

Authorities Seek Help With Omaha Gang

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities are seeking the public's help in stopping a north Omaha gang suspected of participating in several crimes, including drug sales.

Law enforcement are seeking tips on members of the 40th Avenue/44th Avenue Crips in relation to cases that also include murder, attempted murder, firearms possession and racketeering.

"The gun violence that these groups have participated in has torn at the fabric of so many neighborhoods in Omaha," said spokesman John Ham for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Ham said those crimes have been committed in the last few months, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported. He notes that the gang isn't responsible for all of the violence in Omaha and that agencies also are monitoring other groups suspected of criminal activity.

Ham said officials wanted to reach out to the public now because it's another "tool in our toolbox." He said every investigation is strengthened with community support and information. He couldn't say how many gang members are being targeted as suspects in the crimes, but said the focus is on the gang as a whole.

"An act done by a few in that organization has ramifications for the entire group," Ham said. "As long as these groups continue to use firearms as a tool to intimidate or inflict violence or control...we're going to fight back."

Agencies involved in the investigation include the ATF, the Omaha Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the Douglas County Attorney's Office, U.S. Marshals and the State Probation Office.

Wife Of Dead Marine Delivers Baby

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The wife of a U.S. Marine who was killed in a helicopter crash in Nepal last month has given birth to his son.

KNOP reports Capt. Dustin R. Lukasiewicz's wife, Ashley, gave birth earlier this week. She was pregnant when the 29-year-old from Wilcox, Nebraska, deployed to Nepal to deliver supplies after a major earthquake.

Dustin Lukasiewicz's father, Keith, says the family brought the boy home from the hospital on Thursday. Lukasiewicz and his wife also have a daughter, Isabelle.

Lukasiewicz and five other Marines died May 12 when their helicopter crashed. Two Nepalese soldiers were also killed in the crash.

Woman Accused Of Stabbing Arrested

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City police have arrested a 27-year-old woman they say stabbed a man Thursday.

Police took the Rapid City woman into custody after they found the 25-year-old victim under the East Boulevard bridge. She's facing a charge of aggravated assault.

The victim was transported to Rapid City Regional Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Police are still investigating the incident.

4 New Minor Degrees Approved

RAPID CITY (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved four new minor degrees and a graduate certificate at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

The board Thursday approved new minors in global engineering, computational statistics, environmental science and military science. The regents also approved a new graduate certificate in petroleum systems.

The School of Mines says the degrees in global engineering and computational statistics are expected to have the biggest impact on the most students.

The global engineering program is designed to better prepare graduates for cultural and social challenges they can face working on multicultural projects. The school says 90 percent of the top 20 employers of its graduates have locations in countries outside the U.S. Students will be able to enroll in the new programs this fall.

Man Gets 20 Years For Burglary

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man with a history of violence has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for allegedly punching a woman in the face during a home invasion.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan says 35-year-old Nathan Wright was sentenced to 40 years in prison with 20 years suspended. Wright pleaded guilty to first-degree burglary on April 20.

Wright is accused of repeatedly punching a woman in the face and breaking her jaw during a home invasion. Authorities say the woman was watching two young children at the time.

During the alleged assault, Wright was on parole for his 1999 conviction for first-degree robbery in which he stole \$100 and beat a convenience store clerk on the head, leaving the employee with lifelong injuries.

In Split Decision, Lottery Changes Advertising Firm

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota Lottery Commission voted 4-2 Thursday to forge ahead on hiring Lawrence & Schiller of Sioux Falls at its new advertising and marketing firm.

Several commissioners wanted to know the terms but a draft contract wasn't available from lottery staff for them to see.

Lottery director Norm Lingle also said he didn't know how much the company would make from the new deal.

Kelly Thompson, the lottery's director of advertising and public relations, wasn't at the meeting because of a previously planned medical procedure.

Lingle said Thompson would know those details.

He said the contract is to handle \$1.8 million of advertising during the next two years, at \$900,000 annually, and the contract would start July 1.

He said Lawrence & Schiller was selected by an internal review team of five lottery employees from five firms that competed for the contract.

Commissioner Jim Towler of Dakota Dunes asked in several ways several times about how much Lawrence & Schiller would make.

"What Lawrence & Schiller's piece of that is, I don't have that answer," Lingle said.

The commission's chairman, Chuck Turbiville of Deadwood, backed up Towler initially.

"I would hope that we would have some idea of how much of the \$900,000 is going to go to Lawrence & Schiller services rendered and how much is going to go for the advertising itself," Turbiville said.

Commissioner Bob Hartford of Pierre said knowing that number isn't the lottery commission's responsibility.

"I don't care what Lawrence and Schiller is making. They evidently put together the best presentation," Hartford said. "I think it's time to approve what they have done."

Commissioner Doyle Estes of Hill City disagreed. Estes said he wants to know what is meat and what is gravy. "I think it's a fair concern," he said.

Estes, a Rapid City lawyer and busi-

ness developer, asked if the contract has been shown to the commission. Lingle said it hasn't. "It's been through legal," Lingle said.

"I do know we are somewhat anxious to move forward on this realizing July 1 is fast approaching," Lingle said.

Estes didn't let go. He said perhaps the majority of the commissioners were ready to approve but he and others wanted to know more information.

Hartford didn't want to wait. "We should see where we are on this issue," he said.

When Turbiville said the commission would need another meeting so the information could be presented in the next two weeks, Hartford pushed forward.

"I just think we need to vote and see where we are," Hartford said.

The outcome wasn't clear. Commissioner Brent Dykstra of Fort Pierre was participating by telephone and seconded Hartford's approval motion, but Dykstra wasn't on the line any longer when the voting occurred.

Estes and Towler voted no. Commissioner Roger Novotny of Fort Pierre, a former state director of banking, passed. Hartford, commissioner Jim Putnam of Armour and Turbiville voted yes.

Novotny then voted yes to provide the 4-2 majority needed.

Entwined in the dispute was the question of whether the lottery should spend more than \$100,000 to advertise video lottery. The other \$800,000 is for advertising for instant tickets and on-line lotto games.

Several commissioners said more should be spent on video lottery, but Lingle said the advertising money couldn't be shifted from one budget to the other.

As the meeting concluded Putnam, a former legislator who had been an appropriations chairman, remarked, "Quite a day here today." Then he went to his point.

Putnam asked that lottery staff get information to commissioners prior to the next meeting July 30. "That would be my request and my comment," Putnam said.

"I agree," Turbiville said.

"It's getting more pertinent every meeting we go to," Novotny added.

Lingle replied, "Good meeting, good questions, and we appreciate those questions to make us better."

The current contract holder is Robert Sharp and Associates of Rapid City. Lingle

told the commissioners earlier in the discussion that lottery officials decided against approving an extension for the firm but didn't tell the reason to the commission at the meeting.

The original two-year contract with Robert Sharp and Associates included a series of three one-year extensions available. The remaining two extensions weren't used, Lingle said.

State records show Robert Sharp and Associates received more than \$806,000 so far in fiscal 2015 that ends June 30.

In the two previous fiscal years Robert Sharp and Associates received nearly \$902,000 and more than \$804,000.

For Lawrence & Schiller, the contract marks the first time the firm will work for the lottery. But the firm has worked for state government and political campaigns for state officials for four decades to varying degrees.

Of late, Lawrence & Schiller have become integral to many state agencies and offices. During the past 12 months, Lawrence & Schiller received more than \$6 million in payments from state government, according to state records.

The firm held state contracts in the past 12 months with the Department of Education, the Board of Regents, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the governor's invitational pheasant hunt, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Labor and Regulation and the Department of Public Safety.

The firm provided advertising and marketing services for Gov. Dennis Daugaard in his two campaigns in 2010 and 2014 and for the general election campaigns of previous Gov. Mike Rounds in 2002 and 2006.

Laura Mitchell, whose father is Gov. Daugaard, worked for Lawrence & Schiller since 2006 except for a break to work on the 2010 campaign for governor. She is a digital strategist.

Craig Lawrence, a retired founder of the firm, completed a two-year term as chairman of the South Dakota Republican Party earlier this year.

As chairman, Lawrence worked closely with Daugaard in eliminating debt left from the South Dakota Republican Party's activities in the 2012 campaigns.

Man Files \$20M Lawsuit Against Highway Patrolman

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A former inmate whose conviction in a fatal crash on Interstate 90 was overturned in 2013 has filed a \$20 million lawsuit against a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper and his supervisor, the state and others.

Oakley Engesser claims in his federal lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Rapid City, that the trooper and other defendants withheld evidence that could have prevented his 2001 conviction on vehicular homicide and vehicular battery. Engesser's case has involved years of legal wrangling in both the state and federal court systems but comes down to one question — who was driving a red Corvette on July 30, 2000.

The crash on I-90 near Sturgis killed Engesser's friend, Dorothy Finley of Rapid City. Authorities accused Engesser, 56, of driving drunk with Finley in the vehicle and crashing her Corvette into a minivan while speeding more than 100 mph.

Jurors were shown a video recording of a Highway Patrol interview in which

Engesser agreed he could have been driving the car but said he did not remember anything after leaving a Sturgis bar.

Engesser, who now lives in North Dakota, served 11 years of his 25-year sentence. A judge in October 2013 overturned Engesser's conviction and ordered a new trial, a ruling the state Supreme Court upheld in November. Attorney General Marty Jackley in January decided against retrying Engesser.

Witnesses came forward after Engesser's conviction and said they believed a woman was driving the car. But Engesser claims in the lawsuit that Trooper Edward Fox was responsible for investigating the crash and was told by two witnesses that a woman was driving the car.

"(The witness) specifically told Trooper Fox that the red Corvette, driven by Dorothy Finley, came within a few feet of him as it was skidding down the road. (The witness) clearly saw that a woman was driving and that a man was in the passenger seat," according to the lawsuit. Engesser also argues Fox "lied at various hearings claiming he was unable to 'get

any information from any witnesses as far as whether it was a male or female or any information at all about the driver."

Engesser also claims that Fox "at no time" informed him that at least two people had said they witnessed Finley driving.

In an attempt to reach out to Fox, who was sued in his official capacity, Highway Patrol spokesman Tony Mangan said the department can't comment on pending litigation. Attorney General Marty Jackley wasn't immediately available to comment, and a spokeswoman for Jackley said the state had not been served with the suit as of Thursday afternoon.

"If a prosecutor is acting within the law and within the scope and duties of their position, then there is this concept of immunity," said Utter, who as a state's attorney in 2000 helped prepare the case for indictment. "However, we have a great system, which allows a person in his position to test every avenue that they wish and pursue their rights to due process and I fully embrace that process."

Engesser is asking for \$20 million in punitive damages and attorney fees.

OBITUARIES

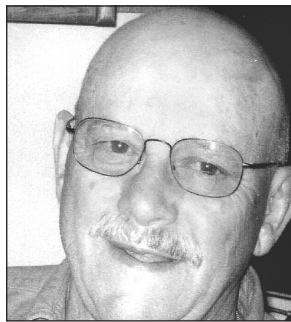
Charles Johnson

Charles "Chuck" Johnson, 72, of Yankton, SD passed away Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at his home surrounded by family.

A private family celebration of life will be held in his memory. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Legacy Burial & Cremation Solutions of Yankton, a branch of Goglin Funeral Homes.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Charles "Chuck" Johnson was born on Thursday, February 18, 1943 to George Elmer and Alice Ruth (Hammond) Johnson in Meridian, Mississippi. In May of 1960, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a medic. During his enlistment, Chuck earned his GED and was honorably discharged in May of 1965. On May 16, 1964, he was united in marriage to Carol Holder in Dakota City, Nebraska and three children were born to this union: Jeff, Jason and Janell. For a time, Chuck worked



Charles Johnson

driving trucks for Dawdy. On November 7, 1980, he was united in marriage to Lois Colwell in Yankton and gained a step-daughter Jennifer whom he loved as his own. Throughout his life, Chuck continued to drive trucks, working for the Colwell family's elevators in Wakonda and Gayville, then Alumax Extrusions, Alcoa and Sapa. Chuck always had a hobby and kept himself busy. He enjoyed hunting and camping, but truly loved his pastime of fishing the most.

Chuck passed away on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 in his home surrounded by his family and having at-

tained the age of 72 years, 3 months, and 22 days.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Lois Johnson of Yankton; children: Jefferey Johnson of Sioux City, IA, Jason Johnson of Yankton, Janell Johnson of Sioux City, IA, Jennifer Zickrik of Long Valley, SD, and Jinger Buckley; grandchildren: Shawn Johnson, Holly Bowman, Kayla Johnson, Maxwell Zickrik, and Emily Zickrik; great-grandchildren: Delaney Johnson, Drake Johnson, and Waverly Bowman; sister Karen Spencer of Oklahoma City, OK; and his beloved dogs Goldie and Tootsie.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Debbie Joyce.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 12, 2015

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Charles Strnad

Charles Strnad, age 91, of Yankton passed away 2015 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is assisting with service details.

Charles Strnad, son of Karl and Ella (Harbarth) Strnad, was born February 2, 1924 in rural Stickney, SD. He grew up on a farm 7 miles east of Stickney and attended rural school for his entire education. Due to harsh winters, he spent them during school session with John and Sadie Toft. He told many stories about that period of time in his life. He farmed with his grandfather, Edward Harbarth, until he enlisted in the army when he was 19 years old. He

served a brief time due to a severe illness, but was an interpreter for prisoners of war in Texas. Upon returning from the army, he continued to farm and raise cattle till he was in his early 80's.

Charles married Bonnie Hartzler in September of 1947. They raised three children on the Harbarth homestead near Stickney, SD. He was a member of the American Legion for many years and enjoyed his lifelong hobby of flying. He lived on the farm until 2013, and resided in Yankton, SD until his passing.

Charles is survived by his wife, Bonnie (Hartzler) Strnad of Yankton, SD; daughters, Sherry (Stulken) Hall and husband, Russ Hall of Fremont, NE, Roberta (Bobbie) Strnad and her husband, Christopher Her- rick of Yankton, SD; son,

William Strnad of Fremont, NE; grandchildren: Shawn (Stacey) Hall of Fremont, NE, Dawn (William) Fitzgibbons of Omaha, NE, Derek Ottenwess of Grand Rapids, MI, Jered (Kristina) Ottenwess of Traverse City, MI; 9 great-grandchildren: Nicholas, Casey, Madison, Robert, Samantha, Spencer, Elijah, Grace and Vivian and one great-great grandchild, Lily.

He was preceded in death by his father, Karl Strnad and his mother, Ella (Harbarth) Strnad.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 12, 2015

OPSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Frank Jandreau, Jr.

Frank died Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at his home in Wagner.

Funeral services are 10 a.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Presbyterian Church in Greenwood. Burial is in the Greenwood Presbyterian Cemetery.

Wake services began Thursday at the YST South Housing Gym in Wagner.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Marvin L. Harms
Graveside Services
2:00 PM, Sunday
Hartington City Cemetery
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