

Omaha Police Investigate 2 Homicides

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police are busy investigating two different homicides. One death was reported in southeast Omaha on Sunday morning. The other occurred Sunday afternoon in northeast Omaha. Omaha Police Officer James Shade says officers were called to the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club building in southeast Omaha around 10:45 a.m. Shade says a dead man was found inside the club, and the circumstances were suspicious but few details were released. In the other homicide, someone sitting in an SUV was shot and killed outside a beauty supply store.

Native American Magazine Going Digital

SIoux FALLS — A leading news magazine for Native Americans is dropping its print version to focus on its website, and some readers worry that could mean less access to news for older tribal members and those on remote reservations. This Week From Indian Country Today will become an online newsletter starting with the July 17 issue. The national weekly magazine based in New York City has been a leading source for news coverage for rural and urban Native Americans since 1981. Publisher Ray Halbritter says readers want to get news quickly, and the digital newsletter will help with that. Federal data show far fewer Native Americans have broadband Internet than the general population.

R.C. Officials: No Interest In Texting Ban

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City officials say they're in no hurry to join seven of the largest cities in South Dakota that have passed laws that prohibit texting when driving. The Rapid City Journal reports that South Dakota is one of nine states without a statewide ban on texting or cell phone use. But bans have been passed through city ordinances in Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Watertown, Brookings, Vermillion and Huron. Rapid City officials say citizens have not shown interest in a texting ban. City attorney Joel Landeen says the only people who call him about it are reporters. Rapid City council member Charity Doyle says she would personally support a texting ban as a mother with a teenage daughter, but she is skeptical about the ability of police to enforce it.

SDSU Prof Wins National Dairy Award

BROOKINGS (AP) — An assistant professor in South Dakota State University's Dairy Science Department has won a national award. Hasmukh Patel is the recipient of the 2013 American Dairy Science Association's Foundation Scholar Award in dairy foods. Patel has been recognized for his work in research and development related to dairy ingredients, the development of new products and quality assurance for dairy and other food products. Patel joined the Dairy Science Department at SDSU last year. He teaches classes in dairy chemistry, analysis and products processing.

Nikola Tesla Mural In Lincoln Unveiled

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A 1,500-square-foot mural on the side of a Lincoln building that illustrates the life and accomplishments of visionary scientist Nikola Tesla has been unveiled. The Lincoln Journal Star reports that dozens of people watched the orange, brown and white mural was unveiled. The murals designers believe is the world's largest of Tesla, a Serbian-American inventor and rival of Thomas Edison known for his contributions to the design of the AC motor. The unveiling of the mural also marked the positive changes community leaders say are going with the Turbine Flats Project. The nonprofit's building was formerly a manufacturing facility that has since been converted to office space.

Nebraska Senators Eyeing Ways To Expand Craft Beers

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Small, independent beer breweries could have an easier time gaining a foothold in Nebraska if some legislators have their way. Three state lawmakers have introduced a legislative study to see what the state can do to help craft breweries expand in the state. A hearing will take place later this year, likely in the fall.

Nebraska imposes a three-tiered system in regulating alcohol — producers, distributors and retailers — but also lets brewpubs and micro-breweries sell alcohol at retail. A similar exception was used to help farm wineries in Nebraska.

Craft brewery owners say their ability to deliver the beer is limited because they generally have to work through distributors, which take a cut of their profit. The distributors provide important services for breweries and retailers, but small operations argue the distribution cost eats into their revenue, siphoning away money they would rather reinvest in their businesses.

Many craft brewers struggle to deliver their product because they're so small, said Paul Kavulak, co-owner of the Nebraska Brewing Company in Papillion and president of the Nebraska Craft Brewers Guild.

"Many of the laws were built around an industry that was quite a bit bigger," he said. "We're just trying to create a nurturing atmosphere."

The study will examine whether self-distribution could help startup brew-

eries grow, and how they're taxed relative to larger brewers. Lawmakers will also look at a beer check-off program to promote Nebraska-made craft beers, and a possible truth-in-labeling requirement intended to keep major companies from portraying their beer as a locally made product.

Although the state relies on distributors to help the state track alcohol and

Nebraska drinkers over 21 consumed 35.2 gallons of beer per person last year, according to a study released last week by the Beer Institute, an industry group. Nationally, the state ranked No. 8 in per-capita consumption.

One of the newest additions to the Nebraska craft brew scene is the Scratchtown Brewing Company, LLC, which is setting up shop in downtown Ord, a central Nebraska city of about 2,000 people on the edge of the Sandhills.

Co-owner Caleb Pollard said he works with a distributor based in Grand Island, 65 miles away, who is needed to ship his beer to locations in Ord. Many craft brewers produce such small volumes of beer that they sometimes have trouble finding a distributor, he said.

"It's harder to get recognized when you're producing 500 to 1,000 barrels, as opposed to 1 million," said Pollard, 33, who conceived of the business while drinking a homebrewed pale ale with friends.

Pollard, who previously worked as Valley County's economic development director, said the industry could flourish if smaller players were allowed to compete. Some already participate in Nebraska Passport program, the state's signature effort to encourage local tourism.

"People want to know the story and creative energy behind a business," Pollard said. "They want a quality beer, something that tastes better, and I think they're willing to spend more money for it."

"Many of the laws were built around an industry that was quite a bit bigger. We're just trying to create a nurturing atmosphere."

PAUL KAVULAK

collect excise taxes, some lawmakers have expressed interest in legislation that would help microbrewers, at least until they're large enough to need a distributor on a regular basis.

The study was introduced by Sen. Kate Sullivan, of Cedar Rapids, Sen. Colby Coash, of Lincoln and Sen. Russ Karpisek, of Wilber.

"I think it is feasible, and something we probably need to look at," said Karpisek, chairman of the General Affairs Committee, which reviews alcohol legislation. "It's just hard to have two different rules for the craft guys and for the big guys."

Karpisek said craft brewers and distributors were willing to discuss possible changes in the law that could help the smaller breweries.

Last year, Nebraska passed a law that doubles the production limit of microbreweries to 20,000 barrels of beer per year. One barrel contains 31 gallons, or about two kegs of beer.

Rancher Uses Debarker Against Pine Beetles

BY KEVIN WOSTER
Rapid City Journal

CUSTER (AP) — Halfway up the slope just west of Jim Hughes' ranch house, the green pine forest is mottled with red blotches of trees killed by mountain pine beetles.

It's a familiar sight across the Black Hills. And in this case, it's also a fragile battle line for Hughes, a 60-year-old Custer-area rancher and former logger who is fighting bugs that fly in from adjoining national forest to infest more of his trees.

Hughes said he knows how to beat the bugs on his property and has been doing it for years. But he needs more help from the U.S. Forest Service to stem the flight in from federal land. And it

seems unlikely he will get what he says he needs.

"I know it's asking a lot to seek funding from the Forest Service," Hughes told the Rapid City Journal. "But I think we've shown we can be proficient in destroying pine-beetle habitat. I'd really like to see this expand."

The project Hughes hopes to expand is based on a bark-stripping machine that he modified to make more mobile. He then sought modifications in ongoing arrangements with the U.S. Forest Service that allow landowners to cut infested trees on national forest bordering their property.

The arrangements typically are limited to felling the trees, cutting them in chunks and leaving them in place, well before the beetle larvae under the bark emerge to spread each summer. The process

can be up to 80 percent effective in killing the pine-beetle larvae and dramatically reducing their hatch and spread.

But debarking the tree can be close to 100 percent effective, Hughes said. And the Hell Canyon Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest is allowing him to use the diesel-powered debarker and other machinery on national forest adjoining his land.

Rather than leave the chunked trees to rot and, Hughes worries, become fire material, the bark is stripped and chewed up into little pieces, along with the bug larvae. That means the log beneath can be shipped off the property without fear of spreading the bugs and possibly with commercial value for the Forest Service, which owns the logs.

It's more effective, leaves

less mess and can actually produce a product with some value, Hughes said.

"You can see, it's really kind of a desirable product," he said while standing near a stack of debarked logs near his property line. "I'm not making any money on this. But I'm killing the pine beetle and demonstrating a new technology that hopefully will catch on and be useful."

Hughes, who has worked to thin his forest and remove infested trees for years, has in recent years received state financial assistance for the costs of removing trees from his own property. And he received help from Pennington County for the costs in removing infested trees in a 100-yard-wide strip of national forest adjoining his land.

OBITUARIES

Francis Uecker

Francis Uecker, 75, of rural Wagner, SD, died peacefully in his home with family at bedside on Thursday, July 11, 2013, the same home where Francis was born, his grandparents' homestead.



Uecker

A prayer service will be held 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 15, 2013 at the Wagner United Methodist Church. His Memorial Service will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 16, 2013, also at the Wagner United Methodist Church. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of the arrangements.

Francis was born to Bryan and Marie Uecker on October 26, 1937. Francis was a lifelong farmer, it was his passion, second only to the great love and devotion he had for his family. His Uncle Bob said he knew only two men who could just sit and watch their cows eat

grass, Francis and his father, Bryan.

Francis married Sylva Jean Ishmael on June 28, 1954. They lived their married life on the farm. They were blessed with four children, Candy, Randy, Jeff, and Renee. Francis enjoyed his farm, his cattle, his dogs, his horses, his hunting, but mostly his children, his grandchildren, and his great grandchildren. Francis was the best "buddy" in so many ways. Francis was a man who never met a stranger. Francis was famous for his great story telling. He had the best stories and never tired of telling them. Francis was full of laughter and brought tremendous love, joy, and fun to his family and friends.

Thankful for having shared his life are his wife, Sylva Jean of Wagner; children: Candy Uecker of Pueblo West, CO; Randy (Sandy) Uecker of Huron, SD; Jeff (Patty) Uecker of Glade Spring, VA; Renee Uecker of Las Vegas, NV; grandchildren: Chris (Heidi) Howard of Woodland Park, CO; Lee

(Mark) Leuthold of Larchwood, IA; Riley & Reese Uecker of Huron, SD; Kasey Uecker of Glade Spring, VA; Jenny (Eric) Broughton, Naperville, IL.; 10 great grandchildren; brothers: John (Erdene) Uecker of Wagner, SD; Dennis (Fern) Uecker of Rapid City, SD; sisters: Margaret Gilreath of Wheat Ridge, CO; Carol Blaha of Lake Andes, SD; Sandra (Charles) Eitemiller of Armour, SD; Elaine (Alvin) Albert of Newcastle, WY; brothers and sisters-in-law Judy (Wayne) Dougherty of Renner and Jan (Warren) Fisk of Rapid City; and many nieces and nephews.

Francis was preceded in

death by his parents, brothers, Kenneth and Richard; mother-in-law, Ida Kluth; brothers-in-law, Tom Blaha, Don Gilreath; and sister-in-law, Shizuko Uecker.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to be donated to The Landscape Fund at Wagner United Methodist Church.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 15, 2013

Troy Nell Brookman

Troy Nell Brookman, 90, of Wagner died Friday, July 12, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner.

Funeral services are at

10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the United Methodist Church, Wagner. Burial is in the ZCJB Cemetery, rural Wagner, with military honors.

Visitation is 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, with the family present from 6-7 p.m., at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner.

Tim Bruning

Tim Bruning, 54, of Wynot, Neb., died unexpectedly at his mother's residence south of Wynot Saturday, July 13, 2013.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday,

July 17, at Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church, Wynot, Neb., with the Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial will be at the Sts. Philip & James cemetery, St. James, Neb.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, at church, from 5-8 p.m. with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.

Honoring Their Memory

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Erma L. Parish
who passed away on
July 15, 2012

Bobbie M. Christopherson
who passed away on
July 16, 2012

Lloyd Schweinforth
who passed away on
July 17, 2012

Sylvia G. Fejfar
who passed away on
July 17, 2012

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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Solitaires

A social group of ladies who have lost their spouse which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Hospitality Center on the grounds of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Please join us for our next social on
Wednesday, July 17th
6pm Potluck
6:45 Speaker – Healthy Yankton Community Garden

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
Garden of Memories Cemetery

Mark Your Calendars for the Events:
August 21 September 18
October 16 November 20

2901 Douglas Ave., Yankton • 605-665-3644 • www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com