

STATE DIGEST

Huron Murder Suspect

Set To Enter Plea
HURON (AP) — A Huron man charged in a beating death last November is to enter a plea next month.
 The arraignment for 24-year-old Edwin Thompson is scheduled for May 11. He is charged with second-degree murder in the death of 21-year-old Ryan Treadway.
 An autopsy report says Treadway died from blunt force trauma to the head. Thompson is accused of stomping him with his foot during a fight. He is being held without bail.
 Thompson faces life in prison without parole if convicted.

Flight Diverted To S.D. As Emergency

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — United Airlines and federal officials say a flight from the Washington, D.C., area to Seattle made an emergency landing in South Dakota after the crew smelled smoke.
 United spokesman Charlie Hobart says the crew aboard Flight 917, a Boeing 757 jet, began smelling smoke about an hour after takeoff from Dulles International Airport on Wednesday night. He says pilots decided to divert to Sioux Falls, S.D. No one was injured.
 The 166 passengers waited for several hours before another plane was able to take them to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Two Face Charges Over \$4M Pot Seizure

PIERRE (AP) — Two men face drug charges following the seizure of \$4 million of marijuana on Interstate 90.
 A new release from state Attorney General Marty Jackley says the pot was seized April 8. Few other details of the seizure were released. A message left late Thursday with Jackley's office was not immediately returned.
 The release says two men face drug charges in Pennington and Aurora counties.

S.D. Wind Farm Begins Operations

GROTON (AP) — A wind farm in northeastern South Dakota has begun operating.
 The 66-turbine Day County Wind Project about 20 miles east of Groton is owned and operated by Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources. Construction began last October. A dedication ceremony is planned June 22.
 The wind farm has a generating capacity of 99 megawatts. One megawatt is enough to power about 800 typical residential homes.

South Dakota-based East River Electric Power Cooperative built transmission line to connect the wind farm to the grid. Bismarck, N.D.-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative has committed to buying the power, though during the first three years the electricity will be sold to the Western Area Power Administration, a federal power marketing agency.

Rock Near S.D. Highway To Be Blasted

DEADWOOD (AP) — Crews over the next few weeks will be blasting and excavating about 17,000 cubic yards of rock between Deadwood and Central City in western South Dakota.
 Officials say recent rains loosened rock on top of a rock wall, making it a threat to traffic on U.S. Highway 14A. Citifast Construction spokesman Jim Wilder says it's a dangerous situation.
 Wilder says the blasting project should be completed by Memorial Day. In the meantime, motorists can expect delays.

Tribal Center Fire Started In Bedroom

RAPID CITY (AP) — Investigators have not yet determined what caused a fire at a treatment center serving the Oglala Sioux tribe, but they have determined where the blaze started.
 The Rapid City Fire Department says the Saturday afternoon fire that destroyed the Hope Lodge at Sioux San Hospital started in a group bedroom.
 Residents were evacuated but one man who returned to the burning building to retrieve belongings suffered burns to his arms and legs.
 Fire officials say the hospital building had a fire detection and alarm system that worked but not a sprinkler system that could have helped to contain the fire.

Neb. Senator: Parts Of Omaha 'War Zone'

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — State Sen. Brad Ashford says he doesn't think the gang and gun violence in Omaha is that bad yet, but if it gets worse, he could see the National Guard patrolling hot spots.
 Nearly a dozen people have been killed so far this year, with many more wounded.
 The Omaha senator likened portions of north Omaha to a war zone and said Thursday that calling up the National Guard "is an extreme solution ... but this is not an ordinary problem."
 Ashford says he doesn't think Mayor Jim Suttle has requested such support and doesn't think he will.
 Suttle's spokesman Ron Gerard says the mayor has made no such request and doesn't intend to.
 A spokesman for the Nebraska National Guard said he could not immediately comment.

Witness: Man Supplied Gun In 1975 S.D. Slaying

RAPID CITY (AP) — A man serving a life sentence for his role in the 1975 slaying of an American Indian Movement activist testified Thursday that he witnessed another man supply the gun used in the killing.
 Arlo Looking Cloud testified Thursday in the federal trial for Richard Marshall, who has pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting in the death of AIM activist Annie Mae Aquash. Looking Cloud said Marshall gave a .32-caliber revolver and a box of shells to one of the AIM members with Looking Cloud the night Aquash was killed at a South Dakota Indian reservation.
 Looking Cloud was convicted of murder in 2004 for his role in Aquash's death and was sentenced to life in prison. Marshall's lawyer, Dana Hanna, says Looking Cloud's testimony is not credible.
 Prosecutors claim AIM leaders ordered Aquash killed because they thought she was a government informant — something federal investigators have denied.

Prosecutors say she was taken from Denver, where she was hiding from an illegal weapons charge, and driven to South Dakota.
 After many unsuccessful attempts to get the case to court, Looking Cloud and the alleged gunman, John Graham, were indicted in 2003.
 Looking Cloud testified that he saw Marshall pull a box out of a night stand in the bedroom of his house. "He opens the box, and there's a pistol in it," Looking Cloud testified.

Looking Cloud said Marshall gave the gun to Theda Clarke, who eventually gave it to Graham. Hours later, Graham shot Aquash in the back of the head in the Badlands of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Looking Cloud told the jury.
 Graham, who is from Canada's Yukon territory and belongs to the Southern Tutchone tribe, awaits trial in state court. Federal charges were dropped after federal courts concluded the U.S. did not have jurisdiction because he does not

belong to an American Indian tribe.
 Hanna questioned Looking Cloud about conflicting statements he gave to law enforcement and witnesses about the Aquash case, including whether he and the other AIM members stopped at Marshall's house the night of the slaying and whether Marshall gave Clarke the gun. Hanna said Looking Cloud owned the gun and handed it to Graham at the crime scene, which Looking Cloud denied.

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