

Elk Point

Man Takes Own Life After Chase

From P&D Staff Reports

MACY, Neb — An Elk Point man apparently took his life after law enforcement pursued him through three states, according to the Nebraska State Patrol.

The State Patrol, in conjunction with the Thurston County, Nebraska, attorney, identified 38-year-old Eric Michael Johnson as the suspect in Saturday's chase that began in South Dakota and continued through Iowa and Nebraska.

The Saturday evening pursuit arose from an incident in North Sioux City. The chase ended in Thurston County, just outside of Macy, Nebraska.

When the chase ended, Johnson was found with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, according to an NSP news release. He was pronounced dead on Saturday.

The NSP didn't release details on the initial incident, but Sioux City television stations report that Johnson and his wife, Melonie, were arguing on a North Sioux City street corner. Eric Johnson threatened to shoot his wife, who flagged down a passing car driven by Gary and Mary Olson of Jefferson.

The Olsons drove away, but Eric Johnson followed them and fired shots. Three shots struck the Olsons' car, with one hitting passenger Shelby Olson. She was taken to Mercy

Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries, according to the television report.

Eric Johnson then fled as officers pursued him at speeds reaching 100 miles per hour, according to the media reports.

Investigators say Johnson was the driver of a Ford F150 pickup, leading authorities on the pursuit, according to the NSP release. The chase crossed from Iowa into Nebraska just before 8 p.m., and ended at 8:10 p.m., just north of Macy near the Highway 75/94 junction.

The pickup driven by Johnson came to a stop after hitting spike strips set up by law enforcement near the Highway 75/94 junction, the NSP release said. Law enforcement

officers approaching the suspect vehicle found Johnson unresponsive from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

An autopsy will be conducted. The Nebraska State Patrol continues to investigate the incidents surrounding the pursuit in Nebraska.

The Saturday night pursuit involved sheriff's offices in Thurston County, Nebraska, and Woodbury County, Iowa, along with law enforcement agencies in Walthill, Macy and Winnebago, Nebraska; and Sioux City, Iowa.

Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

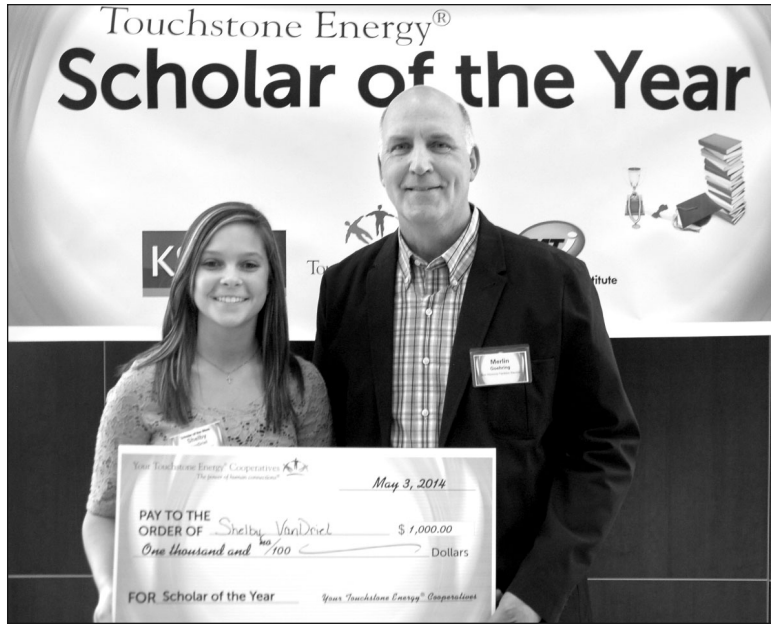
Scotland

VanDriel Chosen Touchstone Energy Scholar

MITCHELL — Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota honored some of the area's most impressive high school seniors Saturday, May 3, during the annual Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet and recognition on the campus of Mitchell Technical Institute.

The event honored the 34 high school students who were chosen each week throughout the school year as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week which recognizes students for academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and community service. The students are featured in weekly segments which air on KSFY Television and each student receives a \$100 scholarship for being chosen as the Scholar of the Week.

Shelby VanDriel, a senior at Scotland High School, was honored during the banquet and recognition after being chosen as a Scholar of the Week last September. At that time she received a \$100 scholarship from Bon Homme Yankton Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. At the Scholar of the Year banquet Saturday, VanDriel was the lucky winner of a \$1,000 scholarship and the title of Touchstone Energy Scholar of the



Shelby VanDriel, left, with Bon Homme Yankton Electric General Manager Merlin Goehring. VanDriel won a \$1,000 scholarship from Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives for being chosen as the Scholar of the Year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Year. The attendees had their names entered into a drawing for the top prize of \$1,000 or a pair of \$500 scholarships. VanDriel's was the first name to be drawn. She is the daughter

of Bill and Tina VanDriel of Scotland and plans to attend South Dakota State University in the fall. KSFY News anchor Brian Allen served as the master of ceremonies

and Brendan Johnson, U.S. Attorney for the district of South Dakota, was the keynote speaker for the Scholar of the Year banquet. He told the students to find something they're passionate about and pursue it.

"When you're going into the next step, one thing that you need to keep in mind is that there are going to be a lot of people who will have certain expectations of you. They might say, 'You should be a doctor, or you should be a lawyer,' because that's how other people define success. Don't worry about that," Johnson said. "What you should worry about is what you're passionate about because if you find that thing, if you pursue that area that you really care about, you're going to be a leader in that field. Find out what you're interested in and pursue it."

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota provide safe and reliable electricity to more than 113,000 homes and businesses. The cooperatives have sponsored the Scholar of the Week program since 2002. In that time, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$67,000 in scholarships.

Nebraska Libraries Awarded Grants

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association recently awarded 21st Century Librarian internship grants totaling \$32,000 to 21 Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns, who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.

"The internships offer valuable work and learning experiences for the interns and helpful assistance to the participating libraries. We thank the participating libraries for their contributions to the internship program and we wish this year's group of interns the very best for great and worthwhile experiences," said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.

The following area Nebraska libraries received internship grant funding:

- Ponca Carnegie Library;
- Verdigre Public Library.

As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, bringing together people and information. For more information, visit <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/>.

School

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shortfall has declined roughly \$300,000 each year since the 2011-12 budget's structural deficit of \$1.8 million.

YSD business manager Jason Bietz attributed the decline mostly to staff attrition, restructuring of health insurance funding and an expansion of early retirement incentives.

Added Kinde, "I think we've made some good progress in the deficit piece of our budget, and I think that's really important to note to the public."

"A couple of things the public has asked us to consider when we're looking at our budget — prior to any other opt-out — is one, to reduce the health insurance fund, which we're doing by not paying in as much. Second, we were asked if we were taking advantage of Senate Bill 91, and we are currently doing that."

The board set a budget hearing for July 14, and also directed administration to offer budget options that would include additions of library aide and/or middle school art positions.

Following the budget discussion, the school board considered a proposal offered by the Yankton Youth Soccer Association (YSSA) to sanction soccer starting next school year, using financial assistance from the YSSA during the transition phase.

Representatives from the YSSA first introduced the proposal at last month's school board meeting, saying that sanctioning was necessary if Yankton wanted to continue to offer competitive soccer at the high school level.

In 2015, the state soccer association will no longer sponsor a non-sanctioned soccer tournament for high school players. Numerous schools have reacted by sanctioning soccer, leaving non-sanctioned schools with an insufficient number of opponents to fill a schedule.

Under the proposal, the

YSSA will provide YSD with \$100,000 in funds during a five-year transition period to help cover the estimated expenses of a sanctioned high school soccer program, which are projected to total around \$138,000 during those years.

The Yankton Adult Athletic Booster Club has also agreed to donate \$15,000 to YHS for the transition. Ticket revenue for soccer games is also projected at \$11,500 during those five years.

The school board voted 4-1 to sanction soccer and accept the YSSA proposal, with board member Jay Williams as the lone "no" vote.

"With an \$850,000 structural budget deficit, if the first thing we're going to add

is a new activity, I think that sends the wrong message," Williams said. "I've talked to several of my constituents on this, and they're in agreement. It's not that I'm against soccer at all — in any way, shape or form. It's just the community of Yankton needs to step up and support our schools, and that means a property tax opt-out at some point to relieve this deficit we have."

Board member Kathy Greenway said she felt comfortable with the approval following the budget discussion, especially considering the possible addition of the library and art staff positions.

"It really comes down to the youth in the community, to have that activity available," she said.

Also at Monday's meeting, the board:

- approved changes to the Acceptable Use Policy;
- approved the high school, middle school and elementary school handbooks; and
- heard a report from YSD buildings and grounds supervisor Chuck Turner on an engineering study of the Crane-Youngworth Stadium and concession area. Turner said there are no major structural issues with the stadium, but it will be monitored to see if conditions worsen.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Gardening Class To Be Offered At RTEC

If you're looking for a way to create something extra special for a friend, loved one or even for yourself, you'll want to sign up for the "Pretty Pots: Container Gardening for Beginners" class. The rescheduled "just for fun" class will be presented from 5:30-8:30 p.m., on Friday, May 23, at RTEC, 1200 W. 21st St.

The Pretty Pots class will demonstrate how to create a beautiful flowering planter that can add a splash of color to your porch, deck, patio or backyard. Instructor Laura Willard will teach you what to consider when selecting plants and flowers for the perfect showpiece.

Then you'll be able to roll up your sleeves and plant your own container garden in the pot you've brought to class.

Your pretty pot will be planted and ready to take home so you or the lucky recipient can watch it mature into a blooming beauty.

There is a fee for this class. Participants should specify either sun or shade plants when registering and should bring garden gloves and a pot/planter up to 14 inches in diameter. Potting soil and plants will be provided.

No previous experience with flowers or plants is required, making it ideal for anyone (age 13 and up) who would like to learn the basics of container gardening.


For more information or to register, contact RTEC at (605) 668-5700. More information can be found on RTEC's Facebook page or on the web at www.rtecedu.org/.



With Fondest Memories

We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 24th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.



Aneta Burrows

Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Dan, Am & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
15. I have written my own message and it is included.

Name of deceased _____
Date of birth _____ Date of passing _____
Number of selected verse _____ OR Personal message (25 word limit)

Print your name here _____ Phone Number _____
Address/City/State/Zip _____

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo.

Fill out the form and mail to:
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/
With Fondest Memories
319 Walnut St.,
Yankton, SD 57078

**Deadline: Friday,
May 16, 2014, 5pm**



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