

Names Of Omaha Crash Victims Released

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have released the names of a woman who was killed and a man who was injured in a northeast Omaha crash.

Omaha police identified the dead woman as 32-year-old Jessica Stanley. The injured man was identified as 33-year-old Harry Stanley. Both were from Omaha.

Police say a witness reported that Stanley was driving west and fast on Hamilton Street around 4:30 a.m. Sunday when the car went into a slide. It crossed the eastbound lane, left the roadway and struck two trees.

Police say Jessica Stanley died at the scene. Harry Stanley suffered a fractured neck, an arm fracture and has a brain bleed.

Police didn't immediately say how or whether the Stanleys were related.

Man Gets Prison For Promoting Prostitution

RAPID CITY (AP) — A South Dakota man who made how-to videos for prostitutes was sentenced to four years in prison Monday for promoting prostitution.

Circuit Judge Jeff Davis also sentenced Jeramy Caron, 35, of Summerset, to serve a concurrent two-year sentence for pimping as part of a plea agreement.

Pennington County deputy state's attorney Lara Roetzel said Caron would find women on two websites and help them to solicit johns on those sites. He would collect a percentage of the women's earnings and pay some of the girls for sex.

Roetzel said that during Caron's sexual encounters with some of the women, he would videotape them in order to produce videos. "The videos were a strange mix of sex tape and instructional video on how to be a good prostitute," she said.

When authorities questioned Caron about the prostitution, he acknowledged being involved in the enterprise off and on since 2001, Roetzel said.

Cheerleading Event Honors Fire Victims

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A cheerleading event in Sioux Falls over the weekend honored three children killed in a house fire last month.

Six-year-old Alivia Coon and her siblings, 12-year-old Savannah Coon and 16-year-old Michael Hensley, died in the Dec. 22 blaze.

KELO-TV reports that some of the 2,000 cheerleaders who took part in the 12th annual Valentine's Classic and Alivia Coon Tribute on Sunday wore purple hair bows to remember Alivia, whose favorite color was purple.

She was a member of the Dakota Spirit cheerleading organization, which sold purple bows and key chains in memory of Alivia and her siblings. The money will be used to honor the children.

Sioux Falls Woman Is Charged With Neglect

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota woman has been charged with neglect after reportedly kicking five children out of her home and into subzero temperatures over the weekend.

Local media report that 33-year-old Kiyanne Arpan, of Sioux Falls, was arrested early Sunday morning after allegedly forcing five young boys outside when temperatures dipped to -25 with wind chill.

Police say she had allegedly been drinking alcohol before she kicked three of her children and two visiting children outside when they started arguing over toys. The children were all under 11.

The mother of Arpan's boyfriend called police.

Arpan has been charged with two counts of abuse or neglect of a minor younger than 7, four counts of abuse or neglect of a minor older than 7, and one count of simple assault.

Oaths Of Omaha School Board Members Challenged

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The chief Douglas County prosecutor said Monday that he intends to challenge the seating of some Omaha school board members.

County Attorney Don Kleine told the *Omaha World-Herald* that the board failed to swear in the new members in time.

State law says the board must swear in newly elected board members "before the first Monday in January." But the four new and two returning board members took the oath on the first Monday, Jan. 7, before that night's board meeting.

District spokesman David Patton said earlier this month that the board had consulted with its attorneys and concluded that the members were properly sworn in. The board cited another state law that says board members will be elected for "four years from and including the first Monday of the January following their election."

Patton didn't immediately return a call Monday from The Associated Press.

It wasn't clear whether Kleine had other reasons for challenging the seating of the new and returning board members. His office and the rest of court courthouse remained closed on Monday due to a power outage.

The two laws apply only to the Omaha district, which is the state's largest by its enrollment of around 46,000.

A successful challenge by Kleine's office could force a special election to fill the board seats, but that decision would depend on what the courts decide. Kleine told the *World-Herald* that he intends to file the action in Douglas County District Court yet this week.

Kleine's announcement is the latest in a series of blows to the district.

The district lost its president last week when Freddie Gray resigned her post and her board seat, saying she'd taken a new job that prevented her from fulfilling her board and district responsibilities.

It had taken 30 votes on Jan. 7 for the board to re-elect Gray to the post she'd held in 2012.

She was heavily criticized last summer over her handling of the Nancy Sebring case.

The board hired Sebring, the superintendent of the Des Moines, Iowa, district, in April to replace John Mackiel, who retired. Sebring abruptly left her Iowa job in May. She resigned her brand-new Omaha job after emails to a lover on her Des Moines district computer became public.

The incident led to an August attempt by some board members to oust her from the presidency. It failed.

The Legislature is considering a bill that would shrink the board to nine members from 12.



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South Dakota

Panel Kills Guns-Parking Lots Bill

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A South Dakota legislative panel decided Monday that businesses should keep the right to ban guns in vehicles parked in their lots.

By an 8-4 vote, the House Commerce Committee killed a bill that would have prohibited businesses from preventing employees or customers from having guns in their vehicles.

Shawn Lyons, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, said business owners do not oppose the constitutional right to bear arms, but that right should not trump private property rights.

"This bill takes away the right of a business to make its own decision," Lyons said.

But the measure's main sponsor, Rep. Lance Russell, R-Hot Springs, said workers sometimes need access to guns to protect themselves, so businesses should not be allowed to fire employ-



Russell

ees who have guns in their cars or trucks. Fourteen other states have passed similar measures, Russell said.

He noted that a man delivering pizzas in Rapid City a few years ago likely saved his own life by pulling a gun when he was attacked by people who had ordered a pizza. The pizza business then fired the man because he had violated company policy by carrying the gun, Russell said.

The South Dakota bill would have required the guns in vehicles parked on company property to be locked out of sight. Any employee fired for having a legal gun in a vehicle could have sued the business to regain employment and lost wages.

Lobbyists for a number of business organizations opposed the bill. Many said the measure

would create problems for companies with federal contracts that forbid guns at those companies' workites.

"We think we're in the best position to make these decisions, not the Legislature," said Kitty Kinsman, representing the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce.

But Rep. Stace Nelson, R-Fulton, said the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights guarantees that an individual's rights take precedence over business rights.

"We want to disarm law-abiding Americans? Why?" Nelson said.

Rep. Scott Parsley, D-Madison, said he opposed the bill because supporters have pointed to few problems arising from bans on guns in parking lots.

"I think we have a solution looking for a problem that doesn't seem to exist," Parsley said.

How Will Health Care Overhaul Impact States?

By The Associate Press

A look at how the new federal health insurance law will affect South Dakota and Nebraska:

SOUTH DAKOTA

How many people are uninsured in South Dakota?

About 105,000 people, or about 13 percent of South Dakota's population, didn't have health insurance in 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But state officials say that based on a state survey, the number of uninsured now is actually 71,000, or about 9 percent. The Affordable Care Act seeks to reduce the number of uninsured by providing government subsidies to some workers who can't afford insurance and by requiring people with higher incomes to get health insurance through online marketplaces, called exchanges, where people and businesses can shop among competing plans. The federal government is also pushing states to expand their Medicaid programs, which provide health care for the poor, but the expansion is optional.

What is South Dakota doing about a health insurance exchange?

South Dakota has decided not to set up its own health insurance exchange, instead letting the federal government operate and pay for the online system. Gov. Dennis Daugaard said annual operating costs would be too high, between \$6.3 million and \$7.7 million a year. The governor said even though the federal government will run the exchange, the state wants a say in which insurance companies take part and how they are regulated.

What is South Dakota doing about expanding Medicaid?

South Dakota's Medicaid program now covers about 116,000 children, adults and disabled people, or more than 14 percent of the state's population. The proposed expansion would add an estimated 48,000 people, mostly

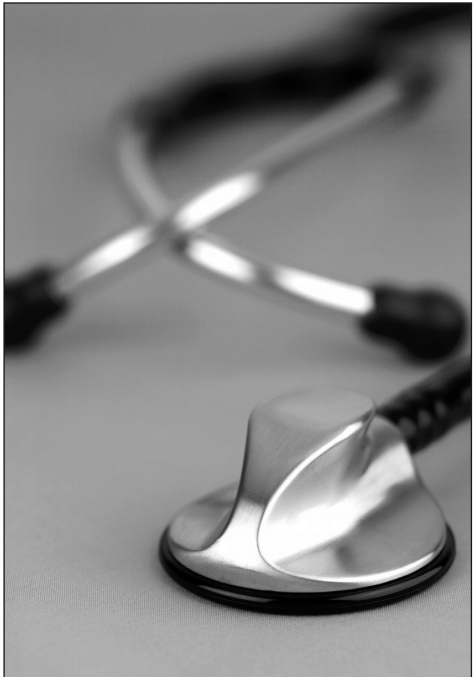


PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

adults without children. The governor has opposed expansion until the potential costs become clearer. The law requires the federal government to cover the full cost of expanding Medicaid through 2016. The state's contribution would rise in stages to 10 percent. State lawmakers are studying the issue.

NEBRASKA

How many people are uninsured in Nebraska?

At least 217,000 Nebraskans don't have health insurance. A July report by the University of Nebraska shows that population has surged by 67 percent over the last decade. It's not clear how many would buy insurance through the exchange, but the outreach efforts to draw more people to the exchange could take a few years.

Nebraska Cities Eye Cutting Down Keno Time

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska cities want lawmakers to reduce how long keno players must wait between games, a proposal that would increase the maximum number of games a person could play in one hour.

Gambling opponents have fought the proposal for years, calling it a form of expanded gambling that disproportionately hurts the poor.

But lobbyists for Omaha and the League of Nebraska Municipalities told a legislative panel Monday that government revenue from the games has helped pay for police cruisers, park renovations and substance-abuse treatment programs.

"It's a very helpful source of revenue," Gary Krumland, a lobbyist for the League of Nebraska Municipalities, told the Legislature's General Affairs Committee.

"We support (the bill) because cities think this could make the game just a little more fun to play, a little more attractive, and maintain the revenue for the cities."

The bill by Sen. Russ Karpisek of Wilber would cut the waiting period between keno games from five minutes to three. Lawmakers rejected a similar measure last year, 20-17, amid protests from anti-gambling groups.

Cutting the wait time to three minutes would allow bettors to play as many as 20 games per hour instead of the current 12, said Pat Loontjer, executive director of Gambling With the Good Life.

"We're talking speed, and we're talking addiction," said Loontjer. "Anytime you're talking addiction, you're talking community problems."

Karpisek disputed that the bill amounts to expanded gambling.

"If (revenues) are going up, I would say people are voting with their wallets," Karpisek said. "I have not been out on a campaign with the State Patrol with a gun to anyone's head to go play keno. ... If they want to play keno, if they want to go gamble, they will and they can. And most of them go to a surrounding state."

Keno is similar to the lottery, but bettors don't have to wait for a daily drawing. Bettors try to guess numbers chosen by a computer.

They can pick up to 15 numbers between 1 and 80, and the computer chooses 20 numbers. The profits from player losses are shared by local bar owners, cities and the state.

The bill is also supported by keno operators, which would likely see a windfall based on state estimates showing a revenue increase.

Omaha has raised \$5.4 million in revenue from keno games, about 1 percent of its overall budget, said city lobbyist Jack Cheloha.

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