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1971 Cold Case May Finally See Closure Skeletal Remains Found At Crash Site

BY DAVID LIAS
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ELK POINT — Attorney General Marty Jackley announced late Tuesday afternoon that skeletal remains have been recovered from the 1960 Studebaker found near a bridge in Brule Creek in northern Union County Monday.

The automobile, and its teenaged occupants, Pam Jackson and Cheryl Miller, both of Vermilion, were last seen on May 29, 1971.

State and local law enforcement and rescue teams began working Monday at the scene to remove the car and at the same time preserve evidence. They returned to continue their work there at 9 a.m. Tuesday, and shortly before 5 p.m., remnants of the car were placed on a trailer and covered with a tarp. Union County Sheriff Dan Limoges transported the trailer and car to a secure storage area in Elk Point.

He later met with reporters at the Union County Courthouse.

"We have ended our search. We have basically released the area back to the township; we no longer are going to be sitting out there for security purposes," Limoges said. "We have removed all of the stuff that we were interested in, and taken it from that site."

"What I can tell you today is we have recovered human remains," he said.

Union County Deputy Sheriff Michael Bucholz transported the remains to a laboratory for further testing "to determine any DNA or any other evidence they may show," Limoges said. "The vehicle has been removed and will be put into storage and we will keep that for safekeeping for now."

The sheriff said "items of interest" were removed from the scene that will need further laboratory analysis.

"I'm not the expert here, so I'm not going to be able to tell you exactly what items we found," he said. "When the experts get done with the testing, then we will get a full report."

Officers could be seen securing large plastic bags filled with items as they prepared to leave the scene at Brule Creek late Tuesday.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF S.D. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
Crews lifted this rusted, mangled 1960 Studebaker from an embankment in Brule Creek near Elk Point on Tuesday afternoon. Investigators say they think the car was driven by 17-year-olds Cheryl Miller and Pamela Jackson, who were last seen May 29, 1971. Authorities say skeletal remains were found in the car and are believed to be tied to the disappearance of the two girls.

Speaker:

Religion Plays Big Role In Climate Talk

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Faith has become an integral part of the climate change discussion Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Robert Musil, a professor of Global Warming and Environmental Politics at American University, told the *Press & Dakotan* Tuesday during a week-long visit to Mount Marty College.

"(Religion's role) is an increasingly important one," Musil said. "It doesn't get as much publicity ... this has been going on since 1990 with Pope John Paul II up until now. On the Sunday nearest to Earth Day for several years now, up to 12,000 congregations around the country have held services concerned with the environment and global climate change."

Musil explained the separation of faith and politics has helped the religious environmental movement.

"People coming at it from a position of faith don't have a political ax to grind," he said "And increasingly, people understand that large numbers of religious people are concerned that God's good Earth is being ruined and they want to do something about it."

Despite the numbers possessed by religious groups in the U.S., he said there are still some difficulties in organizing advocacy.

"They're not quite as well organized when it comes to lobbying because they're concerned with so many issues," Musil said. "Unlike a major environmental



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Robert Musil, professor of Global Warming and Environmental Politics at American University, speaks to audience members at Mount Marty College Tuesday during a presentation on climate change. The speech was part of Musil's week-long visit to the college.

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Two Men Arrested After Car Fire

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Two Iowa men were apprehended in Bon Homme County Tuesday after the stolen car they were allegedly driving caught fire.

Brandon Kinnear, 21, and Michael Stewart, 19, both of Carter Lake, Iowa, were charged with possession of stolen property and grand theft, according to the Yankton County Sheriff's Office. The Highway Patrol is also charging the suspects with traffic violations.

A call was received by the sheriff's office around 9 a.m. Tuesday of a vehicle traveling westbound on Highway 46 at a high rate of speed. At 9:23 a.m., a report came in of a car on fire near Highway 46 and 428th Avenue on the Bon Homme County/Yankton County border.

"A 2012 Chrysler 200 was fully engulfed in flames," Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said.

The Lesterville Fire Department responded to the fire, and the vehicle was a total loss.

Meanwhile, the Yankton County Sheriff's Office, the Yankton Police Department K-9 units, the Bon Homme County Sheriff's Office, the Hutchinson County Sheriff's Office and the South Dakota Highway Patrol responded to the incident and conducted a search for the two suspects that had run from the vehicle and into a nearby corn field. The pursuit lasted approximately two hours and focused on the area north and northwest of where the vehicle was located.

Vlahakis said a highway patrolman eventually spotted the suspects along 427th Avenue.

"The various law enforcement agencies responded, and the two suspects were apprehended at a residence in Bon Homme County along 427th Avenue," Vlahakis said.

No one was home at the time, and no damage

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Our Towns | Knox County

New Thrift Shop Gives Small Town A Big Boost

BY DEREK BARTOS
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VERDIGRE, Neb. — "We've needed this for a long time," one customer said.

"It's so nice to be able to buy clothes in town," added another.

At Verdigre's latest addition to its main street, shoppers are not only finding items that were previously unattainable in the town of 570, but they are also helping the community with every purchase.

Opened in late July, the

Verdigre Carousel Thrift Store features items donated from members of the community, with proceeds from the sales going to local ministries, projects and organizations.

"People are very generous," said Theresa Pavlik, who co-founded the store with fellow Verdigre residents Connie Gompert and Cheryl Vesely. "People are cleaning out their houses and donating everything under the sun. It's unbelievable the



COURTESY PHOTO
Co-founders Connie Gompert (left) and Theresa Pavlik are shown outside the new Verdigre Carousel Thrift Shop. The store sells donated items with proceeds benefiting the community.

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Yankton County Awards Bids For Courthouse Work

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton County Commission wants to move ahead with some remodeling projects at the Yankton County Courthouse and Safety Center but has struggled to find contractors.

Commissioner Donna Freng has been coordinating the projects to renovate a conference room into two offices and to complete an unfinished courtroom.

"I'm struggling to get contractors who want to do the job," she told the other commissioners at Tuesday's County Commission meeting. "They're not getting back to me."

She received only two bids to divide the conference room despite being told by other contractors they were interested.

"I'd like to move forward," Freng stated. "(Court services) need this office

space as soon as we can go. We can't put it off any longer."

The submitted bids were for \$5,750 and \$1,990, respectively.

Despite the discrepancy between the two bids, Freng said everything appeared to be accounted for in the lower submission.

"I'm satisfied that's a good bid," she stated. "It's a fairly simple project. They are putting up a wall and putting a door in."

The county unanimously awarded the project to Robert's Carpentry.

A total of \$2,500 was allocated for the project in case any additional costs arise as it is being completed.

For the task of finishing a small courtroom, Freng suggested awarding a bid for part of the project.

Ceiling, carpet and electrical work will

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