

First Of 4 Services Honoring Means Being Held

KYLE (AP) — The first of four ceremonies to honor the life of former American Indian Movement activist Russell Means is under way on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Some 500 people gathered at the Little Wound High School in Kyle as Means' ashes arrived Wednesday afternoon by horseback.

Means died Monday at his home on the Pine Ridge reservation after battling cancer. He was 72.

A onetime leader of the American Indian Movement, Means called national attention to the plight of impoverished tribes and lamented the waning of their culture. Even after leaving AIM, he was a cultural presence who appeared in several movies.

Means' ashes are expected to be scattered in a private ceremony Thursday in the Black Hills.

Three other ceremonies are scheduled for next year.

Man Arrested For Indecent Exposure In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police have arrested a man in an indecent exposure investigation that began over the summer.

Police say 23-year-old Larry Snoddy, of Omaha, was arrested on two counts of lewd conduct and one count of assault. The incidents happened in the Dundee area on Aug. 31 and Oct. 14.

Snoddy's case is not listed on the online court system, and it's unclear if he has an attorney.

Snow Expected In Parts Of Dakotas

RAPID CITY (AP) — A storm system crossing the Northern Plains is brining measurable snowfall to parts of the Dakotas.

National Weather Service meteorologist Scott Rudge tells the *Rapid City Journal* that an inch or two of snow has accumulated in the northern Black Hills area. And snow is starting to stick in the grassy areas across the Rapid City area and the southern Black Hills.

The National Weather Service says 3-7 inches of snow is expected in the Black Hills of western South Dakota, with 1-3 inches on the plains in that region. A winter weather advisory is in effect until 10 p.m.

Snow also is expected in southern North Dakota, though meteorologist Adam Jones in Bismarck says the maximum will be only about an inch.

Proposed Pipeline Will Increase River Flows

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Four natural resource districts are joining forces for a project that will increase water flows to Nebraska's Republican and Platte Rivers.

District officials have agreed to buy a farm south of North Platte and retire approximately 15,800 acres from production. Doing so will allow them to save water that would otherwise be used for irrigation, and ship it down to the rivers when it's needed to make sure Nebraska stays in compliance with interstate water agreements.

The districts are expected to split the \$83 million cost to buy the property and make upgrades to help ship the water. Officials estimate that they'll need 17 miles of pipeline to transport water to both rivers.

The project could add about 45,000 acre-feet of water to both rivers.

More Details In Neb. Child Prostitution Ring

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a sixth man is suspected of having sex with an underage girl in Kearney in a child prostitution ring allegedly run by a Nebraska woman who's charged with prostituting her two daughters.

The *Kearney Hub* says Zachary Schmidt, of North Platte, is charged in Buffalo County with first-degree sexual assault of a child. Defense attorney Michael Carper declined to comment on Wednesday.

Schmidt and five other men are accused of having sex with the girl after it was arranged by a woman who's accused of prostituting her 14-year-old and 7-year-old daughters.

ABC News Wants 'Pink Slime' Suit In Federal Court

NORTH SIOUX CITY (AP) — Lawyers for ABC News are asking to have a defamation lawsuit against the company filed by a South Dakota beef processing plant transferred from circuit court to federal court.

Beef Products Inc. sued ABC News Inc. for defamation over its coverage of a meat product that critics dub "pink slime." The company alleges that the network created an inaccurate impression that the product is unsafe. The company is seeking \$1.2 billion in damages.

The lawsuit was originally filed in circuit court in South Dakota's Union County in September. Lawyers for the broadcasting company want the suit moved to federal district court in South Dakota because it says the parties involved are all from different states.

A lawyer for BPI didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

Moeller Execution

Woman Halts Effort To Win Stay

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A Sioux Falls woman with loose family ties to death row inmate Donald Moeller has given up her effort to stop Moeller's upcoming execution.

Moeller, 60, has said he's ready to accept death as the consequence for the 1990 kidnapping, rape and murder of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell. His execution is set for next week.

On Wednesday, attorneys for Donna Nichols filed a motion with the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss the appeal of his federal case challenging South Dakota's execution protocol.

Earlier Wednesday, Nichols' Rapid City-based attorney, Robert Van Norman, said he was filing a motion with the appeals court to stay the execution and was prepared to take it to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol on Tuesday denied Nichols' motion to stay the execution



Moeller

and intervene in the case.

Nichols, whose mother married Moeller's stepfather, says Moeller wasn't psychologically qualified to dismiss his appeals.

She claimed that Moeller's years of confinement and psychological problems have made him incapable of making voluntary and rational decisions.

Moeller recently asked a federal judge to dismiss his appeals and let him die.

Judge Piersol has upheld the constitutionality of Moeller's conviction and sentence, but he hadn't ruled on the constitutionality of a South Dakota Department of Corrections execution policy that was changed last year.

Arkansas attorneys who had been representing Moeller had hoped to press forward with claims that South Dakota's use of the drug pentobarbital in a one-drug method would inflict cruel

and unusual punishment, but his successful request to dismiss the case made that impossible.

Moeller's new attorney, Mark Marshall, has said that the motion to appoint Nichols as a friend in the case appeared to be an effort by the Arkansas attorneys to continue to insert their wishes over Moeller's.

Also on Wednesday, the ACLU stepped into the case and asked Judge Piersol to unseal about 20 documents that had been filed under an order protecting the manufacturer and supplier of the drug pentobarbital and the identity of the execution team.

The organization asked that the court unseal the documents with appropriate redactions.

Authorities say Moeller kidnapped O'Connell from a Sioux Falls convenience store, drove her to a secluded area near the Big Sioux River, then raped and killed her. Her naked body was found the next day. She had been stabbed and her throat was slashed.

Study: ND Electrical Demand Triple In Oil Patch

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Electrical demand in North Dakota's energy-producing counties is expected to nearly triple over the next 20 years, according to a new study.

The North Dakota Industrial Commission provided \$100,000 for the study to estimate growth in electricity demand in the state's booming energy industry. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Basin Electric Power Cooperative also provided funds for the \$284,000 study.

The state Industrial Commission said in a statement that the study provides valuable information that will be used in addressing the future power demand and infrastructure needs in 22 western North Dakota counties. The commission, made up of the governor, agriculture commissioner and attorney general, oversees the state's oil and gas regulation.

Over the past six years, North Dakota has risen from the nation's ninth-leading oil producer to its second, trailing only Texas, because of advanced horizontal drilling techniques that opened

up the rich Bakken shale and Three Forks formations.

The study projects North Dakota will have between 30,000 and 40,000 oil wells by 2032, up from about 7,700 now. Every well requires the same amount of electricity as three farmsteads, Dale Haugen, general manager of the Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, told *The Forum* newspaper.

The study also estimates a 52 percent population increase in the region in 20 years.

"It's the type of problem that while it's daunting — it's huge — it's something that we're up for, it's something we're accustomed to doing because we've been providing electricity in that part of the world for over 80 years," David Goodin, MDU's president and CEO, said during a Tuesday news conference unveiling the study.

The need for more electricity is expected to be sharpest in two northwestern counties. The study says Williams County's de-

mand could rise by 232 percent in the next two decades, and McKenzie County's by 339 percent.

Mountrail-Williams Electric has brought in as many as 300 workers to help build up the power infrastructure in the region, Haugen said. Basin Electric is building power plants near Williston and Watford City.


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