

N.D. Officials Help S.D. Prepare For Oil Boom

SPEARFISH (AP) — North Dakota officials are telling business and government leaders in South Dakota to prepare for both opportunities and challenges when the oil boom moves south. More than 150 lawmakers and business leaders are at a two-day conference in the western South Dakota city of Spearfish to talk about how officials can prepare for an oil boom. Former North Dakota Commerce Commissioner Shane Goettle (GEHT-uhl) says North Dakota officials were unprepared for the influx of people to that state's oil patch. He's telling people in South Dakota that planning is critical because once a South Dakota oil well proves productive, it will be like "the faucet gets turned on." Spearfish Economic Development Director Bryan Walker says officials plan a trip to Williston in the heart of the North Dakota oil patch.

Omaha Schools Locked Down After Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police have released more information on a shooting that led to three schools being locked down. The shooting happened at mid-day Thursday just north of Benson High School. The high school and a nearby elementary school and middle school were locked down as a precaution. Police say 30-year-old Dallas Waters, of Omaha, was shot in the leg after he stopped his car when he saw two teens pushing a girl on a sidewalk. Police say one of the teens shot Waters. Another round hit the side of the middle school. No one at the school was hurt. Waters was treated at a hospital and released. No arrests have been reported.

Woman Pleads Guilty To Bootlegging Charge

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Porcupine woman has pleaded guilty to dispensing alcohol on the dry Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson announced Thursday that 75-year-old Julia Marie Lamont, who is also known as Marie Lamont, appeared in federal court last month. Lamont pleaded guilty to possessing and selling liquor to other people on the reservation in December. The arrest was part of a joint investigation by federal and tribal law enforcement targeting bootlegging on the reservation. Lamont faces up to one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine when she is sentenced May 24. She has been placed in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

DOC Seeks To Move Guard Suit To Fed Court

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A lawyer for the Department of Corrections has filed notice to move a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the family of a slain prison guard from state court to federal court. The lawsuit alleges that negligence by corrections staff led to the death of Ronald R.J. Johnson during a failed escape attempt by two inmates a year ago. The lawsuit was filed in Minnehaha County last week against Warden Doug Weber, state Corrections Secretary Denny Kaeningk and others. But a lawyer for the Department of Corrections says the lawsuit should be held in federal court. James Woods filed notice to move the case there Wednesday. The suit alleges that the defendants disregarded the risk that inmates Rodney Berget and Eric Robert posed to staff in the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

Mom Accused Of Pimping Out Daughter, 14

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 35-year-old south-central Nebraska woman has been arrested, accused of pimping out her 14-year-old daughter. A news release from the Nebraska State Patrol says the woman was arrested last week at a Kearney motel after offering her daughter to an undercover officer. The woman is charged with child pornography and with conspiracy to commit sexual assault of a child. Her name has not been released, to protect the identity of the girl. The patrol says a 28-year-old Omaha man was arrested Wednesday in connection with the case. Alexander Rahe (ray) faces a charge of sexual assault of a child. Buffalo County jail records say Rahe remains in custody. It's unclear whether he has a lawyer. Online court records don't yet list the case.

College Student Indicted For Alleged Threat

RAPID CITY (AP) — A South Dakota School of Mines and Technology student accused in April of leaving a threatening letter at the college has now been indicted on a terroristic threat charge. Authorities allege that 19-year-old Boyce Way of Mitchell left a note on a school employee's desk saying there would be violence on campus and mentioning a shooting and the burning of a dean's house. Police say the note contained the letters BTK, the infamous signature of a Kansas serial killer. KEVN-TV reports that Way is expected to enter a plea within the next 1 1/2 weeks. It was not immediately clear if he had obtained an attorney, and a telephone listing could not immediately be found for him in Mitchell or Rapid City, where the school is located.

Neb. Officials Look For Car In Missouri River

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) — Nebraska officials are trying to determine how a car last seen in South Sioux City wound up in the Missouri River. The *Sioux City Journal* reports (http://bit.ly/K43kSF) that the investigation began Tuesday after a homeowner discovered tire tracks leading to the river near Fourth Avenue and a license plate. A city video camera recorded images of a car floating in the river around 12:35 a.m. Saturday. So the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources brought out a boat with sonar capability to search for the car Wednesday. South Sioux City Police Chief Scot Ford says investigators have spoken with the owner of the Pontiac sedan that was registered to the found license plate.

S.D. High Court Reinstates Spouse-Stealing Suit

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — The South Dakota Supreme Court on Thursday reinstated a lawsuit filed by a man who alleges a county prosecutor stole the affections of his wife. A trial judge had thrown out the lawsuit filed by Douglas Rumpca of Rapid City, ruling there was no affection left in his marriage with Kellie Rumpca when she became involved with Pennington County State's Attorney Glenn Brenner. However, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that there is conflicting evidence on whether Kellie Rumpca still had affection for her husband when her relationship with Brenner began. The high court sent the case back to circuit court for a trial. "These disagreements must be resolved by a jury," Justice John K. Konenkamp wrote for the court. South Dakota is one of only seven states

that still allow so-called alienation of affection lawsuits that permit people to seek financial damages from those they allege have seduced and stolen their spouses. The other states are Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina and Utah, according to state lawmakers who have tried unsuccessfully in recent years to repeal the law allowing such lawsuits. Brenner's attorney, Michael M. Hickey of Rapid City, said he is comfortable evidence at a trial will support Kellie Rumpca's assertions. "I wish we didn't have to put everybody through a trial, but I guess we're prepared to go forward. We're confident at the end of the day the jury will agree with Kellie," Hickey said. Brenner and Kellie Rumpca are now married, Hickey said. A lawyer representing Douglas Rumpca did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment. Court documents indicate Brenner and

Kellie Rumpca met in 2002, when they had daughters attending the same pre-school. Kellie Rumpca testified in a deposition that she stopped loving her former husband long before she began a relationship with Brenner in 2009, the year she filed for divorce. However, Douglas Rumpca testified the marriage was good until Brenner interfered. The Supreme Court noted Kellie Rumpca gave her husband an anniversary card in 2000 saying she loved him and was blessed to have him for a husband. A therapist also testified Kellie Rumpca said in 2008 she still loved her husband. "Indeed, there were ample circumstantial facts to contradict Kellie," the Supreme Court said. The case has been handled at the trial court level by retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert A. Miller because the circuit judges in the area removed themselves because of their professional dealings with Brenner in his job as state's attorney.

GOP To File Complaint In Fight With Omaha Dems

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The Douglas County Republican Party said Thursday it will file a complaint with state officials against an Omaha Democratic councilman, accusing him of violating state ethics rules by voting to give his former employer one of 35 coveted permits to sell fireworks this year. It is the latest volley in the growing tension between Republicans and Democrats that has centered on Omaha in recent months. It follows complaints by Democrats against Douglas County Election Commissioner Dave Phipps, a Republican, for

his decision to close nearly half the polling places in and around Omaha this year. The GOP's complaint stems from Councilman Ben Gray's involvement in the city's fireworks permit selection process. The city grants 35 permits a year; this year, 81 groups applied. Among those receiving a permit was Impact One, which focuses on gang intervention and prevention, employment training and other issues in north Omaha. Gray used to work for the community-based nonprofit. In a letter to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, the Douglas County Republican Party says Gray voted to approve the application

by Impact One, creating a conflict of interest. The local GOP plans to file the complaint with the state Accountability and Disclosure Commission on Monday. "It appears on the surface that there's either cronyism or favoritism going on, and I think it needs to be a much more fair and open process," said Scott Pedersen, chairman of the Douglas County Republican Party. Gray said he resigned from Impact One a month before the fireworks vote. He said he abstained from voting on Impact One's application early in the process, and that he only voted for a broader measure approving all 35 permits once they had been selected.

"This is politically motivated," Gray said. "If you look at the rules and the regulations in the statutes, I'm not an officer, nor am I a director, nor am I employed with them anymore, so where's the conflict?" He does support the group, but "I have relationships with hundreds of people and hundreds of organizations," Gray said. Gray said he wants any investigation looking into his conduct to be transparent and public. "At the end of it, if they find no allegations of abuse, then I expect an apology from the GOP," Gray said.

Neb. Teen: Credit Reports Are Wrong, I'm Not Dead

HARVARD, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska high school senior is preparing to graduate and go to college — even though he is listed as dead. Corbin Russell's education plans have been held up because credit agencies and other records indicate he is deceased. Russell and his mother told Hastings television station (http://bit.ly/JW2mJW) that his Social Security number was used in a death benefit claim for a man who died in January 2010 in South Carolina. He'd learned of the problem when he tried to get a car loan. "After they ran a credit check score, it came back with a couple of alerts," he said. "I had been dead for the past couple of years." The situation frustrates Russell and his mom, Monica. "How could anybody have death benefits on a senior in high school?" Monica Russell said. The boy's scholarship applications have been rejected be-

cause of the flagged credit reports, and a valid and unchallenged Social Security number is necessary to seek student loans. "If someone just took a couple of minutes of their time and said, 'Hey, look, this Social Security number doesn't match with this person. We need to fix this,' everything could be fixed," Corbin Russell said. That's taking time and perseverance. The station reported that Social Security administration officials say Russell is alive in their records. The three major credit reporting companies have said they need documentation to clear up the problem, which has vexed the Russells for nearly two years. So the Russells have continued to work on getting the documents needed and have sought guidance from the Federal Trade Commission, the Social Security Administration and Nebraska Sen. Mike Johanns' office.

Berkshire Hathaway Events Attract 2 Protest Groups

BY JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer


OMAHA, Neb. — Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting this weekend is expected to attract more than 30,000 people and two groups of protesters hoping to influence CEO Warren Buffett and his shareholders. The main attraction at Saturday's meeting will be Berkshire Chairman Warren Buffett and Vice Chairman Charlie Munger answering questions for several hours. The protesters plan to be outside the arena for the meeting and at a shareholder reception in west Omaha Friday night. One group of protesters from Southern California hopes to persuade Berkshire's Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to move a container-handling facility it plans to build near their neighborhood. BNSF officials say they've worked with area residents to address environmental concerns about the proposed rail facility, and they hope the \$500 million project will be approved. "We have this small group of op-

ponents in the neighborhood who oppose the project no matter what we do," BNSF spokeswoman Lena Kent said. Angelo Logan said he and nine other Southern California residents hope Buffett will intervene with BNSF and force the railroad to alter its plans for the intermodal facility near the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. "We believe he doesn't know about this project, and what it would do to the community," Logan said. But it appears unlikely Buffett would intervene because when he was confronted in past years by protesters upset about Berkshire's utility division, Buffett declined to get directly involved. In that case, Buffett deferred to state and local regulators. Logan and his fellow protesters plan to build an 8-foot-tall inhaler to highlight their concerns about air pollution from semitrailers if the rail facility is built to transfer shipping containers from trucks to BNSF trains. The protesters say that public health studies about the dangers of diesel emissions support their concerns about the new rail facility.

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