

Deputy Ag Secretary Meets With Tribal Leaders

LOWER BRULE (AP) — Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan says the U.S. Department of Agriculture needs to do more to try to help end the poverty for Native American people in South Dakota.

Merrigan made the comment Thursday after meeting with tribal leaders on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

She says the agency and tribal leaders need to focus on bringing more jobs to reservations in the state and providing nutritious foods.

Merrigan also toured the Lakota Foods facility. It's the first and only Native American business that produces, processes, packages and markets popcorn.

She says she was impressed with the facility and its focus on value-added food processing.

USDA: Corn Prices Inch Up In South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Agriculture Department says corn prices in South Dakota inched up in February.

The South Dakota office of the National Agriculture Statistics Service says corn, at \$6.87 per bushel, is up 2 cents from last month and up 81 cents from last year.

The preliminary winter wheat price, at \$7.66, is down 44 cents from last month but up 97 cents from last February. The spring wheat price, at \$7.81, is 28 cents lower than last month and 40 cents lower than last year.

Soybeans are unchanged from last month at \$13.90, up \$1.90 from last year.

The Ag Department says the preliminary all sunflower price, at \$22.60, is down \$2 from last month but down \$4 from last year.

Judge Rejects Challenge To Execution Method

PIERRE (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a state court judge has rejected a death row inmate's challenge to South Dakota's single-drug execution method.

Charles Rhines is sentenced to die for the 1992 fatal stabbing of 22-year-old Donnivan Schaeffer during the burglary of a doughnut shop in Rapid City. He argued that the state's one-drug protocol violates constitutional prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment.

Jackley says South Dakota's protocol is modeled after one approved by the U.S. Supreme Court. He says 7th Circuit Court Judge Thomas Trimble ruled that South Dakota's method does not pose a risk of unconstitutional pain and suffering. Rhines can appeal.

The method is a single dose of pentobarbital. It was used in the execution of two death row inmates in South Dakota last fall.

Lost 3-Year-Old Boy Was Protected By Pet Dog

CUSTER (AP) — A 3-year-old boy who wandered away from his western South Dakota home and became lost in the woods was protected by his dog, authorities say.

The boy was missing for about an hour Monday before police found him unharmed about a quarter mile from his Custer home, Custer County Sheriff Rick Wheeler told the *Rapid City Journal*. The protective pit bull would not let rescuers near the boy, until the boy's father was able to take the dog home.

"He was showing me that this was not my area," Wheeler said of the dog. "I know that look."

Authorities tracked the boy and his dog by following footprints in the snow.

"We took off on a dead run until we found him," Wheeler said more than a dozen searches, including the boy's parents.

Wheeler said it was not clear if the dog was following the boy or the boy was following the dog.

"I think it was a joint venture," the sheriff said with a chuckle.

The boy had no obvious injuries but was taken to a hospital as a precaution.

S.D. Faces Federal Cuts, Furloughs

BY CHET BROKAW

Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota could lose at least \$10 million in federal funding from automatic spending cuts set to take effect Friday, but Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he is most worried about what will happen in programs that educate struggling students and help low-income people heat their homes and put food on the table.

Daugaard said state officials Wednesday were still trying to understand exactly what would be cut from federal funds handled by the state and how those cuts would be applied. He said he was asking state agencies to provide more details on the cuts.

"I don't know that it'll be a dramatic impact. We're trying to understand that right now. We're trying to evaluate that right now," Daugaard said.

If President Barack Obama and Republican congressional leaders don't reach agreement on another way to reduce the federal debt by Friday, \$85 billion in automatic, across-the-board cuts will take effect.

The Republican governor said he's upset that the president has insisted that the federal spending cuts be applied across the board, rather than letting federal agencies focus the cuts in programs that have little impact on people's daily lives.

For example, some of the cuts will hit grant programs that help cities build water lines and other projects. Those cities will not be forced to lay off anyone, but will only have to scale back pipelines, Daugaard said.

"That's an easier area to cut than, say, somebody who's counting on it to pay their



Daugaard

heating bills or pay their food bills," Daugaard said.

Daugaard said school districts will lose money for special education and programs that help struggling students, such as one that provides teachers to help students who have trouble reading.

Cuts also are slated for a program that helps low-income people pay winter heating bills and the nutrition program for low-income women with small children.

Jason Dilges, the governor's budget director, said the cuts could bring furloughs for state employees paid with federal money. The governor and the Legislature could decide to use state money to replace lost federal funds, he said.

"We'll have to look at the citizens of South Dakota and their well-being because these are going to affect us relatively quickly, Dilges said.

The timing of the federal cuts also complicates the process of approving a state budget for the year that begins July 1. The Legislature plans to pass that budget by the end of next week, the end of the main run of South Dakota's legislative session.

Dilges said he plans to propose only minor changes in the \$4.1 billion state budget Daugaard proposed in early December, but the federal spending cuts could affect state revenue and spending. If prolonged spending cuts hurt the economy, state tax collections could suffer, he said.

Wade Pogany, director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, said school

districts across the state likely will lose between \$2 million and \$3.5 million in federal funding for special education and programs that help disadvantaged students. As the Legislature prepares to pass a state budget, schools are asking that lawmakers provide extra money to help schools recover from state budget cuts made two years ago, he said.

"It couldn't come at a worse time for schools, given their financial situation right now," Pogany said of the federal cuts.

The South Dakota National Guard also has said the federal budget cuts would likely force it to furlough 548 full-time personnel for 22 days over the next five months. More than half the National Guard's 918 full-time employees would lose one day's work and pay each week for 22 weeks starting in late April. They would lose more than \$4.2 million in wages, officials said.

Daugaard said a group that all states use to analyze federal spending has estimated South Dakota will lose \$14 million in federal spending from March through September, but the state budget office estimates the loss at only \$10 million. The state expects to lose nearly \$5.7 million in federal money from March through June 30, the end of the state's budget year, and another \$4.3 million from July through September, the end of the federal budget year, he said.

The governor said he expects the cuts to take place Friday, but the president and Congress might be forced to make a budget deal later to replace the automatic cuts. For example, if a budget resolution doesn't pass Congress by April 15, members of Congress won't get paid, he said.

Board Delivers Good Budget News For Neb. Lawmakers

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers received some good budget news Thursday, as the state's forecasting board predicted a boost in tax revenues that will create an estimated \$81 million surplus.

The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board approved new projections that, if accurate, would increase state tax collections \$64.9 million more than previously expected. The Legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee released a tentative state budget this

week that would create a \$16 million surplus.

Lawmakers began the session with an estimated \$195 million revenue shortfall, which assumed that nothing in state law would change to affect the budget.

The budget remains fluid, but the additional revenue for the current fiscal year and the next two gives lawmakers more flexibility as they pick spending priorities. On average, the board predicted that revenues will come in 4.4 percent higher than previously expected.

"Today's estimates are a reassurance that we're within reach

of a reasonable and sustainable budget for the next few years," said Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, chairman of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee.

Lawmakers and the governor rely on the board's projections when setting the state's two-year budget. The board is made up of members with economic backgrounds from across the state, including five members appointed by the Legislature and four named by the governor. The group bases its projections on predictions compiled by the executive branch's Department of Revenue and the Legislature's fiscal office.

The revenue forecasting board is a nine-member panel whose members represent all parts of the state. Board members credited strong construction activity and farming as key drivers of the economy, while raising concerns about the drought and weakened consumer spending. Members said the housing market remains strong, particularly in Omaha and Lincoln.

"It may be our conservative values that make us a little different from other parts of the country," said board member Tonn Ostergard, of Lincoln.

OBITUARIES

Thomas Varilek

Mass of Christian Burial for Tom Varilek of Ankeny, Iowa and originally of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 2 at St. Leo Catholic Church with Fr. Joe Forcelle as Celebrant. Interment will follow in St. Leo Catholic Cemetery.

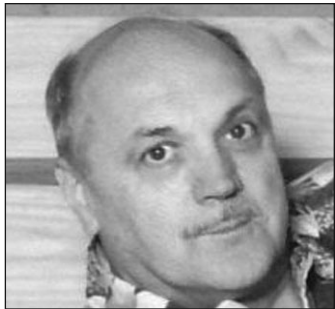
Visitation will be held on Friday from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall. There will be a wake service on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks you donate to NAMI Greater Des Moines, PO Box 12174, Des Moines, IA 50312 in Tom's name.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Thomas Varilek was born to Frank H. and Tillie (Plavec) Varilek on October 25, 1949, in Tyndall, SD. His schooling began in a one-room schoolhouse, Dunwoody District #23. He graduated Tyndall High School in the class of '67. In 1971, he achieved his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Tom began his professional career at Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco, CA where he met the love of his life, Dina (Albon). They married on December 2, 1972. Tom was an unselfish and devoted family man. In 1974, they moved to Duluth, MN, where Tom worked at Minnesota Power & Light. In 1987, Tom, his wife and their three daughters moved to Ankeny, IA where he worked for Iowa Power and, eventually, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation until his retirement in 2010.

Tom had diverse hobbies which included singing, ballroom dancing, Huna healing and hypnotherapy. Tom was driven to help and heal all he could in the world. He served



Thomas Varilek

as President of St. Vincent de Paul – Des Moines diocese from 2008 until his untimely death. Tom's other community involvements included Physics Society, Engineers Club, Kirkendall Public Library Foundation, Social Concern Committee – St. Luke's, National Guild of Hypnotists, and being an officer for ballroom dance clubs: Red Friars, Castle Club and Dance Club 76.

Tom died on Monday, February 25, 2013, at the age of 63.

Tom is survived by his wife, Dina, and his three daughters, Tara, Tanya and Tylia; his siblings Francis Varilek and Sally Boyd of Mission Hill, Daniel Varilek of Tyndall, JoAnn (John) Jonas of Yankton, Irene Koranda of Tabor, David Varilek of Estes Park, Colorado, and Kenneth (Jeanne) Varilek of Springfield; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 1, 2013

Goglin
Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Donald Kuehler

Donald E. Kuehler, 90, of Crofton, Neb. died on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Bloomfield, NE.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Crofton with the Rev. Michael Schmitz officiating. Burial will be at the St. Rose of Lima Cemetery in Crofton. Visitation will be on Friday from 6-8 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton. Visitation will continue at church on Saturday one hour prior to services.

Pallbearers will be Ron Sandvig, Steve Kyriss, Jerome Zavadiil, Tony Tramp, Rolly Kolars, and Steve Kuehler.

Donnie was born on November 25, 1922 in Sioux City, Iowa to Joe and Hilda (Michaelis) Kuehler. He attended school in



Kuehler

Donnie was baptized and confirmed at St. Rose of Lima Church. He was a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters for over 50 years.

Donnie's creativity led him to succeed at many projects that he enjoyed, such as making pot holders, macramé, and knitting. He participated in many projects and fund raisers at the Crofton Senior Citizens Center. His love of the Center took him to many heights, such as helping Katie in the kitchen, running the dish washer and peeling and cutting potatoes and onions, plus just being there if help was

the rural Crofton area and later finished at St. Rose of Lima grade school. He grew up living on the Kuehler farm west of Crofton before moving into town with his folks and his sister Irene.

Carol Sazama

Funeral services for Carol R. Sazama, 70, of Bloomfield, Nebraska, will be 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2, 2013, at Christ Memorial United Methodist Church in Bloomfield, Nebraska. She then worked with Region IV services in Bloomfield for another 20+ years.

On October 23, 1965, Carol was married to John "Jack" Sazama. The couple was blessed with two children, Jonathan and Jacqueline. Carol was an active member of the Eastern Star, where she was a Grand Representative of Alberta, Canada. Carol was a member and past president of the Bloomfield Women's Club, was a 4-H Leader, was a member of United Methodist Women and served in several offices, was a member of the VFW Auxiliary, and was a member of the Firemen's Auxiliary. Carol enjoyed her family, especially her grandkids. She enjoyed crocheting, polka music,



Sazama

Visitation will be Friday, from 5-8 p.m., at Christ Memorial United Methodist Church, with a 7 p.m. Eastern Star Service.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements.

Carol died Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota.

Carol Ruth (Schoenberger) Sazama, daughter of Gust and Paula (Drepper) Schoenberger, was born September 23, 1942, on the family farm near Hartington, Nebraska. Carol attended the Herrick rural school (District 20), northwest of Crofton, Nebraska, and graduated from Crofton High School in 1961. After graduation,

she worked for Walt and Eva Wiebelhaus in Crofton for two years, then attended NBT Business School in Sioux City, Iowa. In July 1963, Carol began her 20-year career with Production Credit Association in Bloomfield, Nebraska. She then worked with Region IV services in Bloomfield for another 20+ years.

On October 23, 1965, Carol was married to John "Jack" Sazama. The couple was blessed with two children, Jonathan and Jacqueline. Carol was an active member of the Eastern Star, where she was a Grand Representative of Alberta, Canada. Carol was a member and past president of the Bloomfield Women's Club, was a 4-H Leader, was a member of United Methodist Women and served in several offices, was a member of the VFW Auxiliary, and was a member of the Firemen's Auxiliary. Carol enjoyed her family, especially her grandkids. She enjoyed crocheting, polka music,

cake decorating, collecting cookbooks, and spending time with her coffee friends. Carol passed away at the age of 70 on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota, after a long, intense battle with cancer.

Carol is survived by her husband of nearly 47 years, John "Jack" Sazama of Bloomfield, Nebraska; son, Jonathan (Anna) Sazama; daughter, Jacqueline (Steven) Birch; seven grandchildren, Nicholle, Nicholas, Adrian, Brandon, Madeline, Jackson, and Lillie; brothers, Paul (Dorothy) Schoenberger of Crofton, Nebraska, and Steve (Jody) Schoenberger of Fargo, North Dakota; sister-in-law, Connie; in-laws, James (Renee) Sazama, Bill (Judy) Sazama, Wayne Heick, and Carma Sazama; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Stanley Schoenberger and wife Beverly,

and Charles Schoenberger and grandson Jason; nephews, Jay and Edward; parents-in-law, Hope and Clarence Sazama; brothers-in-law, Lyle, Dennis, and Donovan; and sisters-in-law, Gloria Heick and Connie Sazama.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 1, 2013

Vincent Steward

Vincent R. Steward, 89, of Columbus, Neb., and formerly of Yankton, died peacefully Tuesday night, Feb. 26, 2013, at the Columbus Community Hospital.

A private family Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, March 5, followed by interment in the Columbus Cemetery.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Monday, preceded by a rosary at 4 p.m., at the Gass Haney Funeral Home, Columbus.

In lieu of flowers, Vince's family respectfully requests that donations be made directly to St. Isidore Parish, Columbus, Neb.

Erna Ziegler

Funeral services for Erna Ziegler, 88, of Scotland will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday March 6 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland with Rev. Jonathan Vehar officiating. Interment will follow in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 4-8 p.m., with family present to greet visitors from 6-8 p.m., at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall.

Erna passed away on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Good Samaritan Village in Sioux Falls.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin
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IN REMEMBRANCE

<p>Lyle R. Buchanan 10:30 AM, Friday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton</p>	<p>Donald E. Kuehler 10:30 AM, Saturday St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church Crofton</p>
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