

2 Hurt After Explosion In Sioux Falls Basement

SIoux FALLS, (AP) — A father and daughter have been burned after an explosion in the basement of their South Dakota home. KSFY reports that emergency crews were called to the fire around 3 p.m. Monday and found the Sioux Falls home engulfed in flames. Lincoln County Emergency Manager Harold Timmerman says a father and daughter in the home at the time were injured. The man has been airlifted to a Minnesota burn center. It's unclear the extent of the girl's injuries. Timmerman says the explosion shifted the walls off the foundation, causing the roof to collapse.

Neb. Senator Introduces Bills For Veterans

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska state senator has introduced bills to help smooth the licensing process for veterans and their spouses if they already have the skill set for a job. Sen. Amanda McGill of Lincoln submitted legislation Monday that would streamline the process for veterans who need a license to perform a job in Nebraska. Another bill in her legislative package would ease the process for a military spouse to get a teaching license if they have a license and experience from another state. McGill also introduced bills that would allow the spouse of a purple heart recipient to keep the specially designated plates if the veteran dies. Her fourth bill would create Nebraska Armed Forces Pride Plates.

Native American Vets Gather For Conference

FLANDREAU (AP) — Suicide rates and post-traumatic stress disorder are just two of the issues that will be addressed at a three-day conference starting Tuesday in South Dakota that is bringing together tribal officials and representatives from veterans' organizations. About 60 veterans and tribal officials from South Dakota's nine tribes are expected to gather in Flandreau to learn about the best practices to help returning Native American veterans. Conference coordinator Dennis Quigley says many American Indian veterans fall victim to alcoholism and post-traumatic stress disorder, but many psychologists don't fully grasp Native American culture and the role it plays in recovery. Quigley says the conference is also a chance to show appreciation for American Indian veterans who have served. A wacipi, or powwow, is scheduled for Wednesday to honor the veterans.

Man Pleads No Contest In Naked Joyride

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A man accused of drunken driving while he and three friends were on a naked joyride near Lincoln last winter has pleaded no contest to a third charge of driving under the influence. KMTV in Omaha says 33-year-old Nickolous Borgman, of Denton, entered his plea on Monday in Lancaster County District Court. He faces up to 20 years in prison when he's sentenced on March 14. A deputy investigating a suspicious vehicle stopped Borgman's pickup truck last February. He found four naked joyriders inside the cab and clothes and empty beer cans in the back. Borgman was arrested. The others weren't cited.

Nebraska

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning produced documents Monday that he said contradicted claims that state officials had been conned into buying stolen doses of an execution drug. The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services announced in November that it had obtained sodium thiopental, one of three drugs needed to carry out executions by lethal injection, from Swiss company Naari AG. The drug is no longer manufactured in the United States and is in scarce supply worldwide. The state plans to use the drug to execute Michael Ryan for a 1985 slaying. But Ryan's attorney claims the doses Nebraska recently bought were supposed to be used only for "test and evaluation" as an anesthetic in Zambia and not sold. Bruning said the documents, the emails and financial statements released Monday show the Indian drug broker, Harris Pharma LLP, bought the drug from Swiss manufacturer Naari and

then sold doses to Nebraska.

Naari's chief executive Prithi Kochhar previously sent Bruning a letter saying the doses were free samples provided for tests in Zambia and "wrongfully diverted." Kochhar said Naari would never support use of the drug in executions.

Ryan's lawyer, Jerry Soucie, declined to comment Monday, saying he had not yet seen the attorney general's court filing that included the documents. Soucie has previously said Bruning advised the corrections department on how to acquire the drug.

Bruning said Monday that Kochhar's claims that Nebraska's purchase was illegal were baseless, and he accused Soucie of creating a "circus sideshow."

"Naari clearly knew, based on the emails . . . that this drug was being sold to Chris Harris," Bruning said.

He added, "I think it's outrageous that the conversation continues to be about the method of execution as opposed to the brutal murders committed by Michael Ryan and Carey Dean Moore," another death-row inmate.

S.D. Medicaid System Update Behind Schedule

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — Development of a new computerized Medicaid management system is far behind schedule because of a dispute between the state and the company hired to do the work, a South Dakota official said Monday. The state signed a contract in 2008 with Client Network Service Inc. of Maryland to develop a new \$72 million computerized system for managing the program that pays medical expenses for low-income people. But the state terminated the contract in October 2010 because the work was behind schedule and of poor quality, state

Social Services Secretary Kim Malsam-Rysdon told a legislative committee.

The company then sued the state, which in turn filed a counterclaim in state court.

However, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid persuaded the state and Client Network Service to enter mediation in an attempt to resolve the dispute and get the project moving again, Malsam-Rysdon said.

She told the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee that she hopes to get a response from the company by the end of January as a result of the mediation.

Malsam-Rysdon said the media-

tion process might solve the dispute and get the project moving again. She said the state and the company agreed not to disclose information from the mediation process.

The project was supposed to be completed by July 2010, but only some parts of the data management system are up and running, Malsam-Rysdon said.

Websites that provide information to the public and health care providers are working well, but key parts for handling claims are not complete, Malsam-Rysdon said.

The federal government is to pay 90 percent of the cost of the new computerized management system, which will replace a sys-

tem that is about three decades old. The federal government is requiring all states to update their computer management programs for Medicaid.

When lawmakers asked whether the state might have to hire another company to finish the project, Malsam-Rysdon said: "I guess I don't want to rule out any options." Members of the legislative panel urged Malsam-Rysdon to make sure the project gets done right.

"Because we've got taxpayers' dollars involved, we need to make sure we're getting a valid product for the money we're spending," Sen. Jeff Haverly, R-Rapid City, said.

OBITUARIES

Marjorie Johnson

A memorial service was held Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, at the Trent Church of Christ, in Dexter Oregon, for Marjorie J. (Kunkle) Johnson. Marjorie died Dec. 15 of age-related causes. She was 83.

Marjorie was born Dec. 30, 1927, in Philip, S.D., to Montrose and Esther (Lake) Kunkle. She was raised on the prairies of South Dakota beside the railroad tracks where the sounds of the trains were on the ever present wind. Marjorie had many stories of growing up including the trains, Indians, a pet turkey, and hard times. She graduated from Yankton High School. She married Harold (Harl) R. Johnson Sept. 22, 1946 in Sioux Falls, S.D. Harold made a career of the Navy; he died Jan. 2, 2000. Marjorie had been a beauty operator, a medical assistant, a hospital volunteer and a homemaker.

Survivors include a daughter Linda Campbell of Dexter Oregon; a brother, William (Bill) Kunkle of Harrisburg Oregon; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her younger brother Ronald Kunkle.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 10, 2012

Kenneth Eckmann

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Kenneth Eckmann, 74, of Bloomfield, Neb., died Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, at his home in Bloomfield.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Christ Memorial United Methodist Church, Bloomfield. The Rev. Tim Pratt will officiate, with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Bloomfield.

Dona Smith

Dona M. Smith, age 85, of Yankton passed away on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at Avera Sr. James Care Center, Yankton.

She is survived by her daughters, Patty (Terry) Taylor of Yankton, SD and Sheila (Gary) Garbe of Alpena, SD.

Memorial services are being handled by the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

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www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Harm Frey

MITCHELL — Harm Frey, 94, Mitchell, died Saturday, January 7, 2012, at Avera Brady Health and Rehab in Mitchell.

Funeral services will be Thursday, January 12, 2012, 11:00 a.m. at the Northridge Baptist Church in Mitchell. Burial will be in the Emery Community Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday evening with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Bittner Funeral Chapel in Mitchell.

He was born January 5, 1918 in Buffalo Center, IA to John and Minnie (Hass) Frey. As a young man he accepted the Lord as his Savior at the Union Gospel Church and was later baptized at the Plum Creek Baptist Church. Harm served in the US Army with the European Theater of Operations during WWII. On February 22, 1947 he married Leona Triebwasser. They farmed in the Iowa Falls area, Emery area and later moved to the Fulton area where he farmed until retiring. After re-

Donelda VanDerhule

Donelda M. VanDerhule, age 94, of Yankton passed away on Friday, January 6, 2010 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton after a brief battle with cancer.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at the United Church of Christ-Congregational, Yankton, with Dr. Richard Jensen officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton City Cemetery.

Visitations will be from 4-7 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2012, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Jim Brown, Grant VanDerhule, Jeff VanDerhule, Eric Schuster, Heath Becker and Chris Haeuszer.

Affectionately known as



VanDerhule

She met the love of her life, Milford VanDerhule, at Yankton High School and they were married, July 11, 1937. They made their home and raised their family in Yankton. Together they owned and operated VanDerhule Moving & Storage Company for 37 years.

Donelda and Milford were charter members of Hillcrest Country Club. She was a past Worthy Matron and 50-year member of Eastern Star, member of Questers, and Yankton Women's Club, and an avid bridge player. She and Milford

Sophine Frey and Grace Poley, two half brothers: Tom and Harry Frey and two half sisters: Deane Froom and Jen Hartzel.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 10, 2012

Kathryn Smith

WAUSA, Neb. — Kathryn Smith, 99, of Wausa, Neb., died Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, at Golden Living Center, Wausa.

Arrangements are pending at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Wausa.

Violet Diede

MENNO — Violet Diede, 91, of Menno died early Sunday morning, Jan. 8, 2012, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Memorial services are at 11 a.m. Thursday at Grace Lutheran

were active members of their community and enthusiastic supporters of Yankton.

Baptized and confirmed in the First Lutheran Church of Yankton, SD, Donelda joined the United Church of Christ-Congregational after marriage where she taught Sunday school and served many years as a member of the UCC Women's Fellowship.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Milford, and brother, Richard Helm.

Beloved matriarch of her extended family, Donelda is survived by her children, Vernon "Skip" (Judy) VanDerhule, Yankton, SD, Ross (Brooke) VanDerhule, Sioux Falls, SD, and Jane (Gordon) Brown, Yankton, SD; eight grandchildren: Katherine (Eric) Schuster, Chicago, IL; Jim (Tara) Brown, Sioux Falls, SD; Emily VanDerhule, Yankton, SD; Polly (Scott) Kemmeries, Denver, CO; Grant VanDerhule, Brook-

ings, SD; Carianne (Heath) Becker, Sioux Falls, SD; Sandi (Chris) Haeuszer, Sioux Falls, SD; and Jeff (Carrie) VanDerhule, Denver, CO; eight great-grandchildren: Noah, Jazmine, and Chloe Brown, Zach and Lucy Kemmeries, Alice and Eddie Becker, and Walker Haeuszer; cousin, Steve Nelson, Pierre, and nieces Kay James and Liann (Richard) Schoenberger, all of Yankton.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Avera Sacred Heart Hospice 501 Summit, Yankton, SD 57078 or the Sack Pack Program PO Box 7038 Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 10, 2012

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Church, Menno, with the Rev. Leon Schulz officiating. Private family committal services will be at the Menno Cemetery.

Visitations are 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno.

Leona Sedlezky

FREEMAN — Leona P. Sedlezky, 97, of Freeman died Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at the Freeman

Community Hospital, Freeman.

Funeral services are at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Immanuel Lutheran Church, with the Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery.

Visitations are 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Visitations will resume one hour prior to service at the church.

Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, is in charge of services.

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