

Today's services

- **Debbie Van Ness-Nielsen**, 44, of Lincoln, 10:30 a.m., The Northern Lighthouse Church, Lincoln.
- **Geraldine Stahlecker**, 84, of Burwell, 10:30 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church in Burwell.
- **Linda Lu Peacock**, 64, of Grand Island, 2 p.m., Bassett Memorial Park Cemetery.
- **Emma Zimmerman**, 79, of Loup City, 10:30 a.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loup City.
- **David Naber**, 70, of Omaha, 11 a.m., Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, La Vista.

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Local deaths

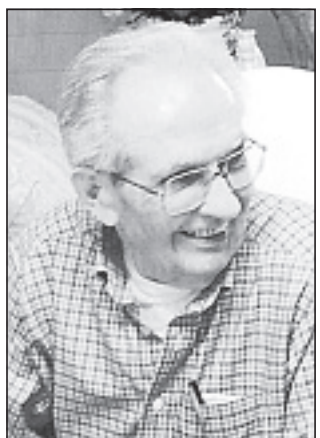
'Dick' Eberl, 83

Richard "Dick" Eberl, 83, of Grand Island died Thursday, March 28, 2013, at Golden Living Center at Lakeview.

Memorial services are pending with All Faiths Funeral Home, with more details to follow.

'Bob' Nielsen, 85

Robert O. "Bob" Nielsen, 85, of Grand Island died Sunday, March 24, 2013, at the VA Medical Center in Omaha.



Mr. Nielsen

Celebration of life service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at All Faiths Funeral Home. Dan Naranjo will officiate. Burial of ashes will be at a later date in Fort McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell.

Mr. Nielsen was born July 9, 1927, at Arkansas City, Kan., the son of Elmer and Martha (Becker) Nielsen.

He is survived by a stepdaughter, Patricia Young of Buffalo Grove, Ill., cousins and a host of friends and co-workers whom he considered family.

Bob was raised in Grand Island, where he graduated from Grand Island Senior High, class of 1945. He entered the United States Navy on June 21, 1945, serving during WWII. He was honorably discharged on May 2, 1946.

He owned and operated Band Box Dry Cleaners on Pine Street between First and Second Street. When Fonner Park opened in 1954, Bob became friends with Jack and Margaret Bertolin, who managed concessions at Fonner. Over time, Bob became an

employee. Bob also managed the Grand Island Saddle Club several times as the interim manager until a new person could be hired. Bob was a key person at Fonner for many years, supervising operations in the Club House, and the last six years was responsible for the concession operations in the Heartland Events Center.

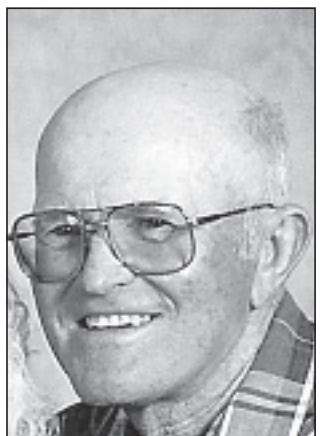
Bob enjoyed golfing, working and spending time with friends. Many will never forget Bob Nielsen and may he rest in peace.

Sign the online guestbook at theindependent.com.

Area death

Ted Spencer, 78

BREWSTER—Ted Spencer, 78, of Brewster died Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.



Mr. Spencer

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Brewster Gymnasium in Brewster, with the Rev. David Hansen officiating. Burial will be in the Brewster Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at Govier Brothers Mortuary in Broken Bow, with family greeting friends from 4 to 6. Memorials are suggested to the Brewster Fire and Rescue Unit.

Ted was born July 8, 1934, at home to Roy and Elma (Copp) Spencer. He grew up on the family ranch and attended rural school through the eighth grade. He continued his education in Brewster and finished with two years in Curtis.

Ted was united in marriage to Shirley Kelly on Aug. 10, 1955. Ted and Shirley lived on the family ranch, working with his parents and brothers. The place was later divided and he continued the ranch work he loved with his wife and children. He took great joy in caring for animals, and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren treasured the opportunity to work alongside him whenever possible.

Ted served on the ASCS board, the Co-op board, and

the Brewster School Board. His greatest pride was his family. He will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Carolyn Spencer of Grand Island; a daughter and son-in-law, Deanna and David Egert of Hallam; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Ima Stapleton and Sandra Erickson, both of Green Valley, Ariz.; Dixie and Duane Gaedke of North Platte; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Edna Spencer of Chadron; four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and 15 stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter and one brother.

Sign the online guestbook at theindependent.com.

Runza Family Fun Day set for Saturday at Fonner

Runza Family Day will be on Saturday at Fonner Park.

Doors open at noon, and post time will be at 1:30 p.m.

The first 500 children will receive a mini Runza sandwich, carrots, fruit snacks, Sierra Mist and a goodie bag.

Other entertainment will include a bounce house and inflatable obstacle course, face painting and coloring contest. The Edgerton Explorit Center and Stuhrt Museum will host interactive exhibits as well.

"Runza Family Day at Fonner Park is a long-standing tradition in mid-Ne-

braska," Marketing Director Becky Perrett said. "The day allows families an opportunity to spend time together, have fun, enjoy the track and the horses."

Police/Sheriff

Anyone with information about any crime in the state may call the Grand Island-Hall County Crime Stoppers, 381-8822. Crime Stoppers guarantees that callers will remain anonymous.

A reward of up to \$1,000 will be paid after law enforcement agencies have determined the seriousness of the crime and the usefulness of the information.

Inmate custody status can be obtained by calling the VINE hotline at (877) NE 4 VINE or by visiting www.vinelink.com. Information is available 24 hours a day.

If you see a crime happening, call the Grand Island-Hall County Emergency Center — 911.

Grand Island Police

The following felonies were reported:

■ A 27-year-old woman reported being sexually assaulted in Grand Island.

■ Tri City Signs, 373 N. Vine St., reported a theft there.

■ Maria I. Gonzalez, 257 S. Kimball, reported a fraud against her by a travel agency in Utah.

■ The abuse of a 3-year-old boy was reported in Grand Island. The child had burns on his neck and back but the injuries were determined to be accidental.

■ The abuse of an 8-year-old boy was reported in Grand Island.

Hall County Jail

The Hall County Jail has 163 inmates/detainees, booked in eight people and released four people.

Court report

Hall County District Court

■ Larry R. Jensen, 53, Grand Island, pleaded not guilty to theft by unlawful taking for an incident that occurred between Dec. 12 and Dec. 13, 2012, involving property of Max Mader. His trial is scheduled for June.

■ Juan L. Corado, 36, 1008 W. Fourth St., pleaded not guilty to third-offense aggravated driving under the influence for a Feb. 2 incident. His trial is scheduled for June.

■ Pal Rambang Koang, 45, 910 N. Boggs Ave., No. 1002, pleaded not guilty to terroristic threats for an Oct. 1, 2012, incident involving Hoth Kuel. His trial is scheduled for June.

Hall County Court

■ Justin L. Rahn, 32, Wauneta, was charged with felony child abuse for a March 16 incident.

■ Kyle L. Christensen, 40, Alda, was charged with theft by unlawful taking for a Sept. 21, 2012, incident involving property of Buck's Moving and Storage.

■ **Driving under the influence:** Greg L. Duncan, 46, 1020 W. Anna St., \$500, six months probation, 60 days no driving; Amanda J. Leggett, 21, Lincoln, \$500, nine months probation, six months no driving, seven days in jail; Corey Ray Hinrichs, 43, 3226 Westside St., \$500, six months probation, 60 days no driving; Jairo Martinez-Fernandez, 18, 709 W. Louise St., \$500, nine months probation, 60 days no driving.

FUGITIVES OF THE WEEK

The following people are wanted on warrants:

■ **Rafael Dominguez-Ramos**, 27, Hispanic male, 5-foot-7, 180 pounds, brown eyes, black hair; wanted for two counts of public indecency for a warrant dated March 19.



Rafael Dominguez-Ramos

■ **Harmonie L. Emerick**, 33, white female, 4-foot-11, 130 pounds, blue eyes, blond hair; wanted for failure to obstruct a police officer, theft by unlawful taking, three counts of theft by shoplifting, trespassing, and possession of drug paraphernalia for a warrant dated March 19.



Harmonie Emerick

■ **Carlos G. Quezada**, 20, Hispanic male, 5-foot-3, 126 pounds, brown eyes, brown hair; wanted for failure to pay for trespassing for a warrant dated March 26.

■ **Jessica A. Aden**, 30, white female, 5-foot-5, 160 pounds, green eyes, blond hair; wanted for failure to pay for theft by shoplifting for a warrant dated March 26.

■ **Hector M. Carbajal**, 20, Hispanic male, 5-foot-9, 257 pounds, brown eyes, black hair; wanted for failure to appear for two counts of driving during suspension for a warrant dated March 26.

■ **Michael T. Donaldson**, 29, white male, 6-foot-2, 205 pounds, green eyes, blond hair; wanted for failure to appear for third-degree domestic assault for a warrant dated March 20.

■ **Sara E. Towey**, 24, white female, 5-foot-6, 175 pounds, brown eyes, brown hair; wanted for failure to appear for third-degree domestic assault for a warrant dated March 20.

■ **Rosalio Vargas Jr.**, 33, Hispanic male, 5-foot-6, 160 pounds, brown eyes, black hair; wanted for failure to appear for trespassing and failure to appear for a warrant dated March 20.

■ **Jordan M. Griess**, 20, white male, 5-foot-8, 195 pounds, brown eyes, black hair; wanted for failure to pay child support payments for a warrant dated March 20.

Hall County Sheriff Jerry Watson's office furnishes this information and has arrest warrants for these individuals on criminal charges. For more information visit www.hallcountyne.gov and click on the sheriff link. If you have information about the location of these fugitives, contact the Hall County Sheriff's Department at 385-5200 or the Grand Island Police Department at 385-5400 or another law enforcement agency.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND A FUGITIVE YOURSELF

News from around the state

Lexington lawyer named to county court judgeship

LEXINGTON (AP) — A Lexington lawyer has named to a judgeship in south-central Nebraska.

A news release from the office of Gov. Dave Heineman on Wednesday says he selected 44-year-old Jeffrey Wightman.

The three other candidates who'd submitted their names are Mark McKeone, Cozad; Gary Peterson, Broken Bow; and Todd Wilson, Elwood.

The vacancy resulted from the retirement of county Judge Carlton Clark. He retired Dec. 31 after serving Dawson and Gosper counties for nearly 13 years in the state's 11th Judicial District.

The district consists of Arthur, Chase, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow and Thomas counties.

Gay rights activist to talk at University of Neb.

LINCOLN (AP) — Gay rights activist Zach Wahls is scheduled to speak about families at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Wahls' talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the auditorium of the Nebraska Union on 14th and R streets.

The 21-year-old became famous for a viral YouTube video that showed him testifying at the Iowa House of Representatives about an amendment to ban gay marriage in the state.

Wahls was raised by lesbian parents who married in Iowa in 2009. He says his family isn't any different than other families.

He now travels the country to advocate for gay-marriage rights. Wahls spoke at the Democratic National Convention last year and thanked President Barack Obama for supporting gay marriage.

Event admission is free for university students and \$5 for non-students.

Woman fired from center sues to get job back

LINCOLN (AP) — A woman fired for not immediately reporting abuse at

the Beatrice State Developmental Center is suing to get her job back.

Raynette Essman, of Beatrice, lost her job in May even though the abuse report turned out to be false. Center officials cited a zero-tolerance policy for her firing.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that Essman filed her lawsuit in Lancaster County District Court this week.

Essman's attorney, Joy Shiffermiller, says she first appealed to the state Department of Health and Human Services and state Personnel Board before suing.

Court records say an employee told her that two co-workers had abused a resident. Essman reported the conversation two days later, but center officials say she should have reported it immediately. The allegation of abuse turned out to be false.

Woman appeals dismissal of discrimination suit

OMAHA (AP) — An Omaha woman is appealing the dismissal of her lawsuit that had accused the state of discriminating against its black employees by offering inferior health insurance to state workers living in Lincoln and Omaha.

A Lancaster County District judge dismissed Sandra Cartwright's lawsuit last year. Cartwright says that in 2007 and 2008, the state offered plans with significantly less coverage to those living in zip codes starting with 680, 681 or 685 — where 96 percent of the state's

black employees lived.

The state has defended the differing plans as equivalent, but stopped the practice in 2009. State officials said cost savings, not allegations of discrimination, led to the change.

The Nebraska Supreme Court will hear arguments in the appeal on Tuesday.

18 Neb. residents fall victim to identity theft

LINCOLN (AP) — At least 18 residents of Lancaster County recently had their identities stolen by thieves who used the information to make more than \$11,000 of fraudulent purchases online.

Most of the victims work for BNSF railroad, but officials say they haven't found any evidence that hackers broke into their computers.

Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner says the thieves set up PayPal accounts with the victim's identities and made purchases. The thieves spent several hundred dollars at a time and usually bought video games.

The thefts started last June, and most of the items purchased were shipped to a storage unit in California.

PayPal covered the purchases in several of the cases, so the victims didn't have to pay for video games they never bought.

Southeast Nebraska plant to close

FALLS CITY (AP) — A Pennsylvania lawn and garden tool company is closing its manufacturing plant in southeast Nebraska's Falls City.

Ames True Temper, a subsidiary of New York-based holding company Griffon Corp., said Wednesday it will close the Falls City plant and consolidate operations at its plant in Camp Hill, Pa.

Ames True Temper says the Falls City plant employs about 35 people. The process of closing the plant will begin shortly, and the plant will be completely closed by December.

The company says employees will be offered severance based on years of service.

Panhandle man faces abuse, drug charges

GERING (AP) — A Nebraska Panhandle man has been accused of physically abusing his two children.

Online court records say 30-year-old Adam Elwess has been charged with two felony counts of child abuse and one of drug possession.

An arrest affidavit says Elwess' 5-year-old son told a school nurse on Monday that he fell into a chair and onto the ground after his father kicked him from behind. The boy had some facial injuries. The boy's 7-year-old sister said her father had grabbed her by the throat and lifted her off the ground.

Elwess was arrested after he was interviewed on Tuesday.

A Scotts Bluff County jailer said Elwess remained in custody on Thursday. Bail has been set at \$70,000. His attorney didn't immediately return a call from The Associated Press.

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