

Fremont Police Investigating Man's Death

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — Police are awaiting results of an autopsy performed on the body of an 88-year-old man found dead in Fremont. Deputy Chief Jeff Elliott told the Fremont Tribune that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services had asked that officers check on the man. His neighbors said they hadn't seen him for months. Elliott says the man's badly decomposed body was found inside his home. His name has not been released. The man's death is still being investigated. It's not clear whether detectives think he died of natural causes, suicide or as a result of a crime.

Western Nebraska Crash Kills Man In Big Rig

GOTHENBURG, Neb. (AP) — Officials say a semitrailer rammed into the back of a recreational vehicle in western Nebraska, killing a passenger in the big rig. North Platte television station KNOP is reporting that the accident occurred around 4:15 a.m. Sunday, on Interstate 80 between Gothenburg and Cozad. Authorities say the truck driven by 56-year-old Bogdan Kaszuba hit the rear of the RV. The truck then hit a bridge railing. A passenger in the truck's sleeping compartment died at the scene. He was identified as 56-year-old Andrzej Piaszczyński. State Trooper Ken Moody says Kaszuba was treated for minor injuries. Moody said Monday that a 12-year-old boy in the RV was seriously injured but was expected to survive. Four other people in the RV suffered a variety of injuries.

Suspect's Daughter Sentenced For Assault

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The daughter of a South Dakota murder suspect has been sentenced on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 19-year-old Jamie McMillan was accused of assaulting a man who was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat by her mother, 41-year-old Sharon McMillan, who awaits sentencing in August after pleading guilty in May to second-degree murder. Jamie McMillan was sentenced to 1 1/2 years in prison for assaulting 32-year-old Garland Morrison. Authorities say he was killed on May 1, 2010, in Sharon McMillan's home on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation town of Long Valley.

Hearing Set To Discuss S.D. Gaming Compact

PIERRE (AP) — A public hearing has been scheduled to discuss a proposed gaming contract between the state of South Dakota and the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. State officials say the agreement would allow the tribe to double the number of slot machines to 500 at its Royal River Casino in Flandreau. That is expected to help the tribe compete with the recently opened Grand Falls Casino Resort east of Sioux Falls at Larchwood, Iowa. The hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday at the Moody County Courthouse in Flandreau. It will be conducted by Larry Eliason, executive director of the state Commission on Gaming.

Three Horses Seized From Muck-Filled Pens

BLAIR, Neb. (AP) — Three horses have been seized from a property in Washington County where authorities say they were living in small pens filled with mud and manure. The Nebraska Humane Society says the horses were removed from the property last Thursday and taken to a foster home where they are receiving veterinary care. The agency says it assisted the Washington County sheriff's office in the operation. It says the horses were in pens that were unfit for them to live in. The Humane Society says in a news release on Monday that the horses had to lunge through mud and manure that was 2-feet thick just to move. Potential charges are pending.

S.D. Man Worked In 1st Space Shuttle Launch

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man who worked on the first space shuttle launch has mixed feelings about the program's end. Doug Brockhouse of Sioux Falls worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1981, helping retrieve the dispatched rocket boosters from the space shuttle Columbia from the ocean following takeoff. "It was just a huge mission ... I got to be a little tiny part of that," Brockhouse told KELO-TV. Brockhouse, who is now a real estate agent in Sioux Falls, said he feels bad for the people who built their careers around the space shuttle era. But "they'll re-engage the greatest minds in the world and the most passionate people and they'll go back to space again," he said. NASA is retiring its shuttles and focusing on expeditions to an asteroid and Mars. The shuttle Atlantis, the last in history, blasted into orbit on Friday on a 12-day mission.

Man Busted For Downing Beer In Store

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City man was arrested for shoplifting after he allegedly drank a beer in a Walmart store. Rapid City police say 57-year-old Perry Arpan opened a can of beer in the store late Friday night and drank it. Police say he attempted to put the can back in the case, then set the beer in another aisle and tried to leave the building. Store security stopped Arpan as he was leaving the store. Police spokeswoman Tarah Heupel tells the Rapid City Journal that Arpan "took the beer theft to a whole new level."

MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING | SOUTH DAKOTA

Gov.: Some Levees Need New Liners

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press



Daugaard

PIERRE, — Plastic liners will need to be replaced on some of the protective levees that were built to hold back flood water in South Dakota cities along the Missouri River, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Monday. "The plastic on some of the levees is really starting to deteriorate," Daugaard said during an appearance on Dakota News Network radio stations. Despite the need for repairs, however, he said the levees are stable and in good shape. After the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in late May that releases would be increased dramatically from Missouri River dams to deal with record rains and substantial snowpack, emergency earthen levees were built to protect Pierre, Fort Pierre, Dakota Dunes and some other communities from rising water levels. Daugaard said he has continued to take morning or evening strolls along the levees in Pierre and Fort Pierre, and he has noticed some problems with the plastic sheets used

as waterproofing on the outside of levees. South Dakota National Guard troops, who monitored the levees until recently, have already replaced some sections and repaired others with duct tape, he said. The governor said he thinks the plastic in some areas needs to be completely replaced to make sure the levees continue to hold until water levels drop later this summer. In the few days available to build the levees, officials could not get an adequate supply of plastic resistant to ultraviolet light, so some stretches were lined with less durable plastic, he said. Fort Pierre Mayor Sam Tidball said the city watches the levees closely and replaces the plastic liners wherever necessary. "Without that plastic, the water would wash away the levee pretty fast," Tidball said. One levee stretch was covered with a less durable plastic, but that has now been replaced with a better grade of liner, Tidball said.

The mayor said officials who recently inspected the outside of the levees by boat reported that the barriers are in good shape. Daugaard said he also has talked with Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman about setting up a meeting of governors from states along the Missouri River to ask the Corps of Engineers why the flooding occurred. Such a meeting could be held after the flood threat has eased, he said. Many residents have criticized the corps, saying the agency should have released more water from the six Missouri River dams last winter and spring to make room for the heavy spring runoff. The corps has said the dams were in good shape this spring until record rains fell in Montana and elsewhere in the Missouri River basin. Daugaard said a meeting held by governors could help gather information, but hearings held by Congress will be more important because Congress has authority over the federal Corps of Engineers. "I can do nothing with their funding. I can do nothing with their staffing," Daugaard said. "Congress can."

Warm Weather Boosts Crop Progress In S. D., Nebraska

By The Associated Press

An increase in temperatures across South Dakota in the last week brought some much-needed warmth for crops that have lagged behind through cool weather for much of the spring and early summer. The Agriculture Department says in its latest crop and weather report that the conditions also allowed farmers to continue haying and spraying. The report says soybeans and small grains made significant progress. The average corn height is currently 32 inches, compared to 45 inches at this time last year. Officials say 93 percent of both cattle and sheep are rated in good to excellent condition, both ahead of the 5-year aver-

ages. Pasture conditions stayed mostly in good to excellent condition. In Nebraska, recent warm weather has helped crops develop, but wet conditions on the southern side of the state hindered the wheat harvest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says corn pollination has begun in the state, and farmers are reporting the first tassels and silked ear shoots. About 84 percent of the state's corn crop rated in good or excellent condition as of Sunday. That's better than the average of 76 percent good or excellent at this time of year. But the USDA says the wheat harvest in Nebraska is about 10 days behind the average and only about 10 percent complete.

Radio Ads: 'Racino' Money Could End Minn. Shutdown

COLUMBUS, Minn. (AP) — A Twin Cities-area horse racing park is running radio ads statewide encouraging Minnesota lawmakers to consider expanded horse-track gambling as a source of new tax revenue that could help end the state's government shutdown. The ads by Running Aces Harness Park in Columbus started running Monday on several Twin Cities stations and will begin Tuesday in Brainerd, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester and Willmar. The ads note that both Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton and GOP House Speaker Kurt Zellers have said gambling tax revenue could be part of a budget deal. The ads running in Greater Minnesota names specific lawmakers and urges listeners to contact them in support of the racino. Both Running Aces and Canterbury Park in Shakopee have been seeking to add video slot machines at their establishments.

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