

### Study Puts Flood Costs To Neb. At \$189M

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Farm Bureau says a study shows this year's flooding along the Missouri River cost the state nearly \$189 million in lost crop sales and other lost economic activity, such as processing, marketing and buying farm equipment.

The study, released Tuesday, looks at 14 counties along the river that border South Dakota or Iowa. It says nearly \$106 million is lost crop sales by farmers. The rest is economic activity that won't occur.

The study shows Burt and Washington counties had the highest losses, at over \$28 million each.

The study is by Decision Innovation Solutions, of Urbandale, Iowa, which also studied the flooding impact on Iowa for the Iowa Farm Bureau. That study pegs the lost crops in six counties at \$207 million.

### Birds Strike Airplanes At Pierre Regional Airport

PIERRE (AP) — Several birds have struck airplanes arriving and departing from Pierre Regional Airport in the past week.

Airport Manager Mike Isaacs tells KCCR that the latest case happened Monday, when three smaller birds struck a Great Lakes plane arriving in Pierre. The birds caused dents on the side and one bird was apparently sucked into the engine.

Isaacs said a goose earlier struck a Delta Airlines plane arriving from Minneapolis. There were also two cases of small birds hitting Great Lakes Aviation aircraft.

Isaacs says few bird strikes are reported each year, but it is a normal occurrence in the aviation industry. He says the airport works to fence off areas to keep birds and wildlife off airport property.

### Tents Near Neb. Capitol Don't Violate Rules

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a camp set up near the Nebraska Capitol by Occupy Lincoln demonstrators doesn't violate local ordinances.

About two dozen tents went up last weekend along Centennial Mall in what organizers hope will be a long-term protest against corporate greed and monetary policy.

The Lincoln Journal Star says police and city attorneys told the City Council on Monday that Centennial Mall is a public right-of-way, not a park, so being there is not illegal. Parks have hours that would keep people from staying the night.

Occupy Lincoln is an offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street movement that started last month in New York City and has inspired protests nationwide.

## Election Language Help Waived For S.D. Counties

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Nearly a dozen South Dakota counties no longer have to provide Lakota language assistance during elections after the U.S. Census Bureau updated its guidelines earlier this month.

Since 2002, 11 South Dakota counties have been part of a nationwide list of jurisdictions that must provide language assistance for groups unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process.

But those counties were dropped from the bureau's updated list of 248 jurisdictions released this month.

Jason Gant, South Dakota's secretary of state, said that's both good and bad.

"On one hand, it shows a marked improvement in literacy in some of the poorest coun-

ties in the nation," Gant said in an email Tuesday. "However, it also shows that the Lakota language, an exclusively spoken language, is in reduced use at a time when scholars are concerned about the language dying out."

State Rep. Kevin Killer, whose district represents the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, said people do use the language services.

"We do have fluent Lakota speakers that do vote, and their preference is to have an interpreter there," said Killer, D-Pine Ridge. "It's better to err on the side of caution rather than make an assumption that nobody speaks Lakota."

Fewer than 6,000 of the 120,000 members of Sioux tribes, who often identify themselves as Lakota, speak the language or its less common but closely related Dakota dialects. The average age of a Lakota speaker is 60, according to the Lakota Language Consortium.

But tribal schools such as Oglala Lakota

College, Sinte Gleska University and Sitting Bull College have been reintroducing Lakota to a new generation through the schools' language immersion programs, Killer said.

"So they're going to be, at some point, hopefully fluent speakers," he said.

Poll workers on Todd County's Rosebud Indian Reservation have had to publish ballots in both English and Lakota and reprogram the AutoMark voting machines for each election, said Tripp County Auditor Kathleen Flakus, who also supervises the neighboring county.

Flakus said her office also has paid interpreters \$150 a day to staff Todd County's eight polling places at a cost of \$1,200 per election.

"And the sad part of it is they're never used, so it just seems like a lot of money that could be spent somewhere else," she said Tuesday.

## Missing Brazilian Boy's Body Pulled From Mo. River

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The body of a 7-year-old Brazilian boy missing for nearly two years and believed to have been killed with his missionary parents in Nebraska was pulled from the Missouri River after one of three men charged in the deaths led authorities to the remains, an attorney said Tuesday.

DNA tests have confirmed that the body pulled from the Iowa side of the river on Thursday was that of Christopher Szczepanik, who was reported missing along

with his parents in January 2010, Omaha Police Chief Alex Hayes and Douglas County Attorney Don Klein announced.

Vanderlei and Jacqueline Szczepanik and their son had been staying Omaha, where Vanderlei Szczepanik, a carpenter, was working on renovating a former school. Friends and relatives in Brazil accustomed to hearing from the family each day reported them missing after they last made contact Dec. 17, 2009.

Three men from Brazil, whom authorities say worked for the Szczepaniks and ran up thousands

of dollars in charges on the family's credit cards, were later charged with murder, although the family's bodies hadn't been found. Christopher Szczepanik's body is the first to be recovered.

Officials said their break in the case came when one of the men, Valdeir Goncalves-Santos, made a deal with prosecutors to testify against the other two. In exchange, Goncalves-Santos pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Investigators say Goncalves-Santos told them that the men beat Vanderlei Szczepanik to death with a baseball bat and hanged

the boy and his mother, then threw the bodies in the river.

Goncalves-Santos' attorney, Kevin Ryan, said his client told investigators the bodies were anchored with rope and pieces of heavy metal from the school that was being renovated. Goncalves-Santos then led authorities to the point on the river where he said remains would be found.

"After he said he could point to the exact spot, neither of us really had any doubt that remains would be found, because it was so specific. It was just a matter of time," Ryan said.

### OBITUARIES

#### Zachary Bartunek

Zachary Robert Bartunek, age 23, of Yankton, SD died Sunday, October 16, 2011 at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD of a gunshot wound.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, October 20, 2011 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. David Gunderson officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will take place at a later date.



Bartunek

This turned into a weekly route for him and he held this position until right before his death.

Zach attended Yankton Public Schools and was confirmed in the Lutheran Faith at St. John's

Lutheran Church of Yankton, SD. Zach will be remembered fondly by his mother for his loving sensitive nature. Zach was very generous with his family and a great help to his mother. He loved his pets and helped take care of all of them.

Zach will be sorely missed by his mother, Laura Bartunek, grandparents, Robert and Burdette Meyer, all of Yankton, SD; Errol Bartunek Sr. of Yankton, SD; Joan and John Feather of Peever, SD, numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, his half-sister, Melanie Ramirez of Granite Falls, MN and god parents, John and Linda Lichter of Yankton, SD

Zach was preceded in death by his father, Mike Bartunek in 2007. Zach had many friends and will be missed by everyone that had the honor of knowing him and most especially by his longtime friend, Andy Gwinn and cousin, Jason Bartunek, both of Yankton, SD.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
October 19, 2011



Online condolences at:  
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Visitations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers are Brian Bartunek, Chandler Bartunek, John Lichter, Dan Graveland, Mitch Eide and Mason Eide.

Zachary was born on June 13, 1988 in Yankton, SD to proud parents, Laura (Meyer) and Michael Bartunek.

Zachary had a true love of the outdoors and spent many, many hours fishing on the local waters bringing home fish for supper whenever he could. In 2008, he landed a beautiful bass that earned him a Trophy Bass Award. Zach also enjoyed hunting and spent many hours at Grandpa Bartunek's place hunting rabbits, squirrels and deer. Zach finally had the honor of hunting the big pasture with his uncles last year and brought home a beautiful deer.

Zach started his work career at an early age of 10 with a paper route. From there, he spent his summer vacations working for his uncle on the family garbage route.

#### Evelyn Carda

RAVINIA — Evelyn Carda, 80 of Wagner, daughter of Louis and Georgina (Pobuda) Carda, was born December 4, 1930 at Ravinia, SD. She died unexpectedly and peacefully at her home in Wagner on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. Evelyn attained the age of 80 years, 10 months and nine days.



Carda

Private services are being held. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

Evelyn attended grade school at Ravinia through the seventh grade. She finished her education and graduated from Wagner High School in 1948. Evelyn attended Southern State Teachers' College in Springfield for a year and then attended computer school in Kansas.

Evelyn proudly served in the US Navy from November 17, 1952 to November 16, 1956. She then taught school south of Wagner in the Ree School District for nine years. In 1965, she moved from Wagner to Denver, CO, where she was employed with John Deere for 20 years. After her retirement, she returned to Wagner in 1986, where she resided

with her twin sister Eleanor. Eleanor died January 15, 2009.

Evelyn will be remembered for her great laugh and her enjoyment of life. She loved her cats, her job and her family and friends.

Thankful for having shared her life are her brothers: Lloyd of Denver and Steven and wife Shirley of Hobbs, NM; sister-in-law, Vivian Jasper Carda of Denver, CO and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers: Leonard and Loysen; twin sister, Eleanor; and sister-in-law, Viola Thaler Carda.

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#### Viola Taylor

NIOBRARA, Neb. — Viola D. Taylor, 63, of Niobrara, Neb., died Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, at Alpine Village, Verdigré, Neb.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. today (Wednesday) at the Ponca Tribal Agency Building west of Niobrara. Rick Thomas will officiate, with burial in the Ponca Tribal Cemetery.

Visitation runs until service time at the Agency Building. Brockhaus Funeral Home of Niobrara is in charge of arrangements.

#### Cletus L. Koch

FORYDYCE, Neb. — Cletus L. Koch, age 88 of Fordyce, Nebraska died on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic church in Fordyce, Nebraska with the Rev. David Fulton officiating. Burial will be in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Fordyce with military graveside rites by the Hartington VFW Post #5283.

Visitation will be on Wednesday from 1-5:00 p.m. with a rosary at 2:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. There will be a Vigil Service at the church Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Thursday at church one hour prior to services.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, David Kollars, Lucas Lauer, Tom Cobler Jr., Paul Cobler, Chad Koch, Eric Koch, and Shawn Koch. Honorary pallbearers will be the granddaughters and great grandchildren.

Cletus Leo Koch was born on July 27, 1923 in Fordyce, Nebraska to Ado H. and Josephine (Langferman) Koch. He grew up on the family homestead northeast of Fordyce. Cletus served in the U.S. Navy during WWII from 2/22/1945 to 7/15/1946 and received the Victory Medal, the Asiatic Campaign Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Medal. He married Beverly Ann Stukas on October 27, 1948 in Fordyce, NE. Beverly died on September 25, 2000 at the age of 69 years. Cletus continued to live on the farm until moving to Autumn Winds in September of 2008. Cletus did custom combining and custom corn shelling for over 55 years. Harvest time was his favorite time of year.



Koch

where many other children, family or not.

He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fordyce and a member of the Hartington VFW Post #5283.

Cletus is survived by four children and their spouses, Victoria and Larry Larson of Viborg, SD; Dennis and Pam Koch of Fordyce, NE; Barb and Tom Cobler of Hartington, NE; Donna and Bill Lauer of Hartington, NE; 14 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; one brother Tony and wife Joan Koch of South Sioux City, NE; five sisters Hildagarde Anderson of South Sioux City, NE; Hillaria Dickes of South Sioux City, NE; Lorraine Derby of South Sioux City, NE; Doris Ann Pagaen of South Sioux City, NE; and Sylvia Kingstead of Omaha, NE.

Cletus was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Beverly in 2000; infant son George, special uncles George and Othmer and aunt Lucy; five brothers-in-law.

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Online condolences at:  
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

#### Irene MacCormick

VERDIGRE, Neb. — Memorial services for Irene M. MacCormick, age 91 (September 16, 1920-October 18, 2011) of Verdigré will be at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 22, 2011 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Verdigré.

Reverend Walter Nolte will be the celebrant with burial in the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery of Verdigré.

A Rosary Service will be at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2011 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Verdigré, Nebraska is in charge of arrangements.

Irene died Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at Alpine Village in Verdigré, Nebraska.

Irene Mary (Lund) MacCormick was born on September 16, 1920, to Edwin and Theresa (Zucal) Lund in Gastra, Michigan. She attended Iron River Schools in Iron River, Michigan. On September 6, 1943, Irene was married to Marlan Jayes MacCormick at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Iron River, Michigan. The

couple was blessed with two children, Michael Jayes and Mary Lynne.

Irene worked for 20 years at the University of Minnesota-Duluth before retiring to Verdigré, Nebraska in 1985. She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Verdigré.

She is survived by her son, Michael (Jean) MacCormick of Las Vegas, Nevada; daughter, Mary (Peter) Pavlik of Verdigré, Nebraska; grandchildren, Vincent, Michael, Michelle, and Megan; and five great-grandchildren.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin and Theresa Lund; husband, Marlan MacCormick; and sisters, Delores and Anna.

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#### Merle Offerdahl

VERMILLION — Merle L. Offerdahl, 92, of Vermillion died early Tuesday morning, Oct. 18, 2011, at Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

#### Avon Haas

CROFTON, Neb. — Avon A. Haas, age 88, of Crofton, Nebraska, passed away on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota.

Services will be 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Crofton, Nebraska with Pastor Les Parmenter officiating. Burial will be in the Crofton Cemetery in Crofton.

Visitation with the family present is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Thursday.

Pallbearers will be grandsons Tim Haas, Terry Haas, Christopher Haas, Joshua Haas, Shane Bass, and Wayne Bass. Honorary pallbearers are his brother Dale Haas, granddaughter Jana Haas-Schnell, and 11 great grandchildren he cherished.

Avon was born in Herrick Township northwest of Crofton on December 15, 1922 to Florian and Vera (West) Haas. He was united in marriage to Glennys Holtz on March 7, 1946. Avon farmed in the Lindy and Crofton areas for nearly 30 years, then retired from farming and moved to Crofton. He drove school bus, sold Pioneer seed corn, and welded at Kolberg Pioneer. He learned his welding skills in Omaha and welded in the Naval shipyards in Seattle as a young man during World War II. He was employed as maintenance man at Cottonwood Villa for nearly 30 years until his recent illness.

Avon enjoyed working with his hands and could build or fix anything, spending hours in his wood and metal working shops. He built numerous grandfather clocks and repaired clocks for anyone that brought him a broken clock. In his later years, he enjoyed watching and feeding birds in his backyard. Family meant everything to Avon,



Haas

and he especially enjoyed going out for Sunday breakfasts, and Sunday evening suppers with Warren and his family. He never missed family events of any of his children or grandchildren, and was very interested and involved in the lives of everyone in his family. He will be deeply missed by the family he loved so much.

He is survived by his son Warren and Monica Haas of Yankton, South Dakota; son Lavern and Lorraine Haas of Rapid City, South Dakota; and daughter Shirlene Haas of Rapid City. Grandchildren who shared his life include Tim and Melody Haas, their children Tanner, Trevor, Dylan, and Karlie; Terry and Sheila Haas and their children Zack, Hunter, and Garrett; Christopher and Tara Haas and their children Merit and Matthew; Jana Haas-Schnell and husband Eric; Josh Haas and girlfriend Mariah Russell-Crane; Shane and Amber Bass and their son Caden; Wayne Bass and his son Colton; and Avon's brother Dale Haas of Bloomfield, Nebraska.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Glennys; his daughter, Charlene; one sister, June Petersen; and two brothers Lowell and Kenneth Haas.

To send an online sympathy message please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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Hartington \* Coleridge \* Crofton  
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505  
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

#### Dorothy Wilke

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Dorothy Wilke, 96, of Bloomfield, Neb., died Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011, at Bloomfield Good Samaritan Society.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bloomfield. The Rev. Tim

Koester will officiate with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

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

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements (www.brockhausfuneralhome.com).

### IN REMEMBRANCE

<p><b>Cletus L. Koch</b> 10:30 AM, Thursday St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Fordyce, NE</p>	<p><b>Avon Haas</b> 2:00 PM, Thursday United Church of Christ Congregational Crofton, NE</p>
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