

Norfolk Shooting Suspect In Custody In Stanton

STANTON, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a suspect in the shooting of a woman in Norfolk has been taken into custody after a standoff at a mobile home in Stanton.

KTIV-TV in Sioux City, Iowa, says authorities arrested 34-year-old Carlos Arevalo-Martinez Thursday evening. He's wanted in the shooting of 33-year-old Edna Gutierrez. She was shot in the head on Tuesday and is hospitalized in Omaha.

An arrest warrant was issued for Arevalo-Martinez for first-degree assault and a weapons charge.

The *Norfolk Daily News* says Stanton County Sheriff Mike Unger says the mobile home was under surveillance for most of Thursday.

Several schools in Stanton were locked down and numerous residents of the trailer park were evacuated.

Stanton is 15 miles southeast of Norfolk.

Bill Seeks To Quell Sex Trafficking In Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers should support a bill calling for a commission to study sex trafficking and increased penalties for pandering, public safety and human welfare officials said Thursday.

Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill has sponsored the bill, aimed at identifying and getting rid of human trafficking in Nebraska. The Judiciary Committee heard testimony Thursday on the complex effort.

Amy Williams, a legislative aide who represented McGill, told the committee that the state needs to quantify the human trafficking problem in Nebraska. She said anecdotal evidence of illegal activity is plentiful, but solid facts have not been compiled.

The bill would also boost penalties for pandering if the offender has prior convictions or the person being enticed into prostitution is a minor. In addition, the bill requires special training for police, prosecutors, judges and other officials who may encounter prostitutes. It would also allow sex trafficking victims a chance to clear prostitution convictions off their criminal record.

Al Riskowski, executive director of the Nebraska Family Council, a conservative Christian group, said human trafficking isn't new, and that the United States is a destination point for the sex trade.

"Educating police and the public is the most important part," Riskowski said. "They need to know what to look for and what to ask. This bill will establish an important commission to study this problem in Nebraska."

Bankers Survey Index Drops Slightly

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of bankers in 10 Midwest and Great Plains states shows the rural economy slowing down, but reflects strong gains in hiring and farmland prices.

The Rural Mainstreet Index released Thursday dropped slightly from 59.8 last month to 59.6 in February. Anytime the index, which ranges from 1 to 100, is above 50, it suggests the economy will grow.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, says he expects to see slower growth in farm income as a result of softer agriculture commodity prices and higher overhead costs.

The economic confidence index, which reflects expectations for the economy six months out, rose to 60.3 from January's 56.1.

The survey covers Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

S.D. Lawmakers Urge Simpler Votes

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota House has endorsed a proposed amendment to the U.S Constitution aimed at helping Congress get things done.

Representatives voted unanimously to pass a resolution asking Congress to propose a change in the constitution that would require each bill passed by the U.S. House and Senate to deal with only one subject.

Supporters say South Dakota is one of 43 states with similar language in their state constitutions. Rep. Jon Hansen of Dell Rapids says such a change would allow Congress to focus on issues on which it agrees, rather than be bogged down trying to pass bills that include many issues that spark disagreement.

The proposal was started by two South Dakotans who hope other states will join in asking Congress to propose the constitutional amendment.

S.D. Marine Killed In Car Crash In California

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City couple is mourning the loss of their son, who was one of three Camp Pendleton Marines killed in a car crash in California.

Jason Chleborad, 22, a 2008 graduate of Rapid City Stevens High School, was killed early Tuesday when the car he was a passenger in went out of control on a Dana Point street and slammed into a tree. Two others in the car were killed and a fourth person was hospitalized in critical condition. Sheriff's investigators said speed, slick roads and alcohol appeared to be factors in the crash.

Parents Brian and Amy Chleborad told the *Rapid City Journal* that they last saw their son over the Christmas holiday, during a surprise visit. He also visited Rapid City last July after serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan, according to his father.

"He earned the Navy Achievement Medal over there, which is a big deal," Brian Chleborad said.

The parents were joined Wednesday by grieving friends, including members of the high school wrestling team.

"He was probably the kindest person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing," said Tyler Millsagle, who had known Jason Chleborad since first grade. "He was always the kind of person who could sit down and listen to your problems or put a smile on anyone's face."

Blue Cross Protests Decision To Switch Plans

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska says it will challenge the state's decision to switch health benefit plans.

Company spokesman Brian Pickering said Thursday that the state's announced move to United Health Care was based on incomplete information.

Nebraska officials have said the move will save taxpayers and state employees a combined \$8 million annually. Pickering said the change will actually cost an additional \$10 million per year, due to limits in the United Health Care network.

Department of Administrative Services director Carlos Castillo says the company is allowed to file a formal protest. But he says state officials are confident in the procurement process that was used.

Nebraska has been a Blue Cross/Blue Shield client for at least 30 years.

Measure On Mileage Passes S.D. Senate

PIERRE (AP) — When South Dakota's voters cast their ballots this November, they will decide whether the per-mile compensation given to legislators for their first trip to and last trip from the legislative session in Pierre should increase.

The full Senate passed the proposed amendment 25-7 on Thursday, indicating their support for repealing the constitutional limit on mileage reimbursement that has been in place since 1891. The House passed the resolution last month.

For more than 120 years, legislators have received 5 cents for every mile traveled on the initial trip to the Capitol and the final ride home from the annual session. For all other routine trips to and from Pierre, the 105 members of the Legislature get the state employee rate of 37 cents a mile.

Sen. Todd Schlekeway, R-Sioux Falls, one of the resolution's sponsors, said legislators no longer commute in "horse and buggy days," so the reimbursement should increase.

"We're not driving Henry Ford's Model T to Pierre," he added, describing the constitutional provision as the "most obsolete and archaic."

Since there isn't a gubernatorial or congressional race in South Dakota this year, Schlekeway said this state election ballot has space for a measure like this one.

Madison Shooting Suspect Pleads Not Guilty

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

MADISON (AP) — A lawyer for a 73-year-old Watertown man accused of fatally shooting his long-ago classmate in an incident that might have stemmed from an old grudge entered a not guilty plea and requested a jury trial at a court hearing Thursday.

Carl Ericsson is charged with first-degree murder in the Jan. 31 killing of retired Madison High School teacher and track coach Norman Johnson. Johnson, 72, was shot twice in the face after answering the door at his house in Madison.

Defense attorney Scott Bratland entered the plea on Ericsson's behalf during a preliminary hearing. He also requested a trial, which Circuit Judge Vince Foley set for July 9. It is expected to last two weeks.

Both Bratland and state's attorney Ken Meyer declined comment after the hearing.

Nebraska

Cities Ask Lawmakers For More Tax Power

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Top city officials in Nebraska asked lawmakers Thursday for the power to increase sales taxes with voter approval, arguing that the current tax setup favors people who enjoy city services without paying municipal property taxes.

Leaders from Omaha, Lincoln, York and other cities urged the Legislature's Revenue Committee to advance a measure that would give them the option to raise rates to as high as 2 percent. Supporters said it would allow cities to offset property taxes and collect revenue from out-of-town residents who benefit from city roads, businesses and other amenities.

Current state law caps the city sales tax rate at 1.5 percent. Under the bill, at least some of the revenue collected beyond the 1.5 percent would have to go toward partnership projects with a county or school district.

Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford, who

declared the measure his priority bill for the session, said the mandatory vote requires cities to win public backing for property tax relief, construction or other projects.

Ashford said his bill seeks to address a statewide problem of cities needing the revenue, but also encourages partnerships with counties and school districts.

The measure seeks to revive an issue that advanced through a first-round vote last year but fell short of a veto-proof majority. Republican Gov. Dave Heineman has said he would veto a bill that could lead to tax increases, and called on cities to trim their budgets.

Unlike the previous measure, Ashford's new bill would impose a 10-year sunset for any tax increases beyond the 1.5 percent, unless the revenue is used to repay bonds for a specific project. At least some of the revenue would have to go toward long-term development projects, in partnership with a county or school district.

Lynn Rex, executive director of the League of Nebraska Municipali-

ties, said 86 of the 194 cities with sales taxes have reached the 1.5 percent maximum. Nebraska has 530 cities.

Rex acknowledged that the bill might not help small cities in rural areas that are far from larger metropolitan areas. But "it really does assist those cities that are in a position to be economic drivers for this state," she said.

Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle's chief of staff, Steve Oltmans, said his city is still struggling with \$22 million in expenses from last year's Missouri River flooding.

Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler pointed to cuts that his city has made in library hours, senior center services, and a retirement match for municipal employees. But he said cuts to state aid last year have created pressure to raise property taxes, which hit homeowners but not people who live outside the city's borders.

"From my perspective, as a person running local government, I'd like to have the most flexibility to let the community decide the fairest combination," he said.

House Panel OKs Bill On S.D. Vote Centers

BY VERONICA ZARAGOVIA
Associated Press

PIERRE — In an effort to reduce costs and make voting easier, South Dakota lawmakers are pushing a bill through the House that establishes vote centers as the go-to locations for casting ballots in the state.

The House Local Government Committee voted unanimously Thursday to approve a bill that would allow school districts, cities and counties to operate vote centers instead of smaller polling places.

Vote centers keep a digital database of registered voters, called electronic poll books. Upon arrival, voters present their drivers' licenses and receive a paper ballot. People would no longer be limited to the specific polling places near their homes.

Every electronic poll book is connected to all other books in

the jurisdiction, so that once someone votes, he or she can't cast another ballot.

Supporters of the bill say it would facilitate voting throughout the day because people could go to a nearby voting center, regardless of where they live. Such centers use fewer poll workers and allow jurisdictions to save on rent by running fewer centers.

The bill's main sponsor, Sen. Todd Schlekeway, R-Sioux Falls, called this method an "exciting way" to conduct future elections.

In 2010, the South Dakota Legislature passed a bill that allowed a pilot project for the Sioux Falls school district to use vote centers during their school board election last spring. Schelekeway said the district deemed the concept a success after reviewing voter responses and cost analyses.

Poll worker Bev Chase said

the Sioux Falls School District saved \$1,500 on rent during its last election and hired 72 workers instead of 262 people hired in 2010.

If the measure becomes law, it would take effect immediately so Sioux Falls could use voting centers in an April school district election.

Schlekeway said seven South Dakota counties have expressed interest.

Other parts of the U.S. that have already incorporated similar systems include Dallas County in Texas, Tepecanoe County, Ill., Fargo, N.D., and Larimer County, Colo.

"The beauty of the e-poll books is no matter which place you turn up at, you're at the right location," Interim Sioux Falls City Clerk Sue Roust said. "Not having to turn a voter away ... is just priceless."

OBITUARIES

Sharon Freng

Sharon Joyce Freng, age 73, of Yankton, SD died February 15, 2012 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD, surrounded by her family.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 18, 2012, at Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill, with Rev. Lance Lindgren officiating. Private family burial will be in the Vangen Lutheran Cemetery, Mission Hill, SD.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, February 17, 2012, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, SD with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. Pallbearers will be Randy Freng, Chris Freng, Brock Sundall, Adam Freng, Paul Mellem and Kevin Healy.

Sharon was born on December 20, 1938 at home on the farm to Einer and Bernice Gustad. Sharon graduated from Volin High School in 1957. Sharon was a graduate of Yankton College with a B.A. degree in



Freng

teaching. She taught school at Wakonda & Yankton Schools and later in life worked at First Bankcard Center in Yankton.

Sharon married the love of her life, Thomas C. Freng on October 7, 1961. They had just celebrated 50 wonderful years together in October 2011. Tom and Sharon shared many wonderful memories of the 57 years together as a couple. They welcomed their first child to the world in 1965, Randy, followed by Chris in 1971 and Erica in 1974. Tom and Sharon moved from the farm in rural Mission Hill to Yankton in 1993. They enjoyed their life as "city folk". They loved to take day excursions to different locations. Sharon enjoyed sewing, crafts, cooking and reading as well as being active in her church. Sharon cherished being a wonderful grandma to her two granddaughters, Katie and Karlie, who brought her much joy

and pride. She loved to make every occasion special especially at Christmas time with her wonderful Norwegian goodies, especially lefse.

Sharon is survived by her loving husband, Tom of Yankton; son Randy (LeeAnn) Freng of Mission Hill; Chris Freng of Yankton; daughter Erica (Brock) Sundall of Chamberlain; granddaughters Katie & Karlie Freng of Mission Hill. She is also survived by her nieces, nephews, brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws.

Preceding Sharon in death were her parents, sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn and Virgil Mellem, nephew, Keith Mellem, and her great-niece, Erin Mellem.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 17, 2012

 **PSAHL-KOSTEL**
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Eleanor Cavin

LENNOX — Eleanor Cavin, 77, died Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 at Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls.

Eleanor Schaefer was born in 1934 at Menno, SD. She married Robert Cavin in 1956 and they lived in Lennox. She worked as a nursing assistant at Sioux Valley Hospital. Robert died Feb. 6, 2011.

Survivors: Bryan (Georgina) Cavin, Lennox, Patty (Jeff) Meints and Randy (Emillia) Cavin, both of Sioux Falls and Brenda (Martin) Benning, Colton; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; siblings: Harold Schaeffer and Adeline Burton both of Yankton.

Services will begin at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at Faith Presbyterian Church, Lennox.

Visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m. Friday with the family present from 7 to 8 p.m. at Dindot-Klusmann Funeral Home, Lennox.

Online go to dindotklusmann.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 17, 2012



Cavin

IN REMEMBRANCE

Norbert B. Bogner 10:30 AM, Saturday St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church Crofton	Edna Juran 10:00 AM, Monday United Church of Christ Congregational Yankton
---	---

 **WINTZ & RAY**
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644

 **WINTZ**
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

CLASSIC CLUB TOURS
Deadwood - March 28-30

Don't miss out! Join the Classic Club if they venture to Deadwood on March 28-30. Registration and deposit due by Feb. 22. Contact Lonnie at 665-9611 or 800-262-9611 for more information.

 **First National Bank South Dakota**

332 Broadway | 665-9611 | www.fnbsd | Member FDIC