

Bill Would Create Problem Gambling Commission

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska lawmaker wants to create a commission and a program that would raise awareness about gambling and help treat those with gambling addictions. On Monday, the Legislature's General Affairs Committee will consider Omaha Sen. Bob Krist's bill that would help problem gamblers get the information and help they need. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling would have nine members who would be appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman and confirmed by the Legislature. The commission would set standards for the Gamblers Assistance Program and oversee funds for the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. The bill calls for the funding to be used primarily for counseling and treatment centers for problem gamblers and their families.

Nebraskans Like Idea Of Testing Older Drivers

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — Many Nebraska drivers like the idea of requiring a cognitive test for drivers over 80-years-old. Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms has proposed a bill suggesting the new tests be imposed as a way to promote safety. KOLN reports the idea appears popular even though some oppose it. Janet Roberts, who is 70-year-old herself, says she'd even support testing for drivers her age. Paul Swanson says he's nearly 80, and he is sure of his driving abilities. Swanson says older drivers are usually more careful than many young drivers. Grand Island driver Jennifer Haas says she thinks it would be a good idea because medication the elderly take could have side effects that affect judgment. A hearing will be held Tuesday on the bill that would affect about 60,000 Nebraskans.

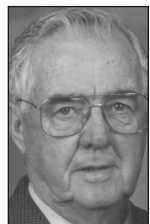
Commission To Review Report On Jail System

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The sheriff in South Dakota's most populous county plans to update commissioners on a study to overhaul the jail system in the Sioux Falls area. Minnehaha County is reviewing its corrections programs in an effort to maintain jail space for more serious offenders and move low-risk offenders to less costly work-release facilities or other monitoring. The county is also looking at replacing the two-decade-old Community Corrections Center. Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead is scheduled to appear in front of the county commission Tuesday to discuss findings by consultants hired by the U.S. Department of Justice.

OBITUARIES

Lester Johnson

Lester Johnson, 86, of Wakonda, SD passed away Saturday, February 2 at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital.



Johnson

Lester was born July 13, 1926 in Hooker, SD to Thomas and Ella Andahl Johnson. He graduated from the Centerville High School and attended South Dakota State University and also served in the Army during WWII. He married Beverly Orsland on June 4, 1950 in Volin, SD and the couple farmed and raised livestock for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Arnold and an infant brother.

He is survived by his wife Beverly of Wakonda, three sons; Dennis (Donna) Johnson of Coon Rapids, MN, Douglas (Lorie) Johnson of Aberdeen, SD and Duane (Michelle) Johnson of Vermillion, and a daughter Diane (Mick) Ramey of Cottage Grove, MN. Two sisters; Ruth Ostrem of Medina, MN and Louise (Dorwin) Larsen of Flat Rock, NC, two brothers; Eldon (Nory) Johnson of Vermillion and Kenny (Lois) Johnson of Litchfield, MN, and a sister-in-law Sylvia Johnson of Vermillion. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 6 at the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, rural Wakonda, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Visit hansenfuneralhome.com.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 4, 2013

10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hartington, Neb., with the Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be at the St. Michael's Cemetery, Hartington.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the church with a vigil service at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue on Wednesday morning one hour prior to services.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.

LeRoy Skonvold

LeRoy Skonhovd, 80, died February 1, 2013 at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls due to complications of an abdominal aneurysm.

Services will be held on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg. Visitation is Tuesday starting at 5:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church with a prayer service at 7:00 pm.

Survivors include his wife Shirley of Viborg; 3 children Jeff (Carol) of Yankton, Doug (Jean) of Hurley and Carolyn (Jim) Duffy of Sioux Falls; and 2 sisters Milliecent (Robert) Mikkelsen of Viborg and Shirley (Monty) Luden of Norwalk, CA.

Register online at www.viborg-funeralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 4, 2013

Donald Kinning

Memorial services for Donald L. Kinning, 71, of Norfolk, Neb., will be at a later date.

Home for funerals, Norfolk, Neb., is in charge of arrangements.

He died Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, at Faith Regional Health Services.

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS
11AM-2PM \$6.95
Yesterday's Cafe
2216 Broadway, Yankton

Eunice Heimes
Eunice D. Heimes, 90, of Hartington, Neb., died on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013, at the Golden Living Center, Hartington.
Mass of Christian Burial is at

S.D. Legislature: What To Know This Week

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — On tap this week in the South Dakota Legislature: a scholarship designed to attract new teachers, and a ban on cellphone use by beginning drivers. Here are five things to know heading into the annual session's fifth week:

CRITICAL-NEEDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Senate Education Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing Tuesday on a plan to give scholarships to college students who agree to teach in critically needed subjects for at least five years after graduation.

Students preparing for teaching careers could get scholarships to help cover tuition and fees for their final two years in a private or public college.

A new state board would determine which subjects are in critical need of teachers, but officials have said South Dakota needs to attract more college graduates into teaching math and science.

General state tax revenue would be used to set up a trust fund that would finance the scholarships.

BEGINNING DRIVERS

Lawmakers are looking at a package of proposals by a task force the Legislature appointed

to look at teen driving safety.

One bill would prohibit beginning drivers — those with instruction and restricted permits — from using cellphones while behind the wheel. Another measure suggested by the task force would set up a coordinated drivers' education system with statewide standards for course content, instruction, testing and certification of instructors.

Task force members said South Dakota has one of the nation's highest rates of fatal crashes among young drivers.

The Senate Transportation Committee will have hearings Monday on the bills recommended by the task force.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

South Dakota lawmakers will get another briefing Tuesday on the arguments for and against expanding Medicaid to cover thousands of additional low-income people.

The event is sponsored by legislative leaders and the Council of State Governments, an organization that represents all three branches of government for states around the nation.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has recommended against expanding Medicaid right now as part of the federal health care overhaul because he is uncertain whether the federal government can afford to pay the bulk of the cost.

The state's Medicaid program now covers about 116,000 children, adults and disabled people. If the state expands eligibility, an esti-

mated 48,000 people, mostly adults without children, would be added to the program.

BILLS FILED

By the filing deadline last week, South Dakota lawmakers had introduced 492 bills, about average for recent legislative sessions.

In the past 10 years, lawmakers filed an average of 495 bills a year. The Legislative Research Council reports that the highest number of bills ever introduced was in 1957, when 929 were filed.

The lowest number ever filed was in 1964, when only 432 were considered.

In most years during the past decade, a little more than half the bills introduced have been passed and signed into law.

SALES TAX ON FOOD

The House Taxation Committee looks at a bill Tuesday that would remove the state sales tax on food while raising the tax rate on most other goods and services.

Food would be exempt from the state's 4 percent sales tax, but the rate would be raised to 4.35 percent on other goods and services.

Similar bills have failed in the past after opponents argued that the tax rate can be kept low if the sales tax is applied to a broad range of items. Supporters of those bills contend that food should not be taxed to give a break to low-income families.

Plans

From Page 1

- repair the roof and windows of the Calf Barn to protect it for a future partnership with a private organization;
- demolish the Show Barn, which was built in 1905 and has been vacant for more than 25 years;
- demolish the Dairy Barn, which was built in 1910 and has been vacant for more than 25 years;
- demolish the Bull Barn, which was built in an undetermined year and has been vacant more than 25 years;
- demolish the Butcher Shop, which was built in an undetermined year and has been vacant more than 25 years;
- demolish the Fire House, which was built in 1936 and currently shelters a fire truck; and
- demolish the Root Cellar, which was built in an undetermined year and has been vacant more than 25 years.

In phase three, Daugaard proposes to:

- take necessary steps to keep the Burbank Building in solid condition for a future partnership with a private organization;
- demolish Lee Cottage, which was built in 1898 and has been vacant since 1996;
- demolish the Herreid Building, which was built in 1903 and has been vacant since 1996;
- demolish the Mellette Building, which was built in 1905 and has been vacant since 1996; and
- demolish the Ordway Building, which was built in 1915 and has been vacant since 1980.

Bowman said the administration anticipates the plan would be carried out during the course of three years but that could change depending upon on demolition bids and how the demolition and preservation efforts go.

Factors that played into the decision to preserve or demolish a particular building included its historic significance, the cost to rehabilitate it, its salvage value and the reasonable possibility of obtaining private partnerships for renovation.

If HB 1033 is approved by the Legislature and everything proceeds as planned, Bowman said the administration would like

phase one to get under way in early summer.

NATIONAL TRUST: PLAN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE

While praising the state for working with the Yankton County Historical Society to preserve the Mead Building, as well as the efforts that will be made to maintain three other buildings on the campus, the National Trust disagrees with the wisdom of the rest of the governor's plan.

"Responsible stewardship of state property does not include deferring building maintenance for decades," said Jennifer Buddenborg, a senior field officer with the National Trust. "The historic HSC buildings are in such poor condition because the state has allowed them to fall into disrepair. That is the very opposite of responsible stewardship."

"The effort (to preserve four buildings) is overshadowed by the rest of the proposal, which includes the demolition of 13 historic buildings."

Buddenborg said she is not convinced South Dakotans would agree that demolition is the correct path forward.

"Choosing demolition erases any opportunity for economic investment and growth that could be gained from finding new and contemporary uses for older buildings," she stated. "Many people thought the Meridian Bridge should have been demolished, but look at what a community asset that has become since it was rehabilitated."

The sole reason the buildings on the HSC campus remain standing after years of abandonment is because they were constructed of high-quality materials and were skillfully crafted, Buddenborg said.

"Some have been standing for more than 130 years, while the youngest of the threatened buildings have been there for more than 55 years," she stated. "The Human Services Center is the oldest public institution in South Dakota, and the buildings are some of the most historic in Yankton County. The campus was established when Yankton was the territorial capital of the Dakota Territory. It has been recognized for its importance to our history and its collection of architecturally distinct buildings that can be found nowhere else in the state."

The National Trust has resources that could assist with the redevelopment of the campus, ac-

ording to Buddenborg.

"The National Trust Community Investment Corporation (NTCIC) makes equity investments in real estate projects nationwide that qualify for federal and state historic tax credits, low-income housing, New Markets and solar tax credits," she said. "Since 2000, NTCIC has placed more than \$553 million in gross equity and debt towards more than 80 projects with total development costs over \$2 billion."

After the HSC campus was listed on the "Most Endangered Historic Places" list in 2009, a Human Services Center Advocacy Coalition was created. It consists of local, state and national organizations, as well as individuals, who promote rehabilitation of the buildings.

"We meet on a monthly basis and have been successful in delaying demolition, promoting the reuse of the Mead Building and building public awareness through events like campus tours," Buddenborg stated. "However, we have struggled to actively engage the state in marketing the vacant buildings to attract potential developers. For example, we have offered to assist the state in the writing and distribution of a request for proposals that would clearly spell out the redevelopment opportunities. We also offered to identify and request private funding to conduct a conditions assessment of the threatened buildings to provide more detailed information to prospective investors. Neither of these offers were taken."

Buddenborg believes the decisions for the future of the buildings have not been based on objective studies, such as an assessment of their condition conducted by a preservation architect and engineer.

"I have not seen any such studies, nor has the state been willing to conduct any, despite many requests, that would justify the need to demolish the buildings," she said. "What is happening is demolition by neglect. Without those studies, there is simply not enough evidence to say whether or not the buildings should be demolished."

While members of the coalition have appreciated state officials listening to their concerns, Buddenborg said South Dakota has not done enough to encourage redevelopment of the property.

Bowman points out that many of the buildings on the campus have sat empty for nearly 20 years

and no one has come forward with a viable plan.

"We remain open to inquiry by any private party with a serious interest in rehabilitation of any building, and have as recently as a (couple weeks ago) provided access to developers," she stated.

The reason rehabilitation opportunities have been slim is because the state has not told developers what property is available and the terms of utilizing it, Buddenborg said.

"Developers are about the bottom line and do not want to get involved in any politics," she stated. "The Mead Building adaptive use project has paved the way for redevelopment opportunities; it seems short-sighted to abandon any more opportunities that may arise now that questions of building ownership and other allowances have been determined. We should use the Mead Building project as a catalyst for more creative development scenarios, such as partnering with the City of Yankton on a comprehensive development of the HSC land it recently acquired."

Buddenborg stressed that the greenest building is the one that is already built, so rehabilitation of the HSC structures would be the most responsible use of South Dakota's resources.

"Demolishing over 400,000 square feet of usable building space on the HSC campus is an incredible waste of materials and dollars," she said. "Donovan Rypkema, one of the nation's experts on the economic benefits of historic preservation and who began his consulting practice in Rapid City, illustrates this in his recent research on sustainability and historic preservation: 'When you preserve a historic building, you are preserving land. When you rehabilitate a historic building, you are reducing waste generation. When you reuse a historic building, you are increasing recycling. In fact, historic preservation is the ultimate in recycling.'"

Bowman said Gov. Daugaard wants to make the most of the HSC campus for the citizens of Yankton and the State of South Dakota.

"He believes his proposal will bring about that result," she stated.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at Twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

Mom's Funeral Was Meaningful To Us, Which Was Just What She Wanted.

"From her favorite songs to her special prayers and the clergyman whom she respected, Mom's funeral was an important way for our family to share just how wonderful she was. It was a meaningful tribute that celebrated her life and the things she loved. Arranging many of the details ahead of time with Mom and the Wintz's helped make sure of that. When Mom died, the Wintz family took care of everything, providing us with comfort and peace of mind. Together, we created a meaningful funeral that was just the way Mom wanted it.

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Alice Frasch
who passed away on
February 5, 2012

Elouise Simpson
who passed away on
February 8, 2012

Raymond Paylish
who passed away on
February 9, 2012

Allen D. Kokesh Jr.
who passed away on
February 7, 2006

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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