

Officials Continue Search For Escaped Prisoner

SPENCER (AP) — Authorities say they are continuing to search an area in southeastern South Dakota for a Florida prisoner who escaped from a transport van at an interstate fuel stop.

The Highway Patrol says 31-year-old Oscar Antonio Herrera-Menjivan was being taken to a Nebraska facility by a private prison transport company when he escaped about 2 a.m. Saturday. The van had stopped at a fuel station off Interstate 90's Exit 353, near Spencer.

Authorities said Sunday they were continuing to pursue leads in the case and warned the public that the prisoner should be considered dangerous. He's described as 5-foot-5, 140 pounds with black hair and brown eyes.

The patrol says Herrera-Menjivan was originally charged with sexual assault of a minor.

City, Township Arguing Over Fire/Rescue Money

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Officials in South Dakota's largest city and the supervisor of a nearby township are arguing over payment for fire rescue services.

An internal audit shows that Sioux Falls could owe Wayne Township more than \$28,000 for money that was paid to the city but not credited. Sioux Falls auditors say the agreement is confusing and are recommending a compromise of nearly \$17,000.

Wayne Township is west of the Sioux Falls city limits and home to about 1,000 people. The township struck a deal with Sioux Falls Fire Rescue after its volunteer fire department dissolved in 2004.

Township supervisor Patrick Doyle tells the *Argus Leader* that he wants to maintain a good working relationship with Sioux Falls, but hopes to negotiate a better deal than what the city is offering.

Stink Bug Numbers High In Neb. Corn, Soybeans

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska farmers are being warned about the relatively high numbers of stink bugs in fields of corn and soybeans.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln entomologist Bob Wright says the plants are sensitive to stink bug injury during their reproductive stages, so farmers should be watching for the bugs.

Stink bugs feed on plants and other insects by piercing and injecting the plant or insect with digestive enzymes, then removing fluids from the plant or insect.

More information about scouting for stink bugs, including treatment information, is available online at cropwatch.unl.edu.

Programs For Disabled Children Get High Rating

PIERRE (AP) — State officials say South Dakota has received the highest possible federal rating for education programs that help children with disabilities.

The U.S. Education Department reports that South Dakota is one of only 23 states or territories to meet the requirements and purposes of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act for both school programs and a program that helps infants and toddlers.

One part of the federal law monitors the effectiveness of special education services at the preschool levels and in elementary schools and high schools. Another part rates the Birth to Three program, which services younger children and their families.

R.C. Schools To Dismiss Early Wednesdays

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City schools will begin dismissing teachers early on Wednesdays to give teachers extra time to work one-on-one with students and plan their curriculum.

Superintendent Tim Mitchell says he's excited about building the shared knowledge of the community, the board, the administration and teachers to boost student achievement.

Churches Work To Build Better Future On Pine Ridge

BY RUTH MOON
 Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY — Sarah Hunter took her first work trip to the Pine Ridge reservation when she was 13 and has come back every year since to help repair houses and do needed construction projects.

"The clouds looked like 'Toy Story.' I had never seen so much sky," said Hunter, who lives in Virginia. "Plus, I had never seen so much poverty."

Hunter, now 18, recently helped lay out lumber to create a ramp to the front door at a tiny home with a crumbling concrete porch in Pine Ridge village. She was one of 28 people who had traveled to the reservation on an eight-day Pine Ridge work trip organized by Vienna, Va.-based Church of the Good Shepherd.

That church is one of dozens of organizations from throughout the country that take work trips to Pine Ridge every summer, said Emma Clifford, executive director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing, which coordinates many of the faith-based trips.

Hundreds of volunteers congregated on the reservation the week of July 4, roofing houses, repairing siding, mowing lawns and hosting Bible studies around Kyle, Manderson, Wounded Knee and Pine Ridge village.

"They're a godsend for people like me," said Ben Leonard, an unemployed resident of Pine Ridge village. Earlier this summer, a volunteer group renovated his bathroom with new tile and paint.

"These people just come and get it done,"

he said. "It's quite a blessing to all of us."

Hunter's group hopes to accomplish more than just putting new roofs on houses and building better front porches. Each trip member must raise \$1,000 above expenses for the trip, and leftover funds support several endowments at Oglala Lakota College. They also send postcard updates throughout the week to a long list of donors.

"If (our goal) were only to get work done efficiently on the reservation, it would probably be more efficient to send a check," trip leader Paul Speck said. "It's through getting the word out that we feel we contribute a lot."

Silverdale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., sends church groups on mission trips to Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Zambia, India and other locations worldwide.

"It's not just a go and feel good trip — 'We've done our little Peace Corps thing and we can go home,'" said Chuck Patrick, a pastor at the church who has been to Pine Ridge three times.

During their week on the reservation, volunteers with the church ran a Bible camp for children and hosted Bible study groups for men and women. As he talked, a handful of women from his group threaded handles through goodie bags they would hand out to children at Vacation Bible School later that day.

A couple from the church hopes to move to the reservation soon with church support.

"We didn't want to go in for a week, pat them on the back, feed them and leave," Patrick said.

Emma Clifford coordinates many church

trips to the reservation. Her involvement with the groups started nearly two decades ago, on a cold, rainy June morning when a man named Paul Bertelson walked into Pinky's store in Manderson with a group of hungry teens. Bertelson, who had just started YouthWorks, a nonprofit organization that coordinates faith-based work trips for youths to locations throughout the U.S., had brought a group of teens from his church to Pine Ridge to help some personal friends with projects.

Since then, YouthWorks has spread to 77 communities around the U.S. but still coordinates more than a dozen trips to the Pine Ridge reservation each summer. Over 10 weeks of the summer, 300 older teens will camp out at Wounded Knee District School to host kids' clubs and help local children learn how to read.

Trip leaders hope students coming to Pine Ridge form relationships with the children they meet.

"I think it's important as a youth growing up that you're exposed to other cultures," Katie Heefner, a 24-year-old trip leader said.

Though trips typically only last one or two weeks out of the year, some visitors do form lasting relationships. Community member Tim Little Dog has been going to a men's group hosted by the Tennessee churches since it started about a decade ago.

"They're better than friends, actually. Many of us older people prayed and prayed for many years for something like this," he said. "Some of us count the months and days to the time they'll be here."

SD Mansion Restored To Original 1880's Grandeur

BY JEFF NATALIE-LEES
 American News

FAULKTON — A pink castle rises from the prairie south of Faulkton filled with artifacts from one of South Dakota's most illustrious families.

The Pickler Mansion, built between 1882 and 1894, was once owned by John Pickler, South Dakota's first congressman.

While the building sat vacant from 1958 to 1987, it is now nearly restored to its original grandeur.

Pickler was one of the first settlers in Faulkton and made a small fortune as a lawyer specializing in land deals.

The mansion is well-known for

its museum-quality, early 1900s antiques and for its famous guests. Susan B. Anthony stayed at the mansion four days in 1890 while campaigning for women's suffrage.

Alice Pickler, John Pickler's wife, was the secretary of the women's suffrage moment in South Dakota. After the mansion was deeded to the Faulk County Historical Society, 13 letters from Anthony to Alice Pickler were found.

Teddy Roosevelt is believed to have stopped there when he was in Faulkton as vice president. Pickler, a Republican, was good friends with Roosevelt and helped write legislation to develop the national forest system.

"This mansion is just a treasure-trove of history," said Jody Moritz, president of the historical society, who was leading tours of the mansion on Sunday. "What was found here when we started to go through the papers was unbelievable."

Some of the other major historical documents found in the mansion were:

- A letter from President Teddy Roosevelt thanking Pickler's for his support in the election.
- Several of Pickler's Civil War battlefield letters.
- Invitations to six presidential inaugurations.
- Documents discussing statehood issues, including whether Dakota Territory should be divided into North and South Dakota or East and West Dakota. Pickler advocated the East-West distinction.

"Most people had no idea of his importance as a founding father of Faulkton and of the state," Moritz said. "For me, it was mind

boggling to find out all the Picklers were involved in."

Then there is the house itself.

It started as a claim shack with a trap door to a dug out hole where the family could hide in case of an American Indian attack. Moritz said there was never an attack, only a few men from Redfield who one time dressed up to try to scare the settlers off their claims.

Several nice rooms were then built onto the claim shack. Pickler had moved to Faulkton from Muscatine, Iowa, and, unlike most pioneers, had money from a law practice. He paid carpenters to build the house before his wife and three children arrived.

The biggest change to the house was in 1892, when a hotel building was added to it. When the railroad bypassed LaFoon in favor in Faulkton, LaFoon essentially closed down. Pickler bought the town hotel at a cheap price and had it moved to Faulkton.

After it was attached, the entire mansion was painted pink by Charles T. Greener. He was a noted portrait artist. His paintings of two governors are on display at the state Capitol in Pierre. He, however, could not get enough work painting portraits, so he painted houses to make a living.

Moritz said Greener could paint the inside of a room, never take the curtains down and never spill a drop of paint.

He is reported to have said to the Picklers' that the house "should be pink like a painted lady," Moritz said.

Visitors to the house today see a freshly painted salmon pink exterior. The most recent paint job was finished on Memorial

Day.

The house has 12 stoves for heating. A beautifully restored potbellied stove is in the living room.

There are early 1900s beds, furniture, dishes and rugs. The library has more than 2,500 books. An 1899 map graces one of the walls.

In the bathroom is an extra-long tub especially made for Pickler. At 6-foot-3 he was too tall for most tubs and could not stand hunching over to bathe in a small tub.

The house might have even more antiques but it was vandalized many times when it sat empty from for nearly 30 years. Moritz said it was vandalized 38 times during that time period.

The restoration of the mansion took a major leap forward in 1990 when the city of Faulkton received a government grant which could be used for restoration projects. About \$128,000 was spent on repairing the building and reshingling the roof.

On July 1, Moritz and Taylor Melius, a senior at Faulkton High School, led tours of the mansion. More people than normal were in town for Faulkton's Wild West Days, which run through Wednesday.

Jay Jahng, of Faulkton, who was on the tour said he has been on the tour several times and learned something new each time.

One hour guided tours are available by contacting the historical society at 605-598-4285. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. everyday between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Admission is \$5 per person plus tax. The money is used to fund restoration projects.

OBITUARIES

Alton Nelson

Alton A. Nelson, age 91, of Yankton, SD died Friday, July 13, 2012, at the Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton, SD.

A Memorial Service will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with Rev. Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial will be in Minnesota at a later date.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Alton Alexander Nelson was born September 19, 1920 in Holt, Marshall County, MN to Axel and Anna (Nygaard) Nelson. He attended schools through grade 9 in ND, Canada, and MN. Alton worked at Vega Aircraft, Burbank, CA in Sheet Metal and Repair until drafted into the US Army Air Force in WWII and served December 1942 to December 1945, where he was a member of the 24 Mobil Reclamation and Repair as an air-



Nelson

Christine Margaret in 1953. After his honorable discharge, he earned a GED in 1949 at Lincoln High School, Thief River Falls, MN. He attended Area Vocational School taking the electrical engineering courses. In 1974, he passed examination for Electrical Engineering Technician.

His powerhouse employment began in Thief River Falls as diesel electric power plant operator. From 1957-63 he was employed at Ft. Randall Dam, Pickstown, SD and 1963-81 at Gavins Point Dam in Yankton, SD where he held various positions and retired as Engineering

plane mechanic. On December 30, 1948 he married Margaret Meyer in Thief River Falls, Pennington County, MN. A son, Alexander John was born in 1950, daughter

Technician in January 1981. In retirement he handcrafted violins, guitars, banjos.

Alton is survived by his wife Margaret of Yankton, SD, son Alex of Arvada, CO, and daughter Christine Stevens of Rapid City, SD. He is also survived by his sisters, Marie Coffman and Shirley Jespersen; half-brother James Matson; and half-sister, Janice Matson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant daughter; three infant brothers; an infant sister; a brother Adrian in 1996; sister Audrey Erickson in 1999; brother Eugene in 2011; and his half-sister Gaylene Race on July 13, 2012.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
 July 16, 2012



Online condolences at:
 www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Daniel Suing

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Daniel Suing, 75, of Hartington, Neb., died Sunday, July 15, 2012, at the Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hartington, with the Rev. Jeffrey Loseke officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington with military honors provided by the Hartington VFW Post 5283.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m. and the family present from 6-7 p.m., at Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington. Visitation begins one hour prior to services on Wednesday at the church.

Erma Parish

Erma L. Parish, 89, of Yankton died early Sunday, July 15, 2012, at the Good Samaritan Center, Scotland.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Assembly of God Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Jeff Mantz officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Wednesday with the family present

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Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them
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Harold Green
who passed away on
July 21, 2011
Patrick Bohlmann
who passed away on
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 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.
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at 7 p.m. at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

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Wednesday, July 18
6pm Potluck Dinner • Picnic at Memorial Park (South Shelter), Hotdogs, Hamburgers & Beverages provided.
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