

Session

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funding has gone," he said. Jean Hunhoff and Stevens both said that they believe one-time money for education is not the answer, but Stevens pointed to that as being an option if there were no other alternatives for schools. "Certainly, I would prefer that we fund education in a way that (school boards) can count on," he said. "If it means one-time money or that we don't get one-time money in Yankton County, I'm going for that money every time." Other topics addressed Saturday include conservation easements, uranium mining in the Black Hills, Medicaid expansion, mental illness and economic development. Questions about mental illness were spurred by the National Alliance on Mental Illness giving South Dakota a grade of "F" based on care. Jean Hunhoff pointed to the results of a statewide work group that found a person with a mental

disability usually also has other problems such as drug or alcohol abuse. The question, she said, is how to work with care facilities to treat such issues. "As we continue to dialog and cross-utilize resources, we'll keep looking, partnering and trying to help those facilities," she said. Bernie Hunhoff pointed to mental health funding and long wait lists for appointments as persistent concerns. "There's plenty of money out there; we don't argue about how much, but how to spend it," he said. "If you take away the one-time funds (for mental health issues), it actually results in less than a 0.8 percent increase." The next cracker barrel is set for Saturday, Feb. 9, again at the Avera Professional Pavilion, leaving three weeks of more discussion of the issues addressed Saturday, Bernie Hunhoff said. "There's really good progressive bipartisan spirit out there, and it's up to us to keep it going," he said in his closing comments, also calling it the "most optimistic" he's been in some time.

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Tax Plan

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From that perspective, we're disappointed." The Center for Rural Affairs, a group that represents family farmers and rural Nebraskans, cautioned that the sales tax plan would disproportionately hit middle-class residents who don't pay as much in income taxes as the wealthy. "This is a tax shift, not a tax cut," said Jon Bailey, the group's program director. After giving an overview in his State of the State speech, Heineman added details Friday with two proposals. One would eliminate the state's individual income tax, but require lawmakers to cut \$2.4 billion in sales tax breaks to offset the lost state revenue. A second, more modest plan would eliminate \$395 million in sales tax exemptions, but only retirees would see their income taxes reduced. The proposal would exempt the first \$12,000 of

retirement income for married couples and the first \$6,000 for single filers. In his announcement Friday, Heineman stressed that he wanted a broader public discussion over the state's tax exemptions, and was willing to make changes to his specific plans. But he insisted that eliminating, or at least reducing, the state income tax would help farmers and other businesses. "In the big picture, you have to look at what it means for your bottom line," Heineman said. "You won't be paying other taxes." State Sens. Beau McCoy and Brad Ashford, both of Omaha, will introduce the bills on Tuesday. McCoy, who was raised on a western Nebraska cattle ranch, said lawmakers and the governor wanted suggestions from Nebraska farm and ranch families. "I'm sure there's going to be a robust discussion over some of these exemptions," McCoy said. "But I believe that these families, and Nebraskans as a whole, will look at this — at what's best for our state. I think we'll have a great conversation about that." Nebraska hasn't used prop-

erty-tax revenue since the last major tax-system overhaul in 1967, when the state shifted to a sales and income tax. But lawmakers have introduced several property-tax measures this year that could compete with Heineman's plans. The Farm Bureau is reviving a bill that would reduce the value of farmland that school districts are allowed to tax, which in turn would lower the property taxes that farmers have to pay. The bill also would increase state aid to rural schools to offset the lost revenue. Former state Sen. Lavon Heidemann of Elk Creek introduced similar legislation last year, but it died in committee. State Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha introduced a bill on Friday that would provide state aid to cities and counties that agree to lower their property taxes. Cities would receive aid based on their populations, but Lathrop said he and lawmakers plan to push a discussion about property taxes statewide. "When I knock on doors and talk to people, their concern is over property taxes," Lathrop said.

Obama

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"We always want any president to succeed, to do well, that means America does well and Americans do well," Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming said on CNN's "State of the Union." Obama took the oath in the White House Blue Room where portraits of Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and John Tyler grace the walls. He placed a hand on a Bible held by his wife. His daughters stood nearby. The nation's political divisions seemed scarcely to intrude as Obama, a Democrat, shook hands with Roberts, a Republican appointee, in a rite that renews American democracy every four years. Unlike four years ago, when Roberts stumbled verbally, the chief justice recited the oath without error. Before the swearing-in, the president listened from a second-row pew at the 175-year-old Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church as the Rev. Jonathan V. Newman asked God's blessing for the him and his family. "But also prepare him for battle ... because sometimes enemies insist on doing it the hard way," he said. Like Obama, Biden began his day early. He attended Catholic Mass at his official residence at the U.S. Naval Observatory a few miles from the White House. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic justice and an Obama appointee, administered the oath of office. Biden then joined Obama at the cemetery, where the two men placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and observed a moment of silence as a bugler sounded "Taps."

OBITUARIES

Ronald Jones

Ronald G. Jones, age 76, of Yankton, SD and formerly of Britton, SD, passed away peacefully, at his residence on Friday, January 18, 2013. Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. Dave Wildermuth officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will take place in Britton, SD at a later date. Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Monday, January 21, 2013 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. Urn bearers will be Jim Roemmich, Jerry Schafer, Paul Smart, and Reynold Stevens. Honorary urn bearers his grandchildren: Brandon Schafer, Katie Schafer, and Alexa Roemmich. Ron was born on April 17, 1936, in Britton, SD, to Lester and Allyce (Johnson) Jones, and graduated from high school there in 1954. He worked in



Jones

Aberdeen for several years after receiving a pharmacy degree from SDSU in 1958. He married Joanna Beer in 1962, and they had 2 daughters, Raette and Suzanne. He attended dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, graduating in 1968. They moved back to Britton, SD, where he had a private dental practice for almost 20 years. After Joanna's death, he worked for Super 8 Motels for several years, supervising building of new properties. He met Louise Tomko while working in Kent, OH, and they married in 1989. He returned to practicing pharmacy and dentistry in North and South Dakota. They settled in Yankton, SD, where he worked as both a pharmacist and a dentist. In 2008 he received an award for working 50 years in pharmacy from the SD Pharmacists Association. Even after being diagnosed

with leukemia, he continued to work as a general dentist at the Springfield prison, ride his bike at the Lewis and Clark State Park, help in his church, do crossword puzzles, and enjoy life until the disease overtook his body. He is survived by his wife Louise of Yankton, SD; daughters Raette (Jerry) Schafer of Greenville, NC, and Suzanne (James) Roemmich of Grand Forks, ND; grandchildren Brandon and Katerina Schafer and Alexa Roemmich; and sisters Judy (Paul) Smart of Charleston, WV, and Kaye (Reynold) Stevens of Ft. Collins, CO. Ron has requested that donations be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church music program; 403 Broadway Ave., Yankton, SD 57078. Yankton Press & Dakotan January 21, 2013

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Dorothy Metz

Dorothy E. Metz died Saturday, January 19, 2013, at the Sanford Care Center in Vermillion, SD. In keeping with the wishes of Dorothy, there will be no funeral services and burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery. Opsahl Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton will be in charge of arrangements. She was born in Yankton, SD December 31, 1924 to Arthur F. and Christina (Engel) Metz. She was educated in the Yankton Public Schools and received her B.A. degree from Yankton College in 1946. Dorothy was a certified dental assistant in the office of Dr. R. A. Beilby for many years, during which time she was active in the South Dakota Dental Assistants Association. She served on many committees and was state president and national delegate. During the past several years, she was an insurance secretary with American Family. She was a life-long member of the United Church of Christ (Congregational). She was a

church school teacher and superintendent for many years, a choir member and soloist, the church clerk and served on many boards. She was a volunteer at Sister James Nursing Home, the Yankton Refugee Program and a tutor for the local literacy council. Dorothy is survived by one brother, Ernest (Helen) Metz, Yankton, SD and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, six brothers: Don, Arthur, Lawrence, George, Vernard, and Joseph, four sisters: Virginia, Katherine, Agnes, and Christine, one nephew and two nieces. The family requests that memorials be directed to the United Church of Christ (Congregational) at 210 West 5th Street, Yankton, SD 57078. Yankton Press & Dakotan January 21, 2013

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HONORING THEIR MEMORY
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them
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:
Esther Olson
who passed away on
January 21, 2012
Clifford A. Gall
who passed away on
January 22, 2012
Virginia Kast
who passed away on
January 23, 2012
Edith Bickerstaff
who passed away on
January 26, 2012
Carol J. Mayer
who passed away on
January 27, 2012
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. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

Selma Akland

Selma G. Akland, 100 of Irene, SD passed away Thursday, January 17, 2013 at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg, SD. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Irene with Pastor Mark Ostrem officiating. Burial will follow in Salem Cemetery, rural Irene. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, January 21, 2013 with a prayer service beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene. Selma Genita Haugland was born on October 6, 1912, to Bert and Marie (Johnson) Haugland on a farm two miles west of Irene, SD. She joined a sister, Myrtle and a brother, Stanley was born later. Selma's father passed away when she was 2 1/2 years old. Her mother then married John Vik, and they had seven children: Herbert, Edius, Hervin, Marie, Elmer, Verna and Gertrude. Selma married Christian Akland on May 26, 1940. To this union was born three children: David, Beverlee and Steven. They farmed in the Irene area for 28 years. After Chris' death in 1968, Selma volunteered in area nursing homes, sharing her music and lay ministry. Selma was preceded in death



Akland

by her husband Chris, two sisters, four brothers, and her son-in-law Logan Creswell. Selma is survived by her sons David (Sharon) of Irene, Steven of Labadie, Missouri and daughter Beverlee Creswell of Clackamas, OR; four grandchildren: Susan (Larry) Christensen of Lennox, Karen Schroedermeier (Mark Ryken) of Irene, Mark Creswell of Anchorage, AK and Mathew (Heather) Creswell of Portland, OR; and five great grandchildren: Jordan and Josh Christensen; Hailey, Brandon and Caleb Creswell; two sisters: Marie Swensen of Viborg and Gertrude (Roy) Anderson of Beresford; and numerous nieces and nephews. For obituary and online condolences, visit hansenfuneralhome.com. Yankton Press & Dakotan January 21, 2013

Shirley Foster

Shirley Marguerite Foster was born January 6, 1925 in Gayville, S.D. to George and Marguerite Edgerton. Shirley graduated from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. She taught first grade in Covina, Ca. For nine years she headed a program for autistic children in Santa Cruz County, Ca., and also taught severely emotionally disturbed children. Shirley was preceded in death by her beloved husband, David R. Foster in 2006. They had a wonderful forty eight year marriage and retired to Eureka, Ca. from Santa Cruz. Shirley was a

member of the Mayflower Society, a direct descendent of William Bradford, a former member of Eastern Star, member of American University of Women, Society of Autism Educators, First Presbyterian Church of Eureka, and several friendship groups. Shirley is survived by her son Tom and wife Kathy of Santa Cruz, son David A. Foster of Carson City, Nevada, and her brother Jerry Edgerton and wife Loretta of Tucson, Az. Per Shirley's request, no services will be held. Shirley and her family extend thanks to Eleanor Mazur, John and Judi Stopkowitz, Gail Holland, Hospice, and many other dear friends. Contributions in Shirley's name may be made to the American Cancer Society. Yankton Press & Dakotan January 21, 2013

Karen Langley

Karen Kay Langley, 66, of Volin and formerly of Yankton, died unexpectedly Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, while on a business trip in Montana. Memorial services are at 10 a.m. today (Monday), Jan. 21, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Shell Knob, Mo. The family of Karen Kay

Langley wishes for memorials to be directed to: Karen Kay Langley Family, 7527 West Legacy Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57106. The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, may be contacted with further service details. Leona Holmes Leona B. Holmes, 84, of Vermillion died Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City, Iowa. Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion. Luther Nielson Luther O. Nielson, 80, of Mission Hill died Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton. Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill, with the Rev. Lance Lindgren officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton, with military honors provided by Rudolph-Christensen American Legion Post No. 237 of Gayville and Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791 of Yankton. Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Wintz & Ray Funeral

Home, Yankton, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church. Memorials may be made to the Vangen Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Vangen Cemetery Association or Yankton County 4-H. To send an online sympathy message, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com. Adeline Rokusek Funeral mass for Adeline A. Rokusek, 98 of Wagner is at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at St. John Catholic Church, Wagner, with burial in the parish cemetery, rural Wagner. Visitation is at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home Wagner, from noon-5 p.m. Thursday, followed by a 7 p.m. rosary/wake service at the church. Adeline died Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, at the Wagner Community Memorial Hospital.

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I have always made my own decisions.
I may not be a traditional person.
But I Still Believe In Some Traditions.
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