

## Omaha Police Investigating Fatal Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police are investigating an early morning shooting that killed one person and left another hospitalized. Authorities responded to the 1600 block of Harney Street shortly before 3:30 a.m. Saturday to investigate a crowd disturbance. The first officer to arrive heard multiple gunshots, and witnesses in the area directed the officer to a person fleeing from the scene. The officer detained the person, who was not identified.

Police found two victims at the scene suffering from gunshot wounds. Both were taken to Nebraska Medical Center, where one has since died.

Omaha police have not identified either victim. Authorities say they are still investigating, but urge anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers at 402-444-7867.

## State Fair Eyes Boost In Some Budget Areas

HURON (AP) — The manager of the South Dakota State Fair says he expects the annual event to be able to boost some budget areas this year, particularly in entertainment, marketing and equipment rental. Jerome Hertel tells KOKK radio that years of increasing attendance and upward revenue are giving the fair confidence as it prepares for this summer. He says the fair will be in the black as of the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

The state fair has seen its state appropriation drop in previous years, but Hertel expects lawmakers to stabilize funding at the \$268,000 received last year.

Offseason events account for 25 percent of the fair's revenue. Hertel says the Wally Byam International Airstream Caravan will bring about 500 of the rounded, silver campers to the fairgrounds.

## Fleeing Driver Just Had License Reinstated

MITCHELL (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota man arrested for leading police on a high-speed chase earlier this month had his driver's license revoked for 25 years before a judge recently reinstated it.

Justin Hofer, of Ethan, is charged with aggravated eluding, reckless driving and driving with a revoked driver's license. Mitchell police say the 30-year-old Hofer exceeded 100 mph, nearly struck several vehicles, ignored traffic signals and drove through a ditch to pass a vehicle. Police called off the chase for safety reasons.

Hofer's license was suspended for 25 years in 2007 after his fourth drunken driving conviction. Judge Sean M. O'Brien reinstated the driving privileges on Jan. 1 after Hofer met conditions set during the original suspension.

The *Mitchell Daily Republic* says Hofer could not be reached for comment.

## Environmentalist Finds Himself In Tree Trouble

RAPID CITY (AP) — A noted South Dakota environmentalist is accused in federal court of changing marks on trees set for a timber sale near his home, so that more trees would be cut down.

Authorities say Brian Brademeyer painted over marks on more than 20 pines trees on U.S. Forest Service land across the fence from his Black Hills home. He faces up to six months in jail for the misdemeanor citation.

Brademeyer has fought the Forest Service on timber-cutting projects for many years. He tells the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/ABX-uj0>) he had hoped there would never be a timber sale, but says he wanted the meadow restored to enhance the view from his property.

Former Forest Service spokesman Frank Carroll, who retired in January, says Brademeyer was acting on "pure selfish reasons."

# Stevens

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live in the Middle East," she added. "What country that would be, I don't know."

The Arabic language is simpler than English in some ways, according to Stevens.

"There is not a lot of fluff," she said. "There is the past tense and present tense. That's it. Once you get past reading right to left and making the new sounds, everything is so straight to the point that the grammar seems natural. There is nothing that doesn't make sense."

Stevens first learned the Arabic alphabet last summer, so she has less than a year with the language. The full-immersion program will allow her to not only pick up more of the language but the culture.

"If they asked me to wear a veil, I don't think I would have a problem doing that," she said. "I'm

there to learn about the culture, and you can't understand a language until you understand the culture. I don't want to be one of those Americans who refuses to accept that there are differences between cultures and believes our culture is the only way."

Despite some apprehension about his teenage daughter living overseas for the summer, Mike Stevens believes it is a great opportunity for Sadie to learn.

"Whatever reading you do about learning a language, the immersion process always seems to be the best way to learn it," he said. "It becomes second nature to you."

Stevens said he is glad his daughter is passionate about her studies and hope she is an example to other young students to follow their aspirations.

"It's important for kids in the Midwest to realize that the education you get here in Yankton allows you to go and do anything," he said.

## Nebraska

# Bill Irks Gay-Rights Supporters

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
 Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Gay rights advocates are preparing to fight a bill in the Nebraska Legislature that would prevent cities from enforcing local rules to protect gays and transgendered people from discrimination.

Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy says his proposal would ensure that businesses are not subjected to piecemeal regulations by cities and counties. But opponents claim it's designed to pre-empt an Omaha anti-discrimination measure.

Omaha City Councilman Ben Gray has introduced an ordinance that would let gay or transgendered people file complaints with the city, if they believe they suffered workplace discrimination because of their orientation. The measure also prohibits discrimination by restaurants, hotels or bars, but it exempts religious organizations.

religious organizations.

Gray said he expects a "massive" turnout at the bill hearing Wednesday before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. The bill would block cities and counties from creating separate classes of people not already defined under Nebraska's existing anti-discrimination laws.

"The timing is suspicious, first of all," Gray said. "Secondly, there are some issues that are more unique to Omaha than to the rest of the state. We need the flexibility and latitude (to pass local measures), and it's getting kind of frustrating that the Legislature keeps trying to micromanage the city."

State law prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, gender, age, marital status and other characteristics, but does not include sexual orientation.

McCoy has said Nebraskans in one city deserve the same protection under the law as

those working in another city. He said businesses need uniform anti-discrimination rules, especially as more employees work from home or in a town other than where their company is located.

He pointed to concealed weapons permits and smoking bans, which were once regulated by cities and counties and are now under state jurisdiction.

"This is a huge issue," Gray said. "It's a controversial issue, but it's one that demands we do something."

Nebraska lawmakers have considered bills to ban employment discrimination based on sexual orientation as far back as 1993, but the measures have died in the Legislature. Former Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers introduced one such measure in 2007, but the bill was indefinitely postponed.

## A FIRST SIGN OF SPRING



ELIZABETH FLORES/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT  
**Minnesota Twins pitcher Francisco Liriano warms up, as he's watched by pitching coach Rick Anderson, left, and Eddie Guardado, right, during the first day that pitchers and catchers reported for spring training at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers, Fla., Sunday.**

# Roberts

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the legal process must run its course, and I remain confident that the sentence and ultimate justice will be carried out."

Even though Robert asked the trial judge for the death penalty, South Dakota law requires the Supreme Court to review that sentence. Jackley said the high court will examine three issues: whether the sentenced was imposed under passion, prejudice or another improper factor; whether evidence supports the judge's findings of aggravating circumstances that permit the death penalty, and whether the sentence is excessive or disproportionate compared to similar cases.

Because Robert is not allowing his defense lawyer to argue against the death penalty, the high court also appointed Randal Connelly of Rapid City to submit friend-of-the-court briefs and oral arguments on whether the death penalty is proper in the case. Connelly said

the Supreme Court wants his independent input on whether the death sentence is appropriate.

Robert was serving an 80-year sentence on a kidnapping conviction when he attempted to escape with fellow inmate Rodney Berget, 49, and killed Johnson. The two inmates were captured before leaving the prison grounds.

Berget also pleaded guilty and was sentenced to death. He may follow a traditional appeal that seeks to overturn his sentence.

A third inmate, Michael Nordman, 47, was given a life sentence for providing the plastic wrap and pipe that Robert and Berget used to kill Johnson.

Jackley is promoting a bill in the Legislature that seeks to limit the number of appeals death-row inmates can file after their initial appeals are decided. He noted that two of the men on South Dakota's death row are still ap-

pealing their sentences nearly two decades after they committed murder.

Donald Moeller, who was sentenced to death for the 1990 rape and killing of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell of Sioux Falls, still has an appeal pending in federal court. His conviction and sentence have been upheld, but he is arguing that South Dakota's procedure for lethal injection is unconstitutional.

Charles Russell Rhines has appeals pending in both state and federal courts for his conviction and death sentence for the 1992 slaying of Donnivan Schaeffer during the burglary of a Rapid City doughnut shop.

Briley Piper of Anchorage, Alaska, is facing the death penalty for the March 2000 murder of Chester Allan Poage near Spearfish.

## OBITUARIES

### Leona Reckow

Leona A. (Forman) Reckow, 103, of Yankton died Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, at her home at Walnut Village in Yankton.

A graveside service will be held at a later date when her cremated remains will be laid to rest beside her parents and brothers at the Eagle Presbyterian Cemetery near Academy.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

To send an online sympathy message, visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Gerald Hansen

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Gerald J. Hansen, 90 of Randolph, Neb.,

died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012, at the Norfolk Veterans Home, Norfolk, Neb..

Funeral arrangements are pending at Wintz Funeral Home, Coleridge, Neb.

**Tonight's Special**  
 5-9pm  
**All-You-Can-Eat**  
**Chicken & Ribs**  
**\$9.95**  
*Includes Soup & Salad Bar*  
**Yesterday's Cafe**  
 23rd & Broadway

**HONORING THEIR MEMORY**  
*Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them*  
 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:

**Charles Adolph Zoss**  
*who passed away on*  
**February 25, 2011**

**Dorothy M. Larson**  
*who passed away on*  
**February 26, 2011**

**Jerry Nova Saul Sr.**  
*who passed away on*  
**February 26, 2011**

**Leonard A. Tacke**  
*who passed away on*  
**February 26, 2011**

**Ervin George Syrovatka**  
*who passed away on*  
**February 24, 2009**

**Jean Hunhoff**  
*who passed away on*  
**February 22, 2003**

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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In honor of the true heroes of our country and those who fought so bravely for our freedom, the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service is proud to offer free showings of a series of World War II videos narrated by Walter Cronkite and produced by CBS News. Relive the story of the campaigns and the commanders, the horror and heroism that marked the most terrifying and unforgettable chapter of human history. Filled with gripping combat scenes and never-before available footage.

**Videos will be shown on the following Tuesdays at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home starting at 7:00 PM.**

**Session 1: Prelude to War**

- February 28 Cronkite Remembers
- March 6 The Seeds of War
- March 13 The German High Command
- March 20 Europe: Wars Within A War
- March 27 The Scandinavian & Soviet Fronts

**Session 2: The Eastern Theater**

- May 29 The Eastern Front
- June 5 Battleground: Italy
- June 12 Air War Over Europe
- June 19 Invasion: The Allies Attack – 1942
- June 26 Europe: The Allies Close In

**Session 3: The Pacific Theater**

- October 16 The Pacific: War Begins
- October 23 The Pacific Campaign
- October 30 The Pacific Perimeter
- November 6 The War Against Japan
- November 13 The Home Front & Victory

**Popcorn & Refreshments Provided!**

**\*\* Each Video Last About 90 Minutes \*\***

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