# the midwest

#### **Parts of S.D. Get Measurable Snowfall**

RAPID CITY (AP) - Parts of South Dakota have their first measurable snowfall of the season.

The National Weather Service says up to 5 inches of snow fell across parts of the Black Hills on Wednesday. Meteorologist Susan Sanders says snow in the region in late October is typical.

The precipitation fell as rain in other areas. Rapid City set a rainfall record for the date with just under one-third of an inch, breaking the city's 1975 record of about one-tenth of an inch.

## **Chance Of Hitting Deer High In Dakotas**

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Motorists are more likely to crash into a deer in the Dakotas than in most other states.

State Farm has released its annual ranking of states in terms of the likelihood of deer-vehicle collisions. The insurer uses claims data and state licensed driver counts from the Federal Highway

South Dakota has moved from third to second on the list, with the chance of a driver hitting a deer estimated at one in 68. North Dakota remains at eleventh, with the chance one in about 105. West Virginia tops the list, with a 1-in-40 chance.

#### **Deadwood Gaming Numbers Up In September**

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Deadwood gaming numbers are up for September.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that total gross revenues for September rose 4 percent to \$10.3 million. The total money wagered during the month jumped 2.3 percent from the previous September. Celebrity Hotel General Manager Ken Gienger says he's happy

to see Deadwood gaming showing steady growth. Deadwood Mountain Grand General Manager Brad Hemmah says a modest increase in slot revenue and a strong increase in table revenue contributed to the rise.

A bet limit increase from \$100 to \$1,000 took effect on July 1. Year to date, gross revenues are up in Deadwood by nearly 7 percent, or about \$5.4 million.

# **Nebraska Lawmakers Eye More Foster Services For Youths**

**BY GRANT SCHULTE** 

**Associated Press** 

LINCOLN, Neb. — Child advocates asked Nebraska lawmakers Thursday to extend state services to youths who are pushed out of foster care because of age limits.

The public advocacy group Nebraska Appleseed urged the cutoff age for support services be raised to 21; currently, the cutoff is 19.

Nebraska already offers a program for former wards of the state, but a growing number have been denied in recent years. Others were unaware that state services were still available once they aged out, according to a survey of former Nebraska state wards.

Advocates told the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee on Thursday that some youths who aged out of foster care in Omaha headed straight

The former ward program offers a monthly stipend and Medicaid coverage for young people who are pursuing a college degree. Child advocates say a 2008 federal law allows states to qualify for federal matching dollars if they extend the age limit, and imposes fewer restrictions than the current state program. An extension would equate to Nebraska paying an estimated \$2.7 million to \$3.1 million a year — lower than earlier estimates — and trigger the federal match.

Lawmakers convened the hearing as part of a study requested by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill. She said extending the services could reduce the need for other government services in the future.

"If they don't have health care through the state already, then they might have conditions and end up needing to go to hospitals and being on Medicaid anyway," she said at a news conference before the hearing. "It means unintended pregnancy. Half of the young

women who age out of the system who don't have support end up pregnant, and so then their children are on our rolls. It means not getting the same level of education that they could otherwise get, and being tax-paying citizens instead of people who need social support.'

The number of youths who either aged out or were discharged without finding a permanent home has been steady recently, with 321 reported in 2011 and 367 in 2007. But the percentage of youths denied access to the state's former ward program has increased, from 4 percent in 2007 to 27 percent in 2010, according to data from the state Department of Health and Human

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Amy Peters said she joined the former state ward program after she turned 19, which helped cover her housing and health care costs while she went to school. But Peters, who was in foster care from age 13 through 18, said she considers herself lucky.

"I knew I had to remain in college," said Peters, who now works with foster care youths through Omaha-based Project Everlast. "Times got tough, and to be honest, I struggle academically and almost dropped out at one point." But, she said, a community organization enrolled her in an on-the-job training program that allowed her to continue classes.

Sarah Helvey, Nebraska Appleseed's child welfare program director, said other youths who age out of the foster system often end up on public aid programs as adults because they lack a support system to help them survive.

# **Fuel With** 15 pct Ethanol Now Available In Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The new blend of gasoline with 15 percent ethanol that was approved earlier this year is now available in Nebraska.

Motorists crossing Nebraska can now buy E15 fuel at Neal Hoff's service station in Lexington. Uncle Neal's Phillips 66 station started selling the new blend of fuel last weekend.

Kim Clark of the Nebraska Corn Board praised Hoff's decision to offer E15 after the fuel that's 85 percent gasoline cleared several regulatory

In June, the Environmental Protection Agency approved the use of E15 in vehicles made

But in northern markets such as Nebraska and Iowa, E15 can only be used after the weather turns colder, when federal regulators relax a vapor pressure requirement.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### **Marilyn Merchen**

Marilyn Jean Merchen, age 78, of Yankton, South Dakota, left this world to join her Lord on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer. Marilyn's husband and children held a private family service at the Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton shortly after her passing.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota with Reverend Amanda Jertson officiating. Burial will be in the Beaver View Cemetery in rural Crofton, Nebraska.

Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2012 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home with a prayer service at

Pallbearers are Marilyn's grandsons: Paul Schmidt, Kyle Schmidt, Scott Oleson, Kent Moody, Matt Merchen, Max Chedester, Tim Merchen, and great grandson Kody Schmidt. Honorary pallbearers are Marilyn's granddaughters: Christina Oleson, Karlin Moody, Madison Chedester, Olivia Chedester, Maria Chedester, and great granddaughter Julia Schmidt

Marilyn Jean Merchen was field, Nebraska to Ernst and Anna (Peters) Schulz. She was baptized, confirmed and married in Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomfield and attended school in Bloomfield. On September 6, 1950 she was united in marriage to Marvin L. Merchen also of Bloomfield. Early in their marriage, they resided in Center, Bloomfield, and Osmond, Nebraska. In 1960 they purchased a farm in Crofton, Nebraska where they lived until 1977, at which time they moved to the lake home in rural Crofton. Marilyn worked at Bogners Steak House in Crofton and the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Center in Bloomfield. Marilyn and Marvin later moved to the outskirts of Crofton. In 2011 they became residents of Autumn Winds Assisted Living in Yankton, South Dakota and in 2012 became residents of Avera Sister James

Marilyn was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Crofton where she was active in the Ladies Aid. She was also a member of the Neighborhood Card Club, Extension Club and was a 4-H leader. She was an avid flower and vegetable gardener, an accomplished seamstress, creative quilter and producer of many fine needle work projects. She was an excellent baker and cook, maintaining her love for these hobbies throughout her lifetime. She enjoyed bowling and gathering with friends, relatives

Care Center in Yankton.



or cards and visiting. In addition to these talents she worked on the farm helping Marvin with livestock. From her childhood she loved animals and pro-

and neighbors

vided compassionate care to many pets over the years. She had a passion for her family and nurtured them all of her

Marilyn is survived by her devoted husband of 62 years, Marvin of Yankton; five daughters: Deborah (Robert) Oleson of Steen, Minnesota; Yvonne Moody of Crawford, Nebraska Paulette (Chuck) Schmidt of Crofton; Rhonda Merchen (Beth Hanson) of Yankton; and Stacy (Patrick) Chedester of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; son, Rod (Jean) Merchen of Yankton; 12 grandchildren: Christina and Scott Oleson, Kent (Val) Moody, Karlin Moody (Chuck Mader), Paul Schmidt, Kyle (Cara) Schmidt, Matt and Tim Merchen, and Maxwell, Madison, Olivia, and Maria Chedester; two great grandchildren: Kody and Julia Schmidt. She is also survived by her three brothers: Donald (Shirley) Schulz, Frank (Janice) Schulz and Paul (Taylor) Reudi; two sisters: Eunice Kauth, Arleen Brunken and; in laws: Joyce (Mike) Frevert, Rose Marie Kolar, Alice June (Donald) Gilsdorf, Fern (Roger) Nohr, JoAnn (Al) Kuper, Connie (Norman) Rentschler, and Neal Merchen; and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her constant companion, Molly her schnauzer.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, Ernst and Anna Schulz; mother and father-in-law, Fred and Leona Merchen; son-in-law, George Moody; niece, Robin Schulz; nephews: Joe Brunken, Mark Frevert, Kevin Kolar, and Ike Rentschler; and three brothersin-law: Walt Kauth, Norman Brunken and Frances Kolar.

Marilyn had a great sense of humor and made life fun. She was talented person and kind to all who knew her. She will be dearly missed.

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

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Online condolences at: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

### **Margaret Lammers**

Margaret J. (Arens) Lammers, age 99 of Hartington, Nebraska, died on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation will be on Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church. Pallbearers will be Jeff Arens,

Ron Arens, Armand Wiebelhaus. Cyril Lammers, Roger Lammers, Bill Hirschman, Duane Feilmeier, and Ed Bottolfsen. Margaret Josephine was born

January 23, 1913 in Hartington,



Lammers

Mathilda (her mother's name). Margaret went to Holy Trinity School for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. Then to District 19 for the rest of the elementary grades. She attended high school at Holy Trinity and graduated in 1931. After high school she taught school in District 33 near St. James, Nebraska for 3 years. In 1936 she married Gerald I. Lammers in Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington on February 20th. They had one daughter. Bernadette. They farmed and lived in the Fordyce community until 1974

and Mathilda

Holy Trinity

She made her First

in 1921 and Confir-

mation in the same

church. Her confir-

mation name was

Holy Communion

Nebraska to Frank when they built a new home at 412 South Summit Avenue where (Pick) Arens. She they and their daughter moved was baptized at into. Margaret moved to the Golden Living Center in 2007. Her husband, Gerald died on Catholic Church.

October 20, 1989 at the age of 76 years, and their only child, a daughter, Bernadette passed away October 13, 2002. All were buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Margaret belonged to the Holy Trinity Guild, Christian Mothers, and Ministry of Praise since it started here at Holy Trinity. She and her family took a Holy Hour shortly after they moved to Hartington. The last couple of years someone took it in the winter months and she would take it again in the spring. She loved God her Father, people, music, flowers, baking and cooking. She was thankful for her family and God given gifts. "God is Good" was one of her sayings and "Not my Will but thou will be done'

Margaret is survived by her sister-in-law Mary Arens of Hartington; and a nephew Fr. Larry Wieseler, Venezuela; and many other nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Mathilda (Pick) Arens, brothers and sisters, Albert, Frederick, Rose Lammers, Amelia Marx, Cecilia Wieseler, Juliena Wuebben, Julius Arens, Henry Arens, Teresa Hirschman and Gerald Arens (stillborn).

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

## **Harlan Pederson**

Harlan Pederson, age 89, of Yankton, died Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at the Avera Yankton Care Center.

Memorial services are 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at the United Church of Christ/Congregational with Reverend Dr. Rick Jensen officiating Inurnment will be in the Mission Hill Cemetery in Mission Hill, South Dakota with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

The family will receive friends on Friday, October 26 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Urnbearers are his grandsons,



1941. In 1944, Harlan enlisted in the Pacific Theater during World married Glennys Nord in Glenglewood, CA for a few years be-

Dana Pederson and Grant Patterson. Harlan was

born July 27, 1923 in Volin, South Dakota to Herman and Ida (Erickson) Pederson. He grew up on a farm near Volin and graduated from Wakonda High School in

the United States Navy, serving in War II. On March 21, 1945, Harlan dale, CA. After his discharge from the Navy in 1946, they lived in Infore moving back to the Yankton area. Harlan enjoyed a long career in the carpentry business, retiring in 2002. Harlan and Glennys loved the time they were able to spend traveling around the country and also going camping with their family. Harlan also enjoyed visiting with his friends over a cup of coffee.

Harlan is survived by his wife, Glennys of Yankton; two children, Lennis (Gloria) Pederson of Omaha, NE and Leanne (John) Patterson of Gillette, WY; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; brother, Kenneth (Gerry) Pederson of Yankton; sister-in-law, Darlene Pederson of Yankton; brother-in-law, Elmer

(Lucy) Nord of Bloomington, MN; and many friends. Harlan was preceded in death by his parents; son, Duane Pederson; daughter and son-in-law, Leah and Mark Staloch; and a brother, Virgil Pederson.

Memorials may be directed to the Mission Hill Cemetery or to a charity of your choice.

To post an online sympathy message, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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Online condolences at: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

## **Dr. Gordon Held**

Dr. Gordon Royce Held, 83, of Young Harris, Ga., died Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md., due to complications from bladder cancer.

Gordon was born Dec. 16, 1928, in Hinton, Ia. the son of Walter and Mary Held. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1956 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He practiced veterinary medicine for four years in Le Mars, and then attended medical school at University of South Dakota. He earned his MD in 1965 from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. He practiced as a board certified surgeon in Yankton, and served on the faculty at the University of South Dakota Medical School. He also was school board president for Yankton, South Dakota.

In 1984 he moved his surgical practice to Copperhill, Tenn., and Blairsville, Ga. He retired from the medical profession in 1997 and settled in Young Harris, Ga.

He was a member and active choir member of the House of Prayer church in Blairsville. He was a member of Barbershoppers International.

He made several medical missionary trips to Haiti and other lo-

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cations. He loved boating, travel, gardening and expressing his views on current events.

He is survived by his wife Brenda Yarbrough Held and her daughter, Andrea; his son, Douglas Held and wife, Janalee Held, St. Louis, Mo.; his daughter Charlotte (Held) de Sostoa and husband, Charles J. de Sostoa, Dallas, Texas; his son, Joel Held and wife Kerry Held, Lincoln, Neb; and step-son CW2 Shane L. Toupal, and wife, Anne Toupal, of Harrisburg, S.D.; his grandchildren: Tamara Leahy and her husband, Michael Leahy; Gregory Held; Brittni Wait; Devin Wait; Ava Wait; Emma Held; Camden Held; Alex Toupal; Jordane Toupal; and Marques Toupal; his sister, Esther (Held) Legg and her husband Joseph Legg; his best friend and cousin, Stanley Held and his wife, Shelly (Swenson) Held.

He was preceded in death by his wife Doris (Norman) Held, wife Bonita (Pesicka) Held; his siblings: Mary Lou (Held) Feikema, husband Bernard; Charles Held, wife Helen; Ruth Held and Carolyn Held Davies, husband Thomas.

Condolences may be directed to mountainveiwfuneralhome.com.

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## **Kenard Kreycik**

NIOBRARA — Funeral services for Kenard F. Kreycik, 66, of Niobrara, Neb., are at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 29, 2012, at Faith, Hope, and Love Fellowship Church, Creighton, Neb. Pastor Casey Nelson will officiate, with Graveside Services at 3 p.m. Monday at Riverview Cemetery, west of Niobrara. Military Honors will be conducted by VFW Post No. 4834 of

Niobrara. Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Sunday at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Nio-

Kenard died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

### Thaddeus 'Ted' Seremak

VERMILLION — Thaddeus "Ted" Seremak, 90, of Vermillion died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, at Sanford Hospital, Sioux Falls. As per Thaddeus' wishes, no

services will be held. Kober Funeral Home, Vermil-

lion, is handling arrangements.



