

**S.D. House Panel Kills Bill On Public Unions**

PIERRE (AP) — Members of a House panel have decided that public employee collective bargaining will continue in South Dakota. The House Commerce and Energy committee voted to kill House Bill 1261, which would have prohibited public employees from bargaining with state and public school districts or branches of public service. The bill's main sponsor, Rep. Brian Liss, says union negotiations are a zero-sum game and will not improve minimum wages in the state. The Sioux Falls Republican also says no lawmakers will speak in favor of his bill because they fear getting attacked in their next election. Opponents say the bill is a solution to a problem that doesn't exist in a state where strikes are unlawful. They also say collective bargaining gives public employees a voice.

**Authorities Identify Victim In Fatal I-90 Crash**

KADOKA (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a Montana man killed in a one-vehicle rollover crash along Interstate 90 near Kadoka. The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 74-year-old Bobby Gray Allgood, of Reed Point, Mont., was driving westbound Monday night along Interstate 90 about 12 miles west of Kadoka when he drove onto a patch of ice and the vehicle went out of control. The vehicle slid into the median and rolled. Authorities say Allgood was wearing a seatbelt but was partially thrown from the vehicle. He died at the scene. The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

**Panel Gives Green Light To Digital Billboards**

PIERRE (AP) — Changing billboard technology is at the center of a bill that has passed a South Dakota Senate panel. The Senate Transportation Committee voted 6-1 in favor of a bill that regulates sizes, lights, measurements and distances of outdoor advertising signs but keeps local government from banning them altogether. Wentworth Republican Sen. Russell Olson says billboards keep small business alive, and small businesses help local economies. Supporters also say that with the advent of music technology such as satellite radio, motorists don't get their advertisements from local stations, making billboards important. Cathie Calhoun of Rapid City opposes the bill because she says the digital signs flash too many messages to passers-by. The bill goes next to the full Senate.

**Higher Burden Of Proof In Cow Crashes Eyed**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Drivers who hit livestock on Nebraska roads should have a higher burden of proof in showing that farmers and ranchers are to blame, a state lawmaker said Wednesday. Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogalala said he wants to require motorists to show "specific acts of negligence" when they file lawsuits against a cattle owner. Current Nebraska law says judges and juries cannot infer that livestock owners were negligent just because the animals escaped. The law does not require evidence of specific negligence. "As a cattle feeder myself, I know how important it is to maintain good fences," Schilz told the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. "But there are many times when cattle escape without the negligence of the owner." Schilz, who runs a cattle operation along Interstate 80, said cattle can jump fences, push down fences and unlock gates on their own. "Under almost all circumstances, the fences will hold them in," he said. "If an animal really wants to, they can break a fence down." Schilz said cattle owners take great care to protect their property. But, he said, "livestock have minds of their own." Opponents of the measure said current law is fine the way it is, and many of the liability issues are already covered. Kristen Hassebrook, a lobbyist for the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association, said cattle owners need the added legal protection. She said there are 4 million cattle in the state and many weigh well over 1,400 pounds.

**South Dakota**

**Bill Modifying Abortion Law OK'd**

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — With South Dakota's year-old abortion law facing legal challenges, a House committee endorsed a bill Wednesday that would change some of the counseling requirements for women seeking abortions. The Judiciary Committee voted 10-2 to send the measure to the full House. It is not clear what effect the bill might have on Planned Parenthood's lawsuit that claims the 2011 law — which requires women seeking abortions to wait 72 hours and undergo counseling at pregnancy help centers that discourage abortions — is an unconstitutional burden on a woman's right to an abortion. A federal judge has suspended most of the law from taking effect until the court challenge is decided. The bill leaves intact the current law's main requirements, but changes some provisions that deal with a woman's consultations with doctors at abortion clinics and counselors at pregnancy help centers. Those discussions are supposed to determine whether a woman has been coerced into seeking an abortion. It would require licensed counselors, doc-

tors or others to conduct the counseling sessions at pregnancy help centers. It also would clarify which factors a doctor at an abortion clinic would consider when determining if a woman is at risk of developing mental health problems if she has an abortion. The bill's main sponsor, Rep. Roger Hunt, R-Brandon, said the measure is similar to many so-called cleanup bills passed to modify or clarify previously passed laws. Asked if the measure is intended to help the state's court defense of the 2011 law, Hunt said, "I think what is does is to clarify legislative intent. You can interpret that as you wish." Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, an abortion rights supporter and opponent of the bill, said she believes Hunt wants to help the state's case in court. Gibson said the law passed last year is unconstitutional and will not survive the court challenge. "This way, he's hoping to make it a little more palatable," Gibson said after the hearing, adding she believes the law is still unconstitutional even with the proposed changes. The committee-approved measure would list risk factors that could cause a woman to have psychological problems after having an abor-

tion. Those include coercion, conflicts with her religious views, her age and previous mental health problems. A doctor at an abortion clinic would have to discuss those risk factors with the woman. It also clarifies that, in most cases, the same doctor who conducts the initial interview should also be the doctor who performs the abortion. Another change would require that any pregnancy help center providing consultations for women seeking abortions must have a licensed counselor, which could include licensed doctors, nurses and others. Opponents of last year's law and this year's proposed changes said the law violates a woman's right to make her own decision by requiring that she undergo counseling at centers that discourage abortions. "Medical decisions are the most private of all decisions. Who you discuss them with should be your choice," said Alisha Sedor of NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota. Hunt said the Legislature is not taking away women's rights. "We're protecting them from coercion," Hunt said. "Coercion is a definite, definite factor in all of this. It does exist."

**Neb. AG Vows To Sue Over New Contraception Policy**

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said Wednesday that his office plans to sue to try to block a new federal policy that forces church-affiliated employers to cover birth control for their workers. Bruning said he sent a letter this week to the other 49 state attorneys general inviting them to join Nebraska in challenging the policy, which was announced last month as part of the national health care reform effort. The Obama administration said many church-affiliated hospitals, universities and charitable institutions will have to cover FDA-approved forms of contraceptives and sterilization for their employees. The new policy has angered some religious groups, including the Roman Catholic Church, who say the requirement would force them to violate their beliefs against contraception. And it has drawn a sharp response from congressional Republicans. Bruning, a Republican who is running for U.S. Senate, said his office will file the lawsuit in the next few weeks. He said he has met with Catholic leaders in Nebraska, and planned to involve other religious groups in the lawsuit. "This is an unconscionable intrusion on religious liberties," Bruning told The Associated Press. "I was shocked that the Obama administration chose to pick this fight. They must know

that many of us will not let this decision stand." The contentious issue has pushed social issues to the forefront in an election year that has been dominated by the economy. Abortion, contraception and any of the requirements of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law have the potential to galvanize the Republicans' conservative base, critical to voter turnout in the presidential and congressional races. The White House, facing a public and political outcry, signaled Tuesday that a compromise was possible. Options could include granting leeway for a church-affiliated employer not to cover birth control, provided it referred employees to an insurer who would provide the coverage. Administration officials have said they don't want to abridge anyone's religious freedom, but want to strike a balance that gives women access to important preventative care. David Axelrod, an Obama political adviser, has said Sebelius acted on a recommendation by the Institute of Medicine, pointing out that she exempted churches, themselves, from the rule. The institutions have roughly a year and a half to comply with the new regulation. Several religious groups, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, have vowed to try to block or overturn the law. If they fail, some predicted that religious employers would simply drop coverage for their workers, opting instead to pay fines to the federal government under the 2009 federal health care law.

**IRS Auditing Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota**

RAPID CITY (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service is auditing the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, a move that tribal officials fear could impact assistance given to impoverished members. The IRS is requesting among other information documents detailing money given to tribal members and employees or paid on their behalf. Tribal governments do not have to pay federal income tax but individual tribal members do. "I think it's going to hurt our tribe here, the assistance that we give our people," Tribal Treasurer Mason Big Crow told the *Rapid City Journal*. "The IRS is going to try to tax the poorest of the poor, basically." IRS spokeswoman Carrie Resch said the agency cannot comment on individual audits. In a Dec. 13 letter to Tribal President John Yellow Bird Steele, the IRS asked the tribe to produce a two-page list of documents, including audit reports and financial statements prepared during 2009 and 2010; a list of tribal bank and credit card accounts; and a list of money given to tribal members and employees.

**OBITUARIES**

**Bettejean Sublet**

VERMILLION — Bettejean Sublet, 73, of Vermillion, SD passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital. Bettejean Delaney was born Sept 26, 1938 in a log cabin on the Island in Clay County to John and Eileen (Millage) Delaney. She attended the island school, Bethel country school, and graduated from the Wakonda High School in 1956. She received her teaching certificate from Southern State Teaching College in Springfield, SD in 1958. Upon accepting a teaching position in Clearfield, SD, she met and married Dale Lee Kindt on March 19, 1960 in which four children were born to this union. Dale passed away September 2, 1971. She met and married Kenneth Sublet on November 6, 1975 in which he passed away September 1988. Bettejean had many jobs including working for a lawn service, paint store, USD Food Service, Gateway and Wal-Mart besides raising her children. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ladies Bible Study group, Eagles Auxiliary, Bluff View Cemetery board and Red Hat Club. She had many hobbies including reading, crafts, sewing, quilting, knitting, gardening, collecting Dickens Village and traveling. Some of Bettejean's best qualities were being a

great listener and mentor, and her sense of humor. Bettejean is survived by her children Tammy, Tracy (Randy), Trisha (Randy) and Travis (Danell), nine grandchildren, William, Timothy (Darby), Nicholas, Mathew, Shane (Jenna), Shad, Meghan, Robert, Heidi, Haylee, and Hope. She had 6 great grandchildren, Chloe, Brock, Adyson, Caden, Bram and Beck. She is also survived by three sisters, Phyllis Bride (Chuck Ward), Beverly (Kenneth) Sorensen and Janice (Jack) Peterson. Many Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband's Dale and Kenneth, her parents John and Eileen (Millage) Delaney and a sister Marilyn Riehle. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations be sent to: 15 Forest Avenue, Vermillion, SD 57069. At a later date the family will choose a charitable cause. Memorial services will be 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 11 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion with burial of ashes at the Bluffview Cemetery in Vermillion. Honorary pallbearers will be the grandchildren and great grandchildren. Visit hansenfuneralhome.com. Yankton Press & Dakotan February 9, 2012

**Berle Petersen**

Berle Ann Petersen, age 78 of Yankton, SD, died unexpectedly on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at the Chandler Regional Hospital in Chandler, Arizona. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Yankton. Visitation will be on Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. and a Scripture Service at 7:30 p.m. at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton. Visitation will be one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church. Memorials are preferred to the Sacred Heart Church. Pallbearers will be Jeramiah Williams, Benjamin Haugen, Tyler Frick, Alex Erstad, Shane Heiderscheidt and Mike Brewer. Honorary Pallbearers will be PEO Chapter BT and her Red Hat Ladies Group.



Petersen

Berle was born on September 25, 1933 at Sioux City, Iowa to Joseph and Lucile (Madsen) Brewer. She grew up in Yankton and graduated from Yankton High School in 1950. She worked at Gurney Seed and Nursery in Yankton and married Henry Petersen Jr. on February 23, 1954 in Worthington, Minnesota. They lived in various communities in Minnesota, Wyoming and Alaska until returning to Yankton in 1962. Berle worked for Dale Electronics in Yankton for 15 years. She had been spending her winters in the Phoenix area since 1982. Berle was an active member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton, PEO, Red Hat Ladies, Hillcrest Country Club, Yankton Elks Lodge #994, Sun Lake Road Runner Club and helped with Meals on Wheels in Yankton. She loved being with and taking care of her family,

playing cards, especially bridge and mahjong, and raising and caring for her flowers. She loved to travel and meet new friends. Berle was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend who will be missed by everyone her life touched. Berle is survived by her husband, Henry "Pete" Petersen of Yankton; 4 daughters, Margo Williams of Conifer, Colorado; Sue and Brian Erstad of Tucson, Arizona; Linda and Steve Frick of Yankton; Jolene Merrill of Estherville, Iowa; 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and 2 brothers, Clyde and Conrad Brewer.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 9, 2012



Online condolences at:  
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

**Zeta Diede-Schmidt**

FREEMAN — Funeral services for Zeta Diede-Schmidt, 95, of Freeman and formerly of Scotland, will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 13 at the United Methodist Church in Scotland with Pastor Tom Petersen officiating. Interment will follow in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland. Visitation will be held on Sunday from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland. There will be a prayer service at 7 p.m. on Sunday evening, also at the funeral home. Zeta passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2010 at Oakview Terrace in Freeman. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

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**IN REMEMBRANCE**

<b>Berle A. Petersen</b> 10:30 AM, Saturday Sacred Heart Catholic Church Yankton	<b>Betty J. Stallbaum</b> 10:30 AM, Friday Immanuel Lutheran Church Coleridge
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WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com  
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