# the midwest

### Scanlan Wraps Up Her Reign As Miss America

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Teresa Scanlan is no longer Miss America.

The Nebraska beauty turned over her Miss America crown to a new winner Saturday night, 23-year-old Miss Wisconsin Laura Kaeppeler.

Scanlan, of Gering, who was crowned Miss America last January, was the first Miss Nebraska to win the pageant. At 17, she also was the youngest Miss America to have won the crown since the pageant set up age limits in 1938.

Scanlan Her Miss America platform was the risks of eating disorders

Scanlan plans to use her Miss America scholarship to pay for law school

### S.D. Internship Program Lags Behind 2011

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Officials say a program that helps South Dakota companies hire interns is off to a slow start.

The Dakota Seeds program provides funding to help with wages for the temporary workers. Officials say the number of businesses awarded grants is down 50 percent compared to the first quarter of 2011

A spokeswoman for the governor's office says the drop is a reflection on the number of applications, but the program typically picks up in the spring

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports that the state handed out \$300,000 last year to companies that employed 123 interns. The amounts ranged from \$2,000 to \$16,000.

### **Omaha Power Utility Warns About Scammers**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha Public Power District is warning its customers not to fall for a phone scam targeting them.

Omaha radio station KFAB says 20 OPPD customers have reported receiving calls recently about unpaid bills. The caller tells OPPD customers their bill payment is late or they've forgotten to sign a check used to pay their electric bill.

The caller then insists the bill can be settled by paying a \$40 late fee over the phone using a credit card. The caller threatens customers that their power will be disconnected if they do not immediately pay via phone.

### **Couple Creates Paradise For Wounded Vets**

RAPID CITY (AP) - A South Dakota couple has carved out a vacation paradise for wounded veterans.

Jeff and Pat Baird, of Custer, are the founders of Operation Black Hills Cabin. They eventually plan to build a cabin that will allow injured veterans and their families to enjoy the wilderness scenery at no charge.

In the meantime, at least one other couple has donated the use of their vacation home. Nancy and Paul Nettinga normally rent their cabin to summer vacationers, but hosted their first military family in June.

Nancy Nettinga tells KEVN-TV that the guests were appreciative and "couldn't say thank you enough."

### Lego Legacy Continues Following Plane Crash

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The widows of two men who died in a South Dakota plane crash last month say they're carrying on the dreams of their husbands.

Daniel Swets and Kevin Anderson were among four people killed when a twin engine Cessna airplane crashed shortly after takeoff from Sioux Falls. They were headed to the FIRST Lego League competition in Rapid City.

Robyn Swets and Cindy Anderson tell KELO-TV they are taking over the league. They say it's important to keep the competition going and continue the legacy. Their husbands served as coaches during the first year of the league.

LINCOLN, Neb. - Minors who work with police to test whether Nebraska businesses will ille-gally sell them alcohol would be prohibited from lying about their age under a proposal expected to be considered by lawmakers Wednesday.

The Omaha legislator behind the idea said it's a matter of fairness for business owners, but the state's top liquor official said it's unrealistic and would hurt efforts to keep alcohol away from teenagers.

"If you are a 'real' minor, you are going to lie," said Hobert Rupe, executive director of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. "It is hamstringing law enforcement too much."

The legislation would require minors involved in compliance checks to admit their age if asked, and that no one involved in the check could drink alcohol during the operation.

Sen. Bob Krist said he sponsored the bill at the request of restaurant and bar owners in his district.

"They are concerned that compliance checks have turned into sting operations," Krist said

**Bill Tightens Alcohol Compliance Law** 

The Nebraska State Patrol sets the rules for compliance checks, but any local police agency can conduct them as long as they abide by the state regulations.

Under the rules, minors enter a business, chosen at random, and try to purchase alcohol. If it is sold to them, a citation is issued. Repeated violations could result in the removal of the business' liquor license.

The state patrol wouldn't comment on the proposed changes.

In some cases, restaurant and bar owners feel they are being trapped, said Krist.

Krist pointed to a compliance check he said occurred at a bar in his district in north-central Omaha in which a minor lied about his age. Two officers were drinking at the bar, and the young man walked in and sat between them.

"He sat down like he was talking to a longlost uncle," Krist said.

The bartender asked for ID, and the young

man said it was in his truck. Krist said the two men at the bar vouched for him as being 21, and he was served, Krist said.

3

Krist said that case also pointed to the need to prohibit anyone involved in the check to drink during the operation.

'The alcohol part of it bothers me," Krist said. "If a law enforcement officer has to respond to something, an altercation in the bar, he would be under the influence.'

Jim Partington, executive director of the Nebraska Restaurant Association, said his group of 500 sports bars and restaurants haven't reported many problems with alcohol compliance checks, but his group supports the proposed changes.

"We don't think minors should be lying about their age," Partington said. "That's common sense.'

Rupe said the liquor commission hoped lawmakers would reject the proposal.

"All it does is create a loophole on compliance checks," he said.

# **DNA Tests Could Save Minnow In S.D. BY PETER HARRIMAN**

Argus Leader

Nebraska

**BY MICHAEL AVOK** 

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The Topeka shiner was doing relatively well in the creeks and rivers where it lives in eastern South Dakota. so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2005 decided not to include the state's waters as designated critical habitat for the minnow it had listed as endangered in 1998.

South Dakota's management plan for the fish, with its goal of maintaining existing stream habitat as the best way to achieve the recovery and future delisting of the shiner, also was persuasive in the service's decision. The plan was developed by the departments of Game, Fish and Parks and Agriculture.

In the years since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision, though, land use in the proposed critical habitat of the Big Sioux, Vermillion and James River drainages has undergone notable change. Conservation Reserve Program grassland is being returned to row crop production, and the use of tile drainage has been stepped up to improve yields on farm land.

"We know the land is changing quickly," said Rob Klumb, project leader and fisheries biologist for the USFWS Great Plains Conservation Office.

Are those changes adversely affecting Topeka shiner stream habitat?

"We don't know, but we're going to try to find out," Klumb said.

"It's a legitimate issue. That's why we want to do some of this work."

He hopes to secure grant funding for a new study of the shiner in South Dakota, perhaps as soon as 2013

When researchers take to the field, they might have a powerful new research tool. Klumb hopes to use environmental DNA analysis in stream surveys to determine the presence of Topeka shiners.

The process was developed by University of Notre Dame biologist David Lodge, who is using it to look for Asian carp in the Great Lakes. It rests on the theory that because everything sheds DNA over its lifetime, a water sample can be analyzed for DNA to determine whether a species exists upstream of where the sample was taken.

"A lot of people are turning to this as a viable technique now. It hasn't been around long enough to be really, truly vetted. But it's getting there," said Matt Powell, the associate director of the University of Idaho Aquaculture Research Institute. Almost a decade ago, Powell reviewed a National Science Foundation research proposal that involved one of the first uses of environmental DNA analysis.

"It totally blew me away," he said. "It's a really novel method, and it has potential to be very transformative in the way we look at communities."

Enormous increases in computer capability makes it possible.

"We're not talking gigabytes," 1 billion units of information. "We're talking terabytes," 1 trillion units, Powell said.

Finding and sequencing DNA "is relatively straightforward," he said. "The number of DNA sequences we can get out of a sample is tremendous. Teasing out the sequence you're looking for requires high expertise and a lot of computing power.

"The amount of date is not the linchpin. The linchpin is being able to manipulate it and make sense of it."

While Topeka shiner populations might be influenced by increased nitrate levels in water as a result of tile drainage, there is great momentum for increasing its use. Record income for farmers the

past two years both encourages them to pursue higher crop yields and affords them the capital to fund projects such as tiling that make those yields possible

Brian Hefty, a Baltic farmer, agronomist, tile contractor and producer of the "Ag PhD" television show and newsletter, said drainage can improve yields 15 percent to 25 percent on some fields.

Greater yields, reduced crop losses and replanting costs because of wet ground, and less damage to rural roads from runoff and seepage could be a \$1 billion windfall to the state. That was Hefty's estimated in a presentation about tiling at the South Dakota Corn Growers annual meeting recently.

Less than 1 percent of South Dakota land has been tiled so far, but Hefty said 10 million acres of cropland in the state could be improved by tiling in the next decade.

Walt Bones, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture, said drainage and water management have become pressing issues for counties throughout South Dakota.

"It's right up on top of their radar screen," he said.

"We have been engaged with them. A lot of counties are kind of throwing up their hands," and are seeking direction from the state.

Until recently, counties fended off state oversight, Bones said. "Now they're saying there has got to be something in the state to help us."

The Agriculture Department is proposing to the Legislature that instead of counties trying to regulate drainage piecemeal, project-by-project, it should be dealt with by the state on a watershed basis, according to Bones.

"I'm a huge proponent of these systems," he said of tiling, "if they are installed correctly."

OBITUARIES

### Kenneth Eckmann

(Died January 9, 2012) Kenneth Vern Eckmann passed away early the morning of January 9, 2012 at his home with all of his children at his bedside.

## **Ruth Fischer**

Ruth Elaine Fischer, age 61, of Yankton. South Dakota died unexpectedly on Saturday, January 14, 2012 in Yankton. Funeral services are 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2012,

loved working in her flower garden and won vard of the 85 month several times. Ruth also loved biking and

ren) Placek of Tyndall, SD, Ronald (Jeanne) Fischer of Ladonia, TX, Janice Hansen of Spearfish, SD, Donald (Marlys) Fischer of Clearwater, NE and Rodney (Nancy) Fischer of Hartington; and many nieces and nephews; and great nieces and

and Jim and Liz Eckmann of Holdrege, NE; three sisters, Joann and Lyle Schalberg of Wisconsin, Sharon and Merlyn Hart of Creighton, NE, and Marlene and Dave Wragge of Bloomfield, NE; three sister-in-laws, Lois and Rollo Kreycik, Joan and Don Wilken, and Patsy Kuni; three brother-in-laws, Gary and Barb Juracek, Lyle and Jeanne Juracek, and Roger and Cindie Juracek. He was preceded in death by his father, Claus Eckmann, Jr.; daughter-in-law. Missy Eckmann: granddaughter, Megan Sage; grandparents, Claus Sr. and Anna Eckmann and Henry And Anna Ehlers; two brother-in-laws, Kenneth Hagge and Ronald Kuhl. Kenneth will surely be missed by all of his family and friends. Yankton Press & Dakotan January 16, 2012

Paul (Valerie) Ahrendt of Sioux Falls, SD.

Don worked for Clay Union Electric. He began there shortly after the introduction of the Rural Electric Corporation to Southeast South Dakota and his career spanned a period of 34 years.

He was preceded in death by



Funeral services were held on January 13, 2012 at Christ Memorial United Methodist Church with Rev. Timothy Pratt officiating with burial at the Bloomfield Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Leon Grothe, Lonnie Greckel, Melvin Barger, Gene Eckmann, Dennis Schrader and Dave Wragge. Honorary pallbearers were his grandchildren: Joshua Eckmann, Čorey Horstmann, Michael Sage, Chad Horstmann, Samantha Green, Jodi Vellek, Lindsey Gibson, Alison Sage, Chance Eckmann, Kellie Eckmann, Brittany Sage, Bobbi Jo Green, Steven Gilliam and Anna Green; and his greatgrandchildren: Éli Green, Kierstn Eckmann, Rylie Gibson, Blake Gibson, Coen Horstmann, Haiden Horstmann, Zack Eckmann and Wyatt Bohlman.

Arrangements were by Brockhaus Funeral Home, Bloomfield, Nebraska.

Kenneth Vern Eckmann was born to Claus and Gladys (Ehlers) Eckmann at home on their farm on a 113 degree day on July 31, 1937 at Bloomfield, Nebraska. He was delivered by Dr. Carrig. Kenneth was baptized on October 17, 1937 by Rev. A. Ollenburg at the First Trinity Lutheran church of Bloomfield. Sponsors were Miss Lilly Eckmann and Hans Eckmann. Kenny was confirmed on March 29, 1953 at the First Trinity Lutheran Church by Pastor Elton R. Dubs.

Kenneth went to country school nine years at District 102, and four years at Bloomfield High School. He was a member of the class of 1955. After school, he worked for Del Cross, and Russ and Albert Nielson. He then went to work for Kuhl's John Deere dealership in Bloomfield for five years, in addition to farming with his Dad, Claus. Kenneth moved to the Elmer Grothe farm in 1956, and lived there with his family for 54 years.

On November 2, 1957, Kenneth married Dona Dee Juracek. At this time, Kenneth became a member of Christ Memorial United Methodist Church. To this union seven children were born

at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend Jim Keiter officiating. Burial will be at St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington, Nebraska.

Visitation is one hour prior to the service at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton.

Ruth was born August 12, 1950 in Hartington, Nebraska to Art and Beatrice (Keifer) Fischer. She grew up in Hartington and graduated from Hartington High School in 1969. She then moved to Yankton where she had various jobs. Ruth was currently working at the Black Steer Restaurant in Yankton. A job she had for many years. She

to them: Cynthia, Theresa, Bryan, Linda, Randy, Krista, and Shawn. In 1976, they had a house fire and rebuilt a new house on the same farm.

Kenneth and Dona lived and farmed the farm until 1994 when they sold the farm equipment. While still on the farm place, Kenneth continued to do custom farming, hauling hay and baling. He still continued to do his own haying and raising hogs. In 1997, he was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. Kenneth received treatment, and was able to continue with his custom farming and hay operation. In 2008, Kenneth was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma Cancer of the bone marrow. In the fall of 2008, Kenneth and Dona had their final farm sale, and within a year, moved into town.

Kenneth belonged to the Bloomfield Ruritan Club for nearly 38 years, having served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Kenneth also was President of the State of Nebraska Boxing Association for 12 years, along with amateur judging and time keepering, until he had to give up the position due

her dogs, especially Sage and Precious. She Fischer

enjoyed spending time with her family and

nothing made her smile like hearing good news of a family member or when one stopped by for a visit.

Ruth is survived by her 14 brothers and sisters: Lorraine (Gerald) Pederson of Hartington, NE, Darlene (Jacob) Keiter of Hartington, Gerald (Donna) Fischer of Hartington, Shirley (Duane) Lackas of St. Louis, MO, Pat (Orville) Steffen of Hartington, LeRoy (Diane) Fischer of Hartington, Keith (Sue) Fischer of Greenville, TX, JoAnn (War-

to health problems. Kenneth

helped coach amateur boxing for

33 years with the Crofton Boxing

They worked with more than 100

women. Many boxers went on to

District, Regional, and National

Tournaments. They won numer-

ous Regional, and six National

Championships. Boxing was a

ing young boxers all over the

United States.

great time for Kenneth and Lyle,

as they traveled many miles haul-

Kenneth's favorite past time

was whitetail deer hunting and

being able to hunt with the kids.

It only took 54 years of marriage

first time, shooting two deer. He

and they were never the same.

joyed going on many picnics,

Kenneth, Dona, and the kids en-

going up to the river swimming

and fishing, and attending school activities. Their most fun activity

was celebrating everyone's birth-

Kenneth is survived by his

mother, Gladys Eckmann of

Bloomfield, Nebraska; his wife,

always could tell so many stories

to finally get Dona to go deer

hunting this past year for the

Club along with Lyle Sawatzke.

young men, and later with

great nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; twin brothers in infancy; and sister, Lucille Kuchta.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan January 16, 2012



www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Dona Eckmann of Bloomfield: seven children, Cynthia and Brad Sage of Bloomfield, NE, Theresa and Rick Horstmann of Verdigre, NE, Bryan and Teresa Eckmann of Normal, IL, Linda Green of Bloomfield, NE, and her friend Chad Mosher of Norfolk, NE, Randy and Jennifer Eckmann of North Bend, NE, Krista Eckmann of Bloomfield, NE, Shawn and Phil Peters of Springfield, OH; 14 grandchildren; one step granddaughter; eight great-grandchildren; two brothers, Keith and Diana Eckmann of Niobrara, NE,



### **Donald Ahrendt**

VERMILLION - Donald M. Ahrendt, 94, of Vermillion, South Dakota, passed away on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center.

Don was born on October 20, 1917, to William and Elsie Ahrendt. He grew up on a farm near Meckling, SD, and graduated from Meckling High School in 1934. He married Theresa Krol on June 4, 1938, and to their union four children were born; Patricia (Leonard) Girard of Vermillion, SD, Larry (Gloria) Ahrendt of Pierre, SD, Donald (Debbie) Ahrendt of Fort Dodge, IA, and

his spouse, Theresa (Krol) Ahrendt; his brother, Leo Ahrendt; his sisters, Clara Burrell, and Dorothy Bruce.

In addition to his children, he is survived by 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren; his brothers, Ronald Ahrendt, and Russell Ahrendt; his sisters, Maxine Burrell, Lois Nelson, Marion Zambon, and Carol Nuss.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to hospice or United Methodist Church.

Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion is entrusted with the arrangements.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan January 16, 2012



Agatha Pesicka who passed away on January 17, 2011

Elmer Oswald who passed away on January 20, 2011

Shirley List who passed away on January 20, 2011

Maynard Hofer who passed away on January 11, 2010

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 uiding and serving families with compassion and trust





days.

Eckmann