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Police Say Father Taught Son To Build Bombs

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — Investigators have provided disturbing new details about the case of a father accused of teaching his 6-year-old boy how to build and blow up homemade bombs out of items such as empty milk jugs and gunpowder.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives supervisor Brent Quinn said the father's creations — one of which was recovered from his Las Cruces home Thursday and disarmed by bomb squad robots — were nothing short of "improvised explosive devices."

"Some people look at it as just making 'fireworks,'" he said. "Obviously, it isn't that simple."

Anthony Stromberg, a 44-year-old convicted felon, allegedly built two types of bombs at his trailer park home — a pipe bomb made from gunpowder and plastic tubing and another made from fuses, black putty and a milk jug.

The boy drew diagrams of the explosives for detectives and explained how they were built. He told police his father first took him to blow up the devices during last year's Fourth of July holiday.

Stromberg would have his son stand away as they were ignited, and the boy described the resulting blasts as "feeling like a big wind blowing you over."

"Based on the description that the 6-year-old gave, if he's feeling

the shock wave when his dad is setting these off, then he's close enough to get hit by fragmentation. That's obviously something we get concerned about," Quinn told The Associated Press on Friday.

The Las Cruces Police Department's SWAT team, state police, sheriff's deputies and ATF agents raided Stromberg's home Thursday morning. Authorities luckily arrested the father before anyone was hurt — homemade explosives can result in lost fingers or worse, Quinn said.

"Those things detonate at thousands of feet per second, sending tiny shards of metal or plastic traveling in all directions," he said.

Quinn said federal prosecutors plan to file charges of possession and manufacturing of an improvised explosive device on Monday.

Stromberg has already been charged with child abuse and was jailed on a \$150,000 bond. The Dona Ana County Detention Center did not have an attorney listed for him Friday afternoon.

Stromberg is also accused of threatening to kill the child's mother. After an argument two weeks ago with the mother, he allegedly told the boy he was going to kidnap and shoot her, according to a criminal complaint. The boy's parents are separated but share custody.

LAW

From Page 1A

lems resulting from an abortion could file a civil lawsuit. Doctors would not face criminal charges or lose their medical licenses.

If it's not blocked, the new law will require women wanting abortions to be screened by doctors or other health professionals to determine whether they were pressured into having the procedure. Women would also have to be screened for risk factors indicating they could have mental or physical problems after an abortion.

Planned Parenthood argues the law would effectively ban abortions in Nebraska because it would impose impossible, unintelligible requirements on abortion providers. The group's lawsuit says the required screenings would also force doctors to stay on accepted medical practice.

Planned Parenthood says doctors would be required to

provide tens of thousands of articles and studies, including some that have already been debunked, to women seeking abortions to comply with the law.

The state said in its brief Friday that the screening conditions shouldn't be onerous if the law is considered in context.

"Despite its admittedly broad language, the act can be construed to require abortion providers to inform patients of only those risk factors deemed by the abortion provider, in his or her professional judgment, to be relevant to the particular patient," according to the state's brief.

The mental health screening measure is one of two controversial abortion laws passed by state lawmakers this spring that Gov. Dave Heineman signed.

The other one would ban abortions starting at 20 weeks based on assertions from some doctors that fetuses feel pain at that stage of development. It's scheduled to go into effect in mid-October.

DHHS

From Page 1A

"We said, 'We understand that, but have you worked with these other entities in trying to get some kind of reciprocity agreement with them that would allow you to do that?' Well, no, they hadn't tried that," Giese said.

One outcome of the meeting was that the DHHS permitted a 60-day extension of the deadline to find new providers.

"It gave us a little bit of time to do some work and try to find a solution, which I guess is where we're at right now. We haven't really got any other suggestions, if you will, from DHHS," Giese said.

The providers had no prior warning of the policy change until they received a letter informing them their contracts would be discontinued.

"We weren't aware of any problems or anything that were going to bring this out," Pierson said.

The one solution proposed by the DHHS in the letter was for the out-of-state offices to provide services in Nebraska.

"That is not feasible for us," Pierson said. "We can't replicate the services for 12 people. Plus, we don't have the funds to do it. It's just not possible."

Giese said another meeting with the DHHS has been scheduled for July 15.

"We'll tell them how important these services are and what they provide," he said.

Giese said that for its part, the DHHS has said it "can only do what the Legislature will let us do."

"Well, we've been providing services for a long time, so why all of a sudden can't we do this? If that's the solution, at least give us an extension to the next legislative session ... and we'll work on it," he said. "We'll get something done if that's what they want."

Pierson said a similar incident occurred "a number of years ago," but at the time a deal was worked out so that the other states could continue to provide services.

Giese said he's hoping a similar solution can be worked out now.

"We're not by any means discouraged and are going to settle for nothing but continued care for these folks," he said. "That's the bottom line."

REGION DIGEST

City To Consider Yard Waste Grant

The Yankton City Commission will consider acceptance of a grant Monday that will go toward purchasing a yard waste composting system.

The South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources has awarded the city a \$187,500 grant to upgrade its current system. The grant would cover half of the estimated cost of the machinery.

Also Monday, the commission will consider introducing an ordinance regarding special events parking and will hold an executive session to consult with legal counsel about labor negotiations.

The meeting gets under way at 7 p.m. in the City of Yankton Meeting Room, located at the Technical Education Center, 1200 W. 21st St.

Pops Concert Series To Kick Off On Tuesday

The Summer Pops Concert Series sponsored by Yankton Area Arts will kick off at 8 p.m. Tuesday July 13, in the amphitheatre at Riverside Park.

The performance will feature the band The Hungry Five, whose members include Frank Melmer, Don Paul, and Bill Magera on sax; Harvey Beck and Kevin McLouth on trumpet; Wayne Dempster on trombone; Glenn Tyc on drums and Jim Schnaidt on bass. The Hungry Five will play waltzes and polkas.

For late changes due to weather, listen to radio stations WNAX, 570 AM; KYNT, 1450 AM or KVHT, 106.3 FM. You can also find more information by visiting the Yankton Area Arts website at www.YanktonAreaArts.org. Changes to be posted by 4 p.m.

The Summer Pop Concert series is sponsored by Yankton Area Arts, Yankton County and the City of Yankton.

Yankton Rep. Party To Host Summer BBQ

The Yankton Republican Party is having a "Headquarters Grand Opening and Summer Barbeque" at 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, at 401 Capital (old library). There will be state and local candidates on hand.

For more information, call 260-1600 or 660-2752.

Viborg To Sponsor Danish Days Tournament

VIBORG — Viborg Lion's Club will host its annual Danish Days Horseshoe Tournament on Saturday, July 17, in the park just west of the Community Center. Registration begins at noon, with play beginning at 1 p.m.

The annual fundraising event is limited to 16 pits, 32 teams and 64 players. Businesses or individuals can sponsor a team and have an opportunity to win a trophy. The name of the sponsor will be worn on the team captain's shirt during the tournament. Trophies will be given for top four places, with the trophy going to the sponsor.

Players will all receive ribbons and have an opportunity to participate in a cash pay out.

If players have horseshoes, they are asked to bring them to the tournament.

The Lion's Club will help provide sponsors for players if needed. Anyone interested in participating as a player who does not have a sponsor should contact one of the following: Stuart Huber or Nicole (605) 263-3040 or Troy Lee (605) 660-4791.

Player names for sponsored teams should be called in to one of the above by July 14.

YRAA Pilot Training Scholarship Offered

The Yankton Regional Aviation Association (YRAA) announces the opening for applications for the YRAA Pilot Training Scholarship.

The \$500 scholarship was established in 2005 and is one way the YRAA to promote general aviation in southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska.

The YRAA has 103 members from area towns (Menno, Springfield, Tripp, Tyndall, Vermillion, Volin, Wagner, Yankton, Bloomfield, Creighton, Hartington, Randolph and Wayne).

The scholarship will be given a "wannabe student" pilot, student pilot, or pilot seeking an advanced rating.

The deadline for submitting an application for the scholarship is Aug. 1. The application form for the YRAA Pilot Training Scholarship can be requested from Steve Hamilton, 303 Golf Lane, Yankton, SD 57078; or e-mail skhaw@iw.net or call 605-665-8448.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

OBITUARIES

Vlasta Blazek

Vlasta Albina (Nedved) Blazek, 91, of Wagner died Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at the Wagner Community Memorial Hospital after a short battle with cancer.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Monday, July 12, 2010 at the United Methodist Church in Wagner. Burial is in the ZCBJ Cemetery, rural Wagner.

Thankful for having shared her life and her love are her daughters: Linda and her husband Jay Youngbluth, Wagner, and Lois and her husband Les Sherwood, White River; three grandchildren: LaRae (Youngbluth) and her husband Steve Rogers, Plymouth, MN, Justin Youngbluth, Crystal, MN, and Lisa Sherwood, White River; two great-grandchildren: Jonathan and Kimberly Rogers; and one brother, Clarence Nedved, Wagner.

Vlasta was preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

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Blazek

United Methodist Church, the Rachel Circle (United Methodist Women), the American Legion Auxiliary, Rebecca Lodge, Extension Club and she was recently honored as a 75-year member of ZCBJ.

Delilah Gothier

DIXON, Neb. — Delilah Gothier, age 80, of Dixon, Neb. died Friday, July 9 at the Hillcrest Care Center in Laurel, Neb.

A Mass Of Resurrection will be held at St. Anne's Catholic Church Dixon, Neb. at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

Interment will be at St. Philip and St. James Catholic Cemetery, St. James, Neb. with Hasemann Funeral Homes of Laurel, Neb. handling the arrangements.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at St. Anne's Catholic



Gothier

Church in Dixon with family present. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m.

Delilah Adeline Gothier was born November 30, 1929 at Crofton to Rudolph and Katherine (Tramp) Meier. She spent her childhood in Menominee and graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Hartington. Delilah married Austin Gothier February 9, 1948 at St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church in Bow Valley. The couple farmed near Hartington and Bow Valley from 1948-1972 when they moved into Dixon. Delilah was employed at Hillcrest Care Center for nineteen years working as a certified nurse, med aid, and dietary aid until retiring. She was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Dixon. Delilah thoroughly enjoyed camping with her family and traveling to bluegrass festivals. She passed on her love of good rummage sales to her kids. Some of her favorite things were dolls, flowers, music, game shows, movies, dancing, and a good piece of pie.

Delilah is survived by her four sons, Kevin Gothier of Laurel, Dennis (Kathie) Gothier of Norfolk, Daniel (Marcella) Gothier of Menominee, and Neil (Lori) Gothier of Binsfeld, Germany; two daughters, Renee Wragge of Laurel, and Michelle (Brent) Heydon of Laurel; son-in-law, David Adams of Plainview; twenty-nine grandchildren; and twenty-five great-grandchildren: sister, Olivia Miley of Yankton, SD; brothers, Ronnie (Mary) Meier of Wisconsin and James Meier of Maine.

Delilah was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Austin September of 2009; daughter, Kathleen Adams in April 2009; son-in-law, Larry Becker April 1983; four sisters; one brother; and brother-in-law, Lowell Gothier.

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Le Ella Mjoen

Le Ella Belle Mjoen passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones at her home in Owatonna, MN on 8 July 2010.

She began her incredible journey on 12 March 1926 on her parents' farm in Pierce County, NE. She was the older sister of Louise and Bud. Upon graduation from Osmond High School, Le Ella wanted to become a nurse but her parents, Roy Lee and Muriel Belle Docken, wanted her to be a teacher. She attended Wayne State Teachers College in Wayne, NE and taught country school. After six years of teaching, Le Ella had saved enough money to put herself through nursing school at Sacred Heart School of Nursing in Yankton, SD. After graduation, she worked as an instructor at Sacred Heart for a short while before becoming the college nurse at Wayne State. The last eighteen years of her nursing career was spent at St. Mark's Lutheran Home as a charge nurse and a friend to all of the residents. During her schooling at Sacred Heart, Le Ella met her future husband, Kenneth Mjoen, while she was selling tickets to a play. They were married on 10 August 1952. During the course of 58 years, they raised one son, David, and three daughters, Lori, Becky, and Amy. Le Ella experienced the great joy of being a grandparent to Edward and Jacqueline by her son David and Emma by her daughter Lori and Son-in-Law Rol Christianson. Her joy multiplied with the birth of her great-grandchildren Ethan by

Jacqueline and Skye by Edward.

Outside of her work and family, Le Ella was very involved in her church holding many different positions within the church organization. She was also a Stephen Minister. One of her greatest achievements was traveling to Bogota, Columbia as a delegate to the first women's conference for the Lutheran Church in Columbia with the LIZWAN Ministry. She also traveled to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota with her church Trinity Lutheran. Le Ella was also active in Sons of Norway and other community programs. She also recently accomplished a life-long wish to see a Dogwood tree in bloom when she visited her son and his wife Gloria in Georgia this past spring. Le Ella was intelligent, beautiful, loving, stubborn, and filled with grace. She touched countless lives and brought joy with every smile. She will be missed by those who remain behind and embraced by those who preceded her.

Visitation will be at noon Monday, 12 July, 2010 followed by a Memorial Service at 1 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN.

Memorials will be donated to both LIZWAN and the Pine Ridge Ministry.

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You don't have to go to extremes for preplanning to make sense. It doesn't matter who you are, what you do or how old you are, advance planning is a good idea. Call or stop by for more information.

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