

Doctor Arrested In 4 Nebraska Killings

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — An Indiana doctor who was fired from a Nebraska medical school more than a decade ago has been arrested on suspicion of killing four people with ties to the school in two separate attacks five years apart.

Anthony Garcia was a medical resident at Creighton University when he was dismissed in 2001 for unspecified erratic behavior. He now stands accused in the killing of a pathology professor and his wife earlier this year, as well as the 2008 stabbings of another professor's son and housekeeper in a neighborhood near the home of billionaire Warren Buffett.

Garcia, who lives in Terre Haute, Ind., was arrested by Illinois State Police on Monday during a traffic stop in Union County, in southern Illinois. He was jailed without bond.

The 40-year-old physician is suspected of breaking into the Omaha home of Creighton professor Roger Brumback in May. Investigators believe Garcia fatally shot the professor and stabbed his wife, Mary, to death.

Garcia is also charged in the fatal 2008 stabbings of the son of another pathology professor, William Hunter, and his housekeeper in an affluent Omaha neighborhood, just blocks from Buffet's home.

Garcia was a medical resident when Brumback and Hunter fired him, but neither police nor Creighton officials have detailed the nature of the behavior that led to his dismissal.

Eleven-year-old Thomas Hunter and the housekeeper, Shirlee Sherman, were probably not the intended targets of the 2008 attack, and investigators believe Garcia acted alone, Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said.

Detectives had few leads in the first killings. Witnesses reported seeing a well-dressed, olive-skinned man parking a Honda CR-V about a block from the Hunter home and walking up to the door with a case of some type.

Authorities released a police sketch based on witnesses' recollections, and an award for information climbed to more than \$50,000. But police were unable to develop any solid leads, despite an airing of the case on "America's Most Wanted."

Omaha police spokeswoman Lt. Darci Tierney noted that seven years had

passed from the time Garcia was fired until the killings of Thomas and his housekeeper.

"For most people, that's such a long time in between. It's probably understandable why his name wouldn't come up," she said.

Tierney said she didn't know what broke the case, but the progress came after an FBI task force was created to look into the slayings after the deaths of the Brumbacks.

"That gave us more resources and more eyes on the case, and you just start working it from more angles," Tierney said.

When he was arrested during a traffic stop, Garcia appeared to be intoxicated and was in possession of a .45-caliber handgun, police said. Authorities declined to discuss details of Garcia's arrest or detention.

Garcia appeared in court Tuesday in Jonesboro, Ill., about 120 miles southeast of St. Louis. A judge deferred questions over his extradition to Nebraska until Garcia confers with an attorney headed his way, according to a report by the Southern Illinoisian newspaper in Carbondale.

S.D. Crops Boosted By Rainy Weather

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Timely rains and above-normal temperatures have boosted crop development in South Dakota over the past week.

The Agriculture Department says in its latest crop and weather report that parts of the west still are in need of moisture. Statewide, topsoil moisture supplies are rated 77 percent adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture is 72 percent adequate to surplus.

Haying is in full swing across the state. The report says 73 percent of South Dakota's alfalfa crop is rated good to excellent.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 75 percent good to excellent, and stock water supplies are 83 percent adequate to surplus.

Plans OK'd For Corn Palace Renovation

MITCHELL (AP) — The Mitchell City Council has approved plans for a \$7.2 million renovation and expansion of the city's Corn Palace tourist attraction.

Council members voted 7-0 on Monday night to approve the two-phase plan, which includes color-changing domes, larger murals and a walk-out balcony above the marquee. Architectural designs will now be created.

"Frankly, we think it needs to be exciting," said Doug Dailey, chairman of the Next Generation Corn Palace Committee. "We think the lights and the domes give us that excitement."

The plan's first phase involves improving the current Corn Palace, at a cost of \$4.1 million. Construction could start next year, according to *The Daily Republic* newspaper. The city recently sold \$13.9 million in bonds, of which \$6.5 million was earmarked for the Corn Palace project.

The \$3.1 million second phase involves renovating the City Hall building, which is connected to the north side of the Corn Palace and will be vacated when a new city hall is built in another area.

Councilman Mel Olson questioned whether the council should approve plans for the second phase and possibly tie the hands of a future City Council, but Dailey said approving the plans now would mean designs would be ready for city leaders once that portion of the project was ready to move forward.

"I think you have to have a plan for the whole place," he said. "Without it, we're back to, 'What do we want to do?'"

The original Corn Palace in Mitchell was established in 1892 when settlers displayed the fruits of their harvest on the building. The third and current building was completed in 1921. The corn decorations are stripped each year and new murals are created. It takes about 275,000 ears of corn to decorate the building, which attracts about 200,000 tourists each year.

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the Jim River."

Without dredging, Moore doesn't believe the mouth will flow like it did in the past.

Dave Bartel, the JRWDD executive director, said last week that his organization is looking for an entity to partner with in order to learn more about what is occurring.

"We don't promote projects, we provide financial assistance for them," Bartel told the *Press & Dakotan* at the time. "What we're trying to do ... is get some interest, somebody who would spearhead getting this project going."

Sinclair proposed Tuesday that Bartel be invited to meet with the commission.

"Let's see what initiatives we can jointly pursue," he said. "I think they would be willing to do the legwork, but they do need a sponsoring agency. They do have some funding available. Maybe they can get the (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) involved or something."

In other business Tuesday, the commission discussed a proposal by the Napa-Platte regional railroad authority, of which Yankton County is a member, to meet with prospective developers of a loading facility at Napa Junction northwest of Yankton.

Dakota Plains Ag Center had spoken with the commission about placing an approximately \$30 million grain facility at that location. However, it's been months since commissioners have heard anything about the project. In fact, Dakota Plains manager Matt Winsand told the State Railroad Board in June that it would be building its facility on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line rather than at Napa Junction.

Moore said the regional railroad authority would like to meet with potential developers after allegations made at the last State Railroad Board meeting.

During the proceedings, Iron Horse Development rescinded its offer to purchase the state-owned Napa-Platte line. The Napa-Platte regional railroad authority holds the lease on the eastern 54.5 miles of the approximately 80-mile line.

According to reporting by Bob Mercer, state board member Sheldon Cotton of Volga suggested looking for a replacement for the regional authority.

"I don't know why we're stuck with this bunch of renegades who don't want to do business with us," he said. "It's time to clean this up and we are the people to do it, I think."

Moore took issue with the accusation Tuesday.

"The State Railroad Board indicated that we were a 'bunch of renegades,' that we were anti-development and anti-ag, which is totally inappropriate for people at the state level," he said.

The regional authority's members are appointed by county commissions and not the state, Moore added.

"If there is anybody that needs to be replaced, it is probably the (State Railroad Board)," he said.

"After being labeled anti-development and anti-ag, the Napa-Platte Regional Rail Authority is wondering if (the Yankton County Commission would be interested in them) moving forward with discussions on a loading facility," Moore continued. "In good faith, they would like to come forward to say, 'We don't have anything against it — just live up to the provisions set forth by the State of South Dakota and the governor for any proposal that comes forward.'"

The commission agreed to

send two of its three regional authority members to the proposed meeting.

Also Tuesday, the commission:

- approved a policy to recognize retiring employees;
- approved a resolution and plaque for former Auditor Paula Jones, who retired June 30;
- tabled approval of a \$28,129 bid from Integrated Technology for security cam-

eras at the Yankton County Government Building;

- tabled approval of a bid for a storage facility near the Yankton County Ambulance Building at Eighth Street and Douglas Avenue. James Steel had the low bid at \$122,625. The commission wants to wait and see if the old highway shop sells before proceeding; and
- set Aug. 19 at 9 a.m. as

the time for the auction for the shop. Following that, an auction will be held for an abandoned ethanol plant that is in the county's possession. It also approved that auctioneer D.W. Duhacek will receive 1.75 percent of the sale price for his services.

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