

PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER
 (605) 665-7811
 Published by YANKTON MEDIA, INC.
 319 Walnut St., Yankton, S.D. 57078

PUBLISHED DAILY
MONDAY-SATURDAY MORNINGS
 Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.
 Weekly Dakotan established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan established April 26, 1875.
 Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES*:
 Payable in advance: Carrier Delivery
 — 1-month \$12.09, 3 months — \$36.27, 6 months — \$72.53, 1-year — \$133.09
 Motor Route, where available: 1-month \$14.51, 3 months — \$43.53, 6 months — \$87.05, 1-year — \$159.14
 Mail in Retail Trade Zone: 1-month — \$16.93, 3 months — \$50.79, 6 months — \$101.57, 1-year — \$186.33
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South Dakota

22,354 People Enrolled In Marketplace Coverage

SIoux FALLS — As of Dec. 19, the number of consumers signed up for Marketplace coverage surged to more than 8.2 million nationally, including 22,354 in South Dakota. Those who selected a plan by Dec. 17 or were auto re-enrolled will have coverage effective Jan. 1, 2016. High consumer demand as we neared the enrollment deadline for Jan. 1 coverage, as well as the automatic renewal process, contributed to this overall total.

"Millions of Americans will start 2016 with the quality and affordable health coverage they want and need to keep their families healthy and financially secure," said Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell. "We are encouraged by the strong start we experienced in the first half of Open Enrollment for 2016 coverage, and know we have ongoing work to do. We are focused on making sure South Dakota families looking for coverage understand their options through the Marketplace, know about the financial assistance available, and have access to the support they need to enroll."

These data, for the first time, reflect the vast majority of consumers who were automatically re-enrolled into 2016 coverage. The re-enrollment process has not yet been completed so, as it continues, upcoming snapshots will include additional consumers who were automatically re-enrolled after Dec. 19. If a consumer realized after the deadline for coverage starting Jan. 1 that there is a better plan for his or her family, they can come back and make a change any time before the end of Open Enrollment on Jan. 31, 2016.

Open Enrollment for 2016 health coverage at HealthCare.gov began Nov. 1, 2015, and individuals can still enroll in coverage through Jan. 31, 2016. Consumers should visit HealthCare.gov or CuidadodeSalud.gov to review their coverage options, learn about what financial assistance is available, or to sign up or re-enroll in a plan that best meets their needs.

Having health insurance when you can afford it is now the law. If someone chooses not to buy health insurance and could afford to do so, they are at risk of paying a fee of \$695 or more.

Five Facts about Open Enrollment in South Dakota:

- Since Open Enrollment began on Nov. 1, a total of 22,354 South Dakota consumers have selected a plan through Dec. 19.
- Plans for 2016 are affordable, 70 percent of South Dakota enrollees can find plans for \$75 or less a month in premiums after tax credits. Nationwide, about 8 out of 10 people who enroll in health coverage through HealthCare.gov qualify for financial help to make their monthly premiums more affordable.
- For 2016, 71 percent of returning South Dakota HealthCare.gov consumers could save an average of \$217 annually in premiums before tax credits for a plan in the same level of coverage by returning to shop. If a consumer realized after the deadline for coverage starting Jan. 1 that there is a better plan for their family, they can come back and make a change any time before the end of Open Enrollment on Jan. 31, 2016.
- When South Dakota customers visit HealthCare.gov, they'll find a variety of quality health coverage options available. For 2016, South Dakota consumers can choose from two issuers and an average of 19 plans.
- Free, confidential enrollment help is available if people in South Dakota have questions or want to talk through their options with a trained professional:
 1. Visit LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov to find a listing enrollment centers and events in your community where free, confidential enrollment help is offered.
 2. Representatives at the 24-hour Call Center are available every day at 1-800-318-2596. Call Center representatives can answer questions and help people enroll in coverage over the phone.



Minimum Unit Walkaway Captured

From P&D Staff Reports

An inmate from the Yankton Minimum Security Unit briefly walked way late Thursday night before being captured early Friday.

According to the South Dakota Department of Corrections, Dustin Emery, 26, walked away shortly before midnight on Christmas Eve.

However, in an email sent out at 4:21 a.m. Friday, the Security Unit reported that Emery was apprehended by Yankton police a few hours later.

Emery is serving time for grand theft and possession of a controlled substance out of Yankton County.

No other details of the incident were available.

Historical Society Conducts Phone Survey

Mount Marty College and the Yankton County Historical Society are partnering to conduct a household size and income survey of Yankton County for a grant process.

Residents of Yankton County may receive a randomized phone call that will ask you two simple questions. All calls and responses are completely anonymous and are gathered for statistical purposes.

It is asked that you take the time to answer the questions honestly.

County Commission Meets Tuesday

The Yankton County Commission will hold its final meeting of 2015 at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, in the Commission Chamber at the Yankton County Government Center.

The agenda includes the appointment of a Housing and Redevelopment Commission, the designation of an employee to act as the website liaison, approval of the South Dakota Homeland Security Administrative Manual and the assignment of money for the Government Center security system, cash and contingency transfers, and budget supplements.

Vermillion Labor Office Set To Move

PIERRE — The Department of Labor and Regulation's (DLR) office in Vermillion is moving to 904 E. Cherry St. This new location is in the same strip mall as the Vermillion alternative school and walking distance from the University of South Dakota campus.

The office is currently located at 1024 W. Cherry St. It will be closed to the public on Jan. 4 for the move. Normal services will resume at the new location on Jan. 5 at 8 a.m.

DLR provides job seeker services such as employment searches, resume and cover letter assistance, mock interviews and workforce training. Businesses can receive worker recruitment services. The new location has resource and interview rooms available.

For more information about DLR, call 605-677-6900 or visit www.sdjobs.org. The Vermillion office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City To Host Public Meeting Jan. 7

The Yankton City Commission will convene Friday, Jan. 8, 2016, to determine the appropriate course for the community's future, and the night before, Thursday, Jan. 7, is an opportunity for public input.

Residents are invited to attend this public input meeting to be held on Jan. 7, at 6:30 p.m. in Room No. 114, of the Technical Education Center. You may share your opinions about what you believe should be included in the community's future.

If unable to attend, participate via Twitter @cityofyankton.

OBITUARIES

Traci Gravel

Traci Lea Gravel, 48, passed away December 21st, 2015 in her home surrounded by family and friends.

Traci was born on March 5th, 1967 in Denver, Colorado. She attended Centennial Secondary School in Windsor, Ontario, Canada; later in life she obtained her GED. Most of her life she was a homemaker, which allowed her to care for and make many memories with her son, Derek. She loved being with family, especially her two sons (Lucas and Derek), daughters-in-law (Amy and Paige), and grandson (Ares).

Traci enjoyed attending Derek's MMA events, cooking, crocheting, and reading. Most of all, Traci was proud of her two sons and their life accomplishments. She also cherished being a grandparent to her only grandchild.

She is survived by her two sons: Lucas (Amy) Gravel and Derek (Paige) Shultz; grandson: Ares German-Shultz;

sister Marci Siems; step-brother Matt Lebert; Nieces: Lisa Dugenske and Jana Siems; Aunts: Eloise (Barry) Pillen and Linda (Jim Brookshire) Peterson; Uncles: LeRoy (Pat) Saunders, Kenneth Saunders, Denny (Jackie) Peterson; close friends: Lisa and Jon Lyons, Jay Rothmeier.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Omer and Ada Lebert, daughter Stefani Gravel, significant other Wally Shultz, grandparents Robert and Dortha Peterson, and brother-in-law Terry Siems.

Funeral service will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 29th at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene, SD.

Visitation with the family present will begin at 6 p.m.

A Memorial Fund is available at First Dakota National Bank (Family of Traci Gravel) to help with funeral service funds.

For obituary and online condolences, visit hansenfuneralhome.com

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Norma Ayers

Norma A. Ayers, 77, of Westlake, passed away December 21, 2015.

Beloved wife of Fred for 57 years; devoted mother of Cathy (Steve) Friedman, Lynn (Bo) Russell, and Jeff (Krista) Ayers; cherished grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of four; loving sister of Verna Nelson, Gene and Darrell Vognild, and Marlene Erickson.

Norma was an avid bowler, golfer, and woodworker.

Visitation is 6-8 p.m., Monday, December 28, 2015, at Sunset Chapel, 6245 Columbia Rd., North Olmsted, OH, where funeral services will commence at 12 noon, Tuesday, December 29. Interment at Sunset Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences can be made at www.dostalbakas.com.

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Your Weekly Tax Tip

If you recently refinanced your home, you may have incurred deductible points. If the points were paid in connection with a purchase of a home, they currently may be deductible. On a refinance of an existing loan, they may need to be amortized over the life of the loan. Be aware of unamortized points on any previous refinancing. The unamortized balance can be written off in the year you refinance your home.

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BOARD OF TRADE

CHICAGO (AP) — Grain futures were lower Thursday on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Wheat for March delivery lost 2 cents to \$4.6750 a bushel; March corn fell 1 cent to 3.6450 a bushel; March oats were 2.25 cents lower to 2.1950 a bushel; while March soybeans were off 7.75 cents at \$8.73 a bushel.

Beef and pork were higher the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. February live cattle was up 2.35 cents to \$1.3702 a pound; March feeder cattle gained .15 cents to \$1.6012 a pound; while February lean hogs rose .53 cent at \$5.830 a pound.

Don Juffer

Donald R. Juffer, 84, of Wagner died unexpectedly Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015, at his home in Wagner.

Memorial services are pending at a later date.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

Jimmie Mayer

Jimmie L. Mayer, 58, of Yankton died unexpectedly Thursday, December 24, 2015, at his home in Yankton.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the funeral Tuesday at the funeral home.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintz-rayfuneralhome.com.

Maid Service
"Yankton's Clean Team"
 Housecleaning weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, spring/fall cleaning, new home construction cleaning, move-in/move-out cleaning
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 Please call Sherry at 605-665-5266 and get your house on the schedule or www.velovetocleanyankton.com

Send an on-line sympathy card at
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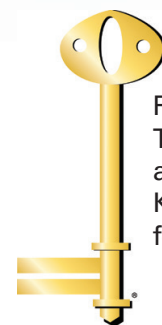
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