

Man Pleads Guilty In Synth. Drug Conspiracy

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man pleaded guilty Friday to selling synthetic drugs in a case that began with an investigation of a Sioux Falls tobacco shop.

Brandon Morrison, 24, of Sioux Falls, was charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance and one count of money laundering. When sentenced Aug. 2, he faces up to 30 years in prison.

Authorities said the indictment resulted from an investigation involving the Roll With It stores in Sioux Falls. Prosecutors said Morrison sold hallucinogens to several shops and the drugs were in turn sold to customers.

Morrison knew customers were ingesting the substances to get high, investigators said.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson said his office has stepped up its efforts to prosecute cases involving synthetic drugs.

"We said what we meant and meant what we said. There will be consequences for anyone who sells these drugs in our state," Johnson said in a statement.

It's an issue that has been prevalent in North Dakota as well. A large synthetic drug case in Grand Forks, N.D., area has resulted in more than a dozen arrests, including that of a Texas man accused of supplying the substances that led to two the overdose deaths of two teenagers.

Omaha Police To Hold Gun Amnesty Event

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Omaha Police Department will hold another Gun Amnesty Day to collect unwanted or illegal guns and ammunition.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 25 in north Omaha. Unwanted or illegal guns and ammunition can be dropped off at Salem Baptist Church. Guns may be dropped off with no questions asked, but police will document all firearms. If a gun is linked to a crime or reported stolen, police will investigate.

Police say it's helpful if guns are unloaded before being dropped off, but if participants are unable to unload the gun or are unsure if it is loaded, they are asked to tell staff before removing a gun from a vehicle.

Police say all guns and ammunition turned in are destroyed.

Convicted SD Optometrist Publicly Apologizes

PIERRE (AP) — A former South Dakota optometrist has publicly apologized for committing Medicaid fraud over a period of more than three years.

Cary Feldman of Spearfish pleaded guilty last October after reaching a deal with prosecutors under which he received a suspended prison sentence, a short jail term and community service. He also was ordered to pay more than \$363,000 in restitution to the government.

Attorney General Marty Jackley on Friday released Feldman's letter of apology. Feldman says he wrote it as part of his effort to "rehabilitate myself and deter others from similar wrongdoings."

Nebraska Jobless Rate Drops To 3.7% In April

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say Nebraska's preliminary unemployment rate declined to 3.7 percent in April after registering 3.8 percent for four straight months.

The Nebraska Labor Department says in a report released Friday that the rate was three-tenths of a point lower than in April 2012 and less than half the national April rate of 7.5 percent for this year.

The 3.7 percent was the second-lowest state unemployment figure in the country, trailing only North Dakota's 3.3 percent for April.

SD Man Pleads Not Guilty To Chicago Murder

ABERDEEN (AP) — A South Dakota man has pleaded not guilty to murdering a woman in Chicago.

Twenty-nine-year-old Daniel Neasom is accused of pushing 39-year-old Cynthia Barnes out of the window of a third-story apartment after an argument in July 2011.

Neasom was living in Chicago at the time. He eventually moved to Aberdeen, where he was arrested in January.

Nebraska

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The utility that owns the troubled Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant in eastern Nebraska says it hopes to have the plant ready to operate by summer, even as federal regulators reported Friday it still has hundreds of issues to correct before it can reopen.

Last month, Omaha Public Power District officials said they expected to have the plant ready by late May. But at a public hearing held Friday by the utility and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, federal regulators said the plant met only eight of 25 major performance issues.

All eight had to do with worker performance in areas such as safety and organization. That means concerns about the physical condition of the plant and its equipment — such as the replacement of faulty electrical wire insulation, overhauling of structural supports inside the building that houses the reactor and safeguards against flooding — had not been allayed during comprehensive federal inspections conducted in March.

Nebraska Supreme Court Says Search Of Truck Improper

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha school officials violated a student's rights by searching his truck that was parked on a public street off school property, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled Friday.

Court records show Justis Puchalla was 17 when he left Mil-lard West High School grounds without permission in August 2010 to retrieve items from his truck, which was parked on a city street across from the school. When questioned by school officials upon his return, Puchalla said he needed to retrieve his wallet and cellphone from the truck. Officials searched Puchalla's pockets and backpack, which turned up only a wallet, cellphone and keys.

Officials then decided to search Puchalla's truck over his objection, finding two marijuana pipes and other paraphernalia. Puchalla was subsequently suspended from school for 19 days. Puchalla served the suspension, but then challenged in court the school's decision not to expunge the suspension from his record.

A Douglas County judge ruled last year that the search violated Puchalla's constitutional right

against illegal search and seizure, but the school district appealed, citing a 1985 U.S. Supreme Court case out of New Jersey that allows school officials to search students if they reasonably believe there is a chance of discovering evidence of wrongdoing.

In its ruling Friday, the Nebraska Supreme Court recognized that Nebraska courts have expanded the reasonable-suspicion standard to include searching a student's vehicle parked on school grounds, but drew the line at searching vehicles off school grounds. The high court also said that once school officials searched Puchalla after he returned from his truck and found no contraband on him, they had enough information to know he was not endangering the school and to discipline him for leaving school grounds.

"The Legislature has not deputized school officials to act beyond the boundaries of their authority," Judge John Wright wrote. "If they still suspected that there was contraband in (Puchalla's) truck parked off campus, despite finding none on his person, they should have notified law enforcement authorities, who are trained in the principles of when and how to conduct a lawful warrantless vehicle search."

Nuke Plant May Restart June 30

Further, federal inspectors had planned to look at 169 of 450 items listed on an NRC checklist that must be resolved before the plant can restart.

"Forty percent of those 169 items were not ready for us to inspect, as they had told us they would be," said NRC spokesman Victor Dricks. "And of those we did look at, 70 percent required further action. The overall message is, they're making progress, but they still have a lot of work to do."

Nuclear Regulatory Commission official Tony Vogel, who oversees reactor safety in the region, praised the progress that has been made. But he told a panel of OPPD officials that federal regulators are still finding too many deficiencies.

"You ought to be identifying those shortcomings yourself," he said.

The plant, which sits across from Iowa on the Missouri River about 20 miles north of Omaha, has been closed since April 2011. It initially went offline for routine maintenance, but flooding along the Missouri River and a series of safety violations forced it to remain closed.

The violations included the failure of a key electrical part during a 2010 test, a small electrical fire in June 2011 and deficiencies in flood planning that were discovered a year before the extended flooding in 2011.

OPPD officials, who have offered several projected restart dates since the plant's closure, said Friday that significant progress has been made at the plant since the inspections took place in March.

"If you look at all of the physical work we've done on the plant, it is in better condition, I would say, than it's ever been," OPPD Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Lou Cortopassi said. "But ... the inspection piece has to be factored into that. We've got several inspections already scheduled in the June time frame."

He and other officials at the utility insist the plant will be ready to restart by June 30, the end of the utility's second quarter. But OPPD officials declined to give a date it expected the plant would actually start sending power to customers. Federal regulators also declined to speculate.

Tribal Leader Calls For A Boycott Of Chamberlain

CHAMBERLAIN (AP) — The chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe is calling for an economic boycott of Chamberlain after the school board in the southeastern South Dakota city refused to allow a tribal honoring song during Sunday's graduation ceremony.

Chairman Brandon Sazue also has called for the withdrawal of millions of dollars of tribal funds from a bank that declined to condemn the school district, and demanded the high school return an eagle feather staff, the *Argus Leader* reported.

"I think they no longer deserve it," he said.

The school board voted 6-1 Monday night to reject a request to allow a tribal honoring song, saying that a feathering ceremony the night before graduation honors tribal students and that the commencement exercise should recognize academic achievements rather than cultural ties.

About one-third of the 900 students in the school district are American Indian.

Sazue said he does not know who gave the eagle feather staff to the school district years ago but that the Crow Creek tribe wants to take custody of it until tribal officials can identify the previous owner. Superintendent Debra Johnson said the school will not give up the staff.



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We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 25th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.

Aneta Burrows

Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Dan, Ann & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in God's heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
15. I have written my own message and it is included.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo.

Fill out the form below and mail to:

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319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078

Deadline: Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Name of deceased _____	
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