

## Daugaard: Vote On Program Could Cause Harm

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota's efforts to attract new companies and help existing ones expand could be hurt by the public vote scheduled for November on a new business grant program, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Thursday.

If voters reject the grants, South Dakota could be left with no incentive program to help large construction projects in January 2013, when the existing program has expired and the new one was supposed to take effect, Daugaard said.

The uncertainty created by the ballot measure has hampered the Governor's Office of Economic Development's efforts to craft incentive packages to help new and expanding businesses, Daugaard said.

"It is very instrumental and important for our ability to attract all kinds of businesses," the Republican governor said.

## Man Sent To Prison In Counterfeiting Case

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha man is going to federal prison in a counterfeiting case that was solved after fake bills showed up at Bryan High School in Bellevue.

The U.S. attorney's office says 23-year-old Emmanuel Macheik was sentenced Thursday to 10 months in prison or ordered to pay nearly \$1,200 in restitution.

Macheik was arrested in January 2011 after authorities investigated a juvenile who used counterfeit bills at Bryan High.

Authorities say Macheik printed the money on his computer in his bedroom. A search turned up grocery bags containing \$3,800 in bills, as well as a printer and supplies and two weapons.

Officials say nearly \$1,200 in counterfeit bills was used at more than two dozen locations.

## Neb. Mountain Lion Season Could Be Coming

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission would have the authority to control the mountain lion population, under a measure before the state Legislature.

A bill debated by the Natural Resources Committee on Thursday is designed to set preliminary rules for a mountain lion hunting season.

State officials say the mountain lion population is increasing, although the number of lions is estimated at fewer than 60 statewide.

If the population continues to grow, Game and Parks could create a limited hunting season that would likely allow up to four lions to be taken per year.

Under the bill, Nebraska residents would pay \$25 for a chance to win a mountain lion hunting permit in a random drawing. Non-residents would be able to get a permit through an auction.

## Couple Get Probation In Mushrooms Case

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha couple accused of giving their 12-year-old daughter hallucinogenic mushrooms have been given five years of probation.

Christopher and Cynthia Ewerdt pleaded no contest to child abuse and possession of a controlled substance. They were sentenced Wednesday in Douglas County District Court.

The Ewerdts were arrested in August after police found their daughter wandering outside. She told police her parents gave her psilocybin mushrooms for religious purposes. The girl was placed in protective custody.

Police say they found the mushrooms growing inside the couple's home.

## Bill Promotes Cremation To Help Counties

PIERRE (AP) — Members of the House Local Government committee will continue to hear testimony on a bill that allows for the cremation of deceased indigent people whose funeral expenses fall upon counties' shoulders.

Carol Mueller of Minehaha County Human Services says the county has seen growth in funeral numbers and hefty costs, so counties should have the option to cremate. If no one claims the ashes, each county would decide how to handle them.

No one spoke in opposition to the bill.

The committee is expected to vote on the bill next week.

# S.D. Inmate Says He Deserves Death Penalty

BY KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A South Dakota inmate who has acknowledged killing a penitentiary guard during a failed escape attempt told a judge Thursday that he deserves to be sentenced to death.

Rodney Berget, 49, pleaded guilty to killing Ronald "R.J." Johnson on April 12 — Johnson's birthday — during the escape attempt with Eric Robert.

"I'm guilty of taking Ronald Johnson's life. I knew what I was doing and I continued to do it. I destroyed a family. I took away a father, a husband, a grandpa," Berget told Second Circuit Judge Bradley Zell, adding that he would not beg the court for his life.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said during pre-sentencing that the state was seeking the death penalty based on five aggravating factors. They were: the death of a correctional officer, the manner of death, where and why it occurred, and the defendants' criminal background. Zell has to find at least one was present during the killing to sentence Berget to death.

The slaying was "so wanton, so outrageous to satisfy five aggravating factors,"

Jackley said in his closing statement.

Berget is serving life sentences for attempted murder and kidnapping. Prosecutors said during the pre-sentencing phase that Berget had tried to escape several times before the April 12 incident.

Berget is beyond rehabilitation and the only way to protect society and other inmates and officers is to execute him, Jackley said.

Johnson was working alone the morning of his death in a part of the prison known as Pheasantland Industries, where inmates work on upholstery, signs, custom furniture and other projects. Prosecutors said that after the two inmates bashed Johnson's head with a pipe, covered his mouth with plastic wrap and took his uniform, Robert carted a large box toward the prison gate with Berget inside. Both inmates were apprehended before leaving the grounds.

Robert, 49, also pleaded guilty in Johnson's death. Like Berget, he waived his right to a jury trial. Robert made an impassioned plea to Zell in October to sentence him to death, saying that he would kill again and that his one regret from April 12 is that he did not kill another guard. Zell found at least one aggravating factor in Robert's case and sen-

tenced him to death. His execution is scheduled for May.

Jeff Larson, Berget's lawyer, said in his closing arguments that Johnson would still be alive if South Dakota did not have the death penalty.

"At that desperate moment, they made the horrible decision to shorten their sentence one way or another," Larson said.

If sentenced to death, Berget will be the second person in his family executed. His brother, Roger Berget, was executed in 2000 at the age of 39. Roger Berget acknowledged killing a 33-year-old Oklahoma man in 1985.

The penitentiary made more than a dozen procedural changes less than a month after Johnson's killing, including adding officers to three areas of the prison and installing additional security cameras. Other changes outlined in a 28-page report released by the state in May included further restricting inmate traffic, strengthening perimeter fencing, improving lighting and mandating body alarm "panic buttons" for staff.

A third inmate, Michael Nordman, 47, is charged with supplying the pipe and plastic wrap used in the slaying. Prosecutors have not said if they will seek the death penalty for Nordman.

## South Dakota Bill To Regulate Abortion-Service Ads Rejected

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — A measure seeking to bar false advertising by pregnancy help centers that discourage abortions was rejected Thursday by a South Dakota House panel after abortion rights advocates and abortion opponents accused each other of misleading women.

In a show of strength by abortion opponents, the Health and Human Services Committee first amended the bill so it would have applied to abortion clinics, not to the pregnancy help centers that urge pregnant women to give birth. The panel then voted unanimously to kill the measure.

Committee members said South Dakota already has laws prohibiting false advertising, so there is no need for specific laws to apply to either abortion clinics or centers that discourage abortions.

"I just think South Dakota and federal law covers this," Rep. Melissa Magstadt, R-Watertown, said. "I don't see a need for another law when current ones take care of it."

Depending on the outcome of a federal court case, the pregnancy help centers could play a big role

in how abortions are provided in South Dakota.

The Legislature last year passed a law requiring that women seeking abortions wait 72 hours and undergo counseling at one of the pregnancy help centers that discourage abortion.

Planned Parenthood, which operates South Dakota's only abortion clinic in Sioux Falls, challenged the law in federal court, and the law has been suspended from taking effect until the case is decided.

The sponsor of the original bill, Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, said some pregnancy help centers advertise that they provide abortion information, but only provide information on giving birth and adoptions. The bill would not have limited the operation or services provided by the centers, she said.

"The bill is about how they advertise themselves. I feel they are advertising themselves falsely and lead women astray," Gibson said.

Dr. Patricia Giebink of Chamberlain opposed the bill, saying it appears intended to shut down pregnancy help centers, sometimes called crisis pregnancy centers. She said women need the information and counseling provided by those centers.

## Nebraska Bill Would Create Deer Donation Program

BY MICHAEL AVOK  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's abundant deer population and charitable hunters make a good combination in fighting hunger, a state lawmaker said Thursday.

Sen. Tony Fulton of Lincoln told the Natural Resources Committee that the state should join its neighbors in creating a large-scale program that allows hunters to donate deer meat to feed needy Nebraskans and prisoners.

"Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Colorado all have this," Fulton said. "That which is done in other states ought to be done here."

Fulton has introduced a bill that would direct the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to administer and promote a deer donation program.

Hunters would be asked to give part of their permit fees to the Hunters Helping the Hungry Cash Fund. That money, and other donations, would be used to reimburse meat processors who would get the meat ready for consumption.

Ranchers, sportsmen, a homeless shelter director and a

meat processor all testified in favor of the measure.

Opponents of the plan said they worried about the financial burden placed on the Game and Parks Department.

"I'm not testifying in opposition to a good concept," said Jim Douglas, department director representing the Game and Parks Commission. "But we have a deer exchange that costs the state of Nebraska nothing."

Douglas was referring to a program under Game and Parks that links those who want deer with those who have them via the Internet.

He said the deer donation program as proposed has many questions about how it would be funded and how meat would be distributed.

Lance Kuck, a rancher from Bassett, Neb., said he would like a new program, as he needs to thin deer herds on thousands of acres of land.

"I would love to have a vehicle where I could harvest these deer and control my herd. I try to get my deer to area families, but nobody lives in Rock County," Kuck said with a chuckle, noting the sparse population in his area.

## OBITUARIES

### Irene Currier

Irene Ida Currier, age 100, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2012, at Trondhjem Lutheran Church in rural Volin, South Dakota with Reverend Mark Ostrem officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation with the family present will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. Visitation also continues one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

Pallbearers are Larry Lynstad, Jim Reiners, Gerald Rempp, Roger Stahlacker, Bruce Heirigs and Bob Haback. Honorary pallbearers are Bob Lynstad and Lyle Haffner.

Irene was born on April 9, 1911 on the family farmstead near Emery, South Dakota to Charles and Elizabeth (Brandt) Polchow. She lived near Emery until she was three. Then the family moved to a farm near Bridgewater, South Dakota where Irene attended country school. On November 18, 1930, she married Clifford Currier and they were blessed with two children, Richard and Sharon. In 1932, they moved to the farm near Volin, South Dakota which was homesteaded by her grandparents in 1879. She lived there for 78 years before moving to Yankton in 2010. Irene lived for 99 years on three different



Currier

known for her homemade cookies, her witty memory and her hard working ability. She was a strong influence on everyone who knew and loved her dearly.

Irene is survived by her daughter, Sharon Barkl of Utica, SD; five grandchildren, Scott Currier, Chad Currier, Lynn (Scott) Zwak, Kristi Barkl and Jay (Stephanie) Barkl; six great grandchildren; two great-great granddaughters.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clifford on March 1, 1985; son, Richard Currier; two grandsons, Darri Barkl and Thomas Currier in infancy; brother, Bob Polchow; and sister, Martha Nygaard.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 3, 2012



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

### Bonnie (Ketter) Walter

BLOOMFIELD, NEB. — Bonnie Jo (Ketter) Walter, age 48, of Bloomfield, Nebraska, died from natural causes on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at her residence.

Funeral services are 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend David Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton. Visitation is one hour prior to the funeral service at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Pallbearers are Jason Klausen, Jeremy Klausen, Joshua Klausen, Tim Ferry, Joshua Wipf and Joseph Wipf Jr.

Bonnie was born February 26, 1963 in Yankton, South Dakota to



Walter

Joseph Jr. and Betty (Jacobson) Ketter. She grew up in Yankton where she attended Lincoln Elementary, Yankton Middle School and graduated from Yankton High School in 1981. On July 27, 1983, Bonnie married Delmar

"Butch" Walter in Yankton. She was a licensed coast to coast truck driver which she did with her husband for several years. In 1989, they moved to Norfolk, Nebraska where Bonnie attended Northeast Community College and received her secretarial diploma. They moved to Pierce, Nebraska in 1991 and lived there for almost 14 years before

moving to Plainview, Nebraska and then to Bloomfield in July 2011. Bonnie loved to fish and play bingo. She really enjoyed collecting butterflies and Tiggers from Winnie the Pooh. Above all, Bonnie loved her family and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Delmar "Butch" Walter of Bloomfield; two children, Melissa Walter of Norfolk, NE and Kyle Walter of Bloomfield; two step children who she loved like her own, Chris Walter and fiancé, Genny of Meadow Grove, NE and John Walter of Omaha, NE; six grandchildren; mother, Betty Ketter of Yankton; two sisters, Mary (Fred) Roper of St. Helena, NE and Connie (Joseph) Wipf of Yankton; brother, Joseph (Barbara) Ketter of Yankton; sister-

in-law, Linda (Roger) Klausen of Laurel, NE; and many nieces and nephews.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her father, Joseph F. Ketter Jr. and granddaughter, Alyssa Walter.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 3, 2012



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

### Dean Frazier

OMAHA, Neb. — Dean H. Frazier, age 75 of Omaha, Nebraska, died Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012, at University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center, Santee, Neb. Rick Thomas will serve as spiritual leader, with burial in the Congregational Cemetery at Santee.

Visitation begins at 1 p.m. today (Friday) at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center and continue until service time on Sunday.

Brockhaus Funeral Home, Niobrara, Neb., is in charge of arrangements.

YOUR NEWS!  
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<b>Irene Ida Currier</b> 10:30 AM, Saturday Trondhjem Lutheran Church Volin	<b>Bonnie Jo (Ketter) Walter</b> 2:00 PM, Saturday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton
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WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644 [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

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