

1 Dead Amid Several Omaha Shootings

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police investigating six weekend shootings that left one man dead and seven other people wounded.
The shootings all occurred in northeast Omaha either late Saturday or early Sunday morning.
Police Officer Kevin Wiese said 25-year-old Travis Holbert died at Creighton University Medical Center after one of the shootings.
Holbert was sitting on a porch near 33rd and Burdette when he was shot by someone in a vehicle around 3 a.m. Sunday.
Six other shooting victims were in critical condition Sunday, but the conditions of all four men and three women wounded weren't immediately available.

Air Patrol Looks For Medal Candidates

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for qualifying applicants to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.
The award is given to those who were members of the Civil Air Patrol between Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 2, 1945, during World War II.
South Dakota Wing's commander Col. John Seten says the organization discovers names of qualifying applicants almost every month.
But Wing historian Maj. Todd Epp says records of candidates sometimes don't have contact information at all, making it difficult to reach candidates or their families. Epp says qualifying applicants or their families should contact the organization.
The medal is being given to members of the organization for their role in protecting the U.S. against German U-boat attacks during World War II and carrying out other wartime domestic missions.

Pilot Is Unhurt In Emergency Landing

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The pilot of a small airplane is unhurt after making an emergency landing about 3 1/2 miles south of the Lincoln Airport.
The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that the incident happened early Friday afternoon.
The pilot told authorities the plane was experiencing engine problems.
The Piper Comanche landed near some train tracks.
David Haring of the Lincoln Airport says the pilot alerted airport authorities about landing at the airport, but that engine issues prevented the plane from reaching the runway.

Camping Resort Fined For Illegal Dam

STURGIS (AP) — A popular Sturgis camping resort and a California man have been sentenced to four years of probation and fined \$250,000 for illegally building a dam along Bear Butte Creek.
Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says 48-year-old Sean Clark, of Hacienda Heights, California, and Glencoe CampResort II, LLC, were sentenced after pleading guilty to violations of the Clean Water Act.
Clark and Glencoe were charged after Glencoe did not remove the dam as ordered by federal and state authorities.
In 2012, the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources discovered a dam that was constructed without valid permits after area residents contacted authorities about the lack of water in the creek.
Clark, who co-owns the resort, was also to serve 100 hours of community service in South Dakota. The \$250,000 fine is being paid jointly between Clark and Glencoe.

Official Sees Lessons In Delmont Tornado

BROOKINGS (AP) — The emergency manager of Brookings County says he picked up some lessons while observing the aftermath of a tornado in the community of Delmont.
The tornado struck the area May 10, damaging or destroying 84 structures in and around Delmont and injuring nine people. Bob Hill tells *The Brookings Register* that he has had a strictly observational role in the cleanup, but learned from seeing the emergency response firsthand.
Hill says he found out that officials waited about five days after the tornado to begin cleanup so residents could sort through debris and have closure. He says this also gave residents time to grieve.
A new credentialing system caught Hill's attention, with different colors assigned to homeowners, volunteers and officials. He says the system seemed to work well.

Research Focuses On Ballistics, Weather

RAPID CITY (AP) — Undergraduate students from across the country are gathering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology this summer to study ballistics and other topics thanks to funding from the National Science Foundation.
The foundation has given the Rapid City school \$360,000 to host a new "Research Experience for Undergraduates" site.
Students participating in this research site will focus on modeling projects that include designing grenade timers, measuring the accuracy of weather forecasts, and increasing the efficiency of ethanol purification by minimizing biofouling.
The 10 students participating in this research site are spending their summer in Rapid City and will return to their colleges to finish the project during the school year.
The Science Foundation funds over 600 undergraduate research sites in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Bird Flu Means Displays Set For Fairs

CENTRAL CITY, Iowa (AP) — The ongoing bird flu outbreak has forced competitors at the Linn County Fair and other poultry events in the state to prepare educational displays and leave their birds at home.
But the 79 participants in this weekend's Linn County competition got to meet Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey.
Northey visited the fair Saturday to speak about poultry health and the bird flu. He encouraged the young people who developed 4-H projects and told them he was glad they were interested in agriculture.
Iowa, Nebraska and many other states where bird flu has been found decided to prohibit poultry events this year to help limit the spread of the disease.

Nebraska

Candidates Jumping Early Into Legislative Races

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The general election is nearly a year and a half away, but some candidates for Nebraska Legislature are already jumping into the 2016 race to replace senators who are slated to leave office.

The Nebraska Secretary of State's office is receiving "a handful of calls a week" from potential candidates asking about filing requirements, deadlines and fees, said spokeswoman Laura Strimple.

The Nebraska Legislature will see another round of turnover in the 2016 election, with 12 of its 49 seats opening because of term limits. Thirteen incumbents will have the chance to seek re-election. The earliest a candidate can officially file for office is Dec. 1, but several have already announced their intentions to run.

Among the new candidates is Dr. Les Spry, a kidney specialist from Lincoln, who is running for the seat held by Sen. Kathy Campbell. Campbell cannot seek re-election because of term limits. Spry and Campbell are both registered Republicans, although the races are nonpartisan.

Spry said he declared his candidacy last week so he can start door-knocking and talking to voters in east Lincoln and Lancaster County.



PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

He said he decided to run because of his experience with state and national policy, including a seven-year stint on the Nebraska State Board of Health, and his interest in working on the state foster care system.

"My weight loss program for the summer is to walk my district," he said.

Larry Scherer of Raymond said he joined the race early to give himself time to introduce himself to voters in his district, which includes parts of north Lincoln and Lancaster County. The district's incumbent legislator, Sen. Ken Haar, is ineligible to run again because of term limits.

"I have a lot to learn, and I didn't want to wait until the last minute," said Scherer, who announced his bid last week. "You need a lot of lead time anymore because of the greater complexity and cost of campaigning."

Scherer serves as research director for the

Nebraska State Education Association, and previously served as legal counsel to the Legislature's Business and Labor and Education committees. Scherer, a registered Democrat, said he plans to campaign on issues such as health care, career education and renewable energy.

One district is already contested. Attorney Dick Clark and Lincoln Airport Authority Board member Anna Wishart, both of Lincoln, are seeking the seat held by Sen. Colby Coash. Coash cannot run again in 2016 because of term limits.

Wishart, a registered Democrat and aide to Sen. Rick Kolowski, said she jumped into the race early because she wants to gather input from every voter in the district. Wishart said she hopes to connect with constituents who have "boots on the ground experience" in areas the Legislature addresses, so that she can consult with

them directly if elected.
"I don't just want to knock on somebody's door," she said. "I want to learn what's important to them, and take the time to engage them."

Clark, a registered Republican and former policy adviser to Gov. Dave Heineman, said his campaign will focus on job creation, education reform and lowering taxes. The former research director for the Omaha-based Platte Institute said he assembled a campaign team early because he expects a competitive race.

"We've got a really low unemployment rate in Nebraska, and that's great," he said. "But what we need to think about is how to create higher-quality jobs that families can really rely on."

The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission hasn't seen many campaign-disclosure filings, and usually receives them between late fall and January, executive director Frank Daley said. Candidates only have to file with the office once they raise, receive or spend more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.

"It tends to be spread out," Daley said. "Obviously there are some people who start planning way ahead and raising money, and they hit the \$5,000 threshold earlier. Others are talked into it at the last minute."

Farm To Have Monoslope Barn

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — The owner of one of South Dakota's first monoslope-style cattle barns says it makes his cows happier and more productive.

The 433-foot-long barn at Weber Farm and Feedlot in Alexandria has a roof with a single slant to one side, the *Daily Republic* reported.

Doug Weber said his family's 950 cows are more comfortable in the barn and are more approachable and calmer than when they're roaming open fields.

"They're kind of glad to be in the barn," Weber said. "When they were outside, we'd get close to them and they'd run away. They were always huddled in the corners trying to fight the flies and heat. Now, they're in the shade, they're approachable and calm."

The direction of the barn and the slope of its roof provide shade and airflow in the summer and lets in the sun in the winter.

"These barns always run east to west for these reasons — the airflow and sun availability. It's pretty simple but effective," said Nic Rowe, engineer from Pro Ag Engineering and the head of the barn's construction. The barn also has a 12-foot-deep pit underneath, where Weber can store up to a year's worth of manure that can be used later as fertilizer.

John Lentz of the Natural Resources Conservation Service said the barn is among the first three or four barns of its kind in the state.

"You get more nutrients from this, because those nutrients are all contained to

the pit," Lentz said. "They don't get lost in rainfall and in the elements."

Weber's monoslope-style cattle barn also helps address manure runoff caused by a creek that flows through the farmland.

"We live real close to a creek here, and in our outside lots, whenever it would rain, manure would wash towards the creek," Weber said. "So the NRCS has this program to shut our old lots down and set up a barn like this to keep from losing that manure. We figured it was a good investment."

The Webers spent six months revamping their farm, installing the barn, planting trees for shelters and implementing other conservation practices.

Medical Pot Sales To Begin In Minnesota, But Fight Not Over

BY KYLE POTTER
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — There will be no baggies of pot awaiting patients next week when Minnesota joins 21 other states in offering medical marijuana. No glass pipes, no plants to tend at home.

Instead, the nation's latest medical marijuana program is a world of pill bottles and vials of marijuana-infused oil.

For the qualifying patients seeking relief from pain, medical marijuana advocates and some lawmakers, Wednesday isn't the finish line, but the first step. The state's restrictive approach, unseen in the industry, is likely to mean high costs, long drives and reluctant doctors.

"The door is opening," said Bob Cappelletti of the Marijuana Policy Project, a national outfit that pushes to loosen marijuana laws. "This will start helping people out. That's really what this is all about."

Minnesota's medical marijuana advocates snatched an

unlikely victory from the Legislature last year after years of failed efforts, but there was little celebration. What emerged to assuage skeptical law enforcement lobbyists and a wary governor was one of the strictest programs in the nation.

Smoking the plant is forbidden. Pills, oils and vapors are only available to patients suffering from severe conditions, such as cancer, epilepsy, HIV and AIDS. And the medicine can only be sold in eight locations, hundreds of miles away from some in Minnesota's rural expanses.

The two companies growing, cultivating and selling marijuana for the state say Minnesota stands out for its a medical approach to a nearly 20-year-old industry that uses terms like "buddender" (salesmen) and "California Kush" (a strain of marijuana).

"The industry doesn't do it this way," Dr. Kyle Kingsley said just days before opening Minnesota Medical Solutions' first dispensing clinic in Minneapolis. "It's all new."

Kathy Schroeder's difficult path shows how the medical polishes on Minnesota's program look more like hurdles to some patients. On paper, her multiple sclerosis and glaucoma — two of the nine conditions that qualify — made her a perfect fit. But like many residents, the 63-year-old struggled to get a doctor's signature to sign up for the program.

Prodding a second doctor paid off for her, but Schroeder isn't sure whether she can even afford a month's worth of medicine, which Kingsley said may sell for up to \$600. Still, she'll make the 180-mile round trip Wednesday from her home near Rochester to MinnMed's Minneapolis facility.

"I knew it was going to be bad, I had no idea it was going to be this bad," her daughter, Maren Schroeder, said.

Rep. Carly Melin sympathizes. The Democrat faced criticism for watering down her medical marijuana bill to get police and Gov. Mark Dayton on board.

"We weren't going to get

anything done if we didn't pass this law," Melin said.

Kingsley said he's confident doctors and hospital systems will eventually approve, but it's made for a slow start to a program that's supposed to sign up 5,000 people. As of Friday morning, just 65 patients were completely registered and another 74 were being processed.

Cappelletti and other advocates already have ideas for how to improve it: allow more than eight dispensaries, add more manufacturers and patients who suffer from chronic pain, and perhaps lift the ban on smoking the drug.

But before expanding, Dr. Andrew Bachman, co-founder of the state's other medical marijuana manufacturer called LeafLine Labs, said they need time to show lawmakers and doctors alike that the new industry works.

That starts Wednesday, he said.

"Ideology does not change overnight. It's important to start somewhere," he said.

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