

Teen Charged In Murder Faces Sentence

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska teen convicted of attempted assault could see his sentencing postponed while he faces a second-degree murder charge for the stabbing death of his grandmother.

The *Columbus Telegram* reports that 19-year-old Chase Micklevitz is charged with second-degree murder and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony in the death of 58-year-old Deanna Micklevitz.

Chase Micklevitz has a Wednesday court hearing scheduled for the murder charge and a Friday sentencing hearing in the assault case.

His public defender, Nathan Sohriakoff, says he will file a motion to postpone the sentencing until both cases are resolved.

Chase Micklevitz pleaded guilty to attempted assault by a confined person in connection with the March 15 incident at the county jail. He was accused of assaulting two corrections officers.

Libertarians Tab Bosworth's Husband

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Libertarian Party in South Dakota has nominated the husband of former U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth for attorney general.

The *Argus Leader* reports the Libertarians nominated Chad Haber on Saturday.

Haber prevailed over former U.S. Senate candidate Kurt Evans and former attorney general candidate Bob Newland.

Haber accused incumbent Attorney General Marty Jackley of "corruption" and said he's running primarily to unseat Jackley.

Jackley told the newspaper that Haber's remarks are off base.

Jackley's office is currently prosecuting Bosworth for election violations. She is charged with six counts each of perjury and filing false documents, which carry a maximum punishment of 24 years in prison and \$48,000 in fines.

Hwy. Between Pierre, Sturgis Closing

HOWES (AP) — The major byway between Pierre and Sturgis is closing for about five weeks, so the state's urging drivers to avoid the 76-mile detour.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation says the 2 1/2 mile stretch of Highway 34 east of Howes will be closed on Monday just east of the Highway 73 North junction.

A contractor has to repair erosion from heavy rains on dams for Howes Lake and Lake Buffalo.

While the road is closed, travelers from the east are being detoured north on Highway 63 to Highway 212, then west on Highway 212 to Highway 73 at Faith and south on Highway 73 back to Highway 34. Travelers from the west will be detoured north on 73, east on 212 and south on 63 back to Highway 34.

Man Dies In Rollover Near Keystone

KEYSTONE (AP) — A 61-year-old man is dead following a rollover crash in western South Dakota.

The state's Department of Public Safety on Sunday said Kenneth Dahn was driving eastbound on Medill Street in Keystone when he left the roadway, drove up the concrete rail and rolled the vehicle into the creek below. Authorities say the 2006 Chevy Silverado came to rest on its roof.

The incident happened around 10:10 p.m. Saturday.

The Keystone man died at a Rapid City hospital from injuries sustained in the crash.

OBITUARIES

Sharon Koupal

Sharon Jo'Ett Koupal, 74, of Yankton died Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, at Avera Yankton Care Center in Yankton.

A memorial service will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton with the Rev. David Wildermuth officiating. Burial of the urn will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

The family will receive friends at the church starting at noon Wednesday.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Don Bonneau

Don Bonneau, 68, of Hartington, Nebraska, died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, at his residence.

His services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Kirstan Roubideaux

Kirstan DeAnna Roubideaux, 7, was called by God to be one of his precious angels on Friday, Aug. 8, 2014.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at St. George Catholic Church in Scotland with the Rev. Randy Phillips officiating. Burial will be at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation is from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the church with a vigil service at 6:30 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton. To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Hal Lansdowne

Hal Ardell Lansdowne, 84, of Gayville died Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Memorial services are at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday evening at the funeral home.

Inurnment will be at the Bon Homme Cemetery in rural Springfield at a later date.

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

Harry Batcheller

Harry Batcheller, 64, of Yankton died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Services are pending with the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, who are assisting with the arrangements.

Franklin Lefler

Franklin Lefler, 83, of Yankton died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton.

Vlasta Christensen

Vlasta Christensen, 89, of Yankton died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, at the Yankton Care Center.

Funeral services are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton.

Nebraska

Nurse-Practitioner Bill Backers Will Try Again

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A vetoed bill that would have given nurse practitioners in Nebraska more independence will come up for debate again next year in the Legislature.

Sen. Sue Crawford of Bellevue said she plans to again introduce the measure, which Gov. Dave Heineman vetoed in the last session despite strong support from lawmakers.

The bill would have removed a requirement that nurse practitioners secure a written agreement to consult with a doctor before they can practice in Nebraska. The so-called integrated practice agreements are designed to ensure that a physician is available for collaboration or referral if a patient doesn't respond to treatment.

Instead, the bill would have allowed nurse practitioners to work in Nebraska if they accumulated 2,000 hours of experience under the supervision of a more seasoned nurse practitioner.

Heineman vetoed the legislation in April, citing concerns for patient safety. Lawmakers had approved the bill on a 43-0 vote, but the session ended before they were able to attempt an override. The governor is leaving office in January due to term limits.

Crawford said she has reached out to

all of the senators who are returning to the Legislature next year as well as candidates for the Legislature, seeking their support and asking them to contact her with questions.

The proposal won't affect the requirement that nurses consult with doctors about especially complex matters.

Crawford said groups such as the National Governors Association, Veterans' Affairs and the Institute of Medicine have called for the elimination of the agreements. A report by the Federal Trade Commission concluded that the agreements amount to a restriction on trade.

In addition, Crawford said, hundreds of studies have confirmed that nurse practitioners provide safe and efficient care.

"These are well-established entities that have looked at this question from a fairly objective perspective and come to the same conclusion," Crawford said. "It's rare to have an instance where the evidence is so overwhelming on one side."

Supporters of the bill said the integrated practice agreements make it harder to recruit and retain nurse practitioners, who could help reduce health care shortages in rural Nebraska.

Heineman said in his veto letter that he spoke with Nebraska Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joseph Acierno, who expressed concerns about patient safety. Heineman said he would have signed the measure if

lawmakers had required at least 4,000 hours of supervision for new nurse practitioners, instead of 2,000.

However, the agreement required between nurse practitioners and doctors in Nebraska isn't demanded in the District of Columbia or 17 states, including neighboring Colorado, Iowa and Wyoming, according to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Nurse practitioners in rural areas may not have easy access to doctors who can sign the required agreement, so they can't establish a practice, said Tara Whitmire, legislative chairwoman of the Nebraska Nurse Practitioners.

In addition, some physicians aren't allowed to sign agreements with practitioners outside their health organization. Some doctors charge fees for the agreement that cost hundreds or thousands of dollars a month, Whitmire said.

Whitmire said Nebraska is already losing nurse practitioners to Iowa, and other states are aggressively recruiting health care providers to help treat aging residents.

"This has become more and more of an issue as evidence accumulates that this is an appropriate and cost-effective thing to do," Whitmire said.

The Nebraska Medical Association opposes the bill because of concerns about patient safety, said Dr. Richard Blatny Sr., the group's president-elect.

Nebraska Same-Sex Marriage Ban Remains Unwavering

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — As state bans on same-sex marriages fall across the country, some Nebraska officials are holding strong to that state's status of having one of the nation's most restrictive laws, which affects some of the most basic aspects of gay couples' lives — from driver's licenses to parenting rights.

Nebraska voters passed a state constitutional amendment in 2000 banning same-sex marriages, civil unions or even legalized domestic partnerships, and it has withstood all legal challenges. The state's hard-line stance is especially jarring when compared to neighboring Iowa, which was one of the first states to legalize same-sex marriage in 2009, says Charlie Joughin, spokesman for Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign.

"If you live in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and work in Omaha, just driving across the (Missouri) river, you immediately lose any and all legal connection to your spouse and your family," he said.

Federal appeals courts cov-

ering nearly half the United States will soon hear arguments on gay marriage, after numerous bans were struck down in the last eight months. A federal judge ruled Nebraska's ban was unconstitutional in 2005, but an 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel reversed the decision a year later.

Sue Stroesser, 51, learned how far-reaching Nebraska's ban is when she recently moved back to Omaha after spending years in Washington state and Iowa. Stroesser and her partner of 30 years were married in Iowa in 2009, and she took her spouse's last name.

She had no trouble getting a new Social Security card and passport with her married name. But when she went to a Department of Motor Vehicles branch this summer for a new Nebraska driver's license, she was denied.

Stroesser had held a Nebraska driver's license years earlier under her maiden name. When the clerk asked for documentation to corroborate the name change, Stroesser provided her marriage certificate. The DMV wouldn't accept that, Stroesser was told, and a pass-

port or Social Security card wouldn't work, either.

"I was in tears," Stroesser said. "I couldn't believe it. I just had this overwhelming feeling of injustice. I just picked up my papers and left."

The agency's legal director told Stroesser that in order for a license with the married name, she'd have to have it legally changed through the court system. Nebraska DMV Director Rhonda Lahm said her agency is simply following state law, and noted that the policy rejecting out-of-state, same-sex marriage licenses was in place before she took over.

Lahm also acknowledged she has the authority to change that policy — but won't.

"I feel that I'm following the Nebraska Constitution," she said. "If the courts determine and say, 'You need to do something different,' we would do what the courts say."

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled it was unconstitutional to deny federal benefits to same-sex married couples under the federal Defense of Marriage Act, but it stopped short of forcing states to legalize or recognize gay marriage.

Study

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the journal *Nature Climate Change*. Peter Erickson, lead author, said his work implies that the pipeline could basically wipe out reductions from some potential pollution-cutting policies under discussion.

The State Department declined to comment on the research by Erickson and co-author Michael Lazarus.

Lower prices may sound good, but there's no free lunch, said Wesleyan Univer-

sity environmental economist Gary Yohe, who praised the work.

"Lower fuel prices are bad if they don't include all of the social costs," Yohe wrote in an email. "Consumers are happy, but the planet is not necessarily."

An increase of 121 million tons of carbon dioxide is dwarfed by the 36 billion tons of carbon dioxide the world pumped into the air in 2013. That's why University of Sussex economist Richard Tol dismissed the calculated Keystone effect as merely a drop in the bucket. If somebody is concerned about climate change, he wrote in an

email, the pipeline "should be the furthest from your mind."

Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie Institution of Washington agreed the amount is small, but said the concern is more about the idea of boosting emissions than the degree of change.

Independent energy economist Judith Dworkin in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, dismissed the study, faulting the idea that added oil production will lower the price and boost demand. Usually, she said, it's consumption that spurs price and then oil production.

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244 DUI Busts Reported In Connection With Rally

STURGIS (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says it tallied 244 DUI arrests during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The Patrol says a total of 252 people were arrested for misdemeanor drug offenses and 90 for felony drug offenses. Authorities seized more than \$25,000 in cash during the annual event.

DUI arrests were down compared to the rally in 2013, but the amount of money seized almost doubled from last year.

The 74th rally started Monday. Organizers have expected attendance to surpass the 466,000 who made the annual trek last year.

The Department of Public Safety says 68 crashes that resulted in injuries — four of them fatal — were reported during the week. The number of fatalities is down by 2 compared to 2013.

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

- Donna Lubbers who passed away on August 15, 2013
- Marilyn Cooley who passed away on August 16, 2013
- Dan Nedved who passed away on August 11, 2010
- David Kortan who passed away on August 9, 2010

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