

Former SD Secretary Of State Employee Charged In Flag Theft

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A former Secretary of State employee has been charged with one count of theft after an original, handmade South Dakota flag dating back to Deadwood's Old West days disappeared from that office, the state's attorney general said Monday.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Garrett Devries, 26, who now lives in Washington D.C., has been charged with one count of theft having a value in excess of \$400. State investigators recovered the circa-1909 flag on Oct. 8 in Washington.

A message left for Devries was not immediately returned.

Jackley said that recovering the flag without damage or further incident was his office's priority.

"As with any charging decision and potential resolution, I am balancing the nature of the crime with the level of cooperation and acceptance of responsibility," he said in a statement.

A tentative plea hearing is set for Nov. 23.

The azure blue and gold flag had been displayed on a stand inside the Secretary of State's office in Pierre through numerous administrations. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs, who took office on Jan. 2, said an employee who had worked under an earlier administration and was returning to

work that day noticed the flag was not there.

Krebs said her office conducted a thorough search for the flag before reporting the disappearance to the Department of Legislative Audit as part of a request to audit records and capital assets from the previous secretary of state, Jason Gant. The audit department referred the matter to Jackley's office in July, and a probe tracked down the prized possession to the nation's capital.

The flag was created in 1909 after Sen. Ernest May of Deadwood came into the South Dakota Historical Society office and said that the Deadwood sheriff, Seth Bullock, wanted a state flag.

Legislative librarian Ida Anding designed the flag, which features a blazing yellow sun on the front surrounded by "South Dakota" arched atop the sun and "The Sunshine State," South Dakota's original slogan, arched below. The opposite side features a colorful state seal.

Money was appropriated to produce two of the flags, according to Wi-iyohi, an early South Dakota Historical Society newsletter said. One went to the secretary of state, and it remains in that office because state statute designates the Secretary of State as the keeper of historical documents and the state seal. The second original flag was given to Bullock, and it is preserved at the historical society's office in Pierre.

Weekend Crash On I-90 Near Wall Kills 1

WALL (AP) — A one-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 near Wall over the weekend killed one man and injured four others from St. Louis.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol on Monday identified the fatal victim as 21-year-old Andrii Ponomar. He was one of five occupants in the vehicle that went in the ditch and rolled shortly after 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Authorities say the incident happened when 20-year-old Mykola Serhienko lost control of the 2004 Pontiac Vibe he was driving. They say Serhienko, 20-year-old Artem Boiko and 20-year-old Artem Kurhan suffered injuries that are serious but not life-threatening.

Another passenger, 29-year-old Ivan Iskrostenyskiy, suffered life-threatening injuries.

The Highway Patrol says Ponomar was pronounced dead at the scene. The agency says only the driver was wearing a seatbelt.

The incident remains under investigation.

Former SD First Lady Farrar Dies At 84

PIERRE (AP) — Former South Dakota first lady Patricia Farrar has died.

Farrar was the wife of former Gov. Frank Farrar, and was first lady from 1969 to 1971. Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Patricia Farrar died Saturday in Aberdeen, at age 84.

Funeral services are being scheduled Saturday in Britton. Daugaard asks that flags throughout South Dakota fly at half-staff that day in her honor.

Lakota

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"Lakota has been taken out of its natural context," Mirzayan said, according to a profile on Lakota.org. "The challenge is to both bring it back to those everyday contexts, and to bring it into new contexts. It is crucial for students to learn language in the way they will be using it."

Mirzayan is frequently at Pine Ridge in southwestern South Dakota and Rosebud in south central South Dakota promoting the language and the teaching of the language.

One of the programs he designed is the Lakota Language Education Action Program (LLEAP) which he began at USD in August 2011. This is a language teaching program in which students take part in an 18-month program of instructional Lakota. After completing the program, Mirzayan's students are able to travel around the state and teach Lakota in public schools.

"I really am extremely grateful that the Lakota Language Consortium has provided this opportunity for revitalizing the Lakota language," Mirzayan said. "After seeing the impact it is making on the younger generation ... it is truly amazing."

The Lakota language is one of the three major dialects of the Sioux language. The others are two dialects of Dakota: Eastern Dakota (Santee-Sisseton) and Western Dakota (Yankton-Yanktonai). According to the "Rising Voices" film's website, the Dakota language is a very close to Lakota.

The two languages are mutually intelligible; Lakota and Dakota speakers understand each other. Despite these divisions, the Lakota and Dakota are homogenous languages. In the New Lakota Dictionary,

almost three-quarters of the words are identical in Lakota and the two Dakota dialects.

Lakota has a reputation for being different to learn, and indeed many elements of the language do differ from English. Lakota is a highly verb-oriented language. Words in English are used as adjectives, and therefore need to be conjugated. Also, the relationship between subject and object in Lakota is also different from that in English. And while English speakers might find the language a challenge, filmmakers explain it is no more challenging than learning Japanese.

"In Lakota, there are distinctions between unaspirated and aspirated sounds," Mirzayan said. "Meaning, aspiration is crucial for making meaning distinctions in the language. The sounds make completely different words and meanings, so you can't afford to mispronounce."

The film is sponsored by the Language Conservancy and Florentine Films/Hott Productions, with major funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The project is part of five-year project for the Language Conservancy's ongoing effort to preserve languages across North America.

According to the documentary's website, the Lakota nation includes more than 170,000 tribal members. But only 6,000 — spread out across seven tribes throughout reservations in North and South Dakota — speak Lakota today.

"Every language expresses the history and the heart of its culture," said Wil Meya, executive director of the Language Conservancy, in a press release. "A language can be broken, and it can disappear. But a revival of a language can restore a sense of community to a people."

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

Economy

Midwest Growth Slowing

By The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Figures plunged in an October survey of supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states, the third straight month of declines that suggest a regional economic slowdown, according to a report released Monday.

The overall Mid-American Business Conditions Index dropped to 41.9 last month, compared with 47.7 in September and 49.6 in August.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, again blamed the lower survey figures on the strong U.S. dollar and global economic weakness.

"At the national level, prices at the wholesale level declined by 12.1 percent for farm products and by 25.5 percent for energy prices. This weakness has been showing up in our surveys over the last three months," Goss said.

The wholesale inflation index for October fell to 45.3, its lowest level since May 2009, and down from September's 46.8.

"As regional growth has slowed, so have inflationary pressures at the wholesale level," Goss said. "I expect weaker inflationary pressures and growth to push the Federal Reserve to delay a rate hike until 2016," he said.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North

Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Economic optimism, as reflected by the business confidence index, dropped to 42.3 from 43.4 in September.

"Falling agriculture and energy commodity prices,

along with global economic uncertainty, pushed supply managers' expectations of future economic conditions lower for the month," Goss said.

The index for new export orders also plummeted, hitting

38.2 last month, compared with 42.4 in September.

"The strong U.S. dollar, making U.S. goods less competitively priced abroad, and a weaker global economy, battered new export orders for the month," Goss said.

Calling All Cooks!

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be publishing a cookbook in December. This cookbook will not only feature recipes from *The Neighbor Lady Wynn Speece* but also local, regional, state and national celebrities as well as our reader submitted recipes. A fun and informative cookbook you'll want to be part of.

This cookbook will be distributed in the Wednesday, December 23 Press & Dakotan. We would like to have your submissions by November 20th. We thank you in advance for your consideration in participating in this cookbook.

You may use the following methods to submit your recipes:

Email: nicole.myers@yankton.net
or mail to:

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