

Sheriff's Deputy Won't Face Assault Charge

CUSTER (AP) — A Custer County sheriff's corporal who was accused of assault by a woman he mistakenly arrested last month will not be charged, Custer County Sheriff Rick Wheeler said Thursday. A South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation probe concluded the deputy, Cpl. David Keale, had no intent to assault Susan Brown, Wheeler said. Brown said Keale approached her while she was shopping in Custer and told her he had a warrant to arrest her. Brown said Keale refused to give details about the warrant, which turned out to be for someone else. Keale manhandled her and shoved her onto a bench, said Brown, who thought her arm had been broken. The officer later apologized. The *Rapid City Journal* reported that Brown sought to have a simple assault charge filed against Keale. The deputy has been on administrative leave, and Wheeler said Thursday he intended to speak with the deputy next week about his future with the department. He declined to say whether Keale had acted wisely in his handling of the Brown incident.

S.D. AG: No Charges In Day Care Infant Death

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — No criminal charges will be filed in last month's death of an infant at a rural Mitchell day care facility, South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Thursday. Three-month-old Brooklyn Howard died June 19 at the rural Davison County day care. Jackley and Davison County prosecutor Pat Smith issued a statement Thursday saying that another young child in the day care "contributed to the infant's death." Jackley told The Associated Press late Thursday that under South Dakota law, prosecutors can't charge a child under 10 or transfer the case to adult court, and the contributing child in this case was "considerably younger than 10." The cause of the child's death wasn't disclosed. Jackley said there was no finding of criminal activity on the part of the day care.

S.D. Prisoner Mistakenly Released 7 Years Early

HURON (AP) — Officials say a paperwork error allowed a prisoner to walk free from the South Dakota penitentiary, seven years ahead of his scheduled release. Louis Barrious Perez was serving time on two separate convictions. One was a six-year term for sexual exploitation and distribution of cocaine, the other a seven-year stint for possession of marijuana while on parole. Officials say Perez served the six-year term, but court documents for the seven-year sentence were not delivered to the prison. Perez was released. Beadle County State's Attorney Mike Moore told the *Plainsman* newspaper that his office made a mistake. He says they are following all leads to find Perez and bring him back to prison. Officials say Perez is not considered dangerous.

Oil

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plored. Geologists and oil companies are split over whether it's a separate oil-producing reservoir or if it simply catches oil leaking from the Bakken above. For drillers in North Dakota's Bakken region, dry holes are a rarity. State and industry officials say 99 percent of drill rigs hit oil and nine out of 10 wells make money. Since drillers are virtually assured of a profitable well there, they have little time to bother with unknown prospects across the border, said Derric Iles, South Dakota's state geologist. "Why in the world would you uproot drilling rigs and move them to South Dakota when the success rate is 99 percent in North Dakota?" Iles said. Still, he believes South Dakota may hold untapped reserves that could be exploited using know-how gained from the Bakken. "We have precious few drill holes," Iles said. "There have not been enough tests using today's technology to rule in or rule out the great potential for oil in South Dakota." Iles conceded that "the picture

is not super-rosy." "The silver lining is we aren't seeing a large influx of interest so we have time to prepare as a state if it does happen," he said. Oil producers first tapped into the Dakotas in the 1950s. North Dakota's first well began production in 1951 in Williams County, in the northwest part of the state. Three years later, South Dakota joined in with a well in Harding County, in the northwest tip of the state. Currently, Harding County produces the bulk of the state's oil and gas, using mostly traditional vertical wells. Dave Tilus, who ranches in Harding County, said there are eight oil wells on his ranch, which has been in his family for more than a century. He said his family has made more revenue from oil royalties in the past 50 years than raising cows on their ranch near Buffalo. Harding County, which bills itself as "Beef Country," will likely remain that way, he said. "I don't think we'll ever be a North Dakota," Tilus said. "We may expand a little but I don't think will ever explode like North Dakota." There has, however, been a recent uptick in leasing activity tied to South Dakota's Minnelusa for-

mation. North Dakota state geologist Ed Murphy said the formation — known as Tyler in North Dakota — extends from the western part of North Dakota into northwest South Dakota and may share some of the same characteristics of the Bakken. Billionaire oilman Harold Hamm says, however, the Minnelusa is no Bakken and may be overhyped. "But that certainly does not rule out everything," said Hamm, the chairman and chief executive officer of Oklahoma City-based Continental Resources Inc. His company is one the oldest and biggest operators in North Dakota, drilling there for more than two decades. It was among the first to tap a Bakken well in 2004 using horizontal drilling technology. Hamm is no stranger to South Dakota — his company has been there since 1996 and, along with Denver-based Luff Exploration Co., accounts for the bulk of the state's oil. He said production in South Dakota has remained steady over the past 16 years. "We've done well with it," Hamm said. "We're certainly not giving up on South Dakota. We're going to drill wells and keep looking."

Weather

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"It's really unpleasant," said drought specialist Kelly Helm Smith at the National Drought Mitigation Center in Nebraska. She said relief "is not on the radar that I'm aware of." For the Midwest, forecasters don't see any improvement until at least past October. In fact, if the weather phenomenon El Nino forms as predicted, that means even more dry weather next winter for the Midwest and North, said seasonal forecaster Dan Collins of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center in Maryland. NOAA's forecast for just the month of August indicates a high probability for little rain for all or parts of 15 states that are the epicenter of the drought. That region

encompasses Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Iowa and the states generally surrounding them. All told, 42 states or parts of them have been hit by the drought. A NOAA map shows it stretches from California east to Ohio and from Texas north to Minnesota. Tiny pockets of drought also dot the East, including much of Georgia and South Carolina. The forecast for the next three months would push the drought farther north into Minnesota, North Dakota and Michigan, and farther east into Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia. But in the Southwest, especially Arizona and New Mexico, and to a lesser degree Colorado and Utah, the drought will ease a bit. And the eastern drought pockets are also likely to improve a bit. NOAA is also forecasting more triple-digit hot weather for several days starting Saturday for much of the Midwest from Kansas and Nebraska to Indiana and Michi-

gan, with temperatures about 12 degrees hotter than normal. And that will make the drought even worse, forecasters say. One of the main problems is the heat and lack of moisture are in a feedback loop. The ground is so dry that there's not enough moisture in the soil to evaporate into the atmosphere to cause rainfall. And that means hotter, drier air. Illinois' Angel said the best chance for significant rain is going to come from the remnants of tropical storms or hurricanes that push into the Midwest, something that doesn't happen often. "That's how desperate we are," Angel said.



Gardner - Romkema

Emily Gardner and Brett Romkema of Springfield, SD are happy to announce they will be married on August 4th during a private ceremony on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. Parents of the couple are Bill and Suzanne Gardner of Keller, TX and Jay and Carol Romkema of Springfield, SD. Receptions to celebrate their marriage will be held on August 11th in Keller, TX and on August 17th in Springfield, SD. Emily is a 2007 graduate of Keller High School, Keller, TX and Wayne State College, Wayne, NE. She currently is a math teacher at Santee High School, Santee, Nebraska. Brett is a 2007 graduate of Bon Homme High School, Tyndall, SD. He farms near Springfield, SD.



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Napa

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mal day. During harvest season, that number could balloon to 400-500 trucks. "I felt then, and I still do now, that those county roads you'll be accessing from could not handle those loads," Commissioner Mark Johnson said. Beukema has said users will be able access the facility along 435th Avenue by turning west on 306th Street from Highway 81 and then turning south on 435th Avenue. Those approaching from Highway 50 would turn north onto 435th Avenue. Johnson advised that it would be easiest from an infrastructure perspective to restrict truck traffic to entry from the south off of the state-maintained Highway 50. "In the long term, from the county's perspective, it's a better option to come in from the south because you're not overtaxing (306th Street and 435th Avenue from the north of the facility)," he said. Johnson estimated that, in order to pave the approximately five-mile northern route from Highway 81 with concrete, it would cost \$5 million. Paving the just more than two-mile route along 435th Avenue from Highway 50 would cost around \$2 million, he estimated. Beukema agreed that the existing county roads will not be sufficient, but said the company thinks entry from the north and south are important. Furthermore, he said traffic to the facility would grow during an eight-year period. "We think there is time to build that infrastructure," Beukema stated. But such a plan of action is unacceptable, Commissioner Allen Sinclair responded. "If you're going to open that up to 400 vehicles a day, the roads need to be ready for that

facility the day it opens," he said. "We can't go into this without a plan to have those roads in a condition that can handle this traffic. A county commissioner can't put the county in a spot where we don't have the money to fix them. We have enough trouble keeping up with our roads the way it is. "We don't have millions of dollars to (upgrade these roads) ...," Sinclair added. "We don't have it now. We won't have it 10 years from now." Johnson said such an investment would take money away from other road improvement needs in the county. "We're just taking away from other businesses and elevators in the community," he stated. "We can't do that, because not one of us will be sitting here in four years if we do something like that. And it's not the right thing to do. We want to make this as attractive to you as possible, but we can't put everyone else's business in danger." During talks with state Department of Transportation officials, Johnson said he had been told there is no interest on their part in upgrading the county's roads for the elevator. The commission agreed that some sort of assistance, whether it's from Dakota Plains, the Governor's Office of Economic Development or the creation of a tax-increment financing district, would be needed. "If you only have to deal with 2 1/2 miles versus eight miles,

you certainly have a much better chance of getting something to work out there," Johnson said. Commissioners agreed that more communication and cooperation is needed as the project moves ahead. They criticized Dakota Plains for not coming to the commission with its plans prior to February. "It seems to me like you guys are going along saying, 'This is a great deal for the county' — and it is," Sinclair said. "But that's not the bottom line. The bottom line is, we've got to be able to afford this great deal." Added Commissioner Garry Moore, "It's not like we don't want it." Beukema agreed that a joint effort is needed. He said his company cannot afford to put in new roads itself. "When we're talking about spending \$30 million and then the concept we've got to put all the roads in, that's a tough argument for the project," he said. "You're adding a material amount to a project that already costs \$28-\$30 million." Johnson said the commission wants to work to make the project happen. "We want to see it do extremely well in this county," he stated. "But we want to be thinking ahead, so we're not paying for it and our kids aren't paying for it." You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/Anh-landVoyage



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Halvorson & Lambert

Lori Halvorson and Andy Lambert are to be married August 18, 2012. Parents of the couple are Arlen and Candy Halvorson of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Frank and Laurie Lambert of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Lori graduated from Jenks High School in 2005. Then graduated from the University of Missouri in 2010 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. She also received her masters in Mechanical Engineering from RPI(Renecslaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, New York). She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nebraska. Andy graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 2005. Then graduated with a BS BA Transportation and Logistics from the University of Arkansas in 2010. He is currently an Account Manager at National Research Corporation in Lincoln, Nebraska. The couple currently reside in Lincoln, Nebraska.