

## Couple Sentenced For S.D. Farm Loan Fraud

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two Iowa residents have been ordered to serve probation and pay back more than \$300,000 for submitting false applications for farm loan payments made eligible to wool producers. Fifty-nine-year-old Reena Slominski and 62-year-old Howard “Jack” Aleff, both of Knoxville, Iowa, were charged in the South Dakota district of federal court with conspiracy to defraud the government. Authorities say Slominski and Aleff prepared and submitted 132 false applications for loan deficiency payments for sheep that were never sheared. U.S. District Judge Charles B. Kornmann ordered both defendants to serve five years of probation and pay back nearly \$304,000 in joint restitution. Aleff was fined \$40,000 and Slominski \$20,000.

## Flags At Half-Staff For Armstrong, Stevens

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Gov. Dave Heineman is ordering flags at state government buildings and other sites to be flown at half-staff to honor astronaut Neil Armstrong and U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans killed in an attack in Libya. The governor is calling for the flags to be lowered on Friday in memory of Armstrong, the first man on the moon. He died on Aug. 25 at the age of 82. Heineman says flags will be flown at half-staff on Sunday to honor Stevens and three American members of his staff. They were killed on Tuesday when the U.S. consulate in Benghazi came under attack by a mob. Stevens is the first U.S. ambassador to be killed in an attack since 1979, when Ambassador Adolph Dubs was killed in Afghanistan.

## Construction Begins On \$1.16 Nature Center

BROOKINGS (AP) — Construction has started on a \$1.16 million nature center building at the Dakota Nature Park in Brookings. The 5,300-square foot center will have a rustic appearance and overlook ponds in a corner of the park. Dakota Nature Park is a 135-acre property that once contained a series of gravel pits and the city landfill. The reclaimed area is now fully wooded and offers fishing, boating, hiking and biking.

## Aberdeen Plant Laying Off Nearly 100 Workers

ABERDEEN (AP) — Molded Fiber Glass is laying off one-fourth of its workforce in Aberdeen. Plant manager Dave Giovannini tells the *American News* that 92 people are losing their jobs. About 370 people worked at the plant. Giovannini cites a drop in orders for wind turbine blades related to the uncertainty about the future of a federal wind energy production tax credit. Employees being laid off are getting a financial package that includes a health care benefit and some profit sharing.

## Nebraska Man Fined For Killing Snow Geese

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A federal judge has fined a 19-year-old Alvo man for killing snow geese after hours. The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that Connor Marcoe pleaded guilty to unlawfully hunting migratory birds the night of March 6, 2011. Otoe County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call about shots fired at the private pond and found 86 dead snow geese. Marcoe testified that he shot and collected nine of the birds, believing he had permission to be there, and did not run when deputies arrived. A man who was with Marcoe that night, Nyle Bartling, ran when deputies arrived, leaving the dead birds in the lake. In May, he was sentenced to probation, fined \$2,000 and ordered not to hunt for two years.

# Authorities Identify Western Nebraska Car Crash Victims

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Five people killed in chain-reaction accidents on Interstate 80 in western Nebraska were identified Wednesday as a Minnesota truck driver and a Maryland family with two young children and a mother who was more than seven months pregnant. Authorities in Cheyenne County, Neb., named the victims after charging an Illinois truck driver with manslaughter and vehicular homicide for allegedly causing one of the two Sunday crashes. The first motorist killed was semi driver Keith Johnson, 27, of Big Lake, Minn., who collided with a disabled tractor-trailer around 4:45 a.m. on a stretch of interstate roughly 40 miles east of the Wyoming border. The crash slowed traffic to a standstill, which contributed to a second fiery collision involving two semis and two cars about three miles east of the site. Cheyenne County Attorney Paul Schaub said semi driver Josef Slezak, 36, of River Grove, Ill., was charged with four counts of manslaughter and four counts of vehicular homicide after he slammed into a 2010 Ford Mustang driven by 30-year-old Christopher Schmidt, of Gaithersburg, Md. Schaub said the force of that

collision pushed Schmidt into a 2007 Toyota Corolla driven by his 28-year-old old wife, Diana Schmidt, also of Gaithersburg, Md. The Corolla was rammed under another semi, killing Diana Schmidt and the family's two children, 2-year-old Conner Schmidt and 3-year-old Samuel Schmidt. Diana Schmidt was 30 weeks pregnant. Slezak was unharmed, as was the driver of the truck struck by Diana Schmidt. That driver, 49-year-old William D. Wiener, of Algona, Iowa, told investigators that Slezak's truck didn't appear to slow down before it crashed into the Mustang. Other truck drivers told investigators there was constant chatter about the accident on the citizens band radio as drivers warned each other to slow down. According to court documents, Slezak told investigators he never listens to the CB and that he didn't see anything before hearing a crash. An accident reconstructionist who examined the scene concluded Slezak failed to slow down and exercise caution on the road. Authorities closed I-80 for more than 14 hours after the crashes. Slezak remained jailed on Wednesday in lieu of \$1 million bond. His court-appointed attorney filed papers Tuesday to try to lower his bond to \$25,000. A call to Slezak's lawyer wasn't immediately returned.


## OBITUARIES

### Timothy Schlaefli

Timothy Schlaefli, age 25 of Richmond, IN, our beloved son and brother, passed away on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 as a result of a car accident. Arrangements are pending under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, SD.

### Thank You...

We send our thanks and appreciation for your thoughtfulness by cards sent, visits and coming to the open house for our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you to our children, grandchildren and families for your help. Family and friends are the best of life. God Bless you all. Joe & Dorothy Logue

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual TEAM HOPE Benefit**  
  
**Saturday, Sept. 15th**  
Registration from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at Joe's Substation, rural Lesterville  
**Meal to follow at 6p.m., Lesterville Community Center**  
**Auction at 7:30p.m. with Dance to follow**  
Matching funds up to \$1,000 from Modern Woodmen, Yankton Chapter up to \$500 from Thrivent Financial, Bon Homme and Yankton Counties up to \$1,100 from Thrivent Financial, Hutchinson County

**Meal & Dance**  
in honor of Jen and Dean  
Vaith Family

# Neb. Senator Council Pleads Guilty To Misuse Of Campaign Funds

BY JOSH FUNK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — State Sen. Brenda Council has agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor charges stemming from allegations that she misused more than \$60,000 in campaign donations at casinos and filing false reports to conceal that, Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said Wednesday. Bank records and casino security videos show that Council withdrew a total of \$63,052 at casinos on several occasions and then deposited \$36,166 in cash back into the campaign fund. That leaves a shortfall of nearly \$27,000 that Bruning said Council would repay. “It’s clear there is a pattern of using campaign money for gambling purposes,” Bruning said. “Personally, I do believe she has a gambling problem.” Council did not immediately respond to a telephone message left at her office. She has been charged with two misdemeanor counts of filing false campaign reports that omit the casino withdrawals and cash deposits. Council is in the midst of running for a second term representing northeast Omaha’s District 11 against her predecessor, Ernie Chambers, who was the longest-serving



Council

member of the Nebraska Legislature. Chambers was forced to leave office in 2009 after voters enacted term limits for lawmakers. Chambers did not immediately respond to a message Wednesday. Bruning said Council has decided to get help with her gambling problem. He said the evidence investigators gathered showed she was gambling several hundred thousand dollars of her own money along with the campaign cash. Bruning said his office began investigating Council earlier this year after law enforcement received a tip about the misuse of campaign funds. Bruning said he didn’t believe it was appropriate to wait until after the election to pursue charges. Bruning said Council was cooperative when confronted Monday by prosecutors from his office and didn’t deny the allegations. Prosecutors don’t plan to ask for jail time. “She was very contrite and disappointed with herself,” Bruning said. Council, 59 is an attorney and former Omaha city councilwoman and school board

member. In 2005, Council signed an agreement banning herself from all Iowa casinos. Bruning said people who sign that kind of an agreement usually have a gambling problem and are trying to limit themselves. Most of the gambling investigators found was done at a Kansas casino, Bruning said. It’s unusual for senators in Nebraska’s one-house legislature to be charged with crimes although neither Bruning’s office nor the Unicameral keeps track of that. The most-recent example Bruning could think of was Kurt Hohenstein. Hohenstein was elected to the Legislature in 1992 but the following year he pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$30,000 from a former law client. He resigned from the Legislature and spent five years in prison. But other Nebraska officials have occasionally run afoul of the law. Former University of Nebraska Regent David Hergert was elected in 2004, and then impeached and removed from office for manipulating campaign finance laws. He later pleaded guilty to bank fraud for inflating business assets to keep a \$3 million loan. Former state Treasurer Loralee Byrd resigned because of a financial scandal after pleading guilty to misconduct in office in 2003.

# S.D. Legislative Panel Approves School Rules

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Education Department can go ahead with its new system for assessing the performance of schools and providing help to those that perform poorly, a split legislative panel decided Wednesday. The Rules Review Committee, a panel that must approve any agency’s rules before they take effect, voted 4-2 to endorse the department’s rules to set up a new accountability system that will replace the requirements of the federal school improvement law known as No Child Left Behind. The panel’s two Democratic members voted against the rules, saying the department is moving too fast on the part of the system that would change performance evaluations of teachers and principals. State Education Secretary Melody Schopp said the rules need to be in place by next month to meet the requirements set when federal officials granted South Dakota a waiver from No Child Left Behind. If the new rules are not in effect by the deadline, federal officials might force the state to once again follow the federal law, which Schopp said unfairly measured schools by a single test given to students each year. The new accountability system will be phased in over the next three years to rate school performance based on student test scores, student improvement over time, attendance and graduation rates, the readiness of students for careers or college, school climate and evaluations of teachers and principals, Schopp said. The part of the rating system based on teacher and principal evaluations will not take effect until the 2014-2015 school year, giving officials time to work out details,

Schopp said. But other measures of school performance need to be put in place now so officials can identify schools that need help to improve student achievement, she said. “We need to provide intervention and support for our lowest-performing schools,” the education secretary said. But Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, said the teacher evaluation requirement seems to be a backdoor attempt to implement evaluations that would be used to award bonuses to top teachers, something that has been referred to a public vote in the November election. The Legislature this year passed Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s plan to give bonuses to top teachers, phase out tenure and recruit candidates for critical teaching jobs. The state’s main teachers union, the South Dakota Education Association, collected enough petition signatures to put the measure on the ballot so voters can decide whether to keep it. The union argues that giving bonuses to the top 20 percent of teachers in each school district could hurt the quality of education because teachers might stop collaborating to help students as they compete for bonus money. Schopp said the school accountability system is separate from the governor’s plan to give bonuses to top teachers and recruit teachers in critical subject areas. If voters reject the governor’s plan, that would have no effect on the accountability system used to measure school performance, she said. The school accountability system is based on a separate state law that requires the Education Department to set up such a system, Schopp said. Bryce Healy, executive director of the union, urged the lawmakers to block the rules.

# Gasoline

From Page 1

“I do not think the rule is advantageous to South Dakotans because it endangers the life of their automobile engines,” Gibson said. Sen. Sen. Angie Buhl, D-Sioux Falls, who also opposes the rule, said she’s against it because the pump label would not be a strong enough warning against using the low-octane fuel. Officials have said vehicles made in recent decades have

sensors that adjust engine performance to octane levels and altitudes, so 85-octane gasoline will probably not damage engines. However, the lower octane fuel could harm engine performance, mileage and emissions, they said. After the hearing, Dawna Lietzke, executive director of the South Dakota Petroleum and Propane Marketers Association, said refineries in western states would stop shipping fuel to western South Dakota if the state does not allow 85-octane gasoline to be sold. “They’re just going to cut off our supply,” Lietzke said. Lietzke’s organization, which

represents gas stations, opposes the warning label requiring 85-octane gasoline to be called sub-regular. Rules generally cannot permit something banned in state law. But lawmakers have said the rule would legally allow the sale of 85-octane gasoline by following a provision of law that allows state requirements to conform to standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

  
**WIFI**  
available for your convenience while dining at...

  
**Yesterday's Cafe**  
2216 Broadway, Yankton

**IN REMEMBRANCE**  

**Bonnie Johnson**  
11:00 AM, Saturday  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Fonda Iowa

**Priscilla Schneider**  
7:00 PM Prayer Service, Monday  
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home,  
Yankton

  
**WINTZ & RAY**  
FUNERAL HOME  
and Cremation Service, Inc.  
605-665-3644

  
**WINTZ**  
FUNERAL HOME INC.  
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton  
402-254-6547

**Airport Breakfast**  
Sunday, Sept. 16th • 8am-1pm  
Chan Gurney Airport, Yankton

  
**Adults \$5.00**  
**Kids 5-10 \$2.00**  
**Under 5 FREE**  
Pancakes & Sausage  
Coffee - Milk - Orange Drink

**What’s your retirement dream?**  
Make it come true with help from an


**Advantage Plus**  
single premium deferred annuity. A one-time contribution grows tax-advantaged<sup>1</sup> until you can turn your dream into reality.

**Contact: Kelly Mauer**  
**Plainview, NE**  
**(402) 582-4594**  
kmauer@catholicforester.org

**Start today and earn guaranteed first-year interest<sup>2</sup> based on your initial premium.**

\$ 5,000 – 9,999	3.125 %
\$ 10,000 – 49,999	3.625 %
\$ 50,000 – 99,999	3.875 %
\$ 100,000 and greater	4.125 %

<sup>1</sup>Under current tax law. Neither COF nor its agents provide tax, legal, or accounting advice. Consult a tax, legal or accounting professional regarding your particular situation. <sup>2</sup>Based on amount of initial contribution made prior to 9-30-2012; rates quoted above guaranteed for one full year. Additional contributions will not change this first-year rate. In subsequent years, rates quoted above may change, but will never fall below the 1% guarantee listed in the contract. For additional terms and conditions go to www.catholicforester.org or call the home office at 800-552-0145/TTY 800-617-4176. 12-062  
© 2012 Catholic Order of Foresters

  
**CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS**  
A Catholic Fraternal Benefit Life Insurance Society Since 1883  
355 Shuman Boulevard, PO Box 3012, Naperville, IL 60566-7012  
www.catholicforester.org • Toll-free: 800-552-0145 • TTY: 800-617-4176

**P&D CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU! CALL (605) 665-7811**