education this year. Those federal funds will no longer be available next year.

**Day Of Turmoil For GOP — And That's Before Debate**

BY THOMAS BEAUMONT  
AND PHILIP ELLIOTT  
Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — What a debate warm-up. Mitt Romney created a stir Thursday when he declared to Iowans that "corporations are people." Then Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who could present a major challenge to front-runner Romney, made clear he was entering the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

It all happened a few hours before the GOP presidential debate in Iowa — an eight-candidate spectacle that was missing the Republican field's newest member. Perry was hundreds of miles away in Austin finalizing plans for a weekend announcement tour.

The two-hour nationally televised debate Thursday night — featuring Romney and seven declared candidates who are trying to emerge as his chief rival — was a highlight of the most consequential week yet in the 2012 Republican presidential nomination fight.

**South Dakota Law Barring Sex Offender Loitering Upheld**

CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — A state law barring registered sex offenders from loitering near schools, public parks and public playgrounds is constitutional because it provides sufficient warning of what conduct is prohibited, the South Dakota Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

The high court's unanimous ruling upheld the conviction of a Sioux Falls man who argued the law is unconstitutional because it is too vague.

Kenneth Dale Stark, 61, was convicted of two counts of loitering in a community safety zone after law officers observed him near two public parks in Sioux Falls. A circuit judge then sentenced him to six years in prison.

Stark had registered as a sex offender after a prior conviction.

After a woman reported that someone in a vehicle registered to Stark was watching or following children going to swimming lessons in April 2009, law officers followed Stark after he left work the following day. They testified in his trial that they saw Stark circle one park for about 20 minutes and later saw him drive away after being parked near another park.

Stark's lawyer declined to comment on the case Thursday. South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley was not immediately available to comment because he was attending a funeral.

During his trial and in the appeal, Stark argued the law was too vague and violated his constitutional freedom to loiter for innocent purposes. He contended he just drove past the first park and pulled over near the second park to yield to an oncoming car and allow some children to cross the street.

Capping it all, along with Perry's announcement, will be Saturday's Iowa straw poll. It's an early test of strength for Republicans competing in the state and could well winnow the field.

The nation's teetering economic situation shadowed the debate, with stock market volatility and a downgrade in the nation's credit rating giving Republicans ample opportunities to criticize President Barack Obama. The Democratic president will get his shot to counter the criticism next week during a Midwestern bus tour that will take him through this state that helped launch him on the path to the White House four years ago.

For now, however, the Republicans commanded the spotlight.

Romney, who leads fellow Republicans in national and many state polls, looked to hang on to his front-runner status while seven of his rivals — including Rep. Michele Bachmann and former Gov. Tim Pawlenty, both of Minnesota — sought to separate themselves from the packed field and emerge as the chief alternative to the former Massachusetts

governor.

Bachmann and Pawlenty both hoped for strong debate performances ahead of a straw poll that could make or break their candidacies.

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman was making his first presidential debate appearance, while Texas Rep. Ron Paul was out to prove his ideas are more mainstream than fringe.

Others struggling to gain traction — former House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and businessman Herman Cain — sought to promote their issues and perhaps boost their profiles.

Notably absent from the stage were Perry, who was in Texas, and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who isn't a candidate but was stoking presidential speculation anew with a visit to the Iowa State Fair.

Even before the debate began, it was a campaign day to remember.

Badgered by hecklers in an appearance at the fair, Romney insisted that "corporations are

people," a comment Democrats predicted would be a defining moment of his campaign.

Romney, a wealthy businessman who has struggled with an aloof and elitist image as he tries for the GOP presidential nomination a second time, made the remark while outlining options for reducing the federal deficit and overhauling entitlement programs.

Despite tea party outrage that sometimes focuses on banks and auto companies, Romney has said to applause from GOP audiences that the rights of business are being trampled under Obama to the detriment of the struggling economy. But in Thursday's audience, the line encountered resistance.

A few hours after Romney's awkward moment, Perry spokesman Mark Miner confirmed that the Texas governor would announce that he was running for president while in early primary states on Saturday.

Perry's candidacy is certain to upend the race, and he could challenge Romney for the role of jobs-focused candidate.

**Students File Lawsuit Over North Dakota School's Nickname**

BY DAVE KOLPACK  
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — Six American Indian students at the University of North Dakota filed a federal lawsuit Thursday asking to eliminate the school's Fighting Sioux nickname, one day before state officials are scheduled to meet with NCAA officials about the moniker.

The complaint alleges that a new law requiring the school to keep the nickname violates the state constitution and reverses a court-ordered settlement between UND and the NCAA that retired the logo. The students want a court order directing the state Board of Higher Education and UND to drop it for good.

"We want the legislation stricken," said Carla Fredericks, a New York attorney and enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota.

Some state leaders and UND President Robert Kelley are scheduled to meet with NCAA executives Friday in Indianapolis. Republican House Majority Leader Al Carlson, of Fargo, questioned the timing of the lawsuit and said it represents a handful of people with out-of-state interests.

"You've got a New York attorney. It was nice of them to keep it local," Carlson said. "We understand why it was done. It's a small group. My job is to represent the majority of North Dakotans."

**Meet  
Dr. Sternquist,  
OBGYN**

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF  
**Jill Sternquist, M.D.**  
*Board Eligible Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Dr. Sternquist is a graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. She completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency training at the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Sternquist will provide medical and surgical treatment of diseases unique to women, regular examinations, pap smears, infertility treatment, family planning and care of women before, during and after childbirth.

The Clinic is pleased to welcome Dr. Sternquist, her husband, Jason Nelson, and their sons, Easton and Xavier, to Yankton.

Dr. Sternquist will begin seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. on August 15, 2011. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-5538.



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