

Woman Dies When Car, Truck Collide

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A crash between a car and truck west of Omaha left one woman dead and another woman injured.

The Omaha World-Herald reports the crash happened about 12:50 p.m. Friday in rural Douglas County.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office says the women were in a car that on West Center Road. The car stopped at 240th Street, and then turned left into the path of a truck.

One woman was killed and another was flown by helicopter to the Nebraska Medical Center.

The women weren't named until relatives could be notified.

The driver of the truck wasn't seriously injured.

Police Investigating Suspicious Death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are investigating what they are calling a suspicious death.

Authorities say the body of a Rapid City man was found in the common area of an apartment complex early Friday. The man's name has not been released.

Police are waiting for results from an autopsy before releasing the cause of death. No further information was available.

Lawmakers To Study Road Funding

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are looking for new ways to pay for transportation projects.

Sen. Mike Vehle says federal money to help maintain roads and bridges is running out and the state needs to plan for future funding. The Mitchell Republican is heading up a group that will study the issue.

Committee members will likely consider gas tax increases, industry contributions and converting some roads back to gravel to keep managing transportation expenses.

Recent stimulus money from the federal government helped the state update roads. With the federal transportation fund expected to go into the red this year, Vehle wants the state to get a handle on funding options.

A recent report found 21 percent of the state's bridges to be structurally deficient.

Case Prompts Review Of Neb. Prisons

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A state official is recommending that lawmakers look into Nebraska's use of solitary confinement on Nikko Jenkins, who was kept in isolation for up to 23 hours a day before his killing spree in Omaha.

Nebraska Ombudsman Marshall Lux told a legislative committee Friday that administrative segregation may have worsened Jenkins' mental health problems. Jenkins was found guilty last month of four Omaha murders, committed shortly after his release from prison in July.

Lux says Jenkins spent the last two years of his prison term in segregation, but the state had nothing in place to help him transition back into the general population before his release.

Lawmakers also plan to trace Jenkins' path through Nebraska's child welfare system, on suspicion that other problems occurred.

Corn Palace Renovation Bids Higher

MITCHELL (AP) — Bids for the first phase of a planned \$7.2 million renovation of the Corn Palace tourist attraction in Mitchell have come in higher than expected, but officials say it shouldn't be a problem.

The Daily Republic newspaper reports that the two bids are close to the \$4.2 million budget for the first phase but that other expenses such as design fees and furniture will add to the cost.

Development committee chairman Doug Dailey says the bid proposals include alternates that the group can work with. The committee will recommend a bid at the next City Council meeting.

The upgrade to the Corn Palace and the soon-to-be vacated adjacent City Hall includes new domes and lighting, larger murals and a walk-out balcony above the marquee.

Record Low Temps. Recorded In Neb.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nine days after hitting a record high of 98 degrees for the date in Lincoln, a record low temperature for a date has been set.

Friday morning's low of 30 degrees at Lincoln Airport eclipsed the old mark of 31 set in 1940. The normal low is around 50. It was also the latest freeze in Lincoln since 1947.

In Omaha the 33 degrees at Eppley Airfield broke the May 16, 1997, mark of 37 degrees.

The 28 degrees in Norfolk tied its date mark from 1929.

The National Weather Service said the overnight low in the state was 27 degrees at Ord Airport.

SD Joins Challenge To Health Care Law


PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has joined 20 states in a challenge to the federal health care law.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the challenge filed in the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit Court of Appeals asserts that the Affordable Care Act violates the U.S. Constitution's Origination Clause, which requires that all tax bills originate in the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Supreme Court has previously upheld President Barack Obama's health care law. But Jackley and others think the decision opens the door to additional scrutiny.

Jackley says it is not costing the state to join in the lawsuit.

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News Around The Clock
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Aberdeen Cancer Center To Be Named For Meyer, Wife

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A cancer center in South Dakota will bear the names of Don Meyer and his wife, providing an enduring legacy for the legendary basketball coach and his primary caregiver.

The Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence will house the new Avera Cancer Institute at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. Meyer is under hospice care at his home in the city.

Meyer, 69, retired from coaching in 2010 with a then-NCAA record 923 victories in 38 seasons at Northern State University in Aberdeen, Lipscomb University in Nashville and Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In September 2008, the native of Wayne, Nebraska, was critically injured in a car accident that led to the amputation of his left leg below the knee. Doctors discovered during his treatment that he had an inoperable form of cancer.

The couple and Gov. Dennis Daugaard began fundraising for the cancer institute project last month. The \$13.5 million, 26,000 square foot building will provide care and expanded services for patients and caregivers. Ground-



PHOTO: COURTESY PHOTO
South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard addresses the crowd at the launch of the fundraising campaign for the Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. The center will be the home of the Avera Cancer Institute.

breaking is set for late summer and the center is scheduled to open in Fall 2015.

"We titled this project 'hope and healing,'" said St. Luke's president Todd Forkel. "And within that, we're going to use coach's extreme faith and perseverance to motivate others with this disease, whether they're the patient or the caregiver, to use his eternal optimism to help others."

That includes a wall bearing photos and a video board of looped clips of Meyer delivering encouraging messages.

Derrick Dinger, of Aberdeen, a donor and project board member, said the expanded institute will allow the hospital to better patients who otherwise would have to drive hundreds of miles for care.

"I see it kind of putting a

new face on the hospital," he said of Meyer's involvement.

Forkel said using Carmen Meyer's name is important too.

"It was originally going to be the Don Meyer Center of Excellence. He was adamant Carmen's name is on it because caregivers are often forgotten," he said.

OBITUARIES

John Heemstra

John Gilbert Heemstra, age 93, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2014, at Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton, South Dakota with Reverend James Pearson officiating. Burial will be in Westlawn Cemetery in Orange City, Iowa with military honors provided by the Pressman-Kosters American Legion Post No. 329.

Visitation is from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Thursday.

Pallbearers are John's grandsons: Benjamin Heemstra and Bryan Highland; great grandson, Tyler Highland; son-in-law, Mike Kirchgassler; nephew, Timothy Heemstra; and son, John J. Heemstra.

John Gilbert Heemstra was born January 14, 1921 in Pella, Iowa to Jacob and Hannah (Barge) Heemstra. He grew up on the campus of Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa where his father was the first college president from 1928 until



Heemstra

and events on-campus where he had the opportunity to meet with students. He was a graduate of Northwestern Academy (1939) and Northwestern Junior College (1941) in Orange City, Iowa. He received his Bachelors of Science Degree from the University of South Dakota in 1944. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944-1946 as a physical conditioning instructor with sick and wounded soldiers at Ft. Story VA. Following his honorable discharge, he was employed in Pierre, South Dakota as a bacteriologist with the SD Department of Health. He married Jean McGregor on November 21, 1946 in Pierre, where they lived until moving to Vermillion, South Dakota where he completed his Master's Degree in Bacteriology. He began working as the Senior Bacteriologist for the SD State Health Laboratory and as an Instructor of Microbiology at the USD School of Medicine.

In 1953, John was hired by

the Yankton Clinic where he was employed for the next 36 years. He was a clinical Chemist and Laboratory Director from 1953-1982, and the Supervisor of Data Processing until his retirement in 1989. He was active with the American Association of Clinical Chemists (AACC), was elected to their National Council and named as an AACC member emeritus.

John was an active member of numerous organizations during his life including Masons, Kiwanis, Golden K, Yankton Community Forum, The American Legion and Boy Scouts of American (BSA). He made numerous camping and canoeing trips as a leader and Scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troup 180 and helped establish the Lewis & Clark Historical Canoe Trail from Pickstown, South Dakota to Sioux City, Iowa in 1974. He was awarded the BSA Silver Beaver Award in 1973 for his dedication to Scouting. Among his many interests were geology, fossil hunting, sailing, traveling and hiking/volksmarching. He completed the 10 kilometer Volksmarch to the top of the Crazy Horse Monument when he was 80 years old.

Survivors include his four children: Kris (Mike) Kirchgassler of Hot Springs, South Dakota; John J. (Joan) Heemstra of Mitchell, South

Dakota; Betsy (Tom) Drulard of Lakewood, Colorado; and Virginia McGregor of Fountain Hills, Arizona; five grandchildren: Bryan (Kim) Highland, Jean Highland, Benjamin Heemstra, Beth (John) Chappel, and Dru Larson; three great grandchildren: Skye, Tyler, and Megan Highland; great great granddaughter Eden Rose Strike; brother, Raymond (Maxine) Heemstra of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; nephew, Timothy (Linda) Heemstra of Claremore, Oklahoma; and niece, Laura (Stephan) Matthews of Bedford, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Jean; two brothers: Frank Heemstra and Howard Heemstra; and sister-in-law, Marion Heemstra.

Memorials may be directed to the Jean Heemstra Scholarship at Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041.

To send an online sympathy card, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
May 17, 2014



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www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Zettie 'Sam' Mellegaard

Zettie "Sam" P. Mellegaard, 79, of Yankton, SD passed away May 15, 2014 in her home.

Zettie Turner was born October 23, 1934 in Millen, GA. She attended school in Georgia, and joined the Navy. She married Roy Mellegaard on August 16, 1957 in Arlington, VA, and later moved to South Dakota. She farmed with her husband and sold Studio Girl Cosmetics. She had also worked at M-Tron, Steve's Body Shop, Olan Mills Photography, Dale Electronics and also sold Aloette Cosmetics.

She is survived by her daughter April (David) Eslick of Yankton, a son Roy Jr.



Mellegaard

(Debbi) Mellegaard of Mission, Hill, SD and a sister-in-law Bernice Jespergaard of Irene, SD. She is also survived by six grandchildren; Sarah (Richard) Fitch, Autumn Myst, John, Matthew and Miranda Mellegaard, and Dylan Eslick and three great grandchildren; Eric, Trinity and Landon Fitch.

She was a member of the WOTM since 1985, and held many officer positions and honors including 25 member club.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a brother Harold Turner.

Memorial services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 20 at the Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill with burial of ashes at the Spring Valley Baptist Cemetery rural Irene, SD. A visitation will be Monday, May 19 from 5-7 p.m. at the church. hansenfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
May 17, 2014

Betty Ann Kocer

Betty Ann Kocer, 91, of Tabor, formerly of Dante and Mitchell, passed away Thursday, May 15, 2014 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 23, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor with Rev. Steven Jones and Msgr. Carlton Hermann officiating. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitations will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor with a wake service at 7 p.m. followed by a Rosary. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Betsy Brunick

Betsy Brunick, 59, of Kansas City, Kansas, formerly of Vermillion, died Friday, May 16, 2014 at her residence.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

John 'Jack' Worden

John "Jack" Worden, 82, of Viborg, died Thursday, May 15, 2014 at his residence in Viborg.

Arrangements are pending with the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene.


Visit hansenfuneralhome.com.

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