

USDA Awards S.D. Corporation \$99K Grant

KADOKA (AP) — A South Dakota corporation is one of 16 recipients of a federal grant to spur economic development. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced this week that the Jackson-Kadoka Economic Development Corporation is receiving a \$99,000 grant. The money will be used to establish a revolving loan fund to assist small and emerging businesses. The money comes from a Department of Agriculture grant aimed at assisting small businesses as a way to spur economic development and create or save jobs.

Custer Looks To Pave Mickelson Trail

CUSTER (AP) — The city of Custer is set to pave the portion of the Mickelson Trail within its city limits to help pedestrian traffic. Custer Mayor Gary Lipp tells the *Rapid City Journal* that the city awarded the \$137,000 contract for asphalt work to Hills Materials Co. of Rapid City. Following the annual Mickelson Treck scheduled for Sept. 14-16, the company will begin paving the trail. City officials believe paving the trail is the first step for plans to extend a walking and biking path to a new school campus on the eastern edge of town. The Mickelson Trail runs from Deadwood to Edgemont. Small sections of the 109-mile path are paved in Deadwood, Hill City and Edgemont.

Daugaard May Change Convention Travel Plans

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard may be changing his plans to attend the National Republican Convention in Florida because of a pending hurricane. Daugaard is scheduled to leave Monday for the convention in Tampa. But officials in that state are now preparing for the arrival of Tropical Storm Isaac, which is expected to be elevated to hurricane status later this weekend. Officials have pushed back major convention activities to at least Tuesday. Tony Venhuizen, the governor's press secretary, tells KCCR radio that state officials are now "evaluating" plans for Daugaard to leave Monday. He says there may need to be changes made in the travel schedule. Daugaard's wife, Linda, and Venhuizen, who is also his son-in-law, will accompany the governor on the trip.

Kan. Man Killed By Tractor At Neb. State Fair

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — A 75-year-old Kansas man was killed when his antique tractor rolled on top of him at the Nebraska State Fair. The Nebraska State Patrol says Charley DeWeese was trying to load his 1936 John Deere tractor onto a trailer when the accident happened Sunday morning. The Thayer, Kan., man fell off the tractor and was pinned beneath it after the tractor's right rear tire slipped off the ramp. State Patrol Lt. Dennis Leonard said DeWeese took part in Saturday's attempt to set a new record for the largest tractor parade. Fair officials say 1,139 people brought tractors to the fairgrounds in Grand Island, Neb., for the tractor parade. DeWeese travelled to the Nebraska Fair with his wife.

Fire Destroys 2 Homes Near Lake McConaughy

OGALLALA, Neb. (AP) — Two homes near Lake McConaughy were destroyed by a grass fire this weekend that burned about 20 acres. KNOP television reports that the homes and a storage building in the Cedar View area near the lake were heavily damaged by the fire Saturday afternoon. The fire started near Highway 82 and spread quickly because of 40 mph winds. Keystone Leymoyne Fire Chief Ralph Maul says firefighters were able to contain the blaze, but the homes were burning before firefighters arrived. Maul says it appears that the homes were vacation homes. A boat and two jet skis were also destroyed in the fire.

UNMC Gets \$1.6M In Rural Health Grants

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The University of Nebraska Medical Center has received two grants worth nearly \$1.6 million to help improve rural health care. The Medical Center's Patricia Leuschen says these grants will allow the Nebraska facility to play a prominent role in promoting rural health care. One grant worth \$993,910 over five years will help pay for two national conferences for physician assistants in 2014 and 2016. The second grant worth \$593,088 will support research examining ways to reduce falls in rural hospitals that serve older adults.

Fruit Orchard Planted On S.D. Reservation

PIERRE (AP) — An orchard of fruit trees has been planted on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation as the result of a national program. The Communities Take Root program lets people vote online to decide which communities get fruit orchards. The program is sponsored by Dreyer's Fruit Bars and the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation. The orchard was planted in July in Ziebach County, which the U.S. Census Bureau says has the nation's highest poverty rate. Byron Buffalo, a minister in Bridger, applied to have the orchard planted in the community. He says the 30-tree orchard is part of a cooperative that also offers residents a vegetable garden and chicken coop.

Man Challenges 2009 Neb. Anti-Gang Law

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — An Omaha man who styled himself as a mobster straight out of the television series "The Sopranos" is asking the Nebraska Supreme Court to declare a relatively new Nebraska anti-gang law unconstitutional — the first challenge of the law to make it to the state's high court. Steven Scott, 23, was convicted last summer of second-degree assault and use of a deadly weapon for attacking a former roommate with a hammer. He also became one of the first people in the state convicted of unlawful membership recruitment into an organization or association that engages in criminal acts, a law passed in 2009 as part of a package targeting gang violence. Scott's attorney, Steve Lefler of Omaha, argues that the law is unconstitutional because it infringes on a person's rights to free speech and assembly. Scott's case began when a one-time high school friend, Samuel Kelley, was kicked out of his parents' home and moved in with Scott, according to court records. Kelley told authorities Scott was obsessed with the HBO television mafia series, "The Sopranos," and investigators found the walls of Scott's apartment plastered with posters from the show. Scott, who grew up in a wealthy west Omaha neighborhood, often discussed his role in a group he helped create dubbed the "White Rider Clique," which Scott often called "the family," court records show. The

group consisted of Scott and three other friends from high school. Scott and two other members of the group were considered the bosses of "the family," the fourth member was a "soldier." Scott soon turned his attention to recruiting Kelley to join the group, Kelley told investigators. Kelley said he sold small amounts of marijuana to friends for Scott's group for the month he lived with Scott, but declined to continue doing so after joining the U.S. Army for fear it could jeopardize his future with the Army. Kelley told investigators that Scott insisted he sell one more ounce of marijuana for the group. When Kelley declined, Scott told Kelley that he would owe Scott \$90, regardless of whether he sold the pot. Kelley soon moved back in with his parents, and several weeks later, Scott and another member of the group showed up at Kelley's parents' house saying he owed them \$300, court records show. Kelley left for basic training without paying the group and returned to Omaha nearly a year later. Prosecutors say that soon after returning in 2010, Kelley was attacked by someone wielding a hammer as he and a friend were leaving a party in Omaha. Kelley and his friend managed to fight off the attacker, whom they identified as Scott. Kelley needed six stitches in his forehead and two staples for a wound to the back of his head. Lefler, Scott's attorney, is seeking a new trial based on a number of errors he claims the Douglas County District Court made in

Scott's trial. Among those errors, he said, is not finding the unlawful recruitment law unconstitutional. The law is overly broad, he said Friday, and could affect constitutionally protected speech and gatherings. "What differentiates a 'gang' from a group?" he asks in his brief before the Nebraska Supreme Court. "If the answer is the act of committing crimes, should the state not have to prove that the crimes of robbery, assault, etc., have been committed before they claim this group is actually a gang?" In Scott's case, prosecutors did not prove that Scott was a member of a gang, nor did they prove that he tried to force Kelley to participate in a criminal gang, Lefler said. "No testimony was offered other than the victim's testimony that a 'gang' or 'family' existed," Lefler said. "Further, no police officer testified that this was a recognized gang." "It's ludicrous to think that there's a 'gang' of four people with three bosses," he said. State prosecutors defend the law, saying it doesn't keep Scott or anyone else from associating with "the family" or recruiting others into it, but does prevent him assaulting someone who refuses to participate. "The statute is clear," Shannon Kingery, a spokeswoman for the Nebraska Attorney General's office, said Friday. "A person does not have the constitutional right to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or inflict bodily harm upon another person in order to make them join or prevent them from leaving an organization or association." The state's high court is set to hear arguments in the case on Sept. 4.

Transplant Reflects Surgical Leap In S. Dakota

BY JON WALKER
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A reunion of two friends recently brought new meaning to the notion of giving and receiving. Ben Ekrem needed a kidney. Mary Crandall gave him one. They met in the 1990s, when Ekrem and Crandall's husband, Doug, worked together in the insurance business in Sioux Falls. They and their spouses met again Tuesday at Avera McKennan Hospital to take part in a medical oxymoron — a routine life-saving procedure. Wednesday morning, Crandall was asleep on an operating table, where surgeons removed one of her kidneys. They stored it in a bowl of crushed ice and walked it next door to another operating room, where Ekrem waited to receive it. Ekrem and Crandall thus took their place in medical history. They were transplant number 995 at Avera McKennan. Doctors there expect to reach 1,000 in a few weeks. The milestone might rate someday as a footnote to the two friends' experience. But to Ekrem, age 51 and a diabetic for 30 years, it was about liberation from four-hour sessions on a dialysis machine. To Crandall, 48, giving up a kidney was a matter of being a good citizen in the human family. "Do you know the expression 'to pay it forward'?" Doug Crandall said of his wife's decision. Avera McKennan has transplanted 604 kidneys since 1993. It added bone marrow to its transplant lineup in 1996 and has done 359 of those procedures. It added the pancreas in 2003 for 32 more. "We're the first program in the state. We've got a good track record and so, for us, we're pretty proud of it," said Dr. Robert Santella, medical director at the Avera Transplant Institute. Growth here fits steady expan-

sion of transplant medicine. Doctors transplanted the first kidneys in the 1950s and the first heart in 1967. Rare procedures then are common now. Since 1988, doctors have done 547,050 organ transplants, including 324,551 kidneys, according to LifeSource, a Twin Cities agency that assists transplants in Minnesota and the Dakotas. A kidney transplant can run north of \$100,000 plus \$20,000 a year for life in drugs and follow-up care, Santella said. But with dialysis and related costs running \$75,000 a year, "by year two, it's cheaper," he said. Drugs do suppress a recipient's immune system, increasing risk of cancer or infection. "But compared to dialysis, a transplant doubles or triples their life expectancy and makes them feel much better," he said. Sanford Health has transplanted 62 kidneys in Sioux Falls since opening its own unit in 2007. "We used to refer patients to the Avera program," said Dr. Larry Burris, transplant nephrologist at Sanford. Waiting for an organ match can take years. "That's one of the reasons Avera is far beyond us. They started earlier," Burris said. He said the two hospitals benefit by having each other in town, and they make good use of nearby transplant programs by sending lung patients to Omaha, heart patients to Minneapolis or Mayo Clinic and liver patients to Milwaukee. Even with increasing options, the math is grim. "Unfortunately, every day about 18 people die waiting for a transplant," said Rebecca Ousley, spokeswoman for LifeSource in St. Paul. In Minnesota and the Dakotas, 3,283 people are waiting for organs, including 2,421 needing kidneys. Avera's milestone needs to be seen in light of that, she said. "It's incredible, because every transplant that takes place is a life saved," Ousley said. "That's almost 1,000 lives they've saved." The Crandalls, who now live in

southern Wisconsin, drove to Sioux Falls to meet recently with Ekrem and his wife, Tami, in a conference room at Avera McKennan. In the room with them was Dr. Tariq Khan, their surgeon the next morning. Khan, 39, grew up in Hong Kong aspiring to play soccer. Instead, he went to medical school in Pakistan and, after stops in West Virginia and Dallas, ended up at McKennan in 2008. He estimates he's done a couple hundred kidney transplants. "It's pretty routine surgery," he said. It's also a matter of awe. The body has many bilateral pairs, including two kidneys in the abdominal cavity. Their job is to purify blood. A renal artery brings blood in, where the kidney separates the blood from water and waste products of metabolism. The kidney sends the clean blood out through a vein to return it to the body's circulation. It sends the waste out as urine through a second opening into the ureter on its way to the bladder. Two kidneys divide the workload 50-50, but one also can be sufficient. In body math, the second kidney is a spare part. "You have to ask God," Khan said. "Only God understands why you have a symmetry, two nostrils, two ears, two arms. It's the way he liked it. I don't have an answer for you." Ekrem grew up on a farm near Selby in north-central South Dakota. He had chicken pox at age 18, which a doctor said might have led to type 1 diabetes appearing at 21. What's followed for him has been three decades of insulin injections, with syringe and needle, then a pump. The Ekrems didn't know until after the Crandalls moved to Wisconsin how Mary could help Ben. Last year they would begin to find out. Ekrem for years had suspected he would need a new kidney, so he emailed friends, mentioning his wish and asking about O-positive blood. "He didn't know I had

O-positive," Crandall said. She discussed it with her husband. "I said, 'I'm OK with this. Let's call them.'" Crandall came to Avera McKennan, where tests confirmed a blood match and showed that Ekrem's blood had no antibodies against her kidney. The transplant would work. By mid-year, with Ekrem on dialysis three times a week since March, he wanted to proceed. "He called this June," Crandall said. "He said, 'Are you still willing?' I said, 'Of course.'" Wednesday morning, Khan and his colleagues attended first to Crandall. At 8:30 a.m., they had made their incision and were taking delicate steps to detach her kidney. By 9:15 a.m., the kidney was free, a slab of red flesh in the cup of Dr. Chris Auvenshine's hand. It soon was soaking in a solution and receiving an ice bath to bring it down to 39 degrees. Auvenshine used a small tool to drip a preservative onto the kidney to supply nutrients it normally would draw from blood. "Everything is going perfectly," he said. With one removed, Crandall's other kidney began flying solo. "The body picks up the slack almost immediately," Auvenshine said. At 10:05 a.m., her kidney was on its way to Ekrem's room next door. There, doctors reversed the process. At 12:25 p.m. Crandall's kidney was pulsating inside Ekrem, receiving blood from his heart. Surgeons made the three critical attachments — artery, vein and ureter — and proceeded with their trimming and stitching to secure the organ in place. By 1:30 p.m., with a rock tune on an overhead speaker, they almost were done. "It's the greatest gift you could give," Ekrem told Crandall the day before. Now he was on his way to intensive care for rest. Crandall was in another room, also resting. Late last week, both were well.

OBITUARIES

Franklin Nedved

Franklin Dale Nedved was born on January 18, 1934 to Edward and Hattie (Jiricek) Nedved in Wagner, SD. He passed away at the Cottonwood Post Acute Rehab in Woodland, CA on July 27, 2012. Survivors include his five children: Kathryn (Jack) Ramsdell of Springfield, SD; Colleen (Perry) Pesicka of Lake Andes, SD; Dwight (Karen) Nedved of Twin Brooks, SD; Doris Nedved of Garretson, SD and Allen (Brenda) Nedved of Pierre, SD; Grandchildren: Kyle Pesicka, Charlotte Pesicka, Nicole Nedved, Kari Nedved, Megan Nedved, Taylor Ramsdell, Autumn Ramsdell, Aden Ramsdell, Grace Nedved and Gary Nedved; great-grandchildren: Rory Kiyuken, L. J. Kiyuken and Kaden Nedved; sisters: Virginia Slama of Tyndall, SD and Arlene Svanda, Tyndall, SD and nephews: Don Slama of Sioux Falls, SD; Roger (Connie) Svanda of Tyndall, SD and Warren Svanda, Tyndall, SD. He was preceded in death by his parents: Edward and Hattie Nedved; brother: Robert Nedved; brothers-in-law: Ed Slama and Wilbur Svanda; son-in-law: Christopher Lingle and nephew: Wayne Slama. No services are scheduled at this time.

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John Alexander

NORFOLK, Neb. — Funeral services for John Alexander, 70, of Norfolk, Neb., are pending at Brockhaus-Howser-Fillmer Funeral Home, Norfolk.

Beverly Huber

Beverly L. Huber, 82, of Yankton died on Friday, Aug. 24, 2012, at her residence. Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at United Church of Christ Congregational, Yankton, with the Rev. Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial will be at the Yankton Cemetery. Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, with a prayer service at 7 p.m., at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton. The family will be present on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. Visitation

will continue one hour prior to services at the church on Wednesday. To send an online sympathy card, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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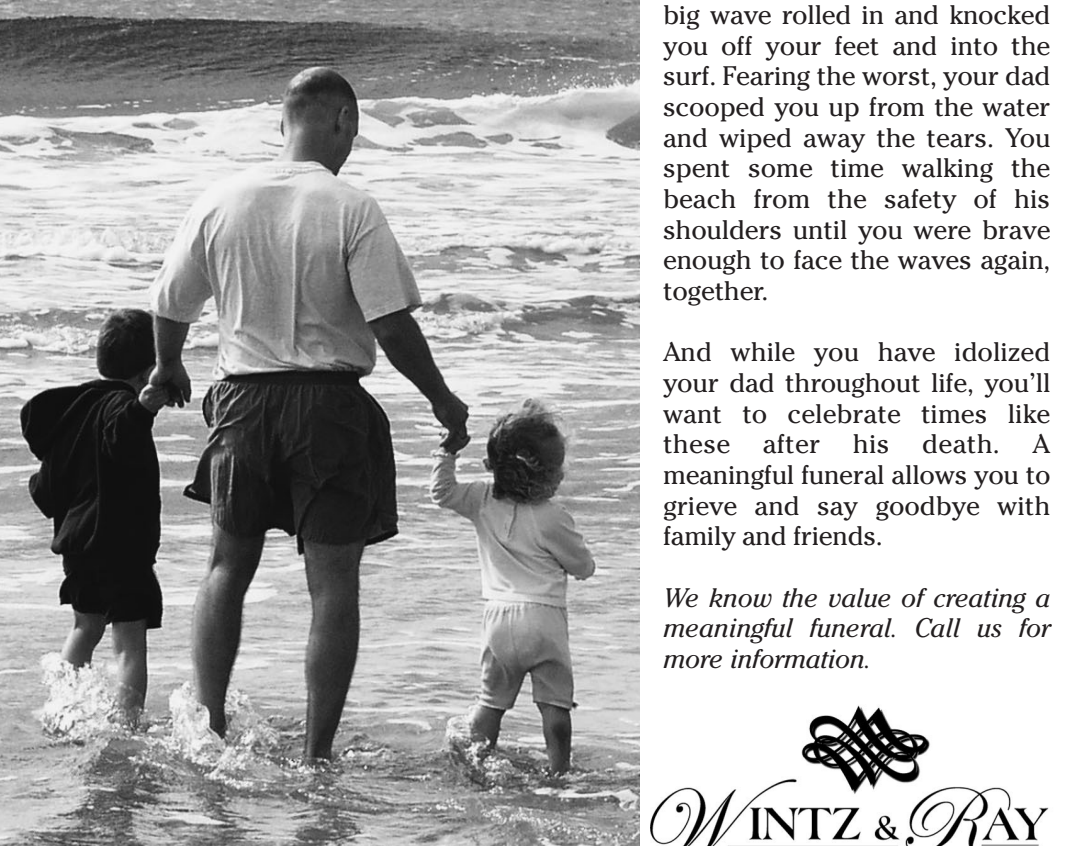
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You were 4 years old and seeing the ocean for the first time. One big wave rolled in and knocked you off your feet and into the surf. Fearing the worst, your dad scooped you up from the water and wiped away the tears. You spent some time walking the beach from the safety of his shoulders until you were brave enough to face the waves again, together.

And while you have idolized your dad throughout life, you'll want to celebrate times like these after his death. A meaningful funeral allows you to grieve and say goodbye with family and friends.

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