

OBITUARIES

James Dawson

James Ross Dawson, 90, passed away on December 21, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no service. Interment will take place at the Bon Homme Cemetery near Springfield, SD. Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, is assisting with the services.

James Dawson was born in Union County, SD, on August 8, 1925, the only son of Fred and Margaret (Storm) Dawson. He graduated from Hawarden High School in 1943 and married Lois Jean Harris in 1946. They had three children: Deborah, James Douglas and Nancy. He served in the US Army as part of the occupa-



Dawson

tion of Italy following World War II. In 1978, he married Karen Steen, and they bought a home on Lewis and Clark Lake near Yankton, which he remodeled extensively, doing most of the work himself.

Jim spent most of his life either farming near Hawarden, IA, or as a piano salesman and tuner in the Sioux Falls and Yankton areas. He was very proud of the fact that he once tuned pianos for Van Cliburn, Count Basie, Woody Herman and other famous artists. A lover of big band music and a string bass mu-

sician, he formed a combo called "The Rainbeaus," a popular group that played for dances in the northwest Iowa region in the early 60's.

Jim's other favorite pastime was fishing, and over the years he made many fishing trips to Minnesota and Canada. He had varied interests and was a talented woodworker, crafting miniature buildings for his model railroad and other items. He also liked to travel, exploring historical sites throughout the United States, Europe and the Panama Canal. In his later years, Jim spent many hours enjoying the company of his beloved dogs and the beauty of Lake Yankton.

He is survived by his

wife, Karen Dawson; his three children and their spouses: Deborah Jean (John) Polich of Encinitas, CA, James Douglas (Wallace Bowling) Dawson of Chicago, IL, and Nancy Lynn (Randy) Devaney of Castle Rock, CO; and a sister, Dorothy Green of Estherville, IA.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Miriam Leuthauser of Yankton.

The family requests that memorials be directed to the Heartland Humane Society, 3400 East Highway 50, in Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
December 24, 2015



Online condolences at:  
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Leona Bergin

Leona May Bergin was born July 29, 1949 to Ernest and Irene (Pesicka) Bures in Pickstown, SD. Leona passed away Sunday, December 20, 2015



Bergin

surrounded by her family after a long battle with cancer at the Community Memorial Hospital in Wagner.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 28 at St. John's Catholic Church in Wagner. Burial is in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, rural Wagner.

Visitation is Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner. Rosary/Wake services are 7 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Leona attended Ravinia Consolidated School until 1966 and went on to earn her GED. Leona married Wayne S. Bergin December 28, 1965 in Lake Andes, SD. They resided on the family farm west of Wagner for 50 years. During this time she worked alongside Wayne on the farm. She also worked as a Med Aide/CNA for 38 years at the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary and St. Johns Altar Society.

Leona will be remembered for her positive attitude and

infectious smile. She was always thoughtful and kind to everyone. She loved playing cards, baking, gardening, canning and working with animals, especially her beloved sheep. But most importantly her unwavering devotion and love for her children and grandchildren.

Thankful for having shared her life is her husband, Wayne and their four children: Carl (Donell) Bergin of Meadowlands, MN, Colette Bergin of Omaha, NE, Connie (Tony) Miles of Lincoln NE and Wayne Jr (Jayme) Bergin of Wagner; six grandchildren: Katelyn, Hailey, Megan, Taylor, Cole and Callie and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Leona was blessed to have eight brothers and sisters growing up one mile south of Ravinia; late Edward Bures (Jacalyn) of Wagner, Ernie Ray (Debbie) Bures of Tyndall, JoAnn (Ron) Mazourek of Wagner, Richard (Deb) Bures of Aberdeen, Marilyn (Greg) Markley of Aberdeen, Tom (Donajean) Bures of Sargeant Bluff, IA, Helen-Babe (Brian) Martin of Amarillo, TX; and Frank (Dawn) Bures of Harrisburg; a step-sister Alona Ebright of Lake Andes; and sister-in-law Betty (Paul) Wentland of Denver, CO. She learned the art of playing polka music with her family band, The Bures Bohemian Band.

Leona was preceded in death by her infant daughter Rose Marie; her parents; her

mother-in-law Mary Bergin; brother Edward Bures; brother-in-law Lyle Bergin; and sister-in-law Ruby Schaefer.

Leona has touched so many lives in one way or another and will be deeply missed. Our memories of her will be cherished forever.

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Thomas Smith

Thomas Shultz Smith, age 75 of Sioux Falls, SD, formerly of Huron, SD, passed away on Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Sanford (USD) Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD with his loving wife Barbara and children by his side. His memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, December 28 at the Welter Funeral Home in Huron.



Smith

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Monday. Visit www.welterfuneralhome.com.

Thomas was born on February 8, 1940 on a farm near Highmore, SD to Ira and Ruth (Mesick) Smith. Thomas attended Barber College in Sioux City, IA.

On March 22, 1964, Tom married the love of his life,

Barbara Marvel.

Thomas enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing bingo at Sertoma Bingo. The greatest joy of his life, however, was his children and grandchildren.

Grateful for having shared in Thomas' life are his wife of 51 years, Barbara (Marvel); his children: Michael Thomas Smith of Yankton,, Shell (Kylie) Smith-Carroll of Sioux Falls, SD; three grandchildren: Andy Smith and Elsie, Robbie Carrol, and Hayden Carroll all of Sioux Falls; his great-grandchildren: Emma and Zoey Smith of Sioux Falls; three brothers: Henry (Paz) Smith of Port Orchard, WA, James (June) Smith of Hugo, MN and Marvin (Karen) Smith of Sterling, IL; sister, Barb (Art) Geyer of De Smet; and many nieces and nephews.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Rosa Diede.

Memorials may be sent to Barbara Smith at 1000 S Liberty, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

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Frank Arneson

Frank E. Arneson, age 83, of Yankton, died Monday, December 21, 2015, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Student

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"About two months ago, we had a benefactor who saw Laura play volleyball (for the Lancers) and asked if she was able to go home for Christmas," Rezac said. "I said probably not, that Laura had stayed here the previous year with the coach and other people. He said, 'I want to send her home for Christmas.'"

Rezac had never received such an offer and was pleasantly surprised at the generosity.

"I said we would have to see if it was feasible, whether Laura needed to be here over Christmas break," she said. "The person said to just let him know the cost of a plane ticket."

Cattle didn't need to remain at MMC over Christmas break for academic or athletic reasons. She was informed of the offer and the opportunity to return home for the holidays.

"I was told about this before a volleyball game. I had planned to stay here for Christmas, so it was quite a surprise," she said. "I thought, 'Wow! I was so excited to know I could spend Christmas with my family and do things like make a gingerbread house like we did when I was living at home.'"

Cattle expressed gratitude for those who hosted her last Christmas or otherwise have made her feel at home in the United States.

"But it's hard being away from my family," she said.

AUSSIE CHRISTMAS

Australians exchange Christmas gifts like other nations, Cattle said. However, she doesn't anticipate a white Christmas when she arrives home. "We have a hot Christmas with hardly any snow," she said.

And her family doesn't live in a metro area with large malls for Christmas shopping.

"My hometown is small. We have 4,000 people," she said. "We're isolated, more in the bush, and we're a gold mining town."

Cattle is the oldest of seven children in her family, ranging in age from 4 to 20 years old. Her father teaches in an elementary school, and the Australian schools will observe a long Christmas break while she visits home.

"All my siblings will be at home," she said. "On Christmas Eve, we'll go swimming.

On Boxing Day, the day after Christmas, we have a big football match in Australia. On New Year's, we have fireworks, with the most famous display at the Sydney Opera House with its lights and fireworks."

The festivities don't end there, she said. "We celebrate Australia Day on Jan. 26. We have people do everything with the Australian flag," she said.

For the record, Boxing Day isn't about fighting in the ring or returning Christmas presents. Boxing Day, celebrated in much of the British Empire, was started when servants worked on Christmas Day and then received a gift box when they received the following day off from work.

In addition, Australia Day marks the anniversary of the first fleet of 11 convict ships from Great Britain, and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by its commander Captain Arthur Phillip, in 1788.

However, the modern holiday commemorates Australia's achievements, culture and future.

Cattle will return to MMC before her siblings, who return to school at the end of January.

MAKING THE JOURNEY

With the donor covering her plane tickets, Cattle may find making the trip to be the most challenging part of the excursion.

Traveling to Yankton as a freshman was her first trip to the United States and her second trip abroad, after a New Zealand volleyball tournament.

"As a freshman, I didn't realize or organize for the layovers. It was hectic and crazy, making a few flights before I finally arrived in Yankton," she said.

On that trip, she stopped at Los Angeles as her first U.S. airport en route to Yankton. This time, she will return to Australia by starting in Omaha and traveling to Denver, San Francisco and Sydney.

The flight from Sydney to Los Angeles took her 13 1/2 hours, while a similar flight from Los Angeles to Sydney will take 15 hours. She also crosses the International Date Line during her flights, creating a time warp when it comes to travel.

"I leave Sydney at 10 a.m. and arrive at Los Angeles at 6 a.m. the same day. It's going back in time travel," she said.

However the system works in reverse as it takes two day when flying home. Her plans

called for leaving Omaha last Monday (Dec. 21) and arriving in Sydney on Wednesday (Dec. 23).

Even her flight to neighboring New Zealand required a four-hour plane trip.

FINDING A NEW HOME

What brought her a half-world away to a small Catholic college in a Midwest town of 15,000 residents?

In Australia, she had played on a national team and sought to play in the United States. An Australian sports agency recommended she look at the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC).

"The agency thought the GPAC would be a good fit for me, and it's a really tough conference," she said. "One of the schools is Mount Marty. When I looked at the school, one of the athletes, Patrick Ciganovic, was from Australia and recruited me. And Mount Marty was so organized with their reply to me."

Cattle enrolled in the pre-professional program and looks to enter occupational therapy. She wants to travel after graduation and work in a Third World country.

She sees the holiday reunion with her family as part of the life story she shared for a class assignment.

"We were to give a speech, using something from our past, present and future," she said. "My grandmother knitted a blanket, that's my past. My present is my volleyball knee pad. And my future is my passport for traveling the world."

She received her first dose of Yankton hospitality during a Riverboat Days mixer in August 2014. She fielded a number of questions about Australia, and she learned American customs such as Thanksgiving.

Cattle considers herself fortunate to return home for Christmas, whereas Ciganovic must remain on campus as a member of the men's basketball team.

Cattle has discovered

another home connection of sorts with MMC siblings Holly and Ben Hegge of Crofton, Nebraska. Their sister, Amber Hegge, started at the University of South Dakota and now plays professional women's basketball in Australia.

Rezac said the donor's generosity benefiting Cattle shows one way the community takes care of MMC students.

"We're trying to stay more connected with Yankton and the region. This (donation) is a great gesture, and to know that people reach out to us and our students," she said. "We've had people host teams for dinner when our (college) food service is shut down over Christmas break. We've also had people who host our teams on the road."

MMC hopes to continue building on those relationships in the future, Rezac said.

"Laura is a wonderful young lady who adds a special element to our campus community. This gift adds another dimension to that," she said.

"We're sincerely grateful to this donor for understanding and responding to her unique situation. It takes someone with a strong sense of family to respond in this way."

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Yankton Men Arrested In Incident

LAKE ANDES — Two Yankton men were arrested Tuesday night following an accident and altercation in Charles Mix County.

According to a press release from the Charles Mix County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Frank Kistler was investigating a crash approximately 8 miles south of Wagner on 305th Street at 9:15 p.m. The driver, identified as Tyler Rauscher, 19 of Yankton, struck an electrical pole.

During the course of the investigation, Rauscher reportedly became belligerent and resisted arrest. A struggle between Deputy Kistler and Rauscher occurred, which resulted in Kistler and Rauscher falling to the ground onto Kistler's left arm. The deputy received a contusion to his left arm as a result.

While being placed in the police vehicle, Rauscher allegedly kicked the door, causing the vehicle door to strike the deputy in the forehead.

Rauscher was arrested for driving under the influence, revoked driver's license, resisting arrest and simple assault on a law enforcement officer. He was held in the Charles Mix County Jail on a \$5,000 cash bond.

An occupant in the vehicle, Isaiah Groetken, 20, of Yankton, was reportedly uncooperative during the course of the crash investigation and was arrested for underage consumption of an alcoholic beverage and open alcoholic container in a Motor vehicle. He was held in the Charles Mix County Jail on a \$1,000 cash bond.

Public Officials Urge Holiday Safety

PIERRE — With both the Christmas and New Year's holidays occurring in the next week, officials of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety are encouraging people to be safe with their celebrations.

Many people will travel during the next week. Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, says drivers need to be patient and watch for others.

"We know many people will be traveling not only on the holidays themselves, but also on the days before and after each holiday," says Price. "As always, Highway Patrol troopers will be out there, helping remind motorists to be safe."

In 2014, five people died in fatal crashes during the Christmas reporting period but none during the New Year's period. Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety, says with all of the activities surrounding the holidays, people need to still practice road safety.

"There are few things worse than having a holiday end in sadness after a loved one dies in a fatal crash," Axdahl says. "Our reminders to the motorists are the same: Slow down, be mindful of changing road conditions in case of bad weather, always wear your seatbelts and put the cell phone out of reach to eliminate the temptation to text while driving."

The need to be safe goes beyond just traveling. State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says the holiday season brings increased fire risks to the home as well.

"With so many lights, decorations and special meals that are part of the holidays, it is important to be aware of additional fire hazards that are present in the home," Merriman says. "Be careful with fires of any kind and make sure they are not unattended. And of course, having a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home is essential."

All three DPS officials say despite all of the activities that come with the holidays, people still need to make sure they and their families remain safe.

Mickelson

From Page 1A

Mickelson moved to Yankton in the 1960s when he became a door-to-door milk salesman. He did that for some time before he was brought into the real estate business by attorney Richard Hagerty.

"He saw some things happening he didn't care for and he told me I had to get more professional," said Mickelson. "He gave me a book on how to be a broker and told me to read it and take the test. I did that and, lo and behold, I passed."

Mickelson established and operated his own business, Mickelson Real Estate, for more than 28 years, during which he remained active in numerous organizations that ranged from the State Association of Realtors to local groups like the Chamber of Commerce and Yankton Area Progressive Growth. After his business closed, he joined Anderson Realty in 1999 and has been a part of the company since then.

Mickelson handles the selling of homes, land and commercial properties.

"I enjoy helping people find a home they like, and they come back years later saying they still live in a house I sold them," he said. "It's a good feeling."

Despite his looming retirement status, Mickelson says he plans to keep busy by helping Anderson Realty and the Elks organization, the latter of which Mickelson has been a part of for 65 years.

"I can't sell property or take people's information, but I can answer the phone," Mickelson said. "I help the Elks with different projects. I've been through all the Elks' chairs, state and nationally."

Few know better than Daugherty of the impact Mickelson has had on the realtor business in Yankton.

"The accolades that could be bestowed upon Ted are numerous. However, what will go untold is Ted has simply lived and worked the past 45 years by a strict code of ethics, the utmost professionalism, extreme generosity and through high moral integrity," he said. "Ted has always been and will always be a quiet professional."

Mickelson has a piece of paper taped by his desk that states his personal motto: "The secret of living is the art of giving."

"It's been a very enjoyable business," he said. "Working with the sellers, buyers and other salespeople has made it so."

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

Happy Holidays  
from the  
Doctors and Staff of  
Willcockson Eye Associates  
& The Spectacle Shop  
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December 24th and 25th  
and January 1st  
so our staff can  
enjoy the holidays  
with their families.  
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