

Tickets Available For Neligh Concert

NELIGH, Neb. (AP) — Several hundred additional tickets are available for this weekend's Willie Nelson and Neil Young concert organized by opponents of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Organizers said Thursday that 500 additional \$50 tickets would be sold on their www.BoldNebraska.org website and 200 more will be offered in Antelope County near where the concert will be held Saturday.

Previously ticket sales were capped at 7,000, but the farmer hosting the event cleared more space in his corn field.

The TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline would carry oil from Canada south to the Gulf Coast.

Pipeline critics worry it could contribute to pollution and contaminate groundwater.

TransCanada says the pipeline would be built with advanced safety features. The southern leg of the pipeline between Oklahoma and Texas is already operational.

Rapid City Resident Objects To Statue

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City woman is trying to stop a company from erecting a towering replica of the Statue of Liberty at a water park complex it is building.

Lesa Walter, who lives about half a mile from the site of the proposed 26-foot-tall statue on a 19-foot-high base, said the statue that would be lit up at night would be an eyesore.

"I live in the area and I am NOT looking forward to seeing that spectacle ablaze every night through my living room window, which faces in that direction and looks out over the area," Walter wrote in her appeal.

Walter also questions if the statue is meant to draw attention to the business from passers-by on Interstate 90 and in violation of local sign ordinances, according to the *Rapid City Journal*.

Capitol Management, which is developing the Rippin' Rapids water park and resort complex north of the interstate, has billed the statue as a patriotic way to welcome travelers to Rapid City. The company earlier this month obtained city approval for the statue.

Walter is the only resident to file a formal appeal, though City Councilwoman Amanda Scott has expressed concerns about the project's size and about whether the public was given proper notice of the plans.

The City Council is to decide Oct. 6 whether to still allow the statue.

Man Dies In Pond After Kayak Capsizes

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A western Nebraska man has died after his kayak capsized in a private pond near Ogallala.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says 64-year-old Glen Bassett of Ogallala was pronounced dead Tuesday at a local hospital after the incident before 10 a.m.

Authorities say a Colorado Springs man who was visiting swam to Bassett and attempted CPR. Bassett was not wearing a life jacket.

The commission says Bassett's death is the first boating fatality in Nebraska since October 2012. It's the 31st boating accident reported so far this year. Commission officials and the Keith County sheriff's office are investigating.

Man Pleads Not Guilty In Robbery

HURON (AP) — A Lane man accused of using a hand gun to steal soda pop from a Huron convenience store has pleaded not guilty to two charges by reason of insanity.

KOKK-AM reports that 61-year-old Martin Moeller has entered his plea to charges of first-degree robbery and commission of a felony with a firearm.

The charges stem from an incident in early June when authorities say Moeller attempted to buy two bottles of soda from the store, but didn't have the money to pay. Authorities say Moeller momentarily left the store, returned with a long barreled revolver, grabbed the items and left without paying.

Judge Jon Erickson in Beadle County says Moeller must undergo a psychiatric evaluation and the trial schedule for November will likely be moved to a later time.

Guilty Plea In Huron Restaurant Fire

HURON (AP) — One of two Huron women charged in the case of a fire at the Tailgate restaurant in Huron has pleaded guilty to two charges as part of a plea deal.

KOKK-AM reports that 55-year-old Kathleen Wollman has pleaded guilty to the misprision of a felony or knowing a felony was being committed and not reporting it to law enforcement. More serious charges of second-degree arson and third-degree burglary were reduced to the single class one misdemeanor.

Wollman in court said she didn't see co-defendant Julia Lopez start the fire, but acknowledged that she saw the flames and didn't report the fire. Lopez earlier pleaded guilty to second-degree arson.

Wollman will spend 29 days in jail. She was fined \$500 and will be responsible for paying back \$143,000 in restitution.

S. Dakota Police Return Tennessee Tombstone

SPEARFISH (AP) — South Dakota authorities have returned a 126-year-old tombstone to Tennessee, after it was stolen this summer only to turn up weeks later in a Spearfish alley during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

S.J. Elliot's 1888 tombstone, like that of his wife, is inscribed with the epitaph, "We shall meet again." It was reported stolen from the cemetery in Manchester, Tennessee, in July, the *Black Hills Pioneer* reported.

A resident of Spearfish found Elliot's tombstone in an alley during last month's motorcycle rally, which drew hundreds of thousands of people from around the country to western South Dakota, according to Spearfish police Officer Kale Nelson. He said it would likely remain a mystery how it ended up more than 1,300 miles away from where it was stolen.

Thinking it might have been stolen from a nearby cemetery, Nelson turned to Spearfish's cemetery sexton, Karla Weber, who didn't find a match while searching local records. She then turned to the Internet and was able to find out whose tombstone it was after coming across a website that posts photos and information about graves around the nation.

"It was eerie," she said.

Nelson said how the tombstone traveled to Spearfish probably will remain a mystery. Police shipped the 60-pound stone back to Coffee County, where it arrived in two pieces. Authorities plan to have it restored and returned to its cemetery.

Weber said she shed a few tears knowing the two tombstones will be reunited — as the epitaph says.

"She (Elliot's wife) died in 1885, and the inscription on her stone also reads 'We shall meet again.' And then, boy, let's just say I had a 'moment,'" Weber said.

New Option For Replacing Omaha VA Hospital Eyed

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Turning the Creighton University Medical Center into a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital has surfaced as a new option for replacing Omaha's aging VA facility.

U.S. Rep. Lee Terry, an Omaha Republican, said the option was one of three discussed Tuesday during a meeting between the Nebraska delegation and the head of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert McDonald. The Omaha hospital serves more than 160,000 veterans in the VA's Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. A 2007 study found the current hospital was plagued by problems in its electrical system, heating and cooling systems.

In 2011 the VA unveiled plans for a 1 million-square-foot medical center in Omaha. Congress approved \$56 million to start the project planning, and it was tentatively scheduled to open in 2018. But the rest of the federal funding remains mired on a list of construction projects.

"The good news is there are other options," Terry said Tuesday. "Some that would save them a good third of what it would cost to build a new hospital from the ground up."

Renovating the Creighton hospital could cost about \$250 million, an Omaha engineering firm has said, compared with the \$560 million estimated for a new VA facility. Catholic Health Initiatives' CHI Health announced in August, when it was known as Alegent Creighton Health, that it would close the Creighton hospital, move its inpatient services to Bergan Mercy Medical Center in 2017 and build a

\$35 million outpatient and emergency services facility in north Omaha.

A second option discussed Tuesday was local financing for the new hospital, which would be leased back to the federal government. It would be built on the grounds of the current hospital.

A third option would involve building a smaller VA hospital and leasing space in other Omaha area hospitals.

McDonald seemed to prefer keeping the VA hospital on the current property, Terry said, but McDonald was willing to have the Creighton renovation idea subjected to a feasibility study. The third option drew little discussion, Terry said.

A VA official or a team from Washington is expected to visit Omaha in the next two months to analyze the options.

North Dakota GOP Unveils New Oil Tax Formula

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Communities in western North Dakota's oil-producing region would get more than double their current share of the state's oil tax collections under a new Republican proposal.

GOP leaders held a news conference in the state Capitol on Wednesday to publicize the proposed tax structure that they say will improve infrastructure and services strained by rapid energy development.

"I will guarantee you that if we pass this legislation, you will see light at the end of the tunnel," said Senate Majority Leader Rich Wardner, R-Dickinson. "The whole state of North Dakota is going to benefit from this."

The oil bonanza in North Dakota, the nation's No. 2 oil

producer behind Texas, has left local communities struggling to keep up with huge demands for spending on roads, schools, public works, law enforcement and emergency medical services. Local leaders have pleaded for a larger share of the oil tax revenue.

"We need to make sure we take care of the goose that's laying the golden egg," Wardner said.

Democrats have long called for revamping the tax formula and reiterated their support Wednesday for a change in favor of local governments. But they criticized Republicans, who wield supermajority control in the Legislature, for waiting until now to address the issue.

Senate Minority Leader Mac Schneider, D-Grand Forks, said lawmakers should have taken it up "during the legislative session — not 40 days out from an election."

He called the Republicans' proposal "makeup money" that should have been allocated years ago.

The tax restructuring proposal that will be presented to the Legislature in January is based on an oil and gas tax revenue estimate of \$8.6 billion over the next two-year budget cycle. It would more than double the amount of that revenue for local communities to about \$2.2 billion over the next cycle, a figure that nearly matches the state's entire two-year budget in the mid-1980s.

North Dakota has two primary taxes on oil and gas — a 5 percent production tax and a 6.5 percent extraction tax, both of which are figured on the commodities' value when it is pumped.

The proposed tax formula would revamp a portion of the production tax, setting aside 60 percent to local governments and 40 percent to the state. The fund currently gives 75 percent to the state and 25 percent to local governments.

Western counties, cities and schools are currently assured only about 12 percent of all oil taxes generated in their counties; the proposal would bring their share to 28 percent. The GOP proposal also would set aside about \$177 million to the state's largest cities and school districts.

The GOP proposal comes one week after Republican leaders unveiled an \$800 million one-time spending plan to address immediate problems tied to the oil boom.

OBITUARIES

Evelyn Beran

Evelyn L. Beran, age 99 of Tabor, passed away on Monday, September 22, 2014 at her home.

Funeral services will be held at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel in Tabor on Friday, September 26, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. Visitations will be at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor on Thursday, September 25, 2014 from 5 to 8 p.m. with a 7 pm prayer service. Burial will take place at the ZCJB Cemetery south of Tabor after the funeral service.

Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the memorial chapel.

Evelyn (Blachnik) Beran the only daughter of Emil and Minnie (Jancik) Blachnik was born March 18, 1915 at their newly constructed home in Tabor, and passed away in the same home on September 22, 2014.

As a young child she assisted her parents in their



family Tabor Meat Market. She attended Tabor Public School and graduated from Tabor High School in 1933. After graduation she attended the Samuels Cosmetology School in Sioux Falls. In 1935 she owned and operated the Curly Beauty Shop in Tabor which was the first beauty shop in town.

On October 7, 1940 she was married to Emil Beran at the rural Presbyterian Church west of Tabor. Together they established their home on the farm in the Elm Grove area just southeast of Tabor along highway 50. Their two children, Darrell and Sherry, were born there.

For Evelyn, farm life was quite a change, but she loved it, where there was so much independence with gardening, pets, etc. When harvest was completed the family

took auto trip vacations throughout the entire U.S. After the children grew up, Emil and Evelyn toured by bus and made four trips to Europe, including the home of their ancestors in the Czech Republic where they became acquainted with relatives and corresponded with them and now by computer.

After 68 years on the farm, the Berans retired to their home in Tabor in 2008 and were still active to enjoy the rest of their lives. Evelyn was called upon frequently to translate letters written in Czech and also to answer questions about where people and businesses were located in town. Evelyn compiled family histories on both sides of her family. The Beran's maintained and gave tours of the Blachnik museum which was created by Evelyn's father.

The Beran's were selected as Czech Days parade marshals in 2010. Evelyn was a member of the Tabor

Chamber of Commerce and Czech Heritage Preservation Society.

She is survived by Emil her husband of 73 years, son Darrell (Ann) Beran and daughter Sherry (Dennis) Povondra all of Tabor; grandchildren Brenda Beran of Sioux Falls, Brian (Amy) Beran now living on the family farm southeast of Tabor and Mark Povondra of Tabor; great grandchildren Braden and Maxwell Beran.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a great granddaughter, Ava Grace Underberg.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes for memorials to be directed to the Czech Heritage Preservation Society, P.O. Box 3, Tabor, SD 57063.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 25, 2014



Donald Kennedy

January 25, 1951-May 14, 2014

Donald Henry Kennedy, age 63, of Eastvale, CA entered into eternity and the arms of the Lord on Wednesday afternoon, May 14, 2014, in Los Angeles, following recent hospitalization.

Memorial services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 27, 2014 at St. Boniface Catholic Church, (Idylwilde) rural Freeman, SD with Rev. Randy Phillips officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, is assisting with service details.

Born in Deadwood, South Dakota, Donald was the beloved son of Eugene and Virginia Kennedy. Don was a 1973 graduate of South Dakota State University at Brookings. After obtaining his Bachelor's degree, he worked with electronics companies for over 40 years. Much of that time, Donald spent as Engineering Manager of the PDU division at Eaton Corp



in Irvine. He held a private pilot's license and enjoyed time flying in years past. He also devoted himself to volunteer services for youth; especially coaching and in scouts.

He will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 41 years, Donna Kennedy, their cherished children, Mike, Dr. Jeff Kennedy (& his wife, Dr. Vanessa) and Brian (& Valerie) Kennedy, two adored grandsons, Alexander & Bennett, a sister Kathleen Setters of Utah, as well as by brothers & sisters-in-law and other dear family (including Trixie, his best friend & golden lab retriever) and friends who knew and loved him.

Don now joins his late parents, twin brother David and a sister, Carol — in Eternity.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 25, 2014

Arlene Pleas

Funeral services for Arlene Pleas, 89, of Bloomfield, Nebraska, are at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Christ Memorial United Methodist Church in Bloomfield. The Rev. Trudy Hanke will officiate, with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Friday at Christ Memorial United Methodist Church in Bloomfield.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements.

Arlene died Monday, Sept. 22, 2014, at Bloomfield.

Jo Nickles

Jo Jayne Nickles, 55, of Cody, Wyoming, and formerly of Yankton, died as a result of cancer on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014, at Spirit Mountain Hospice in Cody.

A memorial service is at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the Rev. Rodney Veldhuizen officiating.

The family will receive friends one hour prior the memorial service at the funeral home.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ray J. Hochhalter
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