the midwest

Mayor: Many State Issues Should Be Local

RAPID CITY (AP) — The mayor of South Dakota's second-largest city says many of the issues on tap for the 2013 legislative session would be better off handled at home, but his hands are tied by state policies that govern the city's legal authority.

Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker said the city of 68,000 people gets bogged down by waiting for lawmakers to approve requests, which this year will include rewriting maintenance service contracts, collecting money for ambulance services, and managing funds for a future drainage utility.

'Think of how much more efficient we could be if we could make decisions like this at the local level," Kooiker said. "We'd still be accountable to the voters and we wouldn't have to go to Pierre and bombard them with requests every legislative session.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 10 South Dakota cities have adopted home rule charters that give them more local control. Those communities, including the state's largest city, Sioux Falls, have the authority to do whatever state law does not specifically forbid.

Rapid City is not a home rule city, which can be created only by a special local election. Yvonne Taylor, executive director of the South Dakota Municipal League, says it's difficult to get residents interested in those issues.

Most of the South Dakota cities that adopted a home rule charter did so in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Taylor said. Sioux Falls adopted home rule in 1995.

Sioux Falls Wants Highway Deal Completed

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Leaders in South Dakota's largest city want the state to fulfill its promise for a highway project.

Sioux Falls officials made a deal with the state about eight years ago with hopes of improving transportation and spurring development on the city's east side.

The city agreed to take over ownership and maintenance for 25 miles of state highway roads that run through the city.

In return, the state agreed to conduct a 17-mile highway to connect Interstate 29 in southern Sioux Falls to Interstate 90 northeast of town. Tough economic times have put the project years behind schedule

and pushed back the original completion date of 2016.

Neb. Woman Accused Of Faking Fundraiser

BEAVER CITY, Neb. (AP) — A western Nebraska woman is accused of misleading people who donated money to help an infant with cancer.

KRVN radio reports 19-year-old Kelsey Kennedy of Edison is facing a felony charge of theft by deception.

The Furnas County Sheriff's office says it learned in December that Kennedy had organized a fundraiser for a young boy with cancer. Authorities say she planned to sell t-shirts as a fundraiser.

The sheriff's office says more than \$1,000 was raised, but none of it was turned over to the boy's family and no t-shirts were produced.

Kennedy was arrested and then released on \$3,000 bond. She is scheduled to be arraigned in Furnas County Court on Monday.

Tough Budget Talks Ahead In Neb. Legislature

Press&Dakotan

LINCOLN, Neb. - Lawmakers will start their new session Wednesday with Nebraska in better financial shape than two years ago, but now they're bracing for a fight over how to spend the state's extra money.

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

Pressure to cut costs has eased now that the state faces a projected \$195 million shortfall in its next two-year spending plan — far less than the nearly \$1 billion budget hole that lawmakers had to plug in 2011.

The smaller shortfall gives lawmakers more wiggle room as they set the anticipated \$8 billion, two-year budget. But it also sets up a tug-of-war over funding for government programs and tax-cut proposals.

State senators are expected to debate bills this year that would expand services for children in foster care, the poor and the uninsured. Republican Gov. Dave Heineman hasn't released his plans but has signaled in speeches and interviews that he wants to continue cutting taxes. Earlier this year, advocates for children, teachers, and rural Nebraskans urged lawmakers to replenish the state's cash reserve while investing in schools and health care.

"It very well could be that we see a more contentious debate on the budget this year than what we've seen in the past two,' said York Sen. Greg Adams, who is running unopposed to become the Legislature's next speaker. In previous years, "everybody knew going in that we were going to

cation, she served as the Sac-

Chapel for a number of years.

ristan for Bishop Marty Memorial

This ministry gave her extra time

for prayer and she offered hospi-

ready smile and kind nature. She

What I longed for I now see! What

S. Rachel is survived by her

She was preceded in death by

Yankton Press and Dakotan

January 7, 2013

WINTZ & RAY

I hoped for I now hold fast!

Benedictine community and

her parents and four siblings.

nieces and nephews.

S. Rachel was a woman with a

tality to visitors to the Chapel.

have to cut. And when everyone knows it's coming, it's more a question of whether everyone's taking a fair cut.

Lawmakers Campbell will debate a proposal that would

extend Medicaid coverage to thousands of residents, an optional piece of the federal health care law. Heineman has repeatedly voiced opposition to the proposal, calling it unaffordable, but lawmakers who helped override his veto last year on a prenatal care bill are planning to press the issue.

Adams said it's too early to know whether the Medicaid proposal has the backing it needs to clear the Legislature. Supporters plan to argue that expanding the coverage is a moral imperative that will reduce health care costs. They also plan to argue that it will relieve pressure on Nebraska to cover certain populations, such as prison inmates and behavioral health patients, who are in state custody.

Under the Medicaid expansion, the federal government would pick up the entire cost of covering the newly eligible beneficiaries for the first year, and would then ratchet down its contribution to 90 percent. Supporters argue it's a great deal compared to current Medicaid rates, for which Washington pays as little as half and forces states to cover the rest.

"I think it's a public policy issue that certainly deserves a hearing and a discussion," said Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, chairwoman of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee. "We pay for this segment of the population in a lot of different ways in Nebraska. We shouldn't fool ourselves to think that if we don't take this expansion money, that it won't cost us anything. There's a cost if we say we are going to cover this population, and there's a cost if we say we won't.

Campbell said she said she also expects a push to expand services for children's mental health, and a measure that would let youths stay in foster care until they turn 21. The current age cutoff is 19. She said lawmakers and Heineman worked together during the recession to preserve state programs that help Nebraska's most vulnerable populations, and they managed to avoid the larger cuts to services seen in other states.

"I think the senators have been very cognizant in understanding that there are just some foundational services for the elderly, for the disabled, for children, that need to be in place," Campbell said. "I certainly expect that philosophy will prevail. But whether we can enhance and build upon those services - I think that's the question we'll be addressing."

Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, who is running for chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, said lawmakers should proceed cautiously with the new budget and first meet their obligations to schools, health care providers, and the state's colleges and universities. "Are things going to be a little

loving mother, devoted wife, and was very proud of her family. Donna is survived by her chil-

dren, Christopher and Ďarlene (Wee) Wagner, of Melrose, Iowa, David and Colleen (Wipfli) Wagner of Smith Valley, Nevada, Beth (Wagner) and Thomas Schuurmans of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Katie (Wagner) and Jerry Fritz of Center, Nebraska; eight grandchildren; four great grandchil-dren; brother, Ronald and Jean Christensen of Huron, South Dakota; sister, Maxine Parsons of Richfield, Minnesota; brother-inlaw, Herman and Colleen Wagner of Norfolk; brother-in-law, Bill Schreier of Verdigre, Nebraska;

and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Wagner; parents, Carl and Bertha Christensen; three sisters-in-law, Anne Schreier, MaryLou Wagner, and Rosie Babel; three brothers-inlaw, Matt Wagner, Ralph Babel,

easier? Perhaps," Mello said. "But at the end of the day, we still have an economy that's recovering. We still are not seeing the revenue growth that we saw prior to the recession."

Adams said lawmakers will also likely need to put money back into the state's cash reserve. Lawmakers have used the fund in recent years to help balance their budget.

"Even though we're in a better place, it doesn't mean happy days are here," Adams said. "If you look at our revenue, it's positive. That's good. But in my opinion, I don't think we're going to see the kind of revenue when I first came into the Legislature" six years ago.

Congressional Action Paves Way For Neb. Wind Farms

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Congress' extension of a wind energy tax credit has paved the way for two large wind farm projects in Nebraska to proceed as planned.

The state's two largest public power utilities last month approved the wind projects. conditional on the renewal of the tax credit, which was included in federal legislation passed Tuesday to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff.

Omaha Public Power District now plans to buy 200 megawatts from the proposed 120 wind turbine Prairie Breeze Wind Energy Center near Elgin in northeast Nebraska, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

The power district — which serves Nebraska's largest city and its surrounding communities — hopes to start receiving electricity from Prairie Breeze by Jan. 1, 2014. That's enough to power about 60,000 homes annually.

Chicago-based developer Invenergy said the Prairie Breeze project represents a \$350 million capital investment and could create 300 construction jobs.

Nebraska Public Power District also is looking to Prairie Breeze to provide as much as 75 megawatts of renewable energy, and is considering buying from a proposed wind farm near Steele City in southeast Nebraska's Jefferson County.

There's no question that the production fax credit extension is the difference between wind projects on the drawing board going forward or not," said John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, a strong sup-

Brossart

with the Benedictine Sisters early in her life greatly influenced her vocation to religious life.

S. Rachel served as an elementary teacher on many missions. She began her ministry at Sacred Heart School in Yankton and went on to serve in Webster, Stephan, Sioux Falls, Salem, and Hoven, South Dakota, Richardton, North Dakota and Hartington, St. James, Omaha, and Lincoln, Nebraska. She began teaching in 1937 and took college courses during the summers. She received her BA larty College on Au



1936 and received the name Rachel. She made her first profession on June

24. 1937 and made collected jokes and loved sharing her final profesthem with others. She summed sion on June 23, up her life of religious commit-1940. Her contact ment with these words: Behold-

Monastery on Au-

gust 31, 1935. She

Donna Wagner CREIGHTON, Neb. - Mass of Christian Burial for Donna M.

Wagner, age 82 of Creighton, Nebraska, will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at St. Ludger Catholic Church in Creighton, with **Reverend Jeff** Lorig as Cele-

Wagner brant Graveside services will be held 3:00 p.m. Tuesday at Yankton Cemetery in Yankton, South Dakota.

Visitation will be Monday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Brockhaus Funeral Home in Creighton, Nebraska, with a 7:30 p.m. Wake Service.

Donna Wagner died Friday, January 4, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South

Monday, 1.7.13 ON THE WEB: www.yankton.net NEWS DEPARTMENT: news@yankton.net

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Mary's Grade School and Cent High Public School in Aberdeen, SD.

OBITUARIES

S. Rachel Brossart

died in the Sacred Heart

ary 5, 2013.

S. Rachel Brossart OSB, 95,

Monastery Care Center on Janu-

7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8,

celebrated on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., both in

Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel in

Arrangements are under the

direction of the Wintz & Ray Fu-

neral Home and Cremation Serv-

Margaret Brossart was born

September 17, 1917, the second of

five children of Michael and Mag-

dalena (Schmidt) Brossart of Ab-

parents were born in Russia and

emigrated to the United States

when they were in their early

teens. Margaret attended St.

erdeen, South Dakota. Her

Yankton. Burial will be in the

monastery cemetery.

ice in Yankton.

2013 and a funeral Mass will be

A wake service will be held at

Margaret entered Sacred Heart

gust 4, 1963. During her career she taught all grades from second to eighth grade. After leaving edu-

FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc

Dakota.

Online condolences at: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Hazel Menning

Hazel H. Menning, age 96, of Yankton, passed away Friday, January 4, 2013 at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. Dave Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Morningside Cemetery, Ree Heights, SD at approximately 1:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

Visitations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 7, 2013 with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Jesse Bradley, Anthony Gatherers, Chris Gatherers, Mark Taylor, Andrew Taggart, and Brady Taggart. Honorary pallbearers will be all of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Hazel Hattie Menning was born in Osage, Iowa to Austin and



schools. On June Menning 14, 1940 she mar-

ried Henry S. "Hank" Menning in Miller, SD. They had three daughters. Hazel and Hank moved to the Sturgis area in the late fifties. Here she worked at Lee's Dime Store as a sales clerk. In the early seventies, Hank and Hazel moved to rural Yankton, SD and farmed east of town. After the death of her husband, Hazel moved to Huron to be closer to her brothers. In Huron she was active with the RSVP volunteers, Senior Citizens, and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Huron, SD. At the age of 83, Hazel moved back to Yankton. She entered the Avera Sister James Care Center in 2007,

where she received excellent care and made many friends.

Hazel was known for starting coffee clubs wherever she lived with her neighbors and friends. She enjoyed music, dancing, playing cards, and gardening. She loved family get-togethers and being with her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Phyllis Brown of Shoshoni, WI, her sister-in-law Ruth Menning of Spokane, WA, 12 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 12 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Hank, daughters Ronda Taggart and Dee Ann Ohlsen, six brothers, one sister, and great granddaughter Heather Cwach.

Yankton Press and Dakotan January 7, 2013



www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Donna Mae (Christensen) Wagner, daughter of Carl and Bertha (Roling) Christensen, was born on August 5, 1930, in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Donna attended Yankton High School and graduated in 1949. She attended Yankton College and worked for Yankton Press and Dakotan newspaper. Donna married Lawrence Wagner on September 12, 1959 in Yankton, South Dakota. After their marriage, they moved to their farm west of Bloomfield, Nebraska, where Donna raised their four children. They moved to Crofton, Nebraska in 1991. She had several jobs, cleaning for the Nebraska Game and Parks and the Super 8 Motel in Yankton prior to retiring. She moved to Bruce Park Terrace in September of 2010 after Lawrence passed

away. Donna enjoyed attending Sunday mass, tenant meetings, spending time with the girls at Bruce Park Terrace, bingo, and the faithful Husker tailgate parties. She enjoyed journaling her daily life on monthly calendars, crocheting, reading books, and a good Hallmark movie. Her passions were Husker football and being with her family. She was a

and Gary Parsons. Yankton Press and Dakotan January 7, 2013

Alvin Weber

MENNO — Alvin A. Weber, 73, of Menno died unexpectedly early Saturday morning, Jan. 5, 2013, at the Chandler Regional Medical Center, Chandler, Ariz.

Funeral services are pending with Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno.

Josephine Kast

Josephine A. Kast, 97, of Yank-ton died Friday, Jan. 4, 2013, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are pending under the care and direction of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

Judith Knodel

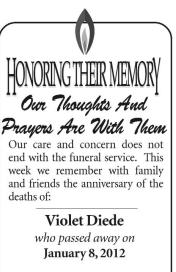
LENEXA, Kan. - Judith K. Knodel, 67, of Lenexa, Kan., died unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, at her residence.

Funeral services are pending with Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

porter of wind energy in the state.

The American Wind Energy Association has said as many as 37,000 jobs could have been lost beginning in the first quarter of the year if the production tax credits had not been renewed. The wind industry employs about 75,000 workers.

Even with the extension, hundreds of jobs in the industry were lost, including 200 in Nebraska when Katana Summit closed plants in Columbus and in the state of Washington in early November.



Leona Sedlezky who passed away on January 8, 2012

Larry D. Sejnoha, Sr. who passed away on January 12, 2012

Doris Cimpl who passed away on January 12, 2002

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 tru:



