

PRESS & DAKOTAN

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Sheriff Says Escapee Got Past Sleeping Guard

SPENCER (AP) — An inmate who escaped from a prison van in southeastern South Dakota only had to walk past a sleeping guard to get away.

McCook County Sheriff Mark Norris said Thursday the Florida inmate escaped when the van was parked at a Spencer convenience store.

Norris says the driver was getting a bottle of water and the guard was dozing when the escape happened at about 2 a.m. last Saturday.

The *Mitchell Daily Republic* says the van was operated by an Arkansas company that didn't respond to a request for comment.

The inmate is charged with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl that he met on Facebook. Oscar Antonio Herrera-Menjivar took a bag with his personal clothing when he escaped. People who saw him afterward said he wasn't wearing shoes.

Neb. Unemployment Drops To 3.8 Percent

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's unemployment rate dipped a tenth of a point and hit 3.8 percent in June, the state said in a report issued Friday.

As it was last month when the rate was 3.9 percent, the June rate was the lowest since December 2008. A year ago the rate was 4.5 percent.

Nebraska Labor Commissioner Catherine Lang said it also was encouraging "that the number of employed is nearly 25,000 more than at the end of 2008."

Only North Dakota's rate of 2.9 percent was lower than Nebraska's last month. The national rate remained 8.2 percent.

Authorities: Rosebud Fires Lead To Evacuations

BY KRISTI EATON

Associated Press

PINE RIDGE — Tribal leaders on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation are bracing for more destruction and home evacuations as a series of wildfires sweeps through the area.

About 40 homes had been evacuated as of Friday night, said Rosebud Sioux President Rodney Bordeaux.

"We started with 18 fires, and four of them are out of control," he told The Associated Press. "Some of this is rough terrain in areas, so it's hard getting in and out. Getting water to our fire trucks is going to be the main obstacle."

By early evening, officials with the Bureau of Indian Affairs said the fire tally had increased to five — and they were spotting additional smoke plumes. Cleve Her Many Horses, superintendent of the BIA's Rosebud Agency, said that a couple of hundred fire-

fighters from area volunteer departments were helping battle the blaze. The BIA was set Friday night to bring in air support to dump water on the fires, as well as fire engines and additional firefighters.

The fires appear to have been sparked by lightning, officials said. Dry conditions brought on by the drought exacerbated the blaze, though some areas saw heavy rain Thursday night.

No one had been injured as of Friday evening, though the fires were "zero percent contained," Her Many Shoes said.

He said that a storm was rolling in and officials worried there would be more lightning strikes.

"I think it's going to be a long fight.

There's a lot of timber. It's hilly. It's kind of the foothills of the Black Hills," said J.R. LaPlante, South Dakota's secretary of travel relations, who happened to be visiting the reservation this week.

But he added that firefighters with whom

he spoke at the scene assured him they could control the blaze.

Alfred Walking Bull, who writes for tribal newspaper The Sicangu Eyapaha, told the AP that the most threatening of the fires started in Two Strike village, about two miles south of Rosebud village.

Rosebud encompasses about 1,450 square miles in south-central South Dakota. Bordeaux said the fires had far exceeded 100 acres — less than a quarter-mile, some of that north of the reservation. The reservation is home to fewer than 10,000 people, about 1,500 of whom live in Rosebud village.

Chief John Spotted Tail, a tribal spokesman, said the fires had expanded to the reservation's timber reserve. Smoke billowed into the sky from engulfed Ponderosa Pines, Bordeaux said.

"We're trying to keep ahead of the game," Bordeaux said. "What we're dealing with is an emergency situation."

Attorney: Ruling May Force Omaha To Limit Sledding

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled against the city of Omaha Friday for a sledding accident at a popular park that left one girl paralyzed and her sister with a broken rib and punctured lung.

The court ruled the city was mostly to blame for the December 2000 crash but lowered the total award for the family from \$2.5 million to a little more than \$2 million.

Omaha Deputy City Attorney Thomas Mumgaard said officials may need to ban or restrict sledding to protect the city in light of the ruling.

"It's an extreme reaction, but it's certainly one that could be considered," he said. "... The court said that people in parks won't protect themselves against

dangers that they should know about. That's a different standard of care than for any private landowner."

Rachel Connelly was 5 and her sister, Chelsea, was 10 when they struck a crabapple tree planted by city workers at Omaha's Memorial Park. Rachel was paralyzed from the chest down.

A Douglas County judge ordered the city to pay \$1 million to Rachel, about \$8,200 to Chelsea, and a combined \$1.5 million to their parents. The high court ruled that the parents' award should have been treated as one joint claim instead of two. State law sets a \$1 million cap for damage claims in lawsuits against cities.

The Douglas County judge declared the city was 75 percent liable and the girls' father, who had taken the girls sledding, was 25 percent responsible because he

failed to look out for his daughters' safety.

Tim Connelly and his wife, Kelly, sued the city, saying it should pay for the girls' medical expenses and pain and suffering because it did not heed warnings about the dangers of having newly planted trees near the popular sled run. In 2006, the city was found responsible because it didn't properly place the trees or remove them when warned of the danger they presented.

Family attorney Thomas Locher, of Omaha, said the city had ample evidence that the trees posed a danger, including concerns expressed by nearby residents and a warning by a city forester.

"I think we ought to expect that our city government be as responsible as any citizens would be, particularly when maintaining parks where children are known

to play," Locher said. "We hope they'd place the safety of our children and citizens as their top priority."

Locher argued in court briefs that a city park planner was made aware of damage to the bottom of one newly planted tree, likely by a sledder who had hit it, and presented a witness at trial whose daughter suffered a broken jaw after hitting a newly planted tree 12 day before the Connelly girls were hurt.

Rachel's medical bills are expected to reach \$4.2 million over her lifetime.

Rachel "has challenges in her daily life, but she is a remarkable lady who has made the absolute most of her situation," Locher said. "She's a wonderful student who volunteers in local hospitals. She's very motivated to make the best of her circumstances."

OBITUARIES

Sylvia Fejfar

Sylvia G. Fejfar, age 99 of Yankton passed away Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD where she had resided since January 2011.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Entombment will be in the Garden of Memories.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Monday, July 23, 2012 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, SD with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m.. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Sylvia Grace Hlavac was born on January 22, 1913 to John and Christina (Nikodym) Hlavac on a farm west of Utica, SD. When she was a child, the family moved to Utica where she attended the old Utica School. After three years at Yankton High School, she graduated in 1931 during the early years of the Great Depression. After high school, she worked at her aunt and uncle's restaurant in Sioux Falls while studying at Nettleton Business College, from which she graduated with honors in 1933 as the first to complete both the accounting and secretarial courses. Fortunately she soon found a job at Dakota Merchandisers in the Gurney Building in Yankton, where she worked in the clothing store as bookkeeper and clerk seven days a week for \$25.00 per month. Her wages helped pay the taxes on her parent's farm and also helped her younger sister, Alpha, graduate from Yankton College.

In 1935 she began her career in automobile accounting at the E. P. Fitzgerald Ford Co., Pfeiffer-Tague Chevrolet Co., and A. J. Rhian Co. She also worked part time for several Chevrolet dealerships in the Yankton area.

On November 22, 1944, she married Robert J. (Bob) Fejfar at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton where they lived almost all their married life. She and Bob had three children, Richard (Dick), Thomas



Fejfar

(Tom), and Patricia Ann, who died as an infant.

In 1963 she and Bob started the Missouri Valley Shopper. After selling the business in 1973 and retiring, they began what

became an extensive project to trace our family roots back to Bohemia and Moravia in what is now the Czech Republic, and to identify the many descendants in America. Along the way they found several distant cousins still in the old country. In 1980 they began the Hlavac-Teply family reunions that continued for 30 years. Not only did they collect volumes of family history, but they share the information with other relatives.

Sylvia was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and also belonged to the VFW Auxiliary, Royal Neighbors, and Senior Citizens Center. While her sons were young, she and Bob were involved in all aspects of Boy Scouting.

She is survived by her sons, Dick Fejfar and wife, Judy (Nelson), of Linden, VA; and Tom Fejfar of Yankton, SD; two granddaughters, Michele Fejfar, husband, Christian Wilson, and their children, Brendan and Alena, all of Fairfax, VA; and Laura Fejfar of Alexandria, VA; dear friends of 30 years, Tushi and Oldrich Fejfar in the Czech Republic; two sisters-in-law, Louise Fejfar of Sioux City, IA; and Lois Fejfar of Salem, OR; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 50 years, Bob Fejfar, on May 27, 1995, infant daughter, Patricia, on September 29, 1957, her two sisters, Mrs. Alpha (Richard) Carson in 2001, and Mamie in infancy in 1918, and several brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law.

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FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.

Online condolences at:

www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Kathryn Means

Kathryn "Kay" B Means passed away peacefully on July 10, 2012 at Majestic Bluffs in Yankton, South Dakota. A memorial service will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 11, 2012 at Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, SD is in charge of arrangements.

Kay Means passed away peacefully on July 10, 2012 at Majestic Bluffs in Yankton, South Dakota. Kay was born in Armour, South Dakota on October 1, 1919. She lived in Armour until she moved to Yankton to attend Yankton College where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1942. She taught high school English and Latin in Norfolk, NE for a short time until Kay married her college sweetheart, George Means,



Means

in January 1943. They started a family with the birth of their first son, Berry in April 1944, followed by Jim in February 1947, and Barb was born on Kay's birthday in 1953.

Kay and George opened their business, George Means Men's Fine Apparel in 1960. For the early years, Kay ran the business while George traveled as a salesman to supplement their income. Kay walked to and from work regardless of weather, and cared for three kids, and built their business. Eventually the business was successful enough to support the family. When George was elected to the State Legislature in 1984, Kay went to Pierre with him and operated as

Kathryn Devine

Kathryn Irene Devine, 51, passed away July 20, 2012 at the family's river home near Vermillion SD.

Kathy was born August 6, 1960, in Vermillion to Don and Mary (Katie) Stewart.

Kathy married Bob Devine on June 30, 1984. Bob and Kathy lived in Sioux Falls since 1988. Their children include Tom (Jenna) of Sioux Falls, Tyler, of Great Basin National Park, NV, Shannon of Sioux Falls, and their granddaughters Mayble and Gwenevieve.

A wonderful mother and grandmother, Kathy planned family gatherings and vacations, especially at their Missouri River home. She loved the outdoors for hiking, boating, and skiing.

As a hair stylist at Vanessen's Hair Design for 24 years, Kathy created a large network of clients and friends throughout Sioux Falls. Her Bunco club and her wide variety of friends from the solon also became an important support system.

Grateful for Kathy's love and caring are her siblings: Steve

(Jane); Chuck (Noreen); Todd (Jenny); Ann (Ron) Schoellerman; Mike, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, at the St. Michael's Parish in Sioux Falls with family present and a Prayer service to follow.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 25, with a Lunch to follow at St. Michael's Parish.

In lieu of flowers please honor Kathy's request with donations made to SESDAC at 1314 East Cherry Vermillion, SD. hansenfuneralhome.com.

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Dolores Branstiter

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Funeral services for Dolores L. (Branstiter) Wilson, 82, of Scottsdale, Ariz., are pending at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Niobrara, Neb.

Dolores died Thursday, July 19, 2012.

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Linda Spain

WAUSA, Neb. — A celebration of life for Linda L. (Ayers) Spain, 65, of Wausa, Neb., is at 10 a.m. Monday, July 23, 2012, at Wausa United Methodist Church. Pastor Brian Fong will officiate, with inurnment in the Woodlawn Cemetery at Wausa.

Visitation is one hour prior to the services at the church.

Brockhaus Funeral Home, Wausa, is in charge of arrangements.

Linda died Thursday at her home in Wausa.

Larry Caskey

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Funeral services for Larry D. Caskey, 67, of Creighton, Neb., will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 24, 2012, at United Methodist Church, Creighton. The Rev. Bev Lanzendorf will officiate, with burial in the Greenwood Cemetery at Creighton.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Monday at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Creighton.

Larry died Friday, July 20, 2012, at Avera Creighton Care Centre, Creighton.

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CONTINUES
Saturday, July 21st • 10:00am – 5:30pm
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IN REMEMBRANCE

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