

Former Neb. Inmate Sues 3 Prison Workers

YORK, Neb. (AP) — A former inmate at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women has filed a lawsuit against three prison workers there, alleging she was not given proper medical attention.

The *York News-Times* says the lawsuit was filed by 52-year-old Lori Lucchino. Lucchino says she suffered a head injury on July 8, 2009 while she was incarcerated, but that medical staff decided not to examine her for several hours.

Lucchino says in the lawsuit that she was outside, in the yard of the substance abuse unit, when she rang a buzzer to get back into the facility. She said prison staff responded and found her on the ground, unresponsive. Lucchino alleges that someone radioed for the prison's emergency response team, but no one arrived.

A preliminary exam suggested "two suspected diagnoses, heat exhaustion and drug overdose," the lawsuit states. "The defendant failed to follow protocol in treating the plaintiff for either of those diagnoses. The plaintiff did exhibit obvious signs of a head injury."

She also alleges that prison's failure to provide adequate medical care violated both state and federal law. The lawsuit seeks an unspecified amount for damages including pain and suffering, mental anguish, humiliation and disability.

Lucchino was released from prison in July 2010.

Deadwood Gaming Numbers Hold Their Own

DEADWOOD (AP) — Deadwood gaming numbers are up for slightly for November.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that total gross revenues for November rose about 1 percent to \$7.49 million. The total money wagered during the month rose by the about the same percentage to \$80.3 million from the previous November.

Deadwood Lead Economic Development Corporation director Chuck Turbiville says November traditionally is one of the slowest months for gaming, so holding your own is a positive thing.

The organization is hoping that with Christmas parties, the holidays and New Year's Eve falling on a Monday, December should show a slight improvement over November.

Year to date, gross revenues are up in Deadwood by nearly 7 percent, or about \$6 million.

Note: Correction On Pierre Shooting Story

PIERRE (AP) — In a story Dec. 20 about the slaying of Pierre teen, The Associated Press erroneously reported that the 16-year-old suspect, Braiden McCahren, faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole if convicted as an adult of first-degree murder. He could be sentenced to up to life in prison with the possibility of parole, but under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling this year, minors can't be given mandatory sentences.

S.F. Fire Victims Identified

Three Children Killed In Saturday Morning Blaze

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Authorities have released the names of three children killed in a weekend fire that tore through a home in Sioux Falls.

Michael Hensely, 16, Savannah Coon, 12, and Olivia Coon, 6 died in the Saturday morning blaze, said Sioux Falls police Sgt. Loren McManus. They were found in a single room on the second story of the frame house on North Main Avenue near Tower Park, he said.

Two adults escaped out of a second-story window and were taken by ambulance to a Sioux Falls hospital with injuries.

When crews arrived, flames were shooting from nearly every west-side window on both floors.

"It was shooting up past the trees," Aaron Knoll, a neighbor who lives several blocks away, told the *Argus Leader*.

Firefighters tried to enter the home but were forced back by the heat.

Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Chief Jim Sideras said it's not clear whether the children who died had been in the same room and were overcome by smoke, or whether they had been in separate rooms and then gathered.

"It's too hard to speculate," he said.

Firefighters could not search for the victims until they got control of the flames.

"When our crews enter this, they come expecting to be very aggressive. We teach them to be aggressive," Sideras said. "When they are

already behind the power curve with the amount of heat and fire they face, it is very frustrating."

He said the fire left the home badly burned and its structure weak, which brought challenges to the investigation.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is working with the fire marshal to determine the cause of the blaze.

Richard Hutchinson, assistant principal at Patrick Henry Middle School, where Savannah Coon attended, said counseling will be available to students.

"We have a crisis team that will be ready for kids when they come back after the break," Hutchinson said. "Protocol always is taking care of the emotional needs of the kids."

Nebraska

Irrigation Controls May Be Studied Amid Drought

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska natural resources district may impose limits on irrigation in the wake of drought conditions and declining water levels.

Irrigation controls are now under consideration in three areas of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, the *Norfolk Daily News* reported. The proposal would affect irrigators in some townships in Wayne, Madison and Pierce counties.

The district's governing board directed staff members last month to create a plan to deal with the growing number of conflicts between high-volume irrigation wells and domestic wells

drawn down by their neighbors' pumping.

The discussion was also prompted by measurements that showed all 243 irrigation wells monitored by the district had water levels lower than one year ago. One-third of the wells have reached all-time lows.

Rod Zessin, a Madison farmer who sits on the district board, said the Nebraska Legislature has directed natural resources districts to manage groundwater so that it's available for everyone.

"That's why we're here — to make sure everybody has some water available for a long time to

come," Zessin said.

More than 150 people attended a district meeting late last week, and 15 spoke against the idea of regulating irrigation to the extent the rules would enable. One person spoke in support of the concept.

Jovan Lausterer, the district's attorney, said the controls are written into state statutes. They provide as much flexibility as possible, giving the board a range of tools to adjust to specific circumstances in each area.

"By no means are you obligated to include all these controls," Lausterer said.

The board already has voted

not to allow any new groundwater irrigation next year throughout the district. It's also made payments to rural households to modify their wells to get them pumping again.

The board has a range of options to control water usage in the three areas. Board members may choose to limit irrigation, rotate irrigation by requiring that pumps be turned off for a period of time, or require measuring devices on the wells. They also can impose educational requirements on users that would teach them to reduce instances of groundwater depletion.

OBITUARIES

Calvin Peterka

Calvin Charles (Cal) Peterka, 73, of Gilmer, TX was born September 29, 1939 to Ben and Violet Peterka in Yankton, SD. Cal was a 1957 graduate of Yankton high school and a 1961 graduate of the University of South Dakota at Springfield. He taught school in Mission, SD, Irene, SD, Newcastle, WY and Pickstown, SD before going into the insurance business. He also worked for a number of years in the building construction business.

He was united in marriage on August 10, 1963 to Janet (Jan) Cassidy of Bristow, NE. To this union 3 boys were born, Jeff, Greg and Terry.

For a number of years, the couple had a country/western dance band called "The Nuggets" which played throughout south eastern SD and north eastern NE. In 1985, the family moved to Longview, TX and played there locally for several years. "The Nuggets" were honored to be the official band of the Elk's Lodge in Longview and had the privilege of playing for 2 state Elks conventions.

Cal worked for the City of Longview in the city parks department and in city building maintenance for 16 years, retiring in 2007.

Cal and Jan had been foster parents for 22 years having fostered a total of 49 abused and neglected children from newborns to teenagers. Some of these children were such treasures and have kept in contact with the Peterkas over the years and into their adulthood.

Cal entered the hospital due to complications of emphysema and COPD on December 12 and passed away peacefully on December 15 in Longview Regional Hospital in Longview, TX with this family at his side.

Left to mourn his passing is Jan, his wife of 49 years, sons and daughters-in-law Jeff (Deb), Greg (Tamara), all of Gilmer, TX and Terry of Longview, TX. Grandchildren Strad, Colton (Victoria), Devin, Hailey and Logan and 2 great granddaughters Sierra and Chloeie.

FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

From the outside looking in, you will see a man that's worked hard all his life.

You will see a man that gave more than he received his whole life.

You will see a man that had a sense of humor and made many people laugh.

From the outside looking in, you will see a man that treated his wife like gold and almost never had an argument with her.

You will see a man that was tough on his 3 boys, but it was done out of love and good intentions.

You will see a man that said it is always better to know a little about a lot than to know a lot about a little.

From the outside looking in, you will see a man that has made me the man I am today.

From the outside looking in, you will see a man that I'm lucky to call Dad.

— Terry Peterka

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 24, 2012

Merma Ayres

VIBORG — Merma Ayres, 86, died Dec. 18, 2012, at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, Viborg.

Helen Larson

Helen Larson, age 48, of Yankton, South Dakota, passed away Friday, December 14, 2012, at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton after a brief battle with Sarcoma.

A memorial service will be held in the spring of 2013 when all of her family can gather together to celebrate her life. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Helen Mary (Harper) Larson was born August 23, 1964 in Yankton, South Dakota, to Russell "Russ" and Elizabeth "Betty" Harper. Helen was the sixth of nine children born to the family. She grew up in Yankton and attended Yankton Public Schools. She graduated from Yankton High School in 1982. While grow-

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at the First Baptist Church, Viborg.

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorials to Spring Valley Baptist Cemetery Assoc.

Register online at www.viborg-funeralhome.com.

Aneta Hicks

Aneta Hicks, 77, of Yankton died Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, at her residence.

Memorial services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. David Lund officiating. Inurnment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton. The family will receive friends



Larson

ing up, Helen was active in 4-H and loved showing her horse, Misty. Summer days could usually find her at one of the lakes, often with one of her sisters. During high school and for a short time after, Helen worked at various jobs in the Yankton area, including the Broadway Theater and Sacred Heart Hospital. She will be remembered by her coworkers for always bringing a sense of humor to the workday, no matter what challenges it might have held.

In 1986, Helen moved to the Stockton, California area. She worked as a home health aid and grew to love her many clients. Also while in Stockton, she met Duane Larson. The two

from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton.

To send an online sympathy message, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Agnes Litz

Agnes L. Litz, 84, of Hartington, Neb., died Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012, at the Golden Living Center, Hartington, with her husband Jerome holding her hand.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hartington, with the Rev. Jeffrey Loseke officiating. A private inurnment will be at St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington at a later date.

Friends may view Agnes at 4-8

married in Yankton on June 25, 1988. To their union were born two children: Duane "Tre" Larson in 1990 and Jeannie Larson in 1993. Helen's husband Duane passed away suddenly in August 1992. After Jeannie's birth in March 1993, Helen relocated to Yankton, where she resided until her death. She tended bar at several local establishments, most recently at Captain Norm's. She knew her regulars by name and was known to mix a great cocktail.

Helen will be remembered by friends and family for her infectious laugh, her silly sense of humor, and her fierce loyalty to those she loved.

Helen is survived by her son, Tre Larson, of Yankton, SD; her daughter, Jeannie Larson (James Vande Hey), of Spearfish, SD; seven siblings: Russ Harper of Lansing, MI; Beth Harper of

Bend, OR; Arlene Harper (Clair Bakke) of Irene, SD; John (Barb) Harper of Yankton, SD; Chuck Harper of Yankton, SD; Dixie Harper of Queens, NY; and Susan Harper (Stephanie Beaver) of Irving, TX; a niece, Calla Harper, of Irene, SD; and countless friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Russ and Betty Harper; her husband, Duane Larson; and her infant brother, Robert Harper.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 24, 2012

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 and Cremation Service, Inc.

Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Lynne Gaudreau

A memorial service for Lynne S. Gaudreau, 54, of rural Springfield will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 27 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall.

There will be visitation from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home prior to the service.

Lynne died on Saturday, December 22, 2012 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls following injuries sustained in a motor vehicle acci-

p.m. Wednesday, with a vigil Service at 7 p.m., at Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington. The family will be present from 6-8 p.m.

dent near Springfield. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin
Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

on Wednesday. Visitation will continue on Thursday at church one hour prior to services.

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:

Josephine Vellek
who passed away on
December 29, 2002

William Dvoracek
who passed away on
December 29, 2000

Steve Raab
who passed away on
December 29, 1991

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.

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"From her favorite songs to her special prayers and the clergyman whom she respected, Mom's funeral was an important way for our family to share just how wonderful she was. It was a meaningful tribute that celebrated her life and the things she loved. Arranging many of the details ahead of time with Mom and the Wintz's helped make sure of that. When Mom died, the Wintz family took care of everything, providing us with comfort and peace of mind. Together, we created a meaningful funeral that was just the way Mom wanted it.

We know the value of creating a meaningful funeral service.

Please contact us for more information.

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