

# S. Dakota Tribe Leader Says Arrest Won't Deter Anti-Alcohol Work

BY KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota says his recent arrest during a protest against alcohol sales in the Nebraska border town of Whiteclay won't deter him from voicing his disapproval of the possibility of allowing alcohol on the dry Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Bryan Brewer was arrested Monday during a protest in Whiteclay on a 2012 warrant for writing a bad check for \$191 to a veterinary clinic. The tribal official paid the amount, was released and the charges dismissed.

In a statement, Brewer said he hopes his arrest will encourage tribal members to talk about an upcoming referendum vote and its possible effects on the reservation. The tribal council earlier this month approved a public referendum on whether to legalize alcohol on the reservation. A date for the public vote

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**BRYAN BREWER**

has not yet been scheduled.

“The arrest does not deter me from continuing protesting in White Clay (sic), why should we stop?,” he said in the statement. “Alcohol doesn't stop! My arrest only helps bring to light these issues and helps all of us to begin talking about the referendum vote, effects of alcohol and what we really want for our people.”

Federal law bans the sale of alcohol on Indian reservations unless the tribal council al-

lows it. The tribal council legalized alcohol on the reservation for two months in 1970s, but the ban was quickly restored. An attempt to lift the ban in 2004 ultimately died after a public outcry.

Alcoholism is rampant on Pine Ridge and is often identified as the culprit for the high rates of suicide, violence, infant mortality and unemployment among tribal members on the impoverished reservation. People sneak in beer and liquor from nearby border towns like Whiteclay. A lawsuit the tribe brought last year against four beer sellers in Whiteclay and some of the nation's biggest breweries was ultimately dismissed. The tribe alleges that the businesses were profiting from the alcoholism on the reservation.

Brewer said tribal members need to take a “hard look” at what alcohol has done and is doing to the community.

“We need to really think about what our communities will be like if alcohol is legalized on this reservation,” he added.

## Hagel: StratCom Key To Fighting New Threats

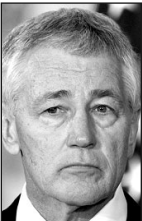
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (AP) — Even as the U.S. Department of Defense has sought to shutter military bases and facilities around the country, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel signaled Thursday that U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base south of Omaha is safe.

Hagel said at a ceremony to honor StratCom personnel that the command is central to dealing with threats facing the country.

“StratCom will remain a foundational piece of our national security for a long time,” Hagel said.

Earlier Thursday, Hagel was briefed on the capabilities of the command, which oversees the nation's nuclear arsenal and has many strategic missions.

The Defense Department has made several recommendations to save money, but has been repeatedly rebuffed by Congress. Last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee advanced a bill that rejects the Pentagon's call to scrap a version of the Global Hawk unmanned aircraft, increase health care fees for retirees and their dependents and close military bases around the country.



Hagel

## Confessed Killer Upset At Media Portrayal

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A man who killed an elderly woman in her South Dakota home and stole her car as part of an alleged plot to assassinate President Barack Obama says he's tired of being portrayed as a monster.

James McVay, 43, spoke out several times during a Wednesday court hearing in Sioux Falls before consulting with his lawyers on the advice of the judge and issuing a courtroom apology.

McVay accused prosecutors of cherry-picking information to make him appear dangerous, and said news reporters “are deciding whether I live or die.”

“I'm tired of it being conveyed to the public as if I'm some kind of a monster,” McVay said.

Judge Peter Lieberman told McVay he will have plenty of opportunities to address the jurors who will sentence him, and that Wednesday's hearing was not the proper forum for the issues he raised, according to the *Argus Leader* newspaper.

McVay last year pleaded guilty but mentally ill to first-degree murder in the July 2011 killing of 75-year-old Maybelle Schein in her home. He could face the death penalty. Several issues have held up his sentencing, including arguments over the appropriateness of the death penalty for a mentally ill defendant.

Wednesday's hearing was held on technical matters involving McVay's defense team and a deposition of his mother. He is due back in court in late July for a hearing on a defense request to suppress statements he made in the days following his arrest.

## Daugaard Seeks Disaster Declaration

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Thursday requested federal assistance from President Barack Obama to help the state recover from thunderstorms, flooding and a tornado.

The request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration stems from a series of storms that hit the state from May 24-31 and covers five counties, including part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The counties are Lincoln, Union, Lawrence, Corson and Bennett.

If the disaster declaration is approved, up to 75 percent of eligible costs could be reimbursed by the federal government.

Preliminary estimates show damage from rainfall and flash flooding caused \$1.4 million in damage.

An EF1 tornado that struck the town of Allen on the Pine Ridge Reservation destroyed three homes and damaged seven others and a church.

In the letter, Daugaard said Lincoln County was especially hard hit, nothing that more than 10 inches of rain fell over a two-day period in Harrisburg.

“Streets were flooded, and the elementary school had water inundating the hallways and gymnasium,” he said.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has also requested federal assistance due to May storm damage to the reservation, which straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border. About \$800,000 of the estimated \$1.2 million in damages on the reservation occurred on the South Dakota side.

“The state did not include their damage in this request,” Daugaard said. “However, it should be recognized that both this disaster request and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's request should be viewed together to understand the full impact to the entire state.”

Earlier this year, Obama approved assistance to help with costs related to the April snow and ice storms in South Dakota.



Daugaard

## Economy Strong In Rural Parts Of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy in rural areas of 10 Midwest and Plains states remains strong as healthy rainfall this spring helps crops get established.

The overall economic index for the region grew to 60.5 in June from May's 58.8. That suggests growth in the months ahead.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the monthly survey, says the bankers are optimistic because of the consistent growth in the national economy and improving crop conditions.

The confidence index grew to 60 in June from May's 54.5.

The indexes range from 0 to 100, with 50 representing growth neutral. Any score above 50 suggests economic growth in the months ahead.

The index is based on a survey of rural bankers in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

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## Western Neb. Trees Still Dying After 2012 Drought

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Forestry officials in western Nebraska say last year's drought was so severe that trees are still struggling to survive, and many are succumbing to pests and disease.

Stress induced by the extreme heat and dry conditions have weakened the trees' defenses against insects and fungi, and damaged the roots systems needed to absorb water. A full recovery will likely take years even if rainfall returns to normal levels, officials from the Nebraska Forest Service said Thursday.

The drought has punished spruce trees in western Nebraska, in particular, even though they normally thrive in the drier climate, said Rachel Allison, a district forester based in North Platte. Allison said the conditions have also killed pines, junipers and red cedar trees.

“The trees that are barely surviving now, they're going to be set up for infectious disease problems,” including attacks by destructive tree borers and bark beetles, Allison said. “It's been quite a bad year.”

Many of the dead trees serve as wind breaks for farms and homes, Allison said.

Recent rain has helped ease the drought in Nebraska, but most of the state remains dry. About 8 percent of the state, in southeast Ne-

braska, is no longer experiencing drought, according to a U.S. Drought Monitor report released this week.

More than 38 percent of Nebraska was still classified as having “extreme” or “exceptional” drought conditions, the most severe classifications on a five-point scale. The conditions were the worst in Hooker, McPherson, and western Thomas and Logan counties, in west-central Nebraska, as well as Red Willow and Furnas counties on the southern border.

Galen Wittrock, assistant manager of the South Platte Natural Resources District in Sidney, said he's seen well-established trees die this year around Sidney, including drought-resistant red cedars. He estimated that 95 percent of the trees inspected in his region are still showing signs of stress from the drought.

“It's just tremendous,” Wittrock said. “We've been through droughts before, but to see the extent of it now — it's really telling.”

Mark Harrell, the state's forest health program leader, said trees in eastern Nebraska have fared better and showed signs of improvement since last year. But he warned that another dry summer could hinder the recovery.

Harrell said abnormally dry soil has caused many trees to lose their fine roots, which are used to pull water out of ground. The roots grow back over time, he said, but a tree may need anywhere from one to three years to recover.

## Animal Rights Group Seeks Booth At Nebraska Fair

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — An animal rights organization wants to take its campaign to the Nebraska State Fair, where exhibitors and fairgoers celebrate the state's rich traditions of agriculture, livestock farming and ranching.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has applied for a booth at this year's fair, which runs Aug. 23-Sept. 2 at the fairgrounds in Grand Island.

PETA campaign manager Katie Arth told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that the group's trips to state fairs in Iowa and elsewhere last year reflected a new strategy for trying to guide consumers away from meat and decrying what PETA members view as often deplorable exploitations of farm animals.

Nebraska fair executive director Joseph McDermott said PETA has a First Amendment right to come to the fair and spread its message.

“We at the Nebraska State Fair have a responsibility to make sure the fair remains a family friendly environment,” McDermott said. “So once it's determined they will be at the fair, we will work with them to ensure that it does remain a family friendly environment.”

Fair officials and PETA represen-

tatives have been discussing references, insurance and other details.

PETA officials said the group's booth and efforts were well-received at last summer's Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, saying several farmers walked up to politely discuss their disagreement with the group's message.

“People were shocked to find out that workers kicked, beat and even sexually abused farm animals on factory farms,” Arth said.

PETA did close down its booth for a couple of days because of a dispute over profanity in a 13-minute video it was showing. But a compromise was reached with fair officials in which the video's audio remained uncensored, but the profanity was removed from the subtitles.

PETA shouldn't expect a warm welcome in Grand Island, said Larry Sitzman, executive director of the Nebraska Pork Producers and speaking on behalf of the five Nebraska livestock and poultry organizations aligned as We Support Agriculture.

“As a joint farm organization, we obviously don't share anything in common with that group,” Sitzman said, “which puts us in the camp of the vast majority of Nebraskans.”

50th Anniversary Celebration

Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Madson

Cliff and Donna Madson of Yankton, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 22, 2013. Donna Steenhoven and Cliff Madson were married June 22, 1963 in Pipestone, MN. The couple has four children: Lori (Dave) Lueckenhoff, Lincoln, NE; Lisa (Todd) Reeves, Yankton, SD; Chad (Kristin) Madson, Yankton, SD; and Bret (Jenny) Madson, Lincoln, NE. The couple has ten grandchildren. Greetings can be sent to 2208 Willowdale Rd. Yankton, SD 57078.

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opening ceremony/ survivor lap

fight back ceremony

community meal

talent show

and more!

live band

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RELAY FOR LIFE American Cancer Society

June 28-29, Riverside Park 6:00pm-6:00am

4:30-5:00pm.....Survivor Registration

5:15pm.....Survivor Celebration/Welcome

5:45pm.....Survivor Picture

5:00-7:00pm.....Community Meal

Sponsored by SD Pork Producers, Chesterman's, Vittles & Such, Frito Lay, Sara Lee and Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center

6:00pm.....Opening Ceremony/ Survivor Lap

7:00pm.....Judi's Dance Studio

8:00pm.....Fight Back Ceremony

Featuring Dr. Mary Milroy

8:30pm.....River City Cheer

9:00pm.....Talent Show

9:30pm.....Luminary Ceremony

10:30pm.....Live Band – The Beckoning

12am.....Body Weight Blast Class

Sponsored by Summit Activity Center

1:00am.....Zumba

Sponsored by Anytime Fitness

2:00am.....Laser Tag

4:30am.....Early Morning Stretch

Sponsored by Avera Wellness Center

5:00am.....Breakfast

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5:30am.....Closing Ceremony

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