

**MIDWEST DIGEST**

**Ex-Cop Convicted Of Sexual Assault**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former Nebraska police officer accused of having sex with an underage girl has been convicted of sexual assault during his third trial.

Prosecutors say 54-year-old Larry Williams was found guilty Wednesday in Buffalo County District Court of first-degree sexual assault of a child and five counts of first-degree sexual assault.

The first-degree sexual assault charge carries up to 50 years in prison. Sentencing is set for Sept. 9.

Prosecutors say Williams was sexually involved with the girl between 2001 and 2003, beginning when she was 14.

The crimes occurred while Williams was a Ravenna police officer. He resigned from the department in 2005.

Williams also was tried in 2007 and 2009, but both trials ended in hung juries.

**Police Capture Fleeing Psychiatric Patient**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have captured a 22-year-old man who escaped from a psychiatric hospital in Lincoln.

Shane Tilley was apprehended about 5:45 p.m. Wednesday. Police did not immediately release details of his capture.

Police spokeswoman Katie Flood said earlier that nearly four dozen officers and a helicopter were searching for Tilley near the Lincoln Regional Center.

Therapists chased after Tilley when he ran from a hospital building just before 10 a.m.

Tilley was committed to the hospital in 2007. He had been found not guilty by reason of insanity in the January 2006 stabbing death of a friend, Andy Lubben. Police found Tilley at his apartment, naked and uttering nonsensical words. He had knife wounds to his chest and neck, apparently self-inflicted.

**Pedestrian Bridge Full Of Kids Dips In Middle**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A pedestrian bridge across Salt Creek in Lincoln has suffered a partial collapse, sending about 20 people scurrying to safety.

Lincoln officials say in a release that the bridge in Wilderness Park suffered a structural failure about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, and the middle of the bridge dipped 12 to 15 feet. The bridge now hangs 6 feet above the creek.

About 20 people, mostly children in the Wilderness Nature Camp, were on the bridge. City officials say the children got off the bridge and camp staff treated minor injuries.

The city is investigating the failure and inspecting the other trail bridges in the park.

City officials say the bridge suffered a structural failure during construction in 2003, so the design was changed.

**Omaha Cop On Leave After Suspect Shot**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha police officer has been placed on paid leave as the department investigates the shooting of a robbery suspect.

Police say Scott Richter shot 28-year-old Edward Sherrod Tuesday night in northwest Omaha. Sherrod is suspected of taking part in an earlier armed robbery of a grocery store.

Police say Sherrod drove at, but missed, a Douglas County sheriff's deputy and crashed into another vehicle. Sherrod and a passenger allegedly ran from the vehicle, and police say he reached for his waistband as officers yelled for him to stop. That's when police say Richter shot him.

Details of Sherrod's injuries weren't released. A number listed for him was not in service Wednesday.

Richter has been with the department since 2008.

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**2 Groups Sue Neb. City Over Immigration Law**

BY MARGERY A. BECK AND  
TIMBERLY ROSS  
Associated Press Writers

FREMONT, Neb. — The two lawsuits filed Wednesday against a small Nebraska city for its ban on renting and hiring illegal immigrants worried some in the community that it would only worsen tensions over the new ordinance.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund, also known as MALDEF, filed lawsuits against Fremont, saying the voter-approved ordinance amounted to discrimination.

"I'm so disappointed that a law like this could have passed here. I always thought in this day and age laws are meant to prevent discrimination, not encourage it," said Mario Martinez, a Mexican American who lives in Fremont with his wife and young child.

The ordinance has divided much of the town. Supporters argue the measure was necessary to make up for what they see as lax federal law enforcement. Opponents say it could fuel discrimination. Both lawsuits filed Wednesday may not

quell the debate, but the civil-rights groups hope they will end the ban.

"This law encourages discrimination and racial profiling against Latinos and others who appear to be foreign-born, including U.S. citizens," said Amy Miller, legal director of ACLU Nebraska. "We're going to do all we can to make sure this extreme law, which would lead to individuals losing housing and jobs because of their appearance and language ability, never goes into effect."

Fremont City Attorney Dean Skokan said early Wednesday he couldn't comment on the lawsuits because he hadn't seen them. He did not return later telephone calls. Officials, though, anticipated challenges to the ban.

"We expect a minimum of about three lawsuits," Skokan said. He did not elaborate.

The ordinance is to go into effect July 29. It put Fremont on the list with Arizona and other cities in the national debate over immigration regulations.

Arizona's sweeping law also takes effect July 29 and requires police who stop people suspected of violating a law to check the immigration status of anyone

they think is in the country illegally.

Fremont's ban worries Martinez.

At one time the city was a nice place, he said, but he's noticed more hostility toward Latinos in the past dozen years. And recently, it's gotten worse.

"Fremont feels like a completely different town now," Martinez said. "I'm as much a part of this community as anyone, but now I get hostile looks from people like they want me to get out, and my wife has been told to go back to Mexico because of her accent."

The ban requires employers in the city to use the federal E-Verify database to ensure employees are allowed to work. It also requires potential renters to apply for a license to rent. The application process will force Fremont officials to check whether the renters are in the country legally. If they are found to be illegal, they will not be issued a rent license.

Both lawsuits charge that Fremont's law is at odds with the constitutional mandate imposing a uniform federal immigration enforcement system. The lawsuits also contend the ordinance violates the federal Fair Housing

Act and the equal protection and due process clauses of the U.S. Constitution, among other things.

"The Fremont ordinance is so vague, they actually are talking about people like me," said Shirley Mora James of Lincoln, the attorney who filed the MALDEF lawsuit and is a third-generation Mexican American. "If I want to live in Fremont, and I want to rent, I will have to prove my citizenship. I believe that's a violation of my civil rights. I don't think after two generations in this country that I have to prove I am a U.S. citizen."

Fremont, which lies about 35 miles northwest of Omaha, has seen its Hispanic population surge in the past two decades, largely due to the jobs available at the Fremont Beef and Hormel plants, which are just outside of city limits. Both plants say they already use the E-Verify system.

Hormel officials have said there have been no federal immigration investigations at the Fremont plant. In March, federal authorities indicted more than a dozen people on immigration violations after an investigation at the Fremont Beef plant. Fremont Beef did not immediately return a message left Wednesday.

**EPA: Keystone Impact Statement Needs Revising**

BY MARIA SUDEKUM FISHER  
Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Environmental Protection Agency said the draft environmental impact study for TransCanada Corp.'s proposed oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico is inadequate and should be revised.

Keystone XL would move oil from Alberta, Canada, down through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska in the upper Great Plains. It would then merge with a pipeline under construction in Kansas before breaking off again to pass through Oklahoma, to Texas and to the Gulf of Mexico.

Environmental groups have raised concerns that the pipeline could pollute air and water supplies and harm migratory birds and other wildlife. They have also speculated about what they consider inadequate pipeline

safety and emergency spill response.

In a letter to the State Department, EPA's assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance, Cynthia Giles, said the draft environmental impact statement failed to adequately address those concerns.

The impact from "air emissions from refineries and the potential contamination of drinking water supplies from an oil spill have not been fully evaluated," Giles said in the letter dated July 16.

She also said the study also does not evaluate "evaluate the environmental justice issues associated with potential impacts to communities in Port Arthur, Texas, where numerous industrial facilities, including chemical plants and a hazardous waste incinerator, are contributing to the residents' overall

exposure to contaminants."

The agency said the State Department should revise the study and open it up for more public comment.

TransCanada spokesman Terry Cunha said the company disagrees and that the State Department "did a thorough and complete job in preparing the Draft EIS."

He said TransCanada looked "forward to the environmental review process continuing through DOS's review of comments and preparation of the Final EIS."

The EPA sent its report to the State Department, which has to approve the pipeline because it crosses an international border.

The department was reviewing comments from eight agencies on the draft environmental report. The public comment period on the current draft docu-

ment ended July 2.

"The State Department seriously considers all public comments received as part of the public comment process. However, we will not have a detailed response until we complete the review process," State Department spokeswoman Jill W. Dietrich said in an e-mail.

Keystone XL would move oil from Alberta, Canada, down through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska in the upper Great Plains, and then from Oklahoma to Texas and into the Gulf of Mexico. Under its planned route, the pipeline would cross several rivers and aquifers, including the Ogallala aquifer which supplies water to several Midwestern states.

TransCanada has said the pipeline would provide a reliable source of oil to the U.S. from a stable trading partner and would not adversely affect the environment.

**Man Asks For Petitions To Recall Omaha Mayor**

BY ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Fed up with what he calls a tax-happy politician, an Omaha man has begun an effort to remove Mayor Jim Suttle from office.

Anthony FastHorse filed paperwork Wednesday with the Douglas County election commissioner requesting recall petitions.

FastHorse's move came a day after Suttle proposed, among other things, a 4 percent tax on bar and restaurant bills and a 9 percent property tax levy increase to address the city's \$33.5 million budget shortfall projected for next year.

"That pushed me over the edge," FastHorse said.

Election Commissioner Dave Phipps said Suttle would be officially notified of the recall effort on Thursday. Suttle's spokesman didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

The 36-year-old FastHorse, a construction worker who says he has been unemployed for about two months, has run unsuccessfully for the Nebraska Legislature and Omaha school board. He is married with three children. The lifelong Omahan says he has voted in every election since he was 18.

Once FastHorse gets the recall petitions in about three weeks, he will have 30 days to gather 26,642 valid signatures from registered Omaha voters. That figure represents 35 percent of the total ballots cast for mayor in the last general election.

If FastHorse gets enough signatures, Suttle could choose to resign or fight the recall. A recall election would be held 30 to 45 days after that, with a simple majority deciding whether Suttle stays or goes.

If Suttle were voted out, a special election for mayor would be held 30 to 45 days later.



**Out On The Town**

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6-7pm - Domestic Beers  
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**Friday**  
Ribs  
or Menu  
Serving 5:30-8:00

**Saturday**  
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Serving from Menu  
5:30-8:00

**Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm**  
**Sunday at 6:30pm**  
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