

OBITUARIES

**Melba Schmer**

Melba Jean Schmer, age 71, of Yankton passed away unexpectedly at her residence early Thursday, December 26, 2013.

Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 3, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church, Yankton, with Rev. Ron Johnson officiating. Burial of cremated remains will take place at a later date.

Visitations will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday evening, January 2, 2014 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Jean was born in Conway Springs, KS on December 5, 1942 to Samuel and Mary Elizabeth (Wolfe) Bechtel. Jean graduated from Conway Springs High School and went on to nursing school at Wichita State University and graduated from Newman



Schmer

Larry Freeman from Conway Springs, KS. The marriage was blessed with two daughters, Kim and Lanette. Both of the daughters graduated from Iola High School before pursuing careers in communications (Lanette) and nursing (Kim). Kim continued on to obtain her nurse practitioner degree and Lanette obtained her master's degree in sports administration. During Jean's 40+ years nursing career, she also owned her own business "Flower Village," worked with Dr. Vernon Lee as a patient educator and worked at the Allen County Bank and Trust.

In 1989, Jean began working at the North Kansas City Hospital in North Kansas City,

MO. She met and married David Schmer on May 5, 1990 in Greenwood County, KS. Her brother (Roger Bechtel) and sister-in-law (Ericka) stood in attendance during the ceremony. In June 1990, Jean and David relocated to Lincoln, NE where they raised David's youngest daughter, Katie. Jean worked in St. Elizabeth Hospital, the Lincoln Surgery Center and the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialty group as a surgical nurse and nursing supervisor before her retirement in 2004. She was an active member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses. After retirement, Jean and David relocated to Yuma, CO before settling in Yankton, SD.

Jean is survived by her husband, David of Yankton, daughter Kim Bodemann (Don) of Hot Springs, AR, their children; Claire, Marcus and Isaac; daughter Lanette (Todd) of Hot Springs, AR, their children; Brett and Molly; stepson Christian Hanson (Yulia) of Riverside, IL,

their children: Viktoria and Kira, stepdaughter Sara Koehler (Tim); son, Taylor Trumbo, stepdaughter Katie Anderson; her children, Alex Schmer, Ehren Anderson and Lena Anderson, sister Georgia Peterson (Denny) of Milliken, CO, brother Roger Bechtel (Ericka) of Eureka, KS, mother-in-law Helen Schmer of Scottsbluff, NE and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

She was preceded in death by her parents Sammie L and Mary Elizabeth (Wolfe) Bechtel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the Special Olympic Arkansas at 2114 Main St., No. Little Rock, AR 72115 or Special Olympics South Dakota at 800 E. I-90 Lane, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
 December 31, 2013

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**Holiday: Firework Safety Encouraged**

From P&D Staff Reports

With fireworks available for purchase and use through Jan. 1, a local fire official is encouraging the public to keep safety in mind.

It is the third year of a state law that allows for the sale and discharge of fireworks from Dec. 28 through Jan. 1.

Yankton Deputy Fire Chief

Larry Nickles said no fireworks-related incidents were reported the last two years during the New Year holiday.

While snow cover can alleviate fire concerns, he said one thing to watch for is sparks from fireworks getting into the upper levels of trees and starting a fire.

As with the Fourth of July, fireworks cannot be discharged within city limits.

**SDHDA Awards \$1.8M In Housing Opportunity Funds**

Recently South Dakota Housing Development Authority's (SDHDA) Board of Commissioners approved \$1.8 million in Housing Opportunity Funds (HOF) for various housing projects and programs across the state.

The \$1.8 million awarded will fund 21 projects resulting in the new construction of 20 single family homes, 50 multifamily housing units and the rehabilitation of 70 single family homes. Assistance will also provide for 83 individuals to receive homebuyer education and for 29 individuals to receive homelessness prevention activities.

"Our legislators worked hard to craft the Building South Dakota Fund which created the Housing Opportunity Fund and their vision and these projects will help address the unique housing needs of South Dakota communities," said Mark Lauseng, SDHDA Executive Director.

The HOF program was created via the "Building South Dakota Fund" during the 2013 legislative session and was designed to promote economic development in South Dakota by expanding the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing targeted to low and moderate income families and individuals in South Dakota.

The Housing Opportunity Fund may be used for new construction, the purchase and rehabilitation of rental or homeownership housing, housing preservation, homelessness prevention activities and community land trusts. SDHDA is the administering agency of the Housing Opportunity Fund.

The following is informa-

tion regarding the area applications that were awarded funds:

• **Dakota Dream Savings Fund;** Project Location — Statewide; Developer — Grow South Dakota; Housing Opportunity Funds Reserved — \$125,000; Project Summary — To provide funds for a statewide Individual Development Account to be used for down payment and closing costs for the purchase of a home.

• **Habitat for Humanity South Dakota;** Project Location — Huron, Brookings, Aberdeen, Watertown, Yankton; Developer — Habitat for Humanity—South Dakota; Housing Opportunity Funds Reserved — \$66,000; Project Summary — To provide a down payment assistance program for up to 12 habitat homeowners.

• **Inter-lakes Community Action Partnership (ICAP) ESG Program;** Project Location — Brookings, Clark Codrington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Moody, Miner, and rural Minnehaha and Turner counties; Developer — Inter-lakes Community Action Partnership; Housing Opportunity Funds Reserved — \$72,500; Project Summary — To provide rental deposits, rental assistance, case management and other services to prevent homelessness for 21 families.

• **Wagner Home Ownership Opportunity;** Project Location — 122 North St., NE; 504 2nd St., SE, Wagner; Developer — Wagner Development Partners, LLC; Housing Opportunity Funds Reserved — \$196,321; Project Summary — The new construction of four, two bedroom, one bath ranch style single family homes for lease purchase.

**Joyce Newman**

Joyce Newman, age 77 of Yankton SD, passed away Sunday, December 29th at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD, just two days shy of her and her husband's 60th Wedding anniversary.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 2, 2014, at the First United Methodist Church, 207 W 11th St, Yankton, SD with the Rev Ron Johnson and Rev Bob Cappel officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Jan 1st from 4-7 p.m. at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.



Newman

Dustin Gusso. Honorary pallbearers are Joyce's granddaughters: Angie Rasmussen, Danette Luthi, Renae Prostrollo, Jessica Branson, & Shayna Gusso.

Joyce was born on July 5, 1936 in Seneca, SD to Lloyd and Gladys (Rudd) Engle. She attended school in Orient, SD. On December 31, 1953 she married Maurice Newman. They spent their early years together farming near Ashton, SD. They then lived

in Miranda, SD for a short time before moving to Tulare, SD. From there they moved to Castlewood, SD before moving to Yankton, where they have lived for the last 27 years.

Joyce held various part-time jobs over the years, mostly she stayed home and raised her four daughters. Her passion in life was rummage sales. She loved going to them as well as having them. Each year, she volunteered with the Habitat for Humanity rummage sale held by the Habitat Bike Team. She took so much pride in the money that they were able to raise. She was a volunteer at Avera Sacred Heart for the last 12 years. She found so much joy in helping others.

Joyce is survived by her husband of almost 60 years,

Maurice Newman of Yankton, and her daughters Beverly (Allen) Swaney, Thomas, OK; Barbara (Daniel) Bottum, Tulare, SD; Brenda (Neil) Wilkison, Jewell, IA; Bonnie (Gregory) Gusso, Yankton SD. 12 Grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Brother Roger (Elvina) Engle, New Hope MN; Jean (Gayle) Levzow, Redfield, SD.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Wayne Engle & Virgel Engle. Memorials may be directed to the Yankton Habitat for Humanity.

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**Jayton Henry**

Jayton A. Henry, age 1 month and 12 days old son of Davida Henry and Jaron Red Owl passed away Saturday, December 28, 2013 at the Sanford's Children Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2013 at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center, Santee, NE with Rev. Patricia White Horse-Carda officiating. Burial will be in the Episcopal Cemetery, Santee, NE.

Visitations will begin Sunday and will continue



Henry

Santee, NE. The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting with service details.

Jayton was born November 17, 2013 in Sioux Falls, SD to Davida Henry and

Jaron Red Owl. Due to health complications and prematurity, Jayton was hospitalized at the NICU at Sanford Health before making his journey to the Spirit World.

Jayton is survived by his mother of Santee, NE and father of Sioux City, NE; sister, Daeonah Henry of Santee, NE; grandparents, David and Sherri Henry of Santee, NE and Larry Starr and Angie Red Owl of Sioux City, NE; great grandparents, Roger and Carol Trudell of Santee, NE; four uncles, Mark Henry, Jamie Henry,

David Henry, Jr., and Raymond Thomas, all of Santee, NE, numerous grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Shelly Henry, Mark Henry and Jeff Derby, great-grandmother, Darlene Henry, and great-grandfather, Jeffery Derby and Mike Kocer.

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**Ron Fettig**

Mass of Christian Burial for Ronald J Fettig, 54, of Niobrara, Neb., is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014, at St. Williams Catholic Church in Niobrara. The Rev. Kizito Okhuoya will be Celebrant, with burial in the L' Eau Qui Court Cemetery in Niobrara.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, at the Brockhaus Funeral Home in Niobrara.

Ron died Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013, at his home.

**Wanetta Madsen**

Wanetta Madsen, 98, of Wakonda died Friday, Dec. 27, 2013, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014, at the Hansen Funeral Home, Irene.

Visitation will begin two

hours prior to services.

A private family burial will take place in Hillcrest Cemetery at a later date.

For obituary and online condolences, visit [hansenfuneralhome.com/](http://hansenfuneralhome.com/).

**Esther Payer**

Esther Payer, 95, of Wagner died Monday, Dec. 30, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner.

Funeral Mass is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014, at St. John Catholic Church in Wagner. Burial is in the parish cemetery, rural Wagner.

Visitation is 3-5 p.m. Wednesday at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner, followed by a Rosary/Wake service at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

**Officials Urging Evacuation Near ND Derailment**

CASSELLTON, N.D. (AP)— Authorities urged residents to evacuate a small North Dakota town Monday night after a mile-long train carrying crude oil derailed outside of town, shaking residents with a series of explosions that sent flames and black smoke skyward.

The Cass County sheriff's office said it was "strongly recommending" that people in the town of Casselton and anyone living five miles to the south and east evacuate. A shelter has been set up in Fargo, which is about 25 miles away. Casselton has about 2,400 residents.

The sheriff's office said the National Weather Service was forecasting a shift in the weather that would push the plume of smoke down, which could increase the risk of potential health hazards.

The BNSF Railway Co. train left the tracks about 2:30 p.m. Monday, and as many as 10 cars caught fire. No one was hurt.

The cars were still burning as darkness fell, and authorities said they would be allowed to burn out.

Authorities hadn't yet been able to untangle exactly how the derailment happened, but a second train carrying grain was involved. BNSF spokeswoman Amy McBeth said the train carrying grain derailed first, then knocked several cars of the oil train off adjoining tracks.

Ryan Toop, who lives about a half-mile away, said he heard explosions and drove as close as about two city blocks to the fire, which erupted on a day when temperatures were below zero.

"I rolled down the window, and you could literally keep your hands warm," Toop said.

The derailment happened amid increased concerns about the United States' increased reliance on rail to carry crude oil. Fears of catastrophic derailments were particularly stoked after last summer's crash in

Quebec of a train carrying crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken oil patch. Forty-seven people died in the ensuing fire.

The tracks that the train was on Monday pass through the middle of Casselton, and Cass County Sheriff's Sgt. Tara Morris said it was "a blessing it didn't happen within the city."

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