

Neb. Bar Pleads Guilty To Selling To Minors

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The owners of a bar where two teenagers allegedly drank before a fatal crash have pleaded guilty to a different violation at another location.

The Omaha World-Herald reports the owners of the Fire Barn Bar and Grill pleaded guilty to a violation Tuesday before a formal hearing in Lincoln. They're also paying a \$500 fine to avoid a 10-day liquor license suspension. Bar employees at the bar's Papillion location have been accused of serving a minor.

An employee at the bar's Waterloo location was charged this month with serving alcohol to an 18-year-old man who later died in a rollover crash in west Omaha. A second teenager was injured.

A formal hearing to deal with the Waterloo incident has not been scheduled.

S.D. Police Chief Fired

WORTHING (AP) — Worthing city commissioners are searching for a new police chief after firing Roger Knutson from the post.

Commissioners alleged "repeated unprofessional conduct" during the Tuesday night vote. City Manager Jeff Tanner declined to elaborate to The Associated Press on Wednesday, saying he didn't want to comment on a personnel matter.

Knutson worked for 24 years in law enforcement. He tells the Argus Leader that he has submitted an appeal in writing. He says that he'd had no trouble in his position until Tanner was hired three years ago.

Tanner declined to respond to that allegation and said the city is shifting its focus to finding a new police chief as soon as possible.

Neb. Drivers To See Drop At Gas Pump

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska gas tax rate is set to drop slightly, meaning Nebraska drivers will see a drop in the price at the pump.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports the Nebraska Department of Revenue has announced that state gas tax rate for Jan. 1 through June 30 will decrease 1.6 cents, from 26.2 cents per gallon to 24.6 cents.

On a 13-gallon fill up, that's nearly 21 cents.

It's the lowest rate since the first six months of 2008, when the tax rate was 23 cents a gallon.

Neb. Gun Certificate Requests Surge

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb.— Sheriffs in Nebraska's three largest counties are reporting record requests for firearm certificates in the wake of last week's school shooting in Connecticut.

Officials in Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster counties said Wednesday that they've each recorded single-day highs this week in certificate applications. The certificates are good for three years, and can be used to buy more than one gun.

Douglas County Sheriff Chief Deputy Martin Bilek said his office processed an all-time high of 115 applications on Tuesday, and denied seven other requests. The Sarpy County sheriff's office received about 80 requests Tuesday. In Lincoln, Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner said his office received a record of 63 requests on Monday.

Wagner estimated his office had previously averaged 10 applications a day. The office has received 382 requests so far in December, he said, more than twice the 152 applications filed in December 2011.

The yearly totals have also grown since 2007, and spiked in October 2008 — the month before President Barack Obama won the presidency.

"Now that we're doing 63 on Monday — holy moly!" Wagner said.

Officials say the increases may be driven by fears that the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., will inspire new gun-control laws.

Hall County Sheriff Jerry Watson said his office saw a similar spike in certificate requests when Obama first came into office in early 2009. He said his own department struggled to buy ammunition at the time, because manufacturers were swamped with requests. He said his deputies waited nine months for bullets that usually takes 30 to 60 days to arrive.

Smaller counties have seen increases this week as well. Grand Island Police chief Steven Lamken said his department has received 53 requests within the last week, compared with 63 in the preceding three weeks.

Sarpy County Sheriff's Capt. John Kucer said his department saw the number of requests increase to 36 on Friday, the day of the shooting, compared with the average of 20 to 25 per day. The number rose again to 41 on Monday, and hit the record of 80 on Tuesday.

Kucer said the agency has shifted some staff into the office to deal with the influx, and some workers are on overtime to run background checks and process all the requests.

Fed. Incentives For Wind Set To Expire Soon

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — South Dakota Sen. Tim Johnson warned Wednesday that key federal incentives for wind power are set to expire in less than two weeks, and he worried their renewal may get lost as negotiations over the fiscal cliff dominate Congress' efforts.

The production tax credit provides a 2.2-cent tax break for every kilowatt-hour of electricity produced from large-scale wind farms, which in South Dakota have a capacity to produce about 784 megawatts of power.

Johnson, a Democrat, said the Senate Finance Committee included an extension of the credit through 2013 in its August tax extender package, "but it's wrapped in the 21 other extenders, and we'll see what happens."

The credit was first enacted under President George H.W. Bush and backed by several

prominent Republicans. But some conservative House members objected to its extension this summer, arguing it was wasteful spending. Elimination of the break was later written into the GOP party platform.

"The delays in addressing the wind production tax credit have hampered growth and led to layoffs," Johnson said during a conference call Wednesday. "With stable policy, we would be seeing more jobs in South Dakota."

President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner are continuing negotiations meant to head off hundreds of billions of

dollars in broad tax increases and budget-wide spending cuts due to be triggered in early January.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., who in the past has supported the wind farm tax credit, or the protection tax credit, said the main fiscal issues need to be addressed first.

"The two issues, fiscal cliff and PTC, are not mutually exclusive as an agreement to avert the pending fiscal cliff is the most likely legislative route for an extension of expiring provisions like the PTC," he said in a statement Wednesday.

All I Want For Christmas...

*What would you like from Santa?
Here's what some of our local youngsters have in mind?*

Knox
4 years old
Yankton, SD
I would like some some Thomas the Train toys and movies. And also, Toy Story stuff. Have a safe flight and I will leave some food for you and the reindeers.

Brody Holland
2 years old
Yankton, SD
I would like some stackable cups, action figures and some cars and stuff. Thanks Santa.

Hunter B
Yankton, SD
I want ben10 Ominiverse for xbox 360. I want an ipod touch. I want anything ben10 omiverse.

Hudson B
Yankton, SD
I would like some WWE action figures and our neighbor Caden as my brother. Could you please bring dog treats for my dog. I have tried to be good every day. Love you.

Ellie
Frogjump, Tennessee
Dear Santa,
Hope u had a good year. Thanks for last years presents. this year i would like a blue 3ds, games and case for it, barbies stuff, ken doll, legos, and maybe american girl doll stuff if thats not to much to ask for. i will leave u some milk and cookies and food for your wonderful reindeer. I hope you have a great and safe trip. love you lots, Ellie

Brody B
Yankton, SD
For Christmas I want an iPhone 5, Halo 4, Easton stealth rs youth composite hockey stick and a Reebok medium wheeled equipment backpack. I have tried to be good.

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Holiday Open House

Friday, December 21 | 9am - 4pm

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Christmas Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closing at noon on Monday, December 24.

The following deadlines will apply:
Wednesday, December 26 newspaper – Thursday, December 20, 5 p.m.
Thursday, December 27 newspaper – Friday, December 21, 5 p.m.
Friday, December 28 newspaper – Monday, December 24, noon
Wednesday, January 2 newspaper – Thursday, December 27, 5 p.m.
Thursday, January 3 newspaper – Friday, December 28, 5 p.m.
Friday, January 4 newspaper – Monday, December 31, noon
Out On The Town will run Monday, Dec. 24 & Thursday, Dec. 27 – Deadline Wednesday, December 19, 5 p.m.

There will be no newspaper on Tuesday, December 25, 2012.

YANKTON DAILY

PRESS & DAKOTAN

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