

Iowan Faces Sentencing In Neb. Bank Robbery

DAKOTA CITY, Neb. (AP) — A 28-year-old Iowa man is scheduled to be sentenced in March for a bank robbery in northeast Nebraska. The *Sioux City Journal* reports that Robert Thomas, of Marshalltown, Iowa, pleaded no contest on Tuesday to a charge of attempted robbery. Prosecutors lowered the original robbery charge in exchange for his plea.

Police say Thomas robbed a Bank of the West branch in South Sioux City on July 23, getting away that day with nearly \$6,200.

Woman Gets Prison For Prostituting Daughters

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska woman accused of prostituting her 7- and 14-year-old daughters has been given 80 to 90 years in prison.

The 36-year-old was sentenced in Buffalo County District Court in Kearney on Wednesday. She'd pleaded no contest and was convicted of conspiracy to commit child sexual assault and of two felony counts of child pornography possession.

The Associated Press is not using her name to protect the identity of the girls. The AP does not usually identify the victims of sex crimes. The chief county prosecutor, Shawn Eatherton, told station KHGI that he couldn't imagine a parent doing what the woman did to her children.

"We do not put them in harm's way, we do not expose them to sexual abuse, we do not expose them to people that may harm them," Eatherton said. And, he said, "We should really not hand out mercy to the people that prey on our children or who assist those who prey on our children."

Five men have been convicted in the case so far and await sentencing.

The girls' mother has pleaded no contest to nine similar felony counts in Franklin County and to one felony count of conspiracy to commit child sexual assault in Furnas County.

She's scheduled to be sentenced next month in both counties. They and Buffalo County are in south-central Nebraska.

The state has placed three of the woman's four children in foster care, said her attorney, Tana Fye. She declined to clarify the whereabouts or custody situation of the other child.

The Nebraska State Patrol said the woman had placed a personal ad online, offering female companionship. She offered her 14-year-old daughter to an undercover police officer who posed as a man answering the ad on April 26.

The Nebraska State Patrol has said that in Buffalo County alone, mother let at least seven men have sex with her 14-year-old at least 20 times and at least three men have sex with the 7-year-old.

Nebraskans Advised To Gird For More Drought

CLAY CENTER, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska farmers are being advised to plan for another growing season of drought.

The *Hastings Tribune* reports that state climatologist Al Dutcher estimates Nebraska has a 70 percent chance of a second consecutive year of drought.

Dutcher told those attending a gathering of beef producers in Clay Center on Tuesday that 8 to 10 inches of moisture more than normal would be needed to break Nebraska's drought.

The Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln says most of Nebraska remains in extreme or exceptional drought.

Dutcher says he thinks "everyone should really have a good drought plan in place."

McGovern's Personal Items To Be Sold In S. Dakota

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — George McGovern once gave his daughter a bookend made out of soapstone in the shape of a bear — a symbol of the "Terry the bear" nickname the former South Dakota senator often called Teresa, who froze to death 18 years ago in a snow bank near a bar where she'd been drinking.

The figure is one of many deeply personal items going up for sale starting Saturday at McGovern's Sioux Falls home. The three-time presidential candidate, one of the nation's most-outspoken voices for liberalism and against the Vietnam War, died in October at age 90.

Daughter Ann McGovern said the family decided to hold an estate sale over an auction because of the sentimental value of many of the items.

"What we're hoping is that a significant number of these things will either go to people we either know or have some connection with, and my parents collected a fair amount of art and some really nice pieces over the years, and to see them sort of sold at an auction or something where everybody is trying to get a bargain so they can resell it would be pretty distressing for us," she said.

No family members plan to be present during the sale, Ann McGovern said. Money

raised during the sale will go to Ann McGovern and two other sisters. Proceeds from the sale of copies of McGovern's book, "An American Journey," will be donated to the hunger relief organization Feeding South Dakota, which McGovern championed.

"The hardest part for the whole thing is putting a price on his items. You know, it's so valuable memory-wise, maybe not monetarily, but it's his, so it maybe means more," said Deb Sorensen, who runs Finders Keepers Estate, Collectable & Antique Sales, which is handling the pricing of items and the sale.

Items up for sale include antique furniture pieces, fine china, campaign buttons and photographs of McGovern with other Senate leaders, including Robert Kennedy and Bob Dole.

And there are lots of books. Among them are a Franklin Library collection and some of McGovern's own titles — many of them out of print and a few autographed. One book is especially personal: In "Terry: My Daughter's Life-and-Death Struggle with Alcoholism," McGovern writes about Teresa McGovern's years-long struggle with alcoholism. She died at age 45 in 1994, her body discovered face-down in a Madison, Wis., snow bank.

In another book, "The L Word: An Unapologetic, Thoroughly Biased, Long-Overdue Explication and Celebration of Liberalism," McGovern, who lost the 1972 presidential

election in a historic landslide to Richard Nixon, wrote the forward for the author, David P. Barash. When the Barash sent him a copy, McGovern reread it and made notations on how he could have improved his writing.

"I thought that was so funny. He was always critiquing himself," Sorensen said.

A copy of "An American Journey" signed to someone named Melinda is being sold for \$40.

All the items have a story behind them, Sorensen said, and the two women have tried to find out as many stories as they could, though some have been lost over the years.

A cloth embroidered with McGovern's name across the top is from his last trip to Africa, Sorensen said. An off-white wooden armoire with floral patterns was among the first pieces of furniture the McGoverns bought. Woven baskets that Eleanor collected come from as far away as Africa.

Two pieces will be auctioned off: a picture of the B-24 Liberator that McGovern flew during World War II with a handwritten note by the artist on the backside and a miniature ConAgra train.

A few items were purchased by family members or close friends days before the start of the estate sale. That includes a cane from a 1975 trip to Cuba that George McGovern took with his wife Eleanor, who died in 2007.

Neb. Lawmakers Eye Heart Screenings For Newborns

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Ten-year-old Cole Klein sat matter-of-factly before a Nebraska health committee on Thursday and told lawmakers about his golf game, his sometimes-annoying little brother and his love of recess.

Then he turned to a more serious subject: The three open-heart surgeries he has endured, and the stent in his pulmonary artery to buy him time before he has to face a fourth.

Klein and his mother, Tiffany Mytty-Klein, were among a handful of advocates who urged lawmakers to support a bill that would require congenital heart screens as a way to help spot potential health threats.

"Like many children born with a heart defect, it's difficult to know about our hearts by simply looking at us," the younger Klein said. "It doesn't matter if we're 10 years old or 10 hours old. Usually, it's only once we're really sick before somebody knows — and too many times, it's too late before anyone knows."

The bill was sponsored by Sen. Jim Smith, of Papillion. The Health and Human Services Committee will decide whether to advance the bill for legislative debate.

"Generally, I'm not one who supports government mandates, such as this," Smith said. "But after studying this issue and visiting with professionals and families impacted by (the disease), I became convinced that requiring screening

is the right thing for us as a state to do."

Dr. Robert Spicer, the chief cardiologist at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, told lawmakers that that the heart condition is the most common birth defect in newborns. It also can lead to cardiogenic shock and death if undetected.

Spicer said eight out of every 1,000 children born in the U.S. have a form of congenital heart disease. In many cases the disease doesn't create a serious health risk, but 1.2 of every 1,000 children suffer from a life-threatening form of the disease.

Smith said the test costs relatively little and helps avoid costly medical complications for children later in life. Six states have either

adopted the screenings for newborns or an in the process of doing so.

The bill would require a panel of experts to develop ways to screen the newborns and develop educational materials. It also would require hospitals to collect and report data about the tests. The combined cost to the state would reach more than \$140,000 in the state's next two-year budget, including a one-time expense of \$50,000 to develop a record-keeping system.

Sen. Mike Gloor of Grand Island, a former hospital administrator, questioned the need for collecting the heart-screening data. Spicer said the information may be used to gauge whether the tests are performed effectively.

OBITUARIES

Victoria Vlahakis

Victoria P. Vlahakis, age 93, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Monday, January 21, 2013, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Funeral services are 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Sioux City, Iowa with Father George Pappas officiating. Visitation is from 5-8 p.m., on Friday, January 25 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a Trisagion Prayer Service at 7 p.m.

Pallbearers are Troy Johnson, Zack Bowen, Mike Feimer, Mark Langley, Amanda Johnson Feimer and Amy Johnson. Honorary pallbearers are Ethan Langley, Aurora, Alana and Ava Johnson and Ellie and Aviana Bowen.

Victoria Pauline Vlahakis was born on June 11, 1919 to William and Angelina Makris of Ironwood, Michigan. As a young girl, she grew up with her family in Rhinelander, Wisconsin where she enjoyed swimming, horseback riding, snow skiing, tennis and many other outdoor activities. She loved the outdoors and was a firm believer in hard work and exercise. In 1941, she married the love of her life, Theodore Vlahakis, in Chicago, Illinois. While he was stationed in the Navy during World War II, they moved to California. Here she attended college and was blessed with the birth of her first son Teddy. Her love of the motion picture industry blossomed during her time spent in California. She had the opportunity to meet with many Hollywood stars because her sister-in-law, Joan Valerie, had signed a contract with MGM studios. They eventually made it back to the Midwest after the war and settled in Yankton. Theodore was in the restaurant business, starting with the Presto and American Cafes. Victoria helped out with the businesses as was needed. After the birth of her four daughters, she retired and enjoyed many family activities and trips. Summers in Wisconsin at the lake house were always a special time for the whole family. She was an avid gardener, loving her rose garden and perennials. She loved cooking for others and was an excellent cook especially with Greek cuisine. For many years, she was a team captain on a bowling league



Vlahakis

Theodore and his brother started the Black Steer Restaurant. In 1971, Theodore passed away and she took over the ownership and management of the Black Steer Steak House where she worked and flourished until she was 87 years old. She continued in the next several years to enjoy coming to the Black Steer and talking and visiting with many of her favored customers. Victoria lived at her home until her recent hospitalization at the end of December. The love of her family, home and business was most important to her. She will be missed dearly!

She is survived by her four daughters: Estelle (Wayne) Johnson of Yankton; Sandra Vlahakis, Christine Vlahakis, and Terease Vlahakis, all of Yankton. Her four grandchildren: Troy (Eileen) Johnson of Huntington Beach, CA, Amy (Mark) Johnson Langley of Yankton, Amanda (Mike) Feimer of Yankton, and Zach (Lindsey) Bowen of Minneapolis, MN; 6 great grandchildren: Aurora, Alana, Ava Johnson of Huntington Beach, CA, Ethan Langley of Yankton, and Ellie and Aviana Bowen of Minneapolis, MN. Callie, Harley and Mia were favored pets who showered her with many kisses in her later years.

Victoria was preceded in death by her husband, Theodore and her son, Teddy.

To post an online sympathy message, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 25, 2013



Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Susan Strunk

Susan Strunk, 57, of Scotland, SD, passed away Thursday, January 17, 2013 at the Lund Family Hospice in Gilbert, AZ.

A Memorial Service is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the United Church of Christ in Scotland. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Quilts of Valor Foundation, Attn: QOVF Treasurer, 32 Methodist Hill, Plainfield, NH 03781 or Children's Home Foundation, PO Box 1749, Sioux Falls, SD 57101.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family through www.mountfuneral-home.com.

Susan LaVonne Green came into this world on June 8, 1955 in Volga, SD. She was the third of eight children born to Curtis and Orriette (Hagen) Green. Susan graduated with honors from Scotland High School in 1973. On July 13, 1974 she was united in marriage to Robert Ray Strunk at the Presbyterian Church in Scotland.

For many years Susan stayed at home to raise her children and help with the farm. Later on she went back to work at Landman-Jungmann Hospital, the Scotland Medical Clinic, Sacred Heart Hospital, and finally at home as a medical transcriptionist.

Susan loved being a grandma to her 7 grandchildren. She could always be counted on to help with babysitting whenever needed and happily made blankets for all of them when they were born. We can never forget the cookies that always came with grandma. She would spend many hours baking at Christmas and gave nearly all of them away! If you ever stopped in to see her you were sure to get some goodies.

Wintering in Arizona was her favorite. She loved the sunshine so it was a perfect place for her! She spent many hours outside reading, doing handiwork, and just basking in the warmth of the sun.

While in South Dakota she



Strunk

had many friendships that she cherished, especially her Thursday afternoon bowling friends. She always enjoyed a good laugh and many were shared with those special ladies.

Susan had a generous heart, always putting everybody else's needs before hers. She enjoyed making quilts for Quilts of Valor for veterans and blankets for many babies. Even in death she is generous as she donated her body to medical science in hopes that her donation would make a difference for someone else and they would not have to suffer with cancer as she has.

Susan is survived by: her husband of 38 years, Bob Strunk of Scotland, SD; daughter, Connie and Troy Kirsch (Ethan, Harper, and Hannah) of Platte, SD; son, David and Connie Strunk (Benjamin, Ada, Gunnar, and Cora) of Hartford, SD; mother, Orriette and Harry Cassell of Sioux Falls, SD and father, Curtis and Nellie Green of Scotland, SD. Five brothers: Steve (Jacquie) of Colton, SD; Dennis of Tucson, AZ; Forrest (Virginia) of Winnemucca, NV; Kenneth of Averill Park, NY; and Wesley (Lori) of Janesville, WI. Two sisters: Lori (Kreg) Everhard of Coaldale, CO and Ellen (John) DePriest of Sioux City, IA. In-laws, Delmar and Velma Strunk of Scotland, SD and sister-in-law, Sandy (Garold) Vollmer of Rapid City, SD; along with several nieces and nephews.

Susan is preceded in death by her grandparents.

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Frances Rokusek

Frances R. Rokusek, 94, of Tabor died early Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, at Avera St. Michael's Hospital, Tyndall.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, with the Rev. Joe Forcelle and Msgr. Carlton Hermann concelebrating. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor, with a wake service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the chapel.

Diane Reck

Funeral Services for Diane L. Reck, 62 of Springfield will be 11 a.m. Saturday, January 26, 2013 at the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield, with burial in the Emanuel Cemetery, rural Springfield. Visitation will be at the church Friday from 5-7, followed by a prayer service. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home of Springfield is in charge of the arrangements.

Diane Lynn Reck, daughter of Gordon and Irene (Vegter) Hart, was born September 27, 1950 at Grand Rapids, MI. She went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. Diane attained the age of 62 years, three months and 28 days.

Diane attended school in Grand Rapids and graduated from Central Christian High School in 1969.

Diane married David Reck on December 29, 1970 at the Bethel Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. They were married by Dave's father. Four children were blessed to their union.

Diane worked as a waitress for several years and also as a CNA at care facilities in Michigan. They moved to Archer, IA, where Dave served as a pastor and Diane babysat. She and another lady started a Bible Study there known as "OMO" - Our Morning Out-and it is still being held to date. The Reck family came to Springfield in 1991, where Dave began serving as pastor at the Emmanuel Reformed Church and Diane babysat. She loved little children.

Diane was a member of the Emmanuel Reformed Church and God's Garden Circle. She made many banners for the church with Irene Schneider and helped with many VBS programs. Diane and her daughter Julie put together many Christmas programs for God's Garden Circle and provided many bulletin boards at the church.

Diane was know for her crafts



Reck

of all kinds. She loved to counter-cross stitch and sew. She made prom dresses and bride's maid dresses for her daughters, as well as dolls of all kinds. Diane enjoyed playing the accordion and also was known for her cooking and baking-especially her 4-layer cake. She loved the color blue and angels. Diane was diagnosed with Dementia/Alzheimer's in 2005. Throughout her illness, she remained gentle and kind, enjoying the simple joys of life. She's free now....

Thankful for having shared her life are her husband Dave of Springfield; her children: Julie DeJong and husband Leon of Avon; Pam Johnson and husband David of Storden, MN; Angela Klein-schmit and husband Keith of Menominee, NE; and Tim and finance' Becky of Yankton; eight grandchildren: Samantha, Levi and Kory DeJong; September Johnson; Christian, Kelsay and Kody Klein-schmit; and Dilyn Reck; brother Garry and wife Marcia of Jenison, MI; sister, Pattie Gaddy and husband Doug of Grand Rapids, MI; her father; many relatives and friends of the family.

Diane was preceded in death by her mother; her paternal and maternal grandparents; an uncle; an aunt; and her best friend Beth Veenstra.

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Stacy Merkel

Stacy Merkel, 34 of Hartington, Neb., died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Her services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.



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James Fowkes

Funeral services for James R. Fowkes, 87, of Sioux City and formerly of Scotland will be held on Saturday, January 26 at 11 a.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland with Rev. Mark Werner officiating. Interment will follow at the mausoleum in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland, with military graveside honors conducted by Paul Grosshuesch VFW Post #2966 of Scotland.

There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service at the funeral home.

James passed away on Tues-

day, January 22, 2013 at a Sioux City Hospital.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com

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Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

IN REMEMBRANCE

Victoria Vlahakis
11:00 AM, Saturday
Greek Orthodox Church
Sioux City

Betty Lou Palmer
2:00 PM, Saturday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Hartington

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