

### 4 Men Die In Head-On Crash

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say four men have died in a head-on crash on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports a vehicle and a pickup collided north of the community of Pine Ridge around 9 p.m. Saturday. The FBI says brothers Cody and Cole Two Bulls and Al Dreamer III were in the vehicle and were killed. Monte Little Cody Jr., who was in the pickup, was also killed.

According to the FBI, a woman and three children who were also in the pickup survived.

The FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are investigating the crash.

### Beatrice Featured In Horror Film

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — A cowriter of the upcoming horror film, "The Gallows," is returning for a special screening in his hometown of Beatrice, where the movie takes place.

Chris Lofing, a 2009 Beatrice High School graduate, cowrote the movie that's set to premiere in theaters Friday. He and his business partner, Travis Cluff, will travel to Beatrice for a special red-carpet showing on July 24 at the Holly Theatre, the *Beatrice Daily Sun* reported.

"It's all pretty overwhelming," Lofing said of his first major film. "It's like I don't know if I've found the right words yet, so we use the same ones over and over."

"The Gallows" takes place in a fictional Beatrice high school. A tragic accident during a 1993 school play leads to a student's hanging, and a new performance is held 20 years later. On the eve of the play's revival, several students find themselves trapped in the auditorium, haunted by the student's ghost.

In the early days of filming, Lofing shot scenes for the movie in Beatrice, though those portions didn't make the final cut. He said that discussions were held about whether to keep Beatrice as the setting for the film, and that the producers ultimately decided it should be.

"It's a good, wholesome town. ... What bad could ever go on in such a nice place?" Cluff said. "It was cool to have Chris have that homage to his hometown."

### Commissioner Criticized For Comments

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Meade County commissioner is facing criticism for posting comments about gay marriage on his county Facebook account.

Alan Aker says his post was misinterpreted, and he's surprised by the reaction.

Aker made his comment after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage is legal nationwide. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Aker predicted the end of marriage as a civil institution, saying he thinks it will become "an exclusively religious institution," leading to problems among the non-religious.

Aker has a disclaimer on his Facebook page saying he is not speaking for the county. He says voters want to know what their leaders think.

Some people have started an online petition to remove Aker from office. State's Attorney Kevin Krull says he doesn't think Aker's actions warrant removal.

### Testimony Given In Harassment Case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has taken early testimony in the case of a Phillip man accused of subjecting American Indian children to racial slurs and spraying them with beer at a minor league hockey game in Rapid City.

Trace O'Connell's bench trial on a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge isn't scheduled until later this month, but KOTA-TV reports two defense witnesses who can't appear at the trial gave testimony on Monday.

Matt Reedy, a member of the group that attended the January hockey game, testified that O'Connell and others had been drinking but that O'Connell accidentally spilled his beer while celebrating. Reedy says no group members made racist statements.

Non-Indian teacher and chaperone Julia Cunningham testified that she heard a statement with racial overtones but didn't find it offensive.

# Boy, 12, Charged With First-Degree Murder

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A 12-year-old boy has been charged with first degree murder in the fatal shooting of a man in Omaha, Nebraska.

The boy is one of three suspects charged in the June 29 shooting near Miller Park that killed 31-year-old Jammell Ray. Two other suspects, aged 15 and 17, were arrested last week.

All three have been charged with first-degree murder and various weapons counts.

Tipped off by investigators in Omaha, the U.S. Marshal's office in Minneapolis conducted surveillance at several homes in the city, and eventually spotted the 12-year-old boy walking on a street around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Omaha police said in a statement.

He was arrested without incident and is expected to be extradited to Nebraska, police said.

Prosecutors say Ray was shot when the boy and two teens lured him and another man to the area on the premise of a marijuana deal, and that the young men had planned a robbery.

It is not yet clear who shot Ray, but prosecutors say all three boys showed the men guns and at least two weapons were fired during the attack. Police have found two guns and are looking for a third, Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine said Tuesday.

The other man, 30-year-old Charles Fisher, was wounded, and authorities say the 17-year-old is suspected of shooting him at close range.

Court documents including arrest affidavits have been sealed from public view, which is common in Nebraska for

suspects under the age of 18. The Associated Press generally does not name juveniles accused of crimes.

John Jedlicka, a public defender appointed to represent the 17-year-old suspect, said Wednesday that he had not seen the arrest documents and that it was too early to say whether he'd seek to have the case transferred to juvenile court.

A Douglas County prosecutor, Jim Masteller, said Wednesday that a change in state law that took effect Jan. 1 requires anyone under 14 to be charged in juvenile court, meaning the 12-year-old suspect cannot be tried as an adult.

Online court records do not indicate that the 12-year-old suspect has an attorney.

## Ga. Woman Bought Gun Used To Kill Neb. Officer

BY KATE BRUMBACK  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Federal authorities say an Atlanta area woman bought the gun that was used to kill a police officer in Nebraska just a day before she was to go on maternity leave.

Marcus Wheeler gave money to Jalita Johnson of Jonesboro and told her to buy a gun, a large magazine and two boxes of ammunition from a pawn shop on April 23, according to a U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent filed June 30 in federal court in Atlanta.

Johnson, who had her

first court appearance Monday, is accused of falsifying information on a form that firearms dealers are required to keep when they sell a gun, the agent's statement says.

Reached by The Associated Press at a number listed in court documents, Johnson said she had no comment. Her court-appointed lawyer wrote in an email that he had no comment.

Officer Kerrie Orozco, 29, was a day away from going on maternity leave to care for the daughter she had delivered prematurely three months earlier when she answered a call to help a fellow officer, police in Omaha said. Wheeler, 26, who was wanted in an earlier shooting, fatally

shot Orozco and then was killed when another officer returned fire, police said.

Orozco had postponed her maternity leave while her baby remained in a hospital prenatal care unit. The infant was to be released from the hospital the day after her mother was killed.

Federal agents with the ATF's Atlanta office went to talk to Johnson on May 22 after agents in Omaha told them the gun used to kill Orozco had been traced to her.

Johnson was unsure of the make and model of the gun she had bought but confirmed that the firearms transaction record the agents had gotten from Ar-

rowhead Pawn Shop looked like a copy of the one she had completed when she bought the gun.

Johnson replied "yes" to a question on the form asking whether she was the actual buyer of the gun, the agent's statement says. But Wheeler, her boyfriend who lived out of state and would visit her occasionally, gave her the money to buy the gun for him, she told agents.

Wheeler also sent her several text messages while she was in the pawn shop indicating what she should buy, the agent's statement says. After she bought the gun, she gave it to Wheeler, the statement says.

## Neb. Farm Income Drops By 45 Percent

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Economists predict that Nebraska's farm income will drop nearly 45 percent this year due to lower crop prices and reduced government payments.

But the state's farm income is expected to stabilize in 2016 and 2017, according to the latest three-year forecast of the state's economy by the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Nebraska Business Forecast Council.

The report states that non-farmers should anticipate their personal incomes to grow solidly through 2017.

Nebraska's farm income is expected to be around \$3.5 billion this year, which is the lowest level since 2009. Nonfarm income should reach \$87 billion this year, up from \$84.1 billion last year, said Eric Thompson, an economist with the university and the director of the Bureau of Business Research.

Thompson said that based on those numbers, farm income would represent almost 4 percent of the state's total 2015 income of around \$90.5 billion.

The state's farm industry was hit this year with significant declines in crop prices compared with record

highs two years ago. Farm income represented more than 9 percent of the state's total income in 2013, Thompson said.

Nebraska job growth is expected to lag behind the national average due to the anticipated decline in farm income.

Jobs in the state are predicted to grow at a rate of 1.2 percent, or 12,000 jobs a year, through 2017. The U.S. economy is expected to have a job-growth rate of 1.7 percent for 2015 and 2016.

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