

## YANKTON COUNTY COURTS

### CASES DISPOSED: JANUARY 16-22, 2015

Shawn K. Malcom, 500 Douglas Ave. #10, Yankton; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120  
Heather Craft, Gayville; Speeding on other roadways, \$85  
Joseph Anthony Murrill, Scotland; No driver's license, \$120  
Gary Merkwan, 2708 E. Hwy 50, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25  
Bonita Schnabel, 1203 Mulberry St., Yankton; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120  
Derek James Mueller, 712 Capitol St., Yankton; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120  
Travis Michael Potts, 221 1/2 Capitol St., Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$125  
Francis J. Froehlich, Tripp; Overweight on axle, \$170 plus \$10 penalty  
Todd Allen Froelich, Sioux Falls; Overweight on axle, \$170 plus \$33 penalty; Placard not securely affixed, \$170 plus \$33 penalty  
Troy Michael Heun, Sioux Falls; Speeding on other roadways, \$85  
Blake Randall Riersen, 123 Robin St., Yankton; Viol stopped veh w/red/amber/yellow signals/lights, \$120  
John Henry Borreson, 409 Burgess, Yankton; Municipal fail to yield, \$114  
Nathan Olson, Utica; Following too closely, \$120  
Daniel B. Hart, 1403 Peninah

St., Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$125  
Larry Allen Schuh, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25  
David Toupal, 43773 306th St., Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25  
Laura Horacek, 402 E. 9th St., Yankton; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed-motion by court  
Chas Lynn Conrad, 906 Walnut #3, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25  
David Hyndman, Socorro, N.M.; Speeding on a state highway, \$105  
Michael H. Suing, Fordyce, Neb.; Seat belt violation, \$25  
Sandra Carlson, 1508 Walnut St., Yankton; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$270  
Justin Heffling, 606 E. 13th St., Yankton; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$120  
Robert Ray Willett, Scotland; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$270  
Anissa L. White, 708 Broadway, Yankton; No driver's license, \$120  
Justin Raymond Mofle, Brandon; Speeding on other roadways, \$105  
Lacey R. Bahm, Vermillion; Fail to report accident to police officer, \$120  
Rodney P. Hanson, 120 Jerry St., Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$85  
Sadie Kay Hansen, 922 W. 3rd St., Yankton; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$120  
Jennifer Burks, 1216 Pasque Cr., Yankton; Illegal lane change, \$120

## KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

On Jan. 31, 2015, at approximately 10:20 p.m., a van driven by Clarissa LaPlante, Santee, was traveling northbound on Highway 14, approximately 3 miles north of Verdigré when it lost control on the slippery roads and slid into the east ditch. The van made contact with a box culvert at that location causing extensive front end damage. The driver and three juvenile passengers where all transported to Avera Creighton Hospital emergency room in Creighton, by the Verdigré Rescue Squad, and were treated for non-life threatening injuries. All passengers were wearing their seat belts  
• On Feb. 8, 2015, at about 1 p.m., the Knox County Sheriff's Office received a report of the 911 signs and a "T" intersection sign missing from the intersection of 546 Ave. and 879 Rd. The reporting party also stated that someone had driven in the alfalfa field on the southwest corner of the intersection. During the

investigation, two signs that did not belong at the intersection were found along the road and in the alfalfa field. One was a stop sign and one was a curve sign with a reduced speed limit attached to it. Photographs of tire tracks, paint scraping and tire width were taken at the scene. The value of damage has not yet been determined.  
• On Feb. 5, 2015, the Sheriff's Office received a report of a two-vehicle accident nine miles south and 2/10s of a mile west of Bloomfield, Nebraska. A eastbound 2008 Ford Fusion owned and driven by Lois J. Baldwin of Creighton, Nebraska, had slowed down to make a left turn from State Highway 59, into a private driveway. The Baldwin vehicle was struck from behind by a 2012 Ford F250 Pickup owned and driven by Danny L. Thies of North Sioux City. Both vehicles received more than \$1,000 damage and a passenger in the Baldwin vehicle was transported to the Bloomfield Clinic by private vehicle for possible injuries.

# Area Legislators React To Death Penalty Decision

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

Area South Dakota legislators were divided on Wednesday's committee votes which defeated two measures to repeal or revise the death penalty.

On both bills, District 16 Sen. Dan Lederman (R-Dakota Dunes) voted with the 7-2 majority in the Senate State Affairs Committee to defer the bills to the 41st day of the session. The procedural move means the legislation died in committee.

On the other side, District 18 Sen. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) and District 21 Sen. Billie Sutton (D-Burke) cast the two votes supporting each bill.

In addition, District 17 Sen. Art Rusch (R-Vermillion), a retired circuit court judge, testified in favor of repealing the death penalty. He spoke from the perspective of a judge presiding over the trial of Donald Moeller for the 1990 murder of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell in Sioux Falls.

"I testified as the first — and I believe only — legislator who has personally tried a death penalty case and sentenced a man to death," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "I tried to explain its effect on me, on the jurors and the financial effect on Lincoln County.

"I came out of the trial not the supporter of the death penalty that I had been going into it. Even now, 17 years after I sentenced Donald Moeller to death, it still has an emotional effect on me."

Lederman told the *Press & Dakotan* he found the committee hearings to be "nerve racking" and that he didn't have extensive comment. In the end, he voted his conscience on the bills, he said.

"I feel very strongly in favor of the death penalty," he said. "My faith and morals direct me to feel that compensation is necessary to victims, especially in capital offense cases."

On the other side of the issue, Hunhoff



Hunhoff

served as a prime sponsor — along with the District 9 Rep. Steve Hickey (R-Sioux Falls) — of the bill to repeal the death penalty. Hickey serves as pastor of a Sioux Falls church.

"The death penalty causes more problems than it solves," Hunhoff said.

Hunhoff described Rusch's testimony as "especially telling," and noted those testifying included another judge-turned-legislator, District 31 Rep. Timothy Johns (R-Lead).

"Also, two former attorneys general of South Dakota testified - Mark Meierhenry and Roger Tellinghuisen," Hunhoff said. "Both faced death penalty cases, and both said those experiences changed their minds about the death penalty."

No evidence exists that the death penalty serves as a deterrent, Hunhoff said.

"In fact, death penalty states generally have much higher murder rates than states without the death penalty," he said. "And we're in bad company globally. Not a single country in Europe or the Americas has a death penalty. The United States is in league with North Korea, Iran, Iraq and China on this issue.

"But perhaps the most troubling aspect is that we run the risk of someday executing an innocent person. It happened early in state history when we hanged a man who was later found to be innocent. In fact, he was hung three times because the execution failed on the first two tries."

Since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to re-instate the death penalty in 1976, 150 death row prisoners have been exonerated, Hunhoff said.

"That's one exoneration for every

nine executions, an alarming rate of error," he said.

Hunhoff also questioned government's role in administering the death penalty.

"I'm just not comfortable with a government so big and powerful that it can kill its citizens," he said. "I'm not comfortable with government having that power."

Denny Davis of Vermillion, the head of the organization South Dakota for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, noted Wednesday's Senate committee votes fell along party lines.

"It was sad to see how not one Republican voted with us on any of these bills," he said. "It makes me wonder just how 'pro-life' this state really is."

Davis views the death penalty debate as a moral issue.

"I believe all life is sacred and everyone gets a chance at life no matter what they have done," he said. "The death penalty is not about what 'they' have done but what we do. This is our response to killing. What does that say about us as citizens and as people of faith?"

South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty has no other bills this session but

will be back with another repeal bill next session, Davis said.

"This is a God of life, and life will win in the end," he said.

SB 121, the bill to repeal the death penalty, received bipartisan sponsorship. Area legislators who introduced the bill included Hunhoff, Sutton, District 17 Rep. Ray Ring (D-Vermillion) and District 21 Rep. Julie Bartling (D-Gregory).

SB 122, the bill to revise provisions of the death penalty, also received bipartisan sponsorship. Area legislators who introduced the bill included Hunhoff, Sutton, Rusch and District 19 Rep. Kyle Schoenfish (R-Scotland).

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## State Park Memorial Day Weekend Camping Reservations Open Feb. 21

PIERRE — People wanting to camp in South Dakota state parks on Memorial Day weekend may begin making reservations for that holiday period at 7 a.m. CST on Feb. 21, for Friday, May 22, arrivals.  
"Memorial Day weekend is very busy in all the parks," said

state Division of Parks and Recreation Director Doug Hofer. "Campers should plan ahead to reserve their favorite camping spots."

A three-night stay is required during holiday weekends at all parks except Custer State Park. Reservations for

campsites in Custer State Park and for lodges in all state parks and recreation areas can be made one year in advance.

Reservations can be made 24 hours a day both online at [www.campsd.com](http://www.campsd.com) or by calling 1-800-710-2267. Campsites become available at 7 a.m. Central

Time on the first day of the 90-day window. Taxes and reservation fees may apply. The full 90-day window calendar can be found online at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov). Get information about South Dakota State Parks on Facebook and Twitter @SDGameFishParks

## OBITUARIES

### Alfred Burbach

Alfred T. Burbach, age 69 of Hartington, Nebraska died on Monday, February 9, 2015 at Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska after a lengthy illness.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, February 13, 2015 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. in Hartington with the Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be at St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation will be on Thursday from 5-8:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral



Burbach

Home in Hartington, NE. Visitation will continue 1 hour prior to services on Friday at Holy Trinity church.

Pallbearers are Ryan Flink, Jason Flink, Jared Burbach, Anthony Burbach, Brooks Burbach and Jim Steffen.

Honorary pallbearers will be Alfred's brothers, Lee, Bob, Mike & Pat, and sister Geraldyn.

Alfred was born on November 9th 1945 to Gerald

and Mary Sylvia (Lammers) Burbach in Yankton, SD

Alfred graduated from Cedar Catholic High School in 1964. He farmed in the Hartington-Coleridge areas. He did custom work for many area farmers. When this wasn't enough, Alfred took combines and went to Oklahoma and Kansas to harvest wheat. After several years of this, Alfred sold out his farming and purchased the Crofton Elevator where they took in grain and processed and delivered feed to area farmers.

Later Alfred sold the Crofton Elevator and went into a used car dealership.

He also owned and operated Dan's Lounge in Crofton Nebr. That was about the time he met his future wife Suzette Howard, they were married in April 1981 soon after that was born their son Jed. Later they were divorced and Alfred went into driving and owning over the road trucks. As he grew in age he sold the trucks and just drove school bus until his illness in April 2014.

Alfred was a member of Holy Trinity Church and the Knights of Columbus, both in Hartington, NE.

Alfred will be remembered for always trying to help someone out with

something; also for his love of his grandchildren; Brooke and Braxton and his love for his puppies, Riley and Roxy. Survivors include His son, Jed and his wife Ashly of Norfolk, Nebraska two grandchildren Brooke and Braxton. Four brothers Leroy of Coleridge, Bob of Vermillion SD Mike and wife Kathy of Norfolk, Pat and wife Donna of Hartington, and one sister Geraldyn and husband Rod Flink of Lincoln; many nieces and nephews and friend Julie VanDyke.

He was preceded in death by his parents and former wife Suzette.

To send an online message to the family, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 12, 2015



WINTZ  
FUNERAL HOME

Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton  
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505  
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

### Helen Koupal

Funeral Services and a Mass of Christian Burial for Helen M. Koupal, 84, a resident of Bettendorf, will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 14, 2015 at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 4105 N. Division Street, Davenport with Monsignor James Parizek officiating. Interment will be at Davenport Memorial Park.

The family will greet friends Friday, February 13th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Halligan McCabe DeVries Funeral Home, 614 Main Street, downtown Davenport. There will be a prayer service at 6:30 p.m. to conclude the visitation. There will be an additional visitation at church on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the start of the service.

Mrs. Koupal passed away Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at the Kahl Home in Davenport.

Helen Marie Stepka was born October 14, 1930 in Scotland, South Dakota the daughter of James and Anna (Kocer) Stepka. She was united in marriage to Nilus Anton Koupal on September 14, 1948 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, South Dakota. Helen and Nilus farmed and owned a



Koupal

small business in Dante, South Dakota prior to moving to Davenport in 1960. Nilus preceded her in death on June 17, 2001.

A loving mother and wife, gentle advisor, and mother to all of her children's friends, Helen was known for her organization, avid reading, and her daily diary entries. She valued an orderly home and loved music and to dance (Jitterbug Queen). She was proud of her Czech heritage and the value system she inherited from her parents.

Her strong faith (two rosaries a day!) proved to be the strength and support she needed to conquer the trials and tribulations of her life which included an early diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy (age 23). Throughout her life Helen strived to not let her disability define her but rather to live her life normally, with grace and perseverance. With no medical cure for Muscular Dystrophy, Helen embraced a holistic approach to health care, which included chiropractic care, a contributing factor in the family's decision to move to Davenport.

Helen is survived by her five children; Kenneth Koupal (Thomas Kersting), Rapids City, Illinois; Robert Koupal, Davenport; Renee Koupal, Davenport; David Koupal (Agusto Sumulong), Chicago; and Steven (Robin)

Koupal, Davenport; grandchildren, Kimberly Koupal-Hamid, Kristen Rose, and Karl Graves; step-grandchildren, Tiffanie Lira, Jayson Hanssen, and Brianna Murillo; fifteen great-grandchildren; a brother, Ray (Marlene) Stepka; a sister Betty (Dwayne) Siewert, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and sisters, Dorothy Walloch and Ann Johnson.

The family would like to especially thank Family Care Solution and her niece, Lori Black, who assisted with personal care for Helen over the

last several years. The family would also like to thank the wonderful staff at the Kahl Home, and special family friends, Monsignor Parizek and Monsignor Mottet for their many prayers and spiritual guidance.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association or the Davenport Public Library.

Online remembrances and condolences and may be expressed to the family by visiting Helen's obituary at [www.hmd-funeralhome.com](http://www.hmd-funeralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 12, 2015

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Tell her you love her with a kiss.

Meet Our King & Queen of Hearts!

They will be honored at a Valentine Party on Friday, February 13th 1:30pm East • 2:45 West Building

King & Queen East Building  
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& Bob Ekeren

Autumn Winds LLC  
Assisted Living  
2905/2903 Douglas, Yankton, SD

King & Queen West Building  
Malinda Cross  
& Laurene Pokorny

Entertainment! Refreshments will be served!

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Eugene "Gene" Burbach  
10:30 AM, Thursday  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Hartington

Alfred Burbach  
10:30 AM, Friday  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Hartington

David Carl Colling  
10:30 AM, Saturday  
United Presbyterian Church  
Laurel

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605-665-3644 [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

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