

## S.D. Family Finds Bison Bones In Backyard

DAKOTA DUNES (AP) — A Dakota Dunes family forced to evacuate their home during this summer's flooding has found a surprise in their backyard: bison bones.

Robert Hwang tells KTVI that his backyard backs right up to the Missouri River. Hwang was fishing recently when he looked down and saw a piece of bone sticking out of the ground that experts say belongs to a bison.

Hwang and his sons have since discovered dozens of fossils in several different sizes in the backyard.

Robert Hwang Jr. says the bison probably died trying to cross the river and the bones were swept downstream.

The family says they don't know what they are going to do with the bones but hope to be able to share them with others.

## Former S.D. Prosecutor Being Sentenced

MITCHELL (AP) — A former South Dakota county prosecutor imprisoned in Arizona for manslaughter is being sentenced next week on two additional felony charges.

The *Daily Republic* reports that former Davison County State's Attorney Dan Gukeisen (GOOK'-eye-suhn) pleaded guilty earlier this month to aggravated assault and kidnapping. He was accused of pulling a gun on a 74-year-old process server in January.

The papers being served were for a civil matter and not related to Gukeisen's May conviction for the stabbing death of an Arizona State University student in September 2008 following an argument.

The spokesman for Arizona's Maricopa County says Gukeisen is expected to get a 6 1/2-year prison term, to be served at the same time as his five-year manslaughter sentence. That means he'll serve an additional 1 1/2 years.

## Car Rams Into Unoccupied Lincoln Day Care

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Police have cited a driver whose car rammied into an unoccupied Lincoln preschool and day care center.

Capt. Joe Wright told the *Lincoln Journal Star* (<http://bit.ly/tiUWQx>) that the car jumped a curb, crossed a bike path and hit the building about 11 p.m. Thursday. Damage to the building was estimated at \$100,000.

The driver escaped serious injury. He was identified as 29-year-old Moses Brown, of Lincoln.

Wright says Browne was cited on suspicion of driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

A listed phone for Browne is no longer in service. Online court records don't list his attorney's name.

## Garbage Truck Crashes Into S.D. House

SPEARFISH (AP) — No one was hurt when a garbage truck crashed into a house in the western South Dakota city of Spearfish, but the crash left the family without electricity on Thanksgiving.

The *Black Hills Pioneer* reports that homeowners Greg and Loretta Egert weren't home at the time of the Wednesday morning crash.

Greg Egert says the driver of the garbage truck had set the brake and put wheel chocks under the tires, but the brakes failed and the truck jumped the chocks and rolled downhill into his house.

## Convictions Might Force Out Neb. Councilman

MCCOOK, Neb. (AP) — Two McCook City Council members have been advised to abstain from voting until they find out whether their misdemeanor convictions make them ineligible to hold elected office.

The *McCook Daily Gazette* reports that the question arose after Councilman Aaron Kircher was found guilty early this month and fined \$150 for disturbing the peace. There had been complaints about late-night noise from his residence.

Hilker pleaded no contest in May to harboring a potentially vicious dog and was fined \$250.

Nebraska law says council members convicted of crimes while in office must forfeit their posts.

## Ambulance Collides With Car In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say an ambulance on an emergency call has collided with a car in Omaha.

The car driver says she had a green light as she was headed west on Thursday afternoon. The ambulance was headed north when the collision occurred at the northeast Omaha intersection.

Omaha television station KETV reports the car driver told police that her car radio was on and that she didn't notice the siren and lights until just before the crash.

No injuries were reported.

## No One Hurt In Sioux Falls Fire

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — No one was hurt in a Thanksgiving Day fire in a Sioux Falls apartment building.

Fire officials say the Thursday evening blaze in the four-unit building appeared to have started on a mattress in a bedroom. They say the elderly woman who lived in the apartment was not home at the time. Firefighters rescued three cats.

## Endangered Species In Iowa Could Grow

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — With the addition of five species proposed for protection, the list of federally protected animals in Iowa could nearly double.

According to *The Des Moines Register*, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently named the Poweshiek skipperling butterfly as a candidate for the endangered species list.

Early this year, the agency named the sheepnose and the spectacle mussel as candidates. They joined two other species on the candidate list: the massasauga rattlesnake and the Dakota skipper butterfly.

The service says a failing species can signal the loss of habitat that helps provide drinking water.

The six Iowa animals already listed as endangered are the Indiana bat; the interior least tern bird; the pallid sturgeon and the Topeka shiner fish; the Higgins eye pearly mussel; and the Iowa Pleistocene snail.

# Red Cross Overhaul Felt Nationwide

BY DAVID CRARY AND MARGERY BECK  
Associated Press

For the American Red Cross, it has been a doubly challenging year.

While coping with a relentless series of natural disasters, the organization has carried out a nationwide overhaul that slashed more than 1,500 jobs, pared down many local offices, and left some former loyalists with badly bruised feelings.

President Gail McGovern says the 130-year-old Red Cross had little choice but to restructure in order to ward off a projected deficit. It has merged and consolidated many chapters to reduce duplication, and given the national office control over local fundraising so all funds can be spent as strategically as possible.

"We have remarkably loyal donors, and they're also demanding," McGovern said in an interview. "They want to be sure their hard-earned dollars are being used to optimize the mission and are going to help the people we serve."

During the year, McGovern said, the Red Cross has eliminated roughly 1,000 positions at its local and regional chapters and about 170 positions at its Washington headquarters — in each case about 10 percent of the work force. In addition, about 400 posts out of roughly 20,000 were eliminated in the biomedical and blood services division.

McGovern insists that the core missions — notably disaster relief, blood banks and assistance to military families — will not be impaired. She said the Red Cross responded vigorously to this year's nationwide onslaught of tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and wildfires.

"If there was any doubt in anyone's mind that we would be able to fulfill the mission, that doubt was removed," she said. "If anything, we're doing it better."

The network of chapters is still large — about 600 nationwide, compared to more than 800 five years ago.

The chapters operate with a core of paid staffers and many volunteers, and some have more than one office location in their service

area. McGovern said only about 20 of the 1,200 locations nationwide will be closed completely, but many will have reduced staffs and functions.

Such is the case in far-western Nebraska, where the overhaul became acrimonious.

Plans to downgrade the nearly century-old Greater Nebraska Panhandle Chapter into a service center prompted volunteer board members to resign in protest, and its executive director was fired and escorted from the chapter's office in tears.

The upheaval began with an emailed memo in July, according to Rick Tuggle, a Scottsbluff banker and chairman of the chapter's board.

The panhandle chapter — which served 11 counties over 14,000 square miles — was told it would be folded into a neighboring Nebraska chapter, Central Plains, with the local board ceding authority over how the money it raised would be spent.

"Keeping the money local did, and does, matter to people out here," Tuggle said.

## Black Friday Shoppers In Dakotas See Nice Weather

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Shoppers in the Dakotas flocked to stores in unusually balmy weather on Friday, kicking off the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season with a flurry of spending, as businesses reported strong early sales.

Used to freezing Black Fridays that often include snow, shoppers this year shed their bulky winter clothes for sleeker outfits to hit the shop-lined streets and malls in search of bargains. Temperatures soared into the 60s and 70s in parts of the Dakotas on Wednesday and Thursday, and were expected to peak in the mid-50s on Friday — still unusually warm for the region.

"The weather's good," Celeste Breffle, a manager of the Best Buy store in Grand Forks, N.D., told KLVY-TV. "Shoppers just want to come out and do their shopping."

Breffle said she thinks the store will have a record-breaking season in sales. Many other retailers in the Dakotas shared that optimism, despite this year's costly flooding that affected cities and towns in both states.

South Dakota Retailers Association Executive Director Shawn Lyons told KCCR radio that an annual survey found the majority of retailers in that state expecting holiday sales to equal or better last year's.

Sales in North Dakota, where the economy has been strong for several years because of its booming oil patch, could eclipse last year's by up to 5 percent if the good weather holds between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Mike Rud, the head of the North Dakota Retail Association, told *The Associated Press*. That would be almost double the expected increase nationally.

"It's tough to predict because over the last three years we've had a pretty good (state) economy but we've ... had blizzards on just about every weekend leading up to Christmas," he said.

Rud said this year's major flooding along the Missouri, Souris and Red rivers might cut into holiday sales but it also might have the opposite effect, with flood-weary residents deciding to do something

to lift their own spirits.

"Maybe they'll buy themselves something. Lord knows they deserve it," he said.

Lines at some early opening stores in the Dakotas began forming as early as Wednesday afternoon. Thirty-three-year-old Bobby Hohn spent Wednesday night camping outside of the Best Buy store in Sioux Falls, S.D., with a few dozen others. Family members held her place in line while she cooked a Thanksgiving turkey on Thursday.

"It's the fun, the enjoyment, the people," she said. "It's a lot of perseverance and dedication."

At the Empire Mall in Sioux Falls, thousands of people lined up before the midnight Thursday opening, and traffic was heavy — both foot and motorized.

"Traffic getting here on the interstate, with a lot of people weaving in and out of traffic, going a lot faster than the speed limit, (I) had three close calls just in the little distance I had to get here," shopper Kelly Hanson told KELO-TV.

## S.D. County Might Use Ankle Bracelets On Juveniles

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota's most populous county might start using ankle bracelets on juvenile offenders next year.

The electronic monitoring devices are one way Minnehaha County hopes to save money and reduce the number of repeat juvenile offenders, the *Argus Leader* reported (<http://argusne.ws/s55S1K>) Friday. The plan calls for up to eight ankle bracelets that would be used to monitor low-risk juveniles, and save the money of incarcerating them.

A committee that includes judges, prosecutors, police officers and others also is recommending a reception center where low-risk youth could be held until they could be released to a parent or guardian, and an evening report center where offenders would stay after school until 9 p.m. The centers would be run through the nonprofit Volunteers of

America Dakotas.

The committee has spent two years studying alternatives to detention. From August through October, the county developed a pilot program to determine which youth should be detained, which should be sent home and which should be funneled into alternative programs. Officials also traveled to Portland, Ore., to study a program there.

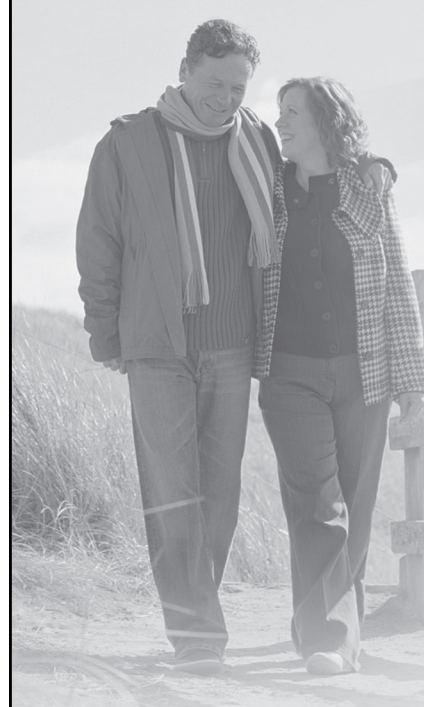
Commissioners this week approved \$157,000 for a Minnehaha County program, which hinges on the Council of Juvenile Services approving a \$100,000 state grant next month.

"Once we get official approval, we do more exact implementation work to get the program up and running," said Erin Srstka, coordinator of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. "Going live, we're planning on January 2012."

NOVEMBER IS AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

## Take Care of Your Feet

COME TO A SPECIAL SCREENING FOR DIABETICS



It's important for people with diabetes to prevent foot problems so they don't cause serious health conditions. During American Diabetes Month, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital is offering free foot screenings for diabetics.

### Diabetic Foot Screenings

Wednesday, Nov. 30  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Professional Office Pavilion  
Second Floor  
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

Podiatrists Terence Pedersen and Scott Torness, with the assistance of medical students, will screen patients. Drs. Pedersen and Torness will present important information about diabetic foot care at 11 a.m., and massage therapists will give massages in line as people wait for their screenings. No appointment is necessary.

**Avera**  
Sacred Heart Hospital

Look no further.

(605) 668-8000 ■ www.AveraSacredHeart.org

## Maranatha Christian Counseling

- Relationship Conflict
- Loss/Grief
- Eating Disorders
- Divorce Adjustment
- Depression
- Anger
- Stress
- Adolescent Issues
- Abuse



**Dr. Carol Mehlhaff**

605-520-0477 • 2001 Broadway, Yankton, SD 57078

## Congratulations



### Southeast CASA Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee hosted a ribbon cutting for Southeast CASA, located at 410 Walnut St., Ste. 3. Sherri Rodgers-Conti is the Yankton Program Director. The Southeast CASA Program is affiliated with National CASA. CASA stands for "Court Appointed" Special Advocates". CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused and/or neglected children so that they may have a safe, permanent and nurturing home. For more information call Sherri at (605) 760-4825, e-mail [secasasd@yahoo.com](mailto:secasasd@yahoo.com) or visit [www.southeastcasa.org](http://www.southeastcasa.org).

YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS&DAKOTAN**

**KYNT**

AM 1450

**MORNING  
COFFEE  
WEEKDAYS  
7:40 AM  
MONDAY  
THRU FRIDAY**

Yankton's Home Team!