

Sidney Police Justified In Fatal Shooting

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) — A grand jury has determined two Sidney police officers were justified in fatally shooting a man they say confronted them with a knife in April.

The Sidney Sun-Telegraph reports the Cheyenne County grand jury determined Wednesday that the use of deadly force against Dana Hlavinka was reasonable under the circumstances and justified under state law.

Authorities say the officers responded in April to a domestic dispute at a Sidney residence. They entered the home and confronted Hlavinka, who was holding a knife. A woman at the scene later identified as his wife had stab wounds and was treated at a hospital.

The officers shot at Hlavinka, who died at the scene. The grand jury determined Hlavinka threatened the officers' "immediate personal safety."

Warrant Issued For Walker's Arrest

PIERRE (AP) — A judge has issued a warrant for the arrest of a former South Dakota U.S. Senate candidate charged with election law violations because the Black Hawk man failed to appear in court this week.

Circuit Court Judge John Brown issued the warrant after former independent candidate Clayton Walker didn't appear at a hearing on Wednesday.

Walker faces felony charges for submitting nominating petitions that investigators allege included names of dead people, fictitious people and Hollywood celebrities.

On Wednesday, another former U.S. Senate candidate, Annette Bosworth, also had to appear in court related to election law violations during her 2014 primary campaign. She avoided jail time provided she successfully completes three years of probation.

A phone number for Walker could not be found. His trial is scheduled for later this month.

Federal Officials Investigate Explosion

WEST POINT, Neb. (AP) — Federal officials said on Thursday they will investigate an explosion and fire at a northeast Nebraska petroleum distribution center that left seven people injured.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration said officials at the agency's Omaha office will look into the Wednesday afternoon explosion at Sapp Bros. Petroleum in West Point.

"OSHA will be conducting a thorough investigation at Sapp Bros. to see if any violations of safety procedures contributed to this tragic incident," said Darwin Craig, OSHA's acting area director in Omaha.

The Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office told the Omaha World-Herald that

the explosion occurred after a propane delivery truck being serviced at the facility developed a leak and vapors ignited. A maintenance garage was destroyed and authorities have ruled the explosion an accident.

The explosion caused \$900,000 in damage and sparked a large fire, according to the newspaper. Seven people were injured, including two critically, who were taken to the burn unit at an Omaha hospital.

Sapp Bros. CEO Allen Marsh said the two employees have burns to their arms and hands but will be able to recover at home when they're released. On Thursday, the hospital said one of the two employees listed initially as critical was now in good condition and the other

in serious condition.

Three other employees and two volunteer firefighters received injuries that required treatment or observation at local medical facilities, according to authorities.

Marsh said he hoped to learn more about the incident when company officials talk to the injured employees.

OSHA said it hasn't inspected the Sapp Bros. facility in West Point in the past five years, though records show the agency has issued citations at other company locations. In 2014, the company paid more than \$10,000 to resolve safety violations related to carbon monoxide at an Omaha facility. In 2006, the company was cited after a worker at a facility in Wyoming was killed while operating a cutting torch.

Crane

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The agenda for Tuesday's meeting will include a presentation about the potential project and an opportunity at the end of the presentation for the public to ask the Building and Grounds Committee any questions they have while providing input for the school board.

"I'd like to get a reaction from the community as to what they feel their options

are," Fitzgerald said. "I would rather have people know facts than to assume facts."

"We know there are a lot of very good ideas and opinions out there regarding the Crane Youngworth/Williams Field project and we welcome the input," Kindle said.

A follow-up to this public meeting will be a community survey seeking additional input into the scope of this project.

"Similar to the Strategic Planning Survey where we had over 800 folks participate, we encourage our entire community to get involved by

filling out the online survey," Kindle said.

Once the survey results are available, the board will hold another public meeting to discuss the results. Additional information regarding the survey and how to access the survey will be available in the next few weeks. These will contribute to the board's decision and allow construction to begin.

"If we see a strong feeling that is more prominent toward an option, the board will take that into consideration," Fitzgerald said.

"It is really important to

me and the school board for the public to know there have been no decisions made regarding the details of this project and no action taken allowing this project to move forward," Kindle said. "We have more work to do, including gathering additional information from our community and welcoming them into this process."

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FIREWORKS SAFETY

Fourth of July Safety

Do's and don'ts of fireworks



As the mercury rises, the parties and festivities that have come to signify summer excite revelers far and wide. Summer has become the season of pool parties, trips to the beach, barbecues, and, of course, fireworks.

Love it or hate it, warm weather seems to beckon neighbors out of hibernation and incites a desire to set things on fire. When cooking over an open flame doesn't satisfy that desire, many take to shooting off bottle rockers and whistlers. But fireworks can still be dangerous, and not everyone is equipped or legally allowed to ignite fireworks. Therefore, to avoid potentially dangerous injuries, fines or arrests, it pays to follow these fireworks dos and don'ts.

DO find out if fireworks are legal in your area. If you have to travel over state lines or into another country to purchase fireworks, there is a good chance you are not allowed to use fireworks in your community. There are many regulations regarding the sale, transport and use of fireworks, so be sure you're not breaking any laws before buying any fireworks.

DON'T buy fireworks from just anyone. You want to ensure you are purchasing them from a reputable retailer of legal fireworks.

DO check any safety guidelines and warnings on the wrapper of the fireworks before lighting them.

DON'T light fireworks near people, trees, homes, or any combustible materials.

DO keep a fire extinguisher or water hose nearby in the event of a fire. The National Fire Prevention Association notes that the Fourth of July features more reported fires than any other day of the year.

DON'T forget that sparklers and firecrackers are no safer than other types of fireworks. The tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1200 F, which is hot enough to cause third-degree burns and is hotter than the temperature it takes to melt glass.

DO leave fireworks to the professionals to avoid injury or fire.

DON'T light more than one firework at a time.

DO wait 15 to 20 minutes after lighting a firework to see if it has ignited. If not, dump the firework in a bucket of water and move on to a fresh firework.

DON'T let small children handle and light fireworks.

DO make every attempt not to store fireworks. If you purchase them, use them all up. However, a cool, out-of-the-way place may suffice for a day or so.

DON'T have any part of your body over the firework when

lighting it. Try to use a lit stick or butane lighter to keep as far away as possible.

DO say no to alcoholic beverages when lighting fireworks. Your perception and dexterity can be compromised by alcohol.

DON'T shoot fireworks off in windy conditions. Otherwise, make sure the prevailing wind is blowing away from the audience.

DO wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.

DON'T shoot fireworks off of uneven ground. To ensure stability, always light them on a hard, flat and level surface.

DO use common sense at all times when in the presence of fireworks.

DON'T assume pets and children will enjoy the loud noises. Make accommodations for a quiet respite.

DO make sure spectators keep their distance. They should be 25 to 40 feet away from ground-based items and even further for aerial products.

Fireworks can be beautiful to watch and often signify special moments and celebrations. Safety should always be on the minds of people spending time around fireworks.



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