

Iowa Veterans Home Fined After Falls

BY RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa's nursing home for veterans has ended a program in which residents transported other residents who use wheelchairs around the campus, following a bloody accident in which an elderly woman fell face-first into concrete and broke her nose, its top administrator said.
The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown reported the Sept. 29 fall by a resident who suffered from arthritis and dementia to state regulators and took responsibility for failing to train her escort. That incident and another in which a patient fell out of bed after being left unattended led the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals to cite the home for a major safety violation last month and fine it \$3,000.
State records show it is the second fine for a serious violation in two years for the home, which is Iowa's largest nursing home and among the biggest in the nation for veterans and their spouses. The home is made up of two separate facilities: one that provides nursing care for about 500 residents, and a residential care facility where 100 more people live mostly independently.
Under the home's resident employee escort program, Commandant David Worley said Friday that about a dozen residents of the residential care facility were employed a few hours per week at minimum wage transporting nursing home residents in wheelchairs. He said the program had been in place for years but was discontinued after the Sept. 29 fall exposed a lack of training among employees and raised questions about safety.

"We hope we never, ever are the cause of a resident getting injured. That's always our biggest concern," he said. "We want that to never happen again."
Asked why the escorts did not have training, Worley said the program was there when he took over as nursing home administrator 16 months ago "and we just hadn't followed up on it."
On Sept. 29, a male employee was transporting the woman back from a beauty shop down a ramp on the home's grounds when she put her feet down, tried to stand up and fell face-first onto cement, records show. The woman was taken to an emergency room, where doctors found her nose was broken and a major cut on her forehead that required 14 stitches.
The male employee told investigators he'd been doing the job for three months, but had no training on the proper use of wheelchairs.
"At the time of the fall, the wheelchair pedals were not being used and the resident escort employee transferring the resident had no training," according to the state citation, which is dated Nov. 2. "The facility and/or director of nursing had not provided training to ensure residents' needs were met."
After the fall, Worley said employee escorts were reassigned to other jobs such as delivering mail and folding laundry. Residents in wheelchairs will now only be transported by staff employees or volunteers who go through training, he said.
David Werning, a spokesman for the Department of Inspections and Appeals, said the wheelchair escort program "may well have been a case of good intentions that went awry." He said it was understandable to try to have

residents feel good about helping others, but the lack of training was problematic.
In the second case, regulators faulted the home for failing to prevent a patient who had chronic kidney disease and other ailments from slipping off the end of a bed on Sept. 25 and hitting his or her head on the floor. That resident, whose gender wasn't specified in the report, bruised the area around his or her eye so badly that it swelled shut and suffered abrasions to the elbow and knees.
Veterans home employees blamed a nurse for briefly leaving the resident sitting on the end of the bed while looking for another employee to help adjust the patient's sling. The patient's care plan had warned the resident was at high risk for falls.
Regulators cited the home for a single major violation as a result of multiple lesser infractions that constituted "an imminent danger or a substantial probability of resultant death or physical harm to the residents of the facility."
The home paid the fine on Nov. 15, and its size was reduced by 35 percent to \$1,950 under a policy rewarding violators who do not contest citations, Werning said. He said home administrators had also submitted an acceptable plan to address the problems, and regulators would check whether the measures are in place during a surprise visit.
"Anytime you get a Class 1 violation it signifies there is a significant issue to be corrected," he said. "Considering the size of the facility, they jumped on it quickly."
The home was cited and fined \$4,500 last year for inadequate supervision after a resident with dementia left the grounds during a recreational activity, walked four blocks away and was spotted trying to hitchhike.

Mitchell Council To Look At City Hall Move

MITCHELL (AP) — The Mitchell City Council is planning to discuss a possible relocation of city hall.
The Daily Republic reports that the potential move would not take place anytime soon. It's related to a study of a next-generation Corn Palace that could use part of the current city hall for an expansion.
The discussion is on the city council's Monday night meeting agenda.
City officials say they are running out of space for workers and offices, so any relocation would also help alleviate that problem.
A development committee says a new larger Corn Palace could turn around slumping attendance figures for the tourist attraction.

Neb. Library Says Someone Urinated On Books

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Officials at the Bennett Martin Library in Lincoln have removed and destroyed about 150 books after someone urinated on the biographies bookshelf.
The Lincoln Journal Star says Monday that officials don't know when it happened, why it happened or who did it, but the smell left no question. A police report puts the loss at \$3,900.
Tammy Teasley of Lincoln City Libraries says she was removing older, outdated books from circulation on Nov. 28 when she detected the odor on the shelves on the second floor in a corner of the building.
Teasley says the person was likely intoxicated and found a secluded spot in the library. She says the remaining books on those shelves will be moved elsewhere.

Teacher On Paid Leave After Students Burned

MAPLE GROVE, Minn. (AP) — A Maple Grove Junior High School teacher has been placed on paid administrative leave after a science experiment burned four students, one of them seriously.
District spokeswoman Barbara Olson says Matthew Achor will remain on leave until the school district's investigation is complete. She says the district has no timetable for its investigation.
The Star Tribune reports Achor has been with the Osseo School District since 1985, according to state teaching licensing records.
The incident happened in a classroom last Thursday. Three of the four students were treated at HCMC and released that day. A 15-year-old boy who was the most seriously burned left the hospital over the weekend.
A telephone message left at Achor's home Monday was not immediately returned.

Ceremony Honors Vets With Holiday Wreaths

PIERRE (AP) — Veterans were honored with holiday wreaths on Monday during a ceremony at Pierre's Capitol Lake.
KCCR radio reports that the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Flaming Fountain is part of a national effort placing wreaths at memorials and grave sites of veterans and fallen military personnel.
Lt. Gov. Matt Michels says such ceremonies of remembrance are important, especially with the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Wednesday.
Michaels, a Navy veteran, attended the morning service organized by the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association.
South Dakota National Guard Major Kenn Kerfont told the audience that it is important to remember the sacrifices made by those who served during all times of the year.

OBITUARIES

Agnes Schanche

Agnes M. Schanche, age 91 of Yankton passed away Friday, December 2, 2011 peacefully with her family at her side at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.
Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton with Rev. Dave Wildermuth officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.
Visitations will begin at 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 7:00 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.
Pallbearers will be her grandsons: Jeremy Guenther, Bryan Schanche, Patrick Harty, Gerrit



Schanche

Guenther, Travis Peterson, Matthew Guenther, Tim Peterson, Sam Rasmussen, and Brad Schanche. Honorary pallbearers will be her granddaughters: Michelle Harty Olsen, Kimberly Alberts, Heather Riediger, Emily Rasmussen, Katie Guenther, Sarah Rasmussen, and Kara Schanche.
Agnes Marie Jorgensen was born to James and Anna (Nelson) Jorgensen on September 29, 1920 in Yankton, SD the 4th of 6 children. She was raised in Yankton attending rural Prairie School and graduating from Mount Marty High School. She married Cletus Schanche on August 28, 1947 at Trinity Lutheran

Church in Yankton and to this union 7 children were born. She was a farm wife later working at Stuelpnagels and as a housekeeper at Sacred Heart Hospital. She helped out on the farm, raised gardens, canned, and was a wonderful baker. She was a very talented artist in her youth and was able to resume that talent after her family was raised. She enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.
Survivors are her children: Elaine (LeRoy) Harty, Dave (Kathy) Schanche, Dale Schanche, Joyce (Bill) Peterson, all of Yankton, Carol (Dan) Guenther of Wymore, NE, Dorothy (Tim) Rasmussen of Sioux Falls, and Kenny (Tammy) Schanche of Lesterville; 16 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren; her brother, Ron (Donna) Jorgensen

of Stillwater, MN and nieces and nephews.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Cletus in 1999, her parents, her sisters, Gladys Curry and Carol Pullen and two brothers, Harold and Alvie Jorgensen.
Memorial may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, South Dakota Office, 1000 N. West Avenue, #250, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 and Avera Sacred Heart Hospice, 501 Summit, Yankton, SD 57078 or the charity of your choice.
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PSAHL-KOSTEL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC. Online condolences at: www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Darleen Beeson

WAGNER — Funeral services for Darleen D. Beeson, 75 of Wagner, will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at the Wagner Community Church in rural Wagner.
Visitation will be from 1 to 5 Tuesday afternoon at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner, followed by a 7 p.m. Prayer Service at the church. Burial will be in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, rural Wagner.
Darleen Delores Beeson, daughter of Ben and Anna (Bren) Houska, was born October 18, 1936 on a farm south of Dante. She was the second child born to this union of four children. Darleen died Saturday, December 3, 2011 at Avera McKennan Hospital. Darleen attained the age of 75 years, one month and 16 days.
Darleen attended South Rouse #5 Country School and was a 1956 graduate of Wagner High School. On July 27, 1959, Darleen married Richard J. Beeson at Assumption Catholic Church in Dante. Together they resided and worked together on two farms south of Wagner. The second farm is currently and has been the family farm to Darleen's family for over 90 years. Born to this loving union were nine children. Richard died October 31, 2009.
Darleen was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Her grandchildren were the light of her life. She enjoyed cooking, baking, canning, gardening, reading, her flowers, her cats and Christmas lights. She will be remembered for her tea pot collection.
Thankful for having shared her life are her nine children: Diane



Beeson

Hahne of Faith; Dennis of Wagner; Rod (Barb) of Dante; Jo Lynn (Travis) Williby of Colby, KS; Pattie (Jerry) Middendorp of Fargo, ND; Ileen of Wagner; Sam (Dick) Moser of Lennox; Chuck and L.J., both of Wagner; 16 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; brother, George (Joannie) of Wagner; and sister, Norma (Arnold) Horner of Wagner; and many relatives and friends.
Darleen preceded in death by her loving husband; parents; oldest brother and his wife, Lloyd and Loretta Houska; her Uncle Ernie Houska; four sisters-in-law: Arlene and Alice Beeson; and Ann and Grace Schmuck; two brothers-in-law; Raymond, Jr. and Ronald Beeson; and her parents-in-law: Raymond Sr. and Grace Beeson.
Darleen was grateful to have shared all the years of her life with her family and friends. She always felt blessed to have had 50 years of loving marriage with the love of her life, Richard.
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California in 1962. He retired from Johns Manville in 1996.
He is survived by his wife Irene of Orland, children Mary (Carlson) of Granite Bay, Jerome Peitz of Chico and Dr. Tom Peitz of Tiburon. He leaves seven grandchildren as well as brothers Dennis and Art of Yankton, SD.
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Hubert 'Hube' Gregoire
Hubert W. "Hube" Gregoire, 72, of Yankton, SD formerly of Wakonda, SD died Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the Sister James Care Center in Yankton from complications of Lou Gehrigs Disease.
Hube was born in Vermillion, SD to Raoul and Blanche (Seney) Gregoire. He attended Lodi Country School and graduated from Wakonda High School in 1957. He attended the University of South Dakota for one year and then enlisted in the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War.
He was united in marriage to Lois Christenson on August 19, 1966, in Vermillion. He spent the majority of his life farming with his

brother and best friend Dick. In recent years he became an avid John Deere collector, collecting antique tractors, scale model tractors and building custom John Deere toys. He enjoyed drawing, traveling and spending time with family and friends. He was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, the Wakonda American Legion, the Vermillion Eagles Club and a longtime Pleasant Valley Township board member.
Grateful for sharing his life are his wife Lois of Yankton, three children: Kim (Rob) Paterick of Cumming, GA, Kristel (Pat) Kleinschmit of Peoria, AZ and Kary (Becky) Gregoire of Yankton, two brothers; Bob (Judy) Gregoire of Vermillion and Dick (Louise) Gregoire of Wakonda, two granddaughters; Savannah and Alicia, and five grandsons; Blake, Nick, Kyler, Mason and Jake.
Funeral mass will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 7, at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion with burial to follow in the Calvary Cemetery in Vermillion.
Visitation will be Tuesday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m., all at the church.
Visit hansenfuneralhome.com.
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Gregoire

Gerald Peitz
ORLAND, Calif. — Jerry Peitz, beloved father and grandfather, passed away unexpectedly on his ranch November 29.
He was born on July 9, 1930 in Beaver Creek, Nebraska. He proudly served his country in Korea with the Army. In 1954 he married Irene Koch (Wynot, Nebraska). They moved to Orland,

California in 1962. He retired from Johns Manville in 1996.
He is survived by his wife Irene of Orland, children Mary (Carlson) of Granite Bay, Jerome Peitz of Chico and Dr. Tom Peitz of Tiburon. He leaves seven grandchildren as well as brothers Dennis and Art of Yankton, SD.
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