

# South Dakota Native In Paris Alerted To Attacks By Father

**BY MEGAN RAPOSA  
AND PATRICK ANDERSON**  
*Argus Leader*

SIOUX FALLS — Emma Bennett assumed she was hearing fireworks.

The 19-year-old student sat with friends at the Stade de France, watching a soccer match between the French and German teams when she heard two loud booms, minutes apart.

It wasn't until a text from her parents toward the end of the game that Bennett realized Paris was under attack.

Bennett, a South Dakota native who graduated from Britton-Hecla High School in 2014, is among a handful of students with South Dakota ties who are studying in France. Colleges and universities scrambled to confirm student safety over the weekend after attacks left more than 100 people dead in Paris.

"I left my seat to go call my dad ... he told me, 'You need to get out of there,'" Bennett told the *Argus Leader* newspaper.

Bennett told her parents she loved them, not knowing whether she would be able to tell them again.

"My heart is broken for the 128 people who didn't get that chance," Bennett said.

After that call, Bennett received a text from a friend who was working at a bar near one of the two restaurants attacked. He told her he heard shooting and an explosion outside. Her first reaction was that he must be joking.

"That's not funny," she said. "That can't be happening."

By this time, the game had ended, and the stadium was emptying. Bennett was separated from her friends in the crowd. Some of them were trampled by hordes of people fleeing after a third person blew himself up near the stadium.

"They were pretty much running for their lives," Bennett said.

For two hours, Bennett was alone and stranded outside the stadium. All of the taxis were full, and several metro lines were closed.

"Not being able to find my friends was the worst part," Bennett said.

She made it onto a train and took it to the last stop, as far from the city center as it would take her. There, she

found a friend whose father came to pick them up. They made it home safely, three hours after the game ended.

Bennett, a student at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, had the option to cut short her time abroad, but she decided to stay in Paris for the rest of the semester.

Officials for Augustana University and the University of South Dakota confirmed they had students in France who are studying at institutions hours away from Paris.

Eric Leise, who oversees USD's study abroad program, said the university's response to dangerous activity depends on the severity of the situation and the proximity of the student. After an event like the Paris attacks, Leise works with his department to stay up-to-date on the situation and find and reach out to any affected students.

USD has a student studying in Pau, France, which is about four hours southwest of Paris.

"I spoke with her via email and she is doing well," Leise said.

Leise sent an email to all USD students studying in western Europe, encouraging them to be careful if they are

planning any trips. He also encouraged them to consult the U.S. Department of State's study abroad website for information.

Augustana staff reached out immediately to one of the university's students who was studying abroad in Grenoble, France — also hours away. Part of the study abroad experience at the Sioux Falls campus includes making sure students are aware of the risks when it comes to living for months at a time in a different country, said Donn Grinager, director of international programs.

"It's kind of a well thought out process in terms of preparing students for the risks that are involved with life in general," Grinager said.

Eventually, Bennett and all of her friends made it home safely, but the whole city still mourns those who did not.

"We're all just trying to make sense of what happened and what's going to happen," Bennett said. "I think everyone's a little tense and on edge, but overall, everyone's really come together and helped out for those who need it."

## Administration Honors School Program

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota after-school program is among 13 that have been honored by the Obama administration.

The Action Arts and Science Program hosted by the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls is one of the recipients of 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards presented Tuesday at the White House.

First lady Michelle Obama presented the awards that recognize the nation's best youth programs that use arts and humanities to develop skills and increase academic achievement.

The director of the Pavilion's community learning center, Rose Ann Hofland, and 17-year-old Chofian Abokbar received the award on behalf of the facility.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Obama said Abokbar "didn't speak a word of English" when she moved from Turkey to South Dakota four years ago. But, Mrs. Obama said, Abokbar got involved with the arts program and now "she's chatting up a storm."

## Foul Play Ruled Out In Death Of Woman

PIERRE (AP) — Authorities in central South Dakota say preliminary results from an autopsy indicate that foul play was not a factor in the death of a woman whose body was found in the Missouri River earlier this month.

Fifty-six-year-old Carol Olson was last seen Nov. 3, and six days later, a man walking his dog near the Stanley County fairgrounds found her body in the river.

Stanley County Coroner Gary Grittner says the autopsy showed that Olson died from drowning. He says her body had no injuries that would indicate that someone killed her.

Grittner says final autopsy results won't be ready until toxicology reports are completed, which could take a few months.

Officials said earlier that Olson, of Pierre, had health issues and might have been without her medication.

## Gov. Wants State Involvement In Screenings

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Gov. Pete Ricketts says he wants state officials to have a role in screening Syrian refugees before they're allowed to resettle in Nebraska.

The governor said Tuesday that state agencies haven't been included in the federal process. His comments came one day after he sent a letter to Nebraska's resettlement organizations, urging them not to accept refugees in light of the weekend attacks in Paris.

Ricketts and other governors have raised concerns that terrorists might use the refugees as cover to sneak across borders.

Ricketts says restrictions should only apply to Syrian refugees right now because of the attacks. He also condemned an act of vandalism against the Islamic Center of Omaha.

Ricketts was scheduled to be on a governors-only conference call with the White House Tuesday afternoon.

## Private Detective Taking Plea Deal In Case

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha private investigator has taken a plea deal on allegations that she defrauded a client of more than \$856,000.

Federal prosecutors say 69-year-old Patricia Walker-Halstead will be sentenced in February after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud. Prosecutors dropped 10 other counts in exchange for her plea. Walker-Halstead has agreed to pay \$250,000 in restitution.

Prosecutors say Walker-Halstead lied to a client about developing evidence and conducting background checks. Court records say Walker-Halstead told the unnamed client she asked a Nebraska State Patrol investigator named "Scott" to help investigate the client's security concerns. She asked her client to give Scott money because of his financial problems and medical bills. Authorities say there was no Scott on the case.

## Nebraska Army National Guard To Retrain Soldiers In Overhaul

**BY GRANT SCHULTE**  
*Associated Press*

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Army National Guard is planning to offer new training and job opportunities to soldiers as it launches its biggest overhaul of services in 20 years, Gov. Pete Ricketts announced Tuesday.

Ricketts said the restructuring will affect units in 16 Nebraska communities, primarily in central and western

parts of the state.

Roughly 1,100 of the Nebraska Guard's 3,600 soldiers could be retrained for new jobs, but no armories will be closed and the size of the total force will remain about the same. The number of soldiers at specific stations may change as they're trained for new missions.

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska's adjutant general, said many of the local transportation companies will shift to

perform other duties. As a result, he said, soldiers will have more career opportunities available within the region and they may not have to travel as far.

"We're excited about this," Bohac said. "This is a great change. This is a game-changer for soldiers."

Bohac said the realignment will increase the Guard's ability to respond to state and national emergencies, and the new job opportunities could encourage more soldiers to re-enlist.

### OBITUARIES

#### Kathryn Williams

Kathryn B. Williams, age 96, a retired reading specialist, died Thursday, November 12, 2015 in Brandon, South Dakota after a long illness. Mrs. Williams had previously lived in Kansas City, Yankton, Huron, S. D. and Chamberlain, S.D.

A Memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, December 2, at 11:00 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church, Chamberlain, S.D. with Fr. Andrew Swietochowski officiating.

Kathryn was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to her mother Nancy Elizabeth Meders Bryant and her father John W. Bryant on January 13, 1919. Kathryn graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1939 at the age of twenty with a bachelor's degree in math and science. She taught in several small towns in Oklahoma then met and married her beloved, Tom Williams, February 7, 1945. They were married for 42 years until his death in 1987. Kathryn taught school throughout her marriage. In 1968 she completed a master's degree in Reading Education from the University of South Dakota. A passionate reader she encouraged her students to read widely including comic books, magazines, music lyrics or classics. After retiring she belonged to the BCNU Extension Club enjoying handcrafts especially crochet leaving her afghans, toys, baby blankets, sweaters and caps spread amongst her friends, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Tom and Kathryn had two daughters, Nancy Schoenhard [Don] of Sioux Falls, SD/ Anthem, AZ and Dr. Migs Gillis [Rick] Lake Quivira, KS. Her Schoenhard grandchildren: Don [Lesley] of Huron [great-grandchildren Maren, Grace, Claire, Elin, Briggs], Tom [Stephanie] Rapid City [great-grandchildren Mallory, Jack and Max] Jessica: Sioux Falls [great-grandchildren: Cassidy, Christian]. Her Gillis grandchildren Annie [Derik Kleibacker] Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia [great grandchildren Miles, Jules, Leo] and Katey [Chris] George. [Prairie Village, KS].

Kathryn is survived by her daughters, Nancy and Migs, their children and great grandchildren, her nieces Jackie [Duane] Graf, Nancy [Richard] Keaton, Billie [Kees] van der Sterre, Cherry Evangelista [Dick] and her cousin John Quincy Meders of California.

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Williams



Felber

#### Earl Felber

Earl E. Felber died peacefully at the Hospice of the Valley in Mesa, Arizona on Sunday, November 15, 2015 with his family by his side.

Earl was born on November 23, 1926 to Leo and Lula Felber in Hartington, Nebraska. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Patricia Ann (Kathol), his three daughters, Janice Augustin, Earlyn Whisler and Sheila Skuda; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Earl graduated from Coleridge High School in 1942, was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946, and graduated from Wayne State Teachers College in 1950 with a BA in Education. Earl was a high school administrator for 7 years in Nebraska before going to work for Yankton Packing Company in Yankton, SD, retiring as marketing manager in 1991. Earl loved spending time with his family, golfing, and entertaining everyone with his wonderful witty humor.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents and his four siblings.

Earl chose cremation, and a memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on January 16, 2016, from 2-4 p.m. in the Northpoint Multipurpose Room at Viewpoint

RV and Golf Resort, Mesa, AZ.

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#### Missie

##### Simonsen-Smith

Missie Simonsen-Smith, 46, of Moville, Iowa, formerly of Yankton, died Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015 at her home in Moville after a battle with cancer.

Memorial Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moville.

Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church.

McCulloch Chapel, Christy-Smith Funeral Homes in in charge of arrangements.

#### Alice Schmidt

Alice Schmidt, 93, of Vermillion passed away Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, at Sanford Vermillion Care Center.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

#### Makenzee Drapeau

Makenzee K. Drapeau, 6, of Wagner died unexpectedly on Monday, Nov. 16, 2015, at the Community Memorial Hospital in Wagner.

Wake services will begin today (Wednesday) and continue until the funeral at

noon on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Galen Drapeau residence at 29502 U.S. Highway 281, Lake Andes. Burial is in St. Paul's Catholic Cemetery, Marty.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

### IN REMEMBRANCE

**Vern Jansen**  
 10:00 AM, Wednesday  
 St. Boniface Catholic Church  
 Menominee

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