

Police Issue Warrants In Man's Killing

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police have issued warrants for two prison inmates in connection with a 2012 killing of an Arizona man whose burned body was found in an eastern Nebraska farm field ditch.

Omaha police spokesman Michael Pecha on Monday told the *Omaha World-Herald* warrants were issued to 29-year-old John Meyers and 33-year-old Joseph Fleming for use of a weapon to commit a felony and suspicion of first-degree murder in the killing of Jose Quintero.

Sarpy County farmers found Quintero's burned body in September 2013 after noticing smoke between their fields.

Investigators believe Quintero, of Phoenix, was dead when his body was dumped early on Sept. 24, 2012. They believe he was killed in Omaha.

The men are imprisoned on other charges. They will be booked on the new charges.

Man Sues In Beating That Caused Trauma

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A man left unconscious and bleeding on a stranger's kitchen floor after a pub crawl in Brookings last year is suing the man who punched him, the men who helped drag him into the house and the roommates who failed to call for help.

Neil Hedeem, 24, sustained permanent brain trauma as a result of the attack in March. He is seeking unspecified damages.

Authorities say Hedeem was drunk when he wandered into the rented home of three South Dakota State University students and fell asleep in the entryway on the night of March 23, according to the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* says.

Three men visiting the students — Aaron Crisp, Mike Mailey and Dustin Welbig — allegedly threw Hedeem out of the house. After a brief altercation in which Hedeem threatened the men with a shovel, Mailey punched the victim, which knocked him out and caused him to hit his head on the concrete.

Instead of calling police, the three men brought Hedeem back into the house and left him on the kitchen floor, where he was bleeding from the ears. The men wrote a note on a pizza box telling Hedeem he had fallen on the ice.

The girlfriend of one of the roommates found Hedeem the following morning and called 911.

The suit said the three roommates — Evan Leeben, Garrett Kommes and Tyler Morris — are liable for failing to call authorities.

Mailey was convicted of aggravated assault and sentenced to two years in prison. Judge Greg Stoltenburg told Mailey he was shocked by the way he and his friends treated Hedeem.

"You left him — you hit him, he dropped to the ground, you dragged him over the roadway, over concrete, snow, up some wooden steps and threw him on the kitchen floor while he is bleeding out his ear and unconscious," the judge said. "And then you and your friends sat around for four hours watching him. Four hours, and you did nothing. If it was a dog, you would have called someone or provided treatment."

Lawyers for the Hedeem family declined to comment on the lawsuit. The defendants did not respond for requests for comment.

Driver Busted After Fatal Omaha Crash

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The driver of a sport utility vehicle suspected of fleeing a fatal Omaha collision with a motorcycle has been arrested across the Missouri River in Iowa.

Omaha police say the accident occurred early Monday morning just east of the U.S. Highway 75 north-Interstate 480 south split. Officers suspect the SUV was going east in the westbound lanes when it struck the motorcycle. The motorcycle driver was pronounced dead later at Nebraska Medical Center. He was identified as 42-year-old Mickey Riesberg, of Omaha.

Police say the SUV driver was arrested soon after he pulled into the Ameristar Casino grounds in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He was identified as 24-year-old Victor Perez, also of Omaha. Charges on an arrest warrant include vehicular homicide.

Court records don't list the case or Perez's attorney.

Lincoln Man Held After Fatal Shooting

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A 26-year-old man has been arrested, accused of fatally shooting another Lincoln man.

Lincoln police spokeswoman Katie Flood said Monday that 26-year-old Danny Tucker has been booked into jail on a murder allegation. Jail records say Tucker remained in custody. Online court records don't list the name of his attorney.

Flood says Tucker is suspected of killing 31-year-old Earl Richardson III. The shooting occurred late Friday night at a home about a mile east of downtown Lincoln. Richardson was pronounced dead at the scene.

Activist Russell Means' Widow Files Suit

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The widow of Native American activist Russell Means has filed a lawsuit accusing doctors in New Mexico of overlooking his esophageal cancer.

The *Santa Fe New Mexican* reports Monday that the suit by Pearl Means in state District Court in Las Vegas, New Mexico, accuses doctors who work at clinics owned by Santa Fe's Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center of allowing his condition to worsen. He died in 2012 at age 72.

Lawyers for the hospital deny any wrongdoing.

Means gained fame in 1970 when he orchestrated a Thanksgiving day event in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where Indian protesters seized a replica of the Mayflower. He shrouded President George Washington's bust on Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, in 1972 with a sheet to protest broken treaties. And the following year, he led a 71-day standoff in Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

Vermillion

Museums, Musicians Say Ivory Order Hampers Travel

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

VERMILLION — Museums and musicians are concerned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's stricter rules on the transport of items containing elephant ivory are inflicting unintended complications on the music community.

The new strategy for fighting trafficking through enforcement, approved by President Barack Obama in February, puts a near complete ban on the commercial trade of elephant ivory.

Musicians and collectors say the rules will limit their ability to travel abroad with antique and vintage instruments they acquired decades ago, and could put them risk of fines and the possible seizure of their instruments.

"We've kind of been caught up in the clampdown that's designed to prevent the extinction of these populations, but we're not really the ones causing the problem," said Arian Sheets, curator of stringed instruments for the National Music Museum in Vermillion.

The order from agency director Daniel Ashe initially allowed the non-commercial import of worked elephant ivory that was legally acquired and removed from the wild prior to Feb. 26, 1976, and has not been sold since then. The agency eased the rule slightly in May, keeping the 1976 acquisition date but extending the instrument sale date to Feb. 25, 2014.

Very few people, Sheets said, kept documentation on ivory before 1989, when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species classified the African elephant as endangered and banned sales of ivory.

Sheets, who is scheduled to testify Tuesday before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, said the order applies to items ranging from vintage pianos with 88 ivory keys to smaller ornamental uses such as ivory-tipped violin bows and nuts and pegs on C.F. Martin guitars. She said the directive puts the burden of proof of how the ivory was obtained on the instrument owner instead of on federal agents.

"They don't have to prove anything," Sheets said. "All they have to say is, 'You don't have the right documentation,' and your object is gone."

Craig Hoover, chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Trade and Conservation branch, said the policy is a work in progress and the agency is trying to find ways to accommodate musicians' concerns while achieving the larger goal of ensuring that the U.S.



is not contributing to elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory. He said the agency has issued many permits for musical instruments and components since the order was issued.

"A relatively piecemeal approach to regulating ivory has not worked very well," Hoover said. "And so we're trying to close up existing loopholes and have a more comprehensive regulatory system, because we are seeing dramatic increases in poaching and in illegal ivory trade."

Earlier this month, U.S. customs agents at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport refused clearance for seven ivory-tipped violin bows owned by members of the Budapest Festival Orchestra because the items lacked proper permits. The musicians used borrowed bows for their performances, and their own were eventually released and sent back to Hungary after a \$525 fine was paid.

Heather Noonan, vice president for advocacy for the League of American Orchestras, said members have worries because the permitting system is confusing and it limits the airports musicians can fly through.

Noonan said a great number of professional and student musicians are playing with bows that contain a small quantity of African elephant ivory, which were legally crafted and legally obtained. She said it's unlikely that they would have asked for particular documentation when they purchased the bows.

"Musicians are buying their instruments for the sound and for the musical

attributes, not for the ivory content," she said. "So they would need to do some fairly substantial detective work to determine the exact details of what's been included in their instruments."

Professional musicians often spend their careers buying and upgrading instruments before selling them upon retirement, Noonan added, and the new rules jeopardize such makeshift pension plans.

Hoover acknowledged that documenting the origin of an ivory specimen can be challenging. He said further outreach and education needs to be done to make sure musicians and other groups know how to comply with international trade requirements.

"Certainly we recognize there's a learning curve here, and we're trying to get the impacted industries up to speed in terms of what the requirements are," he said.

Sheets said the prohibition on sales of instruments containing ivory could hamper new purchases for the museum, which grew from a private collection into an attraction boasting more than 15,000 pianos, harpsichords, guitars, horns and other items.

US Regulators Tell Railroads To Report On Backlog

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A backlog of grain shipments across the Great Plains has been reduced but not eliminated, so U.S. regulators are requiring BNSF and Canadian Pacific railroads to provide weekly updates on their efforts to catch up before harvest.

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board told BNSF and Canadian Pacific to submit plans to address the backlog by this Friday and begin filing weekly updates. The updates are similar to those regulators required on fertilizer shipments this spring after farm groups complained.

The delays in grain shipments have been especially pronounced in northern Plains states, such as North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. Critics blame increased crude oil and freight shipments for the delays, but the railroads have said a brutally cold winter and rail congestion in Chicago caused the backlog.

Regulators said both railroads have made some progress in reducing their backlogs of grain car orders, but many grain elevators still have little space available, with harvest beginning around Aug. 1 in the northern Plains. The backlog has meant farmers aren't getting paid for their crops.

"The Board remains very concerned about the limited time period until the next harvest, the large quantities of grain yet to be moved and the railroads' paths toward meeting their respective commitments," regulators said in their order, issued last Friday.

SD Lottery To Offer Monopoly-Type Game

BY NORA HERTEL
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Lottery Commission will consider Thursday the state's participation in a multi-state lottery game with ties to the board game Monopoly and a related cable television show.

The state lottery's oversight board will discuss details of the new Monopoly Millionaires' Club game, lottery sales and the rollout of the recently introduced Play It Again game for losing tickets.

The Monopoly lottery game will launch nationally this October and state lottery officials hope to establish rules by then, said Kelly Thompson, director of advertising and public relations for the South Dakota Lottery.

Thompson said most participating states will be ready in October, but some may follow a few months later.

The Multi-State Lottery Association, of which more than 30 states including South Dakota are members, announced that its members are moving forward with the new game.

The show will be broadcast on the Game Show Network and include players of the corresponding lottery game from all states that offer it.

"This is a different type of game," said Norman Lingle, executive director of the South Dakota Lottery. In addition to possibly winning a spot on the show, he said there are digital add-ons that gamers can access through the Players Club

on the lottery website. Another new game that took off two months ago in the state will be reviewed by commissioners.

Play It Again is a second chance game which allows people with losing tickets to retry for success online. After its first week, the number of weekly entries shot up. Entries leveled off to about 700 or 800 weekly in May and June.

"We're happy with the launch so far, because it's totally new for South Dakota," Thompson said. She added that similar games in the past required payers to mail in their losing tickets. Now people can register in the drawing online.

The tickets entered so far have come from Wyoming, North Dakota, Arizona, Minnesota and Montana in addition to South Dakota.

Instant ticket sales and total revenue from video lottery machines are up fractions of a percent compared to this time last year.

Officials estimate total revenue will still be down \$2 million this year compared to 2013. They anticipate \$105.5 million in revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30.

The Lottery Commission is made of up seven members appointed by the governor and approved by the state Senate. They will meet Thursday morning in the Capitol in Pierre.

Ponca Tribe's Long Journey May Be Recognized

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska congressman says he'll seek federal recognition and a special designation for the trail the Ponca tribe took during a forced march more than 135 years ago.

Republican Rep. Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska's 1st District plans to introduce a resolution that would create federal recognition for the Chief Standing Bear Trail.

The Nebraska Legislature has passed a resolution supporting the trail.

The route taken in 1877 runs from the Niobrara River in Nebraska to near what now is Ponca City, Oklahoma, and back to the Omaha site of the 1879 trial of Chief Standing Bear. The chief and his tribe became the first Native Americans to be recognized as people under the law in the federal court decision.

"I think this story needs to be told and retold to

America," Fortenberry told the *Lincoln Journal Star* "Chief Standing Bear is one of the most important civil rights leaders in our history."

In 1877, the federal government decided to remove the Ponca tribe from Nebraska to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Federal troops enforced the removal orders, and the Poncas arrived at what became Ponca City, Oklahoma, in the summer of 1878.

Nearly a third of the tribe died on the trek, historians have said, and most of the survivors were sick or disabled. The chief and about 30 others were arrested when they tried to return to Nebraska.

In federal court the defense argued that the chief was being held illegally, forcing a ruling on whether a Native American had any constitutional rights to freedom.

The judge ruled on May

12, 1879, that Indians were "persons within the meaning of the law" and had the rights of citizenship. A government commission later gave the tribe land along the Niobrara River in Nebraska and allowed them to return from Oklahoma.

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