

S.D. Oct. Unemployment Rate At 4.5 percent

PIERRE (AP) — The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says South Dakota's preliminary unemployment rate for October was 4.5 percent, down from 4.6 percent the previous month and half of the national rate.

State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts says the number of employed people in the South Dakota labor force increased by 4,500 over the year, continuing a recent trend.

The national unemployment rate last month was 9 percent, down from 9.1 percent in September.

Corps Outlines Protection For Cedar Rapids

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has outlined a \$104 million flood protection system for Cedar Rapids that features a mix of flood walls and earthen levees.

The corps held two forums Wednesday on the plan that protects the east side but not the west side from the Cedar River.

The Gazette says the system is in four sections. The first, above Interstate 380 at the Quaker Co. plant is mostly permanent flood walls. A downtown section features removable flood walls, while a section past the former Sinclair meatpacking plant would use earthen levees. The lower section would be a permanent flood wall at the Cargill plant.

The city has included removable flood walls in its flood plan, which also calls for protecting both side of the river.

Scott To Fill Vacant District 21 House Seat

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Thursday that Dave Scott of Geddes will fill a vacant District 21 seat in the South Dakota House of Representatives.

Scott, a fourth-generation farmer in Charles Mix County, will also represent Brule, Buffalo, Lyman and Jones counties.

He takes the seat of Rep. Kent Juhnke of Vivian, who was appointed by Daugaard recently to take the seat of Sen. Cooper Garnos of Presho. Garnos officially resigned on Wednesday.

Scott has served for 26 years as the township clerk for Jackson Township and is a board member of the Association of Towns and Townships.

Daugaard says Scott is a leader on issues relating to agriculture, transportation and local government.

Catalytic Converters Stolen From Patrol Cars

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln police say metal thieves targeted catalytic converters in some vehicles that turned out to be unmarked Nebraska State Patrol cars.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* says it happened over the past week. One converter was taken — a \$300 loss. Another was partially dismantled, doing about \$200 damage.

Police say the thief probably didn't know the cars belonged to the patrol. No arrests have been reported.

Catalytic converters contain precious metals and are valued in the hundreds of dollars.

Northern Beef Plant Opening Pushed Back

ABERDEEN (AP) — The opening of a long-delayed beef packing plant near Aberdeen is facing yet another delay.

Northern Beef Packers CEO David Palmer tells *The Aberdeen American News* (<http://bit.ly/uB3xx1>) that the plant had been expected to open in 2011 will now open later than Jan. 1. Palmer would not give a specific date.

The \$100 million plant will slaughter 1,500 cattle per day and employ more than 600 workers when fully operational.

The land was secured for the plant in 2006. Construction had stalled, but the project received new life when a group of Korean investors took over in 2009.

Palmer says the opening is a matter of weeks, not years. He says the important thing is that the plant is making progress.

Tree Falls On S.D. Teen Hunter

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A teenager from the eastern South Dakota town of Hayti will be spending about a month in a spine rehabilitation center in Colorado after breaking his back while bowhunting.

Tyler Taschner was hunting two weeks ago when he was hit by a falling tree. It broke eight ribs, snapped his spine and stretched his spinal cord. He had surgery at a Sioux Falls hospital but has no feeling below his chest.

The Hamlin High School senior tells KELO-TV that doctors have painted a grim picture, saying that when a spine gets stretched there's not much they can do. But he says "miracles do happen."

Reaching 90 More Likely Than Ever

South Dakota High On List Of 90-Plus Population

BY HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The rolls of America's oldest old are surging: Nearly 2 million now are 90 or over, nearly triple their numbers of just three decades ago.

It's not all good news. They're more likely than the merely elderly to live in poverty and to have disabilities, creating a new challenge to already strained retiree income and health care programs.

First-ever census data on the 90-plus population highlight America's ever-increasing life spans, which are redefining what it means to be old.

Joined by graying baby boomers, the oldest old are projected to increase from 1.9 million to 8.7 million by midcentury — making up 2 percent of the total U.S. population and one in 10 older Americans. That's a big change from over a century ago, when fewer than 100,000 people reached 90.

Demographers attribute the increases mostly to better nutrition and advances in medical care. Still, the longer life spans present additional risks for disabilities and chronic conditions such as arthritis, diabetes

and Alzheimer's disease.

"If I get stuck with something I can't handle, I yell for the kids," says Betty Mae Gutoski, 85, of Muskegon, Mich., who says she expects to live past 90. After all, her father lived to 98. The colon cancer survivor lives alone and says she is "comfortable," getting occasional help with yard work from her son and grandson, who live next door.

Gutoski said in a telephone interview that she maintains her health by leading a busy life — driving, grocery shopping once a week, sewing, visiting the senior center, volunteering and meeting her friends for lunch — but she acknowledges having some fears. "My big worry is becoming a burden on my family," she said.

Richard Suzman, director of behavioral and social research at the National Institute on Aging, which commissioned the report, said cases like Gutoski's are increasingly common. Personal savings for retirement can sometimes be a problem, he said, if people don't anticipate a longer life or one with some form of disability.

An Associated Press-LifeGoesStrong.com poll in June found that more than one in four adults expect to live to at least 90, including

nearly half of those currently 65 or older. A majority of adults also said they expected people in their generation to live longer than those in their parents' generation, with about 46 percent saying they expected a better quality of life in later years as well.

"A key issue for this population will be whether disability rates can be reduced," Suzman said. "We've seen to some extent that disabilities can be reduced with lifestyle improvements, diet and exercise. But it becomes more important to find ways to delay, prevent or treat conditions such as Alzheimer's disease."

According to the report, the share of people 90-94 who report having some kind of impairment such as inability to do errands, visit a doctor's office, climb stairs or bathe is 13 percentage points higher than those 85-89 — 82 percent versus 69 percent.

Among those 95 and older, the disability rate climbs to 91 percent.

Census figures show that smaller states had the highest shares of their older Americans who were at least 90. North Dakota led the list, with about 7 percent of its 65-plus population over 90. It was followed by Connecticut, Iowa and South Dakota. In absolute numbers, California, Florida and Texas led the nation in the 90-plus population, each with more than 130,000.

Inmate Pleads Guilty In S.D. Prison Guard Killing

BY KRISTI EATON

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A second inmate pleaded guilty to first-degree murder Thursday for killing a South Dakota State Penitentiary guard by bashing him with a pipe during a failed escape earlier this year.

Rodney Berget, 49, changed his plea during a court hearing in Sioux Falls and waived his right to a jury trial. Prosecutors say Berget and another inmate, Eric Robert, attacked and killed corrections officer Ronald Johnson in a work area inside the Sioux Falls prison on April 12 and then used his uniform as they tried to escape.

Berget, wearing a black-and-white uniform and with his hands shackled, quietly told Second Circuit Judge Bradley Zell that he came up with the idea to use a guard's uniform to escape in August. He said he originally planned to steal a uniform a day before the escape attempt but there were too many people around.

Johnson was working alone the morning of April 12 — his 63rd birthday — in a part of the prison known as Pheasantland Industries, where inmates work on upholstery, signs, custom furniture and other projects. Using a pipe that he said he had stashed in a laundry area, Berget said he attacked Johnson when the guard came out of an office, "hitting him

in the head until he went down and wasn't moving any longer."

Zell asked what Berget's intent was.

"To end his life," Berget said.

Robert, 49, had changed his plea to guilty at a Sept. 16 hearing, during which he told the judge he hit Johnson with a pipe and covered his mouth with plastic wrap. Robert was sentenced to death last month and is scheduled for execution in May.

Prosecutors said that after Johnson was assaulted and his uniform taken, Robert carted a large box toward the prison gate with Berget inside. Both inmates were apprehended before leaving the grounds. Only Berget's DNA was found on the pipe.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said there was no deal with Berget to secure a guilty plea, but that the state would drop a felony murder kidnapping charge and a charge of assaulting another officer during the escape attempt.

Berget said he understood that by pleading guilty, he could face the death penalty. Zell questioned him several times on whether he knew the court had already given Robert a death sentence. Berget said yes.

Jeff Larson, Berget's attorney, noted for the record that Berget was pleading guilty and waiving a jury trial against his advice. Zell scheduled Berget's pre-sentencing hearing for the week of Jan. 30.

Nebraska Man Sues DMV To Get Pro-Marijuana Plates

BY MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — An attorney who wants voters to decide whether marijuana should be legal in Nebraska sued the state's Department of Motor Vehicles on Thursday, saying its rejection of his application for personalized license plates with a marijuana-themed message violated his free speech rights.

Holbrook attorney Frank Shoemaker said in his application that license plate "NE420" would be an important part of his campaign to get a marijuana legalization measure on next year's ballot. The term "4/20" is well known among pot smokers and refers to a date, April 20, or time, 4:20, when people are encouraged to partake.

"The plate was not just a personal thought, but a political one," Shoemaker said in a written statement Thursday. "I don't think I should be told to keep quiet just because the state doesn't like my political views."

The DMV's explanation for rejecting Shoemaker's application was that the number 420 is "associated with a date and time for people to gather and smoke marijuana/cannabis."

The department has a written policy stating that it will reject vanity plate applications if it determines the plate number

would "express, connote or imply objectionable, obscene or offensive word or phrases."

The lawsuit was filed in federal court on Shoemaker's behalf by the American Civil Liberties Union's Nebraska chapter, and it names the DMV and its director, Beverly Neth, as defendants.

Neth said Thursday that she hadn't been served with the lawsuit and couldn't comment on pending litigation.

She said it would be referred to the state attorney general's office.

Shoemaker submitted petition language for his proposed ballot initiative to the Nebraska Secretary of State's office earlier this year. To get it on the November 2012 ballot, he would need to collect valid signatures from 10 percent of the state's registered voters — or more than 112,800 — before July 7.

Shoemaker, who unsuccessfully ran for the Nebraska Legislature in 2006, said he applied for the plate around the time he filed his ballot initiative paperwork with the Secretary of State's office.

"Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have legalized some form of marijuana use," he said. "This is a conversation happening around the country, so how can Nebraska say it's illegal to even talk about it here?"

OBITUARIES

Chad Lammers

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Chad Lammers, age 32 of North Sioux City, and formerly of Fordyce, Neb., died at his residence on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 due to heart problems.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fordyce with the Rev. David Fulton officiating. Burial will be at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Fordyce.

Visitation will be at church on Friday from 5-8:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Saturday at church one hour prior to services.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Pallbearers will be Chris Becker, Christopher Lammers, Jeff Hochstein, Shane Lammers, Pat Hochstein, and Matt Hochstein.

Honorary pallbearers will be his nieces and nephews.

Chad Richard Lammers was born on January 31, 1979 in Yankton, SD to Alvin (Dick) and Mary Jean (Hochstein) Lammers. He grew up in Fordyce and attended West Catholic Elementary School and graduated in 1998 from Cedar Catholic High School in Hartington. Chad then graduated from



Lammers

Wayne State College in 2004. He lived in North Sioux City, SD for the past three years where he worked with computers.

Chad collected comic books and loved

playing video games. He thought the world of family, especially his nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his parents Alvin (Dick) and Mary Jean Lammers of Fordyce; three brothers and spouses Roger and Michelle Lammers of Rapid City, SD; Paul and Mandy Lammers of Sioux Falls, SD; Jamie Lammers of Sioux Falls, SD; sister Christine and husband Michael Ernst of Deridder, LA.

Chad was preceded in death by his grandparents, Paul and Evelyn Hochstein and Gerhard and Amelia Lammers.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 18, 2011

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Hartington * Coleridge * Crofton
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Gary Richards

BERESFORD — Gary Dean Richards was born on May 17th, 1942 at home in Beresford, SD to parents Oliver and Mabel (Fjeldseth) Richards. He passed away on November 16th, 2011 surrounded by the family that was so special to him.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19th at Brooklyn Evangelical Free Church in Beresford.

Visitation will be 5:30-7 p.m. Friday at Wass Funeral Home in Beresford with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Gary attended Beresford Elementary and High School, graduating in 1960. He married Constance Inberg on October 20, 1963. The couple made their home in Beresford. After his schooling he went to work for Len's Feed in Beresford. He then began a new venture in his career as an optical lab technician for the next 42 years! He began work in 1966 with Dr. Ed Duling and Sioux Optical Supply in Sioux City. In 1972 Duling opened



Richards

the Vision Optical stores, and Gary went to work in their lab. In 1991 Steve Conley, George Tokarczyk, and Dr. Kevin Duling purchased the business, and Gary worked for them until he retired on April 30, 2011.

Gary had many passions in his life. Most of all was his loving family. He was the husband who renovated the house, did the mowing and blowing the snow, and planned the family trips, he was the husband would do anything for his wife. He was the "dad" who was always there when needed, and spent many months of labor to help Brendyn make a wonderful home for his family in Hub City, and teach him countless life lessons and skills.. He was the "grandpa" to his grandchildren that adored him, and he adored more than anything. He was the grandpa that was always there to play catch, to give them a ride on the mower, to watch cartoons, and to attend every school sporting or extracurricular event, no matter how he was feeling that day. He was the grandpa who never missed a soccer game of Isaiah's, and was the grandpa who had a goal of teaching Tatyana how to water ski, no matter how many times she would fall down. All of

his grandkids were the joy of his life, each and every day. We will never forget the unique smile and tears of pride that he had while watching his grandkids succeed. They were his biggest joy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Mabel (Fjeldseth) Richards, and brother Dorn.

He leaves his beloved wife Constance (Connie); and his son Brendyn and his wife Coralie of Beresford; and four grandchildren: Isaiah, Tatyana, Patrick, and Kelsey. He also leaves his brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law, Betty Dahlin of Lead, SD, Rodney and Audrey Inberg of Beresford, SD, Retired Colonel Darlow and Delda Inberg of San

Antonio, TX, Elliot and Nancy Inberg of Bryan, TX, and many, many nieces and nephews.

To our husband, dad, grandpa, uncle, and our friend ... we love you greatly ... we miss you ... we will see you in Heaven again someday ...

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 18, 2011

Verlin Larsen

Verlin Larsen, 47, of Yankton died Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011, at Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls.

Arrangements are pending under the direction of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Chad Lammers

10:30 AM, Saturday
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Fordyce

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AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Friday, November 18

7:40 am
Vermillion Chamber Of Commerce
8:20 am
Yankton United Way

Too busy to book a party, but need to pick up those favorite Christmas gifts?

Holiday Open House

in the Capital Building,
Saturday, Nov. 19

11am-3pm • Riverside Park

Join the holiday fun with food, refreshments and prize drawings. Visit with many local vendors.
Let us take the stress out of your holiday season!