

Man Critical After Being Found In Lake

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 60-year-old man was in critical condition after being pulled from an eastern Nebraska lake.

Lancaster County Sheriff's Sgt. Phil Lang says the man was seen swimming in Branched Oak Lake Sunday afternoon shortly before boaters found him floating in the water.

The boaters pulled the man from the water and called 911 around 12:30 p.m. Then bystanders performed CPR on the man for more than 25 minutes until paramedics arrived.

The man was flown to a Lincoln hospital. His name was not immediately released.

Neb. State Fair Succeeding In New Home

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska State Fair has successfully settled into its new home in Grand Island, and organizers are looking forward to this year's version that begins Friday and runs through Labor Day.

When the fair moved from Lincoln to Grand Island in 2010 to make way for a new University of Nebraska-Lincoln research park, organizers had to offer financial guarantees to vendors.

This year, vendor space sold out in April and a waiting list for next year is growing. And carnival operators have been competing to run the fair's rides.

Fair executive director Joe McDermott said attendance is now regularly higher in Grand Island than it was in its last years in Lincoln, excluding the final year.

In addition to carnival rides and fattening fried foods on a stick, the fair showcases Nebraska's top industry: agriculture.

And the move to Grand Island led to an improvement in the facilities for agricultural events. McDermott said the livestock facilities in Grand Island are much better lit and central to the fairgrounds.

The fair's renewed focus on livestock and agriculture has helped attendance grow. But McDermott said fair officials will continue to court Lincoln and Omaha residents.

Those two cities are home to much of the state's population, over the past three years, Lincoln and Omaha residents accounted for only about 16 percent of the fair crowd.

Woman Stabbed With Own High-Heels

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A 40-year-old Lincoln woman is recovering after being stabbed in the face with her own high-heeled shoe.

Lincoln Police Capt. David Beggs said the woman was assaulted early Sunday in a downtown alley while she stood near her car.

Beggs says the victim was approached by a 28-year-old woman, and the two began to argue.

The younger woman grabbed one of the victim's shoes and struck her in the face with it. Beggs says the shoe stuck in the woman's cheek, and then the woman punched and kicked the victim.

The 40-year-old was treated at a Lincoln hospital and released. The 28-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of assault.

Neb. Couple Weds At Demolition Derby

STANTON, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska couple who met while helping organize demolition derbies got married at one this weekend.

KTIV television reports that James Rosno and Tracy Anderson exchanged vows Friday night at the Stanton County Fair's demolition derby.

The two fell in love while working together organizing demolition derbies for nearly two decades.

But the couple's shared passion for automotive carnage made it hard to find a free weekend for their wedding.

So they invited about 1,000 friends to the fair for their wedding.

Tracy Rosno says most of their friends were supportive, but they did endure some good-natured teasing about holding a "redneck wedding."

Corps Archaeologists Study Missouri River's Past

BY LANCE NIXON
Capital Journal

PIERRE — Sometimes during high water the Missouri River will carve away one of its banks like an old man turning out his pockets to bring things to light — scrapers and knives made of Knife River flint, hoes and squash knives made of bison bone, 19th century toy horses made of pewter or cast iron.

And U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff archaeologists are there afterward to pick up the pieces, or at least to assess what's been uncovered, the *Capital Journal* reported.

Richard Harnois, the senior field archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Omaha District's Oahe Project Office, said he and field archaeologist Megan Maier work in an area from about Yankton to Bismarck, N.D. Though they might be called on for archaeological expertise anywhere in South Dakota, much of their work is along the Missouri River.

But their main job isn't the relentless search for artifacts that people associate with archaeology, Harnois said, and the river's habit of uncovering things can be a problem sometimes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers simply doesn't have the funds to do a systematic investigation every time the river turns over something interesting.

"We still have a problem with erosion along the river. It does give us a window into what's there archaeologically," Harnois said. "But our main objective isn't the scientific inquiry, but trying to preserve this for the people."

The main technique the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses to guard fragile locations, Harnois said, is placing rip-rap or armor along cut-backs or locations that are suffering erosion. In areas where water levels are stable, the Corps can also use willow plantings, but the wide fluctuations in the Missouri River reservoirs rule out plantings in some locations.

One thing that's certain: The Missouri River valley is one of the more interesting features archaeologically in the region, Harnois and Maier say, for the same reason that it's a recreational focus to this day.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Low water levels have allowed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff Archaeologists to take a look at history being uncovered by the water's erosion.

"People now gravitate to the same areas for the same reasons that people for millennia have gravitated toward those areas — shade, shelter, resources," Harnois said. "It provided a source of food and water. That's the basis for prehistoric habitation is a water source."

In addition, a river was an avenue of transport.

Harnois, whose special area of interest is historic archaeology, or delving into the past for which written records exist, said it's well-known that the Missouri was the highway for fur trappers and traders to move goods up and down the river. But he said archaeological work suggests prehistoric trade was already bringing goods from far and wide to sites up and down the Missouri.

"The Missouri was the I-90 of prehistoric times. They moved up and down it," Harnois said.

Archaeologists know that because of the variety of materials from which projectile points and other tools are made.

A favorite was Knife River flint, quarried in ancient times in what is now North Dakota.

"It's definitely a preferred material. It was very highly sought after," Harnois said. And, he adds, it was probably a medium of trade. "I would imagine some of the materials we see from other areas are probably the result of Knife River flint."

Those other materials that might show up in the Missouri River's prehistoric settlements include obsidian, a volcanic glass from locations such as the Yellowstone area that is rare, but not unknown in the area; Bijou Hills

quartzite, from a region between Chamberlain and Platte, farther south in South Dakota; Black Hills plate chert; and a material called Tongue River silicified sediment, or TRSS, found in northwest South Dakota and southwest North Dakota.

Maier adds that bone fish-hooks, and squash knives and hoes made from bison bones, are also among the materials found in old villages. In some cases, she said, archaeologists have found the unfinished patterns from which ancient people were carving items such as fish hooks.

They were careful craftsmen, and among the other finds along the Missouri River are gunflints made by hand by Native Americans in historic times to equip flintlock rifles.

Sadly, Harnois said, trained archaeologists are not the only ones looking for traces of the past. Part of Corps archaeologists' job is to protect sites from looters, and reclaim artifacts in cases where they catch looters. At the Oahe Project Office north of Pierre, for example, there are recovered pottery shards and stone tools that may originally have come from prehistoric Mandan and Arikara sites in the area.

"Our problem with this kind of artifact is that we don't have any context. We don't know where it came from and what other artifacts were next to it in the ground," Harnois said. Although specialists can often tell what tribe or people group often made an artifact, and in roughly what period, much additional knowledge is lost.

"There could have been seeds or other materials that would have told us what they

were eating," Harnois said. "You can learn a lot from that context when it's carefully excavated under controlled conditions. But when looters come and take it away, it's just an artifact."

Maier said historical archaeology can be just as fascinating because written records provide additional context for the artifacts that are found, as well as the people who used them. Browsing in old newspapers and other documents fills in some of the questions.

"You meet these weird historical characters," Maier said.

Maier adds that the historical record makes it clear that frontier trading posts on the Missouri River, though remote from civilization, were driven by a European fashion that favored beaver hats for a time. That, in turn, speeded up the process of settling the Missouri River country.

"It's interesting to think how that market accelerated the process," Maier said. "And it's all in the name of fashion."

This summer, the archaeologists of the Oahe Project Office, working with assistant state archaeologist Michael Fosha and volunteers — including a troop of fourth- and fifth-grade students — to delve into a site that may be the old Fort Galpin in what is now Stanley County.

Fort Galpin was a site briefly occupied by the American Fur Company in 1856 and 1857 after the company sold the nearby Fort Pierre Chouteau to the military. Traders stayed at the fort for only a year while completing the second Fort Pierre.

Though archaeologists can't say beyond a shadow of a doubt that what they found was Fort Galpin, they found plenty of signs of activity from that 19th century fur trade period — fragments of a kaolin clay tobacco pipe, bits of brick and mortar, flat glass, bottle glass, glass beads made for trade with Native American tribes, and lots of square nails.

Whether or not it's the historic Fort Galpin, it's all evidence of the central South Dakota's importance in the fur trade era, Harnois said.



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