

## Damage Caused In Tire Slashing Spree

From P&D Staff Reports

More than \$11,000 in damage was caused during a tire slashing spree in Yankton last weekend, according to the police department. Lt. Todd Brandt said 37 vehicles had tires cut with a total of 65 tires destroyed. The estimated value of the loss is \$11,095.20. The areas of Yankton where the incidents occurred were the 300 block of Capitol Street, the 1000 block of Memory Lane and the 300 block of Locust Street. Anyone with information about the tire slashings is being asked to contact the Yankton Police Department at 668-5210, or Crime Stoppers at 665-4440.

## School Board To Hold Special Meeting Monday

From P&D Staff Reports

The Yankton School Board will hold a special board meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4, to consider approval of a contract for superintendent search services. The meeting will take place at the Administration Building at 2410 West City Limits Road.

## Train Cars Derail West Of Aberdeen

ABERDEEN (AP) — Eleven cars derailed Friday morning after grain cars on a Heartland Grain Fuels industry track crashed into the side of an empty coal train west of Aberdeen. BNSF spokeswoman Amy McBeth tells the *Aberdeen American News* that no one was injured in the accident on the main BNSF track. Resident Kevin Bourdon says the crash sounded like a bomb going off, and the air was filled with coal dust blackening the sky. Cleanup crews arrived on the scene in the afternoon. Two grain cars were lying on their sides in the ditch with corn spilling out of the tops.

## 2 Candidates For Judge Sent To Neb. Governor

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judicial nominating commission has forwarded the names of two nominees to Gov. Dave Heineman for consideration to fill a judicial vacancy in western Nebraska. Heineman will consider candidates Larry Miller, of Alliance, and Paul Wess, of Chadron, to serve as county court judge in the 12th judicial district. Heineman will schedule interviews with the nominees in the coming weeks. The vacancy is due to the retirement of Judge Charles Plantz. The 12th Judicial District consists of Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden and Grant counties, as well as Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux counties.

## USDA Says 6.3M Head Of Cattle In Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Federal agriculture officials say there were 6.3 million head of cattle in Nebraska on Jan. 1 — down 2 percent from Jan. 1, 2012. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Statistics Service says that number includes all cattle and calves. The numbers, released Friday, show 2.55 million cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in Nebraska feedlots on Jan. 1, down 4 percent from last year. In the U.S., there were 89.3 million head of cattle as of Jan. 1 — down 2 percent from the 90.8 million head a year earlier. The USDA says the Jan. 1 nationwide number is the lowest since 88.1 million head of cattle were counted in 1952.

## South Dakota's Cattle Inventory Up 5 Percent

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota's cattle inventory heading into 2013 is up 5 percent from the previous year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service says the state had 3.85 million head of cattle and calves on hand on Jan. 1. That's a 4 percent increase from two years ago. Cows and heifers that have calved totaled 1.78 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago. Beef cows totaled 1.69 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago. Milk cows are at 92,000 head, up 2,000 head from last year. The total cattle on feed for the slaughter market on Jan. 1 was 300,000 head, down 20,000 head from one year ago.

## State Gets \$344,750 In Foreclosure Settlements

PIERRE (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says South Dakota's share of a multistate settlement with one of the nation's biggest mortgage processing companies is \$344,750. Lender Processing Services Inc. has agreed to pay \$121 million to resolve states' claims that it wrongfully foreclosed on homeowners who should have been allowed to stay in their homes. State attorneys general alleged that the company engaged in unlawful practices including "robo-signing," in which it automatically signed off on foreclosures without properly reviewing documents.

**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 28, 1875.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**  
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Advertising Director ..... Michele Schielwein  
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# Neb. Bill Would Give Preference To Vets

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Disabled veterans who live in Nebraska would receive a preference when competing for state contracts under a bill presented Friday to a legislative committee. Sen. Charlie Janssen of Fremont, a veteran himself, pitched the proposal to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. The bill would give a competitive edge to resident, disabled veterans who are vying for state contracts against other resident and nonresident bidders. The federal government has enacted similar preferences. "Our nation's veterans have unique and exceptional skills sets," Janssen said. "They're highly motivated and goal-driven. They're accountable and deliver in pressure situations." Supporters of the bill say veterans acquire valuable skills in the military, but the service also robs them of time when they could have been working in the private sector or building a business. A group that represents Nebraska public-works contractors opposes the measure, arguing that it picks favorites who may offer services at a higher cost. The bill would apply to Nebraska residents who served in the U.S. armed forces, including the National Guard and the re-

serves, was discharged under honorable conditions and has a service-related disability. Disabled veterans would still have to qualify as state bidders to receive the preference. Shane Osborn, a spokesman for the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization, said the recent recession has created an even greater challenge to veterans who have just left the service. "When you come back, you're 30 years old and going up against somebody who's 23 or 24 who may even have an MBA," said Osborn, a former Nebraska state treasurer. "There are some competitive disadvantages, I think, and that's what this bill really focuses on." The Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America opposes the measure, said Curtis Smith, the group's executive director. Smith's group represents highway contractors. "Almost all of our contractors deal with public-domain contracts, and we see that the public good is best served with open and level contracting, no preferences involved," Smith said. Several bidder-preference bills are floating around the Legislature this year. Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha has introduced a bill dubbed the "Buy Nebraska Act" that would give in-state companies an edge over out-of-state bidders. The state awards more than \$2 billion in contracts for goods and services each year.

## OBITUARIES

### Gordon Kirchhevel

Gordon J. Kirchhevel, age 78, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Saturday, January 26, 2013, at Sunset Manor in Irene, South Dakota. A memorial service will be 2:00 p.m. February 9, 2013, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home with military honors provided by the Yankton Ernest Bowyer VFW Post 791. Inurnment will take place at a later date. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Gordon J. Kirchhevel was born July 24, 1934, to Chris and Meta (Goldhammer) Kirchhevel north of Lake Andes, South Dakota. As one of ten siblings, Gordon grew



Kirchhevel

up in the Lake Andes and Geddes area hunting, fishing, and hijinxing with family and friends. He was hired onto a survey crew during the construction of the Ft. Randall Dam, and later entered the United States Air Force where he served with distinction in the medical corps. He was stationed in Japan during the Korean War and was later a proud member of the VFW. After leaving the service, Gordon eventually settled in Yankton where he was a longtime employee of Yankton Beverage. He spent his later years with and retired from Groseth Motors. Throughout his life Gordon loved cars and took great pleasure in detailing them. He owned some great rides. Gordon also took pleasure in his extended family, especially his nieces and nephews who loved him for the interest he took in each of them. In retirement, Gordon often volunteered to do yard

# No Trial For Couple In Underage Drinking Bust

HARRISBURG (AP) — A former chairwoman of the Harrisburg School Board and her husband will not go on trial next week over accusations that they allowed dozens of teenagers to drink alcohol last spring at a pre-graduation party on their property. Charges are being dismissed because a key witness in the case against Michelle and Brian Schirado is at a critical stage in his military training, and pulling him to testify would harm his military career, Lincoln County State Attorney Tom Wollman said in a statement Thursday. The charges are being dismissed without prejudice, meaning they could be refiled later. "We are disappointed in the inability to resolve this matter short of a trial," Wollman said. He said prosecutors were "in a difficult position of having to balance the military career of a young soldier and the interests of justice." Lawyers Mike Butler, who represented Brian Schirado, and Clint Sargent, who represented Michelle Schirado, both told the *Argus Leader* newspaper that they were prepared to show at trial that their clients did nothing illegal. Neither lawyer would comment on Wollman's stated reason for the dismissal. "What I can say is that we did a very extensive investigation into this case, and we were completely confident that our clients would be exonerated," Sargent said. More than two dozen teens were cited last May for underage

drinking at the Schirados' rural home. A grand jury last August indicted the Schirados on counts of contributing to a child in need of supervision and maintaining a place for the violation of beverage laws. There was no evidence from police reports or grand jury testimony to suggest that the Schirados provided alcohol, glasses, ice or coolers to any teens, Butler said. The Schirados intended to call witnesses to testify that the alcohol had been smuggled onto the farm and hidden in tents. "I guess the moral of the story is, 'Don't host a graduation party unless you're going to hire a security detail to search every car and every kid,'" Butler said. Wollman said the case wasn't about providing alcohol. "The allegation was that the Schirados maintained a place for a violation of beverage laws," he said. "You can't open your house up to a game of beer pong in your attached garage." Michelle Schirado is no longer head of the school board but she is still a board member, according to KSFY-TV. The case had become a topic of discussion beyond Harrisburg. State legislators last week debated what was known as the "social host" bill, which was designed to make it easier to charge parents and other adults who allow alcohol use by minors. The proposed bill was defeated in committee. A similar bill was filed this week and is scheduled for a hearing next week.

### Emery Hochstein

Emery Arthur Hochstein, age 91 of Hartington, Nebraska died on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at the Veteran's Hospital in Omaha, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, February 4, 2:03 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington with military honors provided by the Hartington VFW Post 5283. Visitation will be on Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 3:00 p.m. at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Monday at the church. The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrange-



Hochstein

ments. Pallbearers will be Sam Hochstein, Reggie Hochstein, Corey Hochstein, Kevin Arkfeld, Ben Hochstein and Taylor Chonis. Honorary Pallbearers will be Ron and Connie Arens, Jeff Arens, Jean and Mary Hochstein, Roman Keiter, Gus Pick, Denelda Becker, Norman and Delores Sudbeck and Roman and Arlene Arens. Emery was born on December 19, 1921 at Bow Valley, Nebraska to Peter and Ida (Kathol) Hochstein. He grew up in the Bow Valley area and attended District 13 School. He served in the U.S. Army from June 24, 1942 to December 18, 1943. Emery married Lorraine V. Sudbeck on December 27, 1944 at Bow Valley. They farmed northwest of Hartington until moving to their home north of Hartington in 1976. Emery loved the farm and continued to be active in farming and buying and selling cattle until his death. He also sold Super Cross Seed corn for about 10 years. He enjoyed talking politics and playing

cards. Emery could talk to anyone as he had the gift of gab. He was a lifelong New York Yankee fan and attended 3 Super Bowls to watch his grandson, Russ Hochstein, play. Emery was the last one of the Pete Hochstein family of 13 to die. Emery was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church and had a Perpetual Hour of Adoration for many years. His faith and praying the rosary was very important to him. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was a former member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and the NFO. Emery is survived by 6 children and their spouses; Jim and Sue Hochstein, Ken and Carol Hochstein, Gayle and Barb Hochstein all of Hartington; Carolyn and Jerry Arkfeld of Omaha; Michael "Mick" and Nancy Hochstein of Hartington; Kristi and Steve Chonis of Kansas City, Missouri; 26 grandchildren, 54 great grandchildren, 2 sisters-in-law, Wilma Hochstein of Lincoln,

Nebraska and Dolores Hochstein of Wynot, Nebraska. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Lorraine on December 7, 2003 at the age of 79, a daughter, Mary Threse and 4 infant great grandchildren, Kari Hochstein, Chance Herber, Hope Hoss, Kevin Timothy Arkfeld Jr. and 8 brothers, Longinus, Mark, Stephen, Paul, Alfred, Adrian, Elmer and Merlin Hochstein and 4 sisters, Blanche Arens, Hulda Becker, Dorothy Feilmeier and Erna Arens. Yankton Press & Dakotan February 2, 2013

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### Russell Johnson

Funeral services for Russell Johnson, 88, of Wausa, Neb., are at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4, 2013, at Thabor Lutheran Church, Wausa. Pastor Michelle Oetken will officiate, with burial in the Lutheran Cemetery in Wausa.

Visitation is 3-5 p.m. Sunday at the church. Brockhaus Funeral Home, Wausa, is in charge of arrangements. Russell died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013, at Golden Living Center, Wausa.

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