Judge Orders Trial In 4 Omaha Slayings

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Two criminal investigators testified Tuesday that the Omaha man accused of carrying out a three-week killing rampage in and around the city this summer confessed to four slayings during a nine-hour police interview last month, saying voices and commands from an Egyptian god told him to do it.

Police suspect another motive: robbery.

The investigators were the sole witnesses to testify at the preliminary hearing of Nikko Jenkins, 27, who was ordered to stand trial on four counts of first-degree murder and several weapons counts.

Prosecutors say Jenkins killed the four in three separate shootings in the three weeks after he was released from prison on July 30. He had served more than a decade for robbery, assault and weapons charges.

He's accused of using a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun loaded with deer slugs to kill Jorge Cajiga-Ruiz, 29, and Juan Uribe-Pena, 26, on Aug. 11. Their bodies were found inside a pickup truck near a city pool in southeast Omaha.

Police say he used a small caliber gun to kill a one-time prison acquaintance, 22-year-old Curtis Bradford, on Aug. 19. Then on Aug. 21, authorities say he pulled 33-year-old Andrea Kruger from her sport utility vehicle between 1:30 and 2 a.m. and shot her four times. The mother of three was on her way home from work at a west Omaha nightclub.

S.D. Trooper Shoots Suspect In Chase

RAPID CITY (AP) - Law enforcement authorities were investigating after a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper shot and wounded a Rapid City man following a chase that ended on the city's west side.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom declined to provide details about what sparked the chase, but he said it began Monday afternoon in Meade County and finished when the suspects' vehicle crashed into a ditch near Interstate 90 and Deadwood Avenue, The Rapid City Journal reported.

Law officers arrested one of the two men in the vehicle immediately. The other man ran away and was chased down by a trooper in the parking lot of the nearby Butler Machinery dealership.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said the incident escalated and trooper Mike Bock shot William Chandler, 27, of Rapid City. He said Chandler has been admitted to a hospital for a gunshot wound.

The other man, Joseph Paul Andrews, 23, of Rapid City, was arrested on a probation violation warrant, Jackley said

Authorities have not released the extent of Chandler's injuries. Thom said he was unable to speak about the reason for the pursuit.

'The only rounds fired were fired by law enforcement and that was the trooper that fired," Thom told KELO TV.

The attorney general said the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating to determine

whether the shooting was justified. A report is expected to be released within 30 days, he said.

Sgt. Doug Quarve of the Sturgis Police Department said the pursuit started west of Sturgis and passed through that city.

USDA: Rain Slowed Neb. Wheat Planting

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Last week's rain of an inch or more of rain slowed the planting of winter wheat across much of the Panhandle and some central Nebraska counties.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its report for the week ending Sunday that 65 percent of the expected crop had been planted, compared with 72 percent average by the end of September.

The USDA says, however, that the rain improved the overall prospects for the state's next wheat crop.

The report also says about 9 percent of the state's corn crop had been harvested, compared with 51 percent last year and 16 percent on average by this time of the year.

The soybean harvest was 13 percent complete, com-

PRESS&DAKOTAN

South Dakota Board Awards Flexibility For Teacher Evaluations

BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

OACOMA - South Dakota school districts should have flexibility to use state standards or their own systems for evaluating teachers, the state Board of Education decided Tuesday.

The evaluations must be conducted starting in the 2014-15 school year. The state standards use the 2013 version of the Charlotte Danielson framework.

School districts seeking to use their own systems will need approval from the state secretary of education and

will need to show research supporting their systems. Their systems must align with the

Danielson framework. "I think it is important to allow districts to have that flexibility," state board president Don Kirkegaard said. He is superintendent of the Meade school district.

South Dakota will seek permission from the U.S. Department of Education for a one-year delay in using evaluation results in personnel decisions at individual schools, according to Abby Javurek-Humig, director of assessment

and accountability for the state Depart-ment of Education.

the midwest

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The board also adopted rule changes for cooperation agreements and extraordinary costs.

No one spoke against any of the proposals, although the board adopted several amendments responding to comments that were previously received from school administrators.

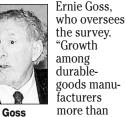
The three sets of changes now proceed to the Legislature's rules review committee for final approval. The committee meets Nov. 12.

Manufacturing Growth To Aid Midwest Economy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new survey of business lead-ers in nine Midwest and Plains states suggests that manufacturing growth will help fuel the regional economy through the end of the year, according to a report released Tuesday.

The overall Mid-America Business Conditions Index climbed for a second straight month in September, rising to 54.8 from 53.8 in August, the report said.

"Despite all of the domestic economic uncertainty, the Mid-America survey points to positive growth for the final quarter of 2013,' said Creighton University professor and economist



compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth, while a score below that suggests decline.

The survey of supply managers covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The survey index on business confidence dropped to 51.8 last month from 53.9 in August.

⁴Uncertainty surrounding implementation of health care reform and the congressionalpresidential budget impasse pushed supply managers' economic outlook lower for

the month," said Goss.

September's survey included a question asking how the Affordable Care Act was affecting hiring. More than a fourth, or 26.3 percent, reported that the health care overhaul law was making their companies more reluctant to hire new workers. Overall, according to the survey, 37.5 percent of supply managers indicated that their companies either reduced hiring or hours worked as a result of the act.

Online:

Creighton University economic reports: http://business.creighton.edu/economi coutlook

South Dakota

Some See Delays On Health Care Site

BY DIRK LAMMERS Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS - Some South Dakota residents trying to get an early jump on the health insurance marketplace signups that opened Tuesday were greeted with a message saying the federal website was down.

South Dakota is one of 36 states letting the federal government run its health exchange, where consumers can compare plans and buy health insurance. The exchanges are a key part of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. Residents are directed to HealthCare.gov for the first day of a six-month open-enrollment period.

The website on Tuesday coverage to start Jan. 1. Cusmorning warned that it had a tomers have until the end of lot of visitors, sometimes March to sign up in order to sending users to an online apavoid tax penalties plication and sometimes

"They didn't have the protocol ready."

ERIC MATT

The marketplaces repre-Kim Jones, coordinator for sent a turning point in the nation's approach to health care, the biggest expansion in cov-erage in nearly 50 years.

The Obama administration hopes to sign up 7 million peo ple during the first year and aims to eventually sign up at least half of the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans through an expansion of Medicaid or government-subsidized plans.

Health and Human Services spokeswoman Joanne Peters said that more than 1 million people had visited HealthCare.gov in the last day — five times more users than have ever been on the Medicare.gov at one tim

About 105,000 South Dakotans, or 13 percent of the state's population, are uninsured, according to recent surveys.

The federal system was supposed to be able to access state records to check for Medicaid eligibility, but that function was not yet working by Tuesday's rollout, said Eric Matt, a policy adviser in Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office.

"They didn't have the pro-tocol ready," Matt said.

The South Dakota Division of Insurance has certified Avera Health Plans, Sanford Health Plan and Dakotacare, which is associated with the South Dakota State Medical Association, to offer insurance plans in the state.

State officials did not put any resources into marketing the health exchange, leaving that to private and nonprofit organization health

the South Dakota Navigator Coalition, an organization helping people enroll, said the heavy demand was anticipated and she expects that federal officials will work out the kinks in the system. "I think everyone pretty much expected that there

nesses linked to agriculture. And, he said, exports and farm income growth were down from earlier in the

The survey results are

ing them to try again later.

could be a big rush, that the

site could be overloaded on

have six months to work

the first day," Jones said. "We

through this. This is only Day

Dec. 15 is the deadline for

Goss said weaker agricul-

ture commodity prices had

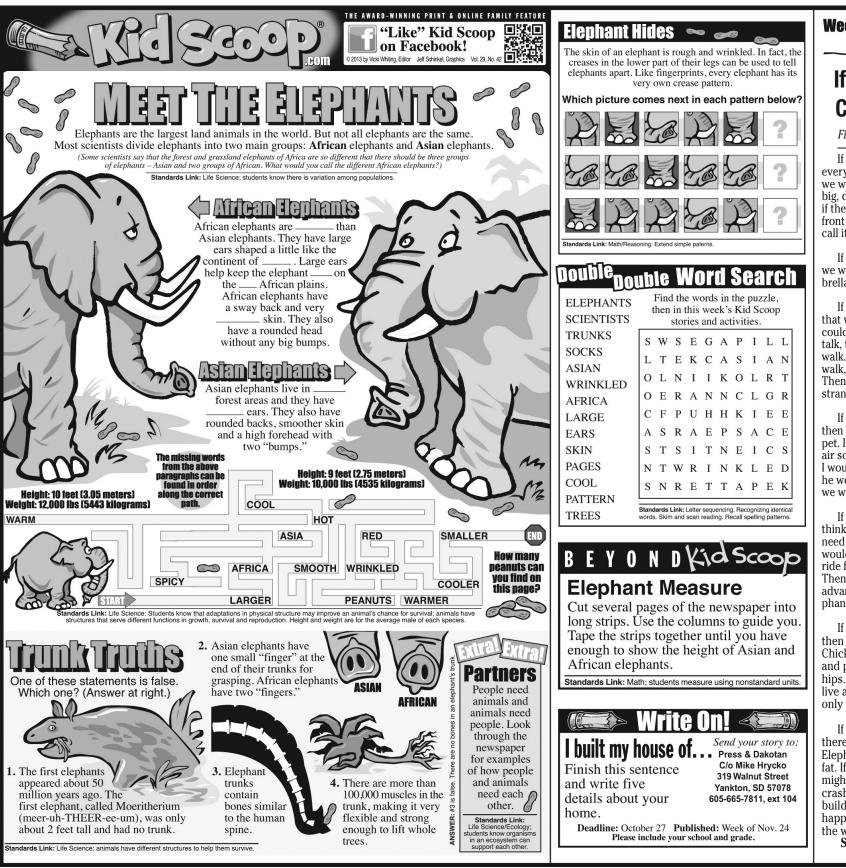
slowed growth for busi-

service firms.

year.

goods manumore than offset pullbacks among nondurable producers and value-added

pared with 44 percent last year and 19 percent on average.



Weekly Writing Corner **If Elephants** Could Fly ... Finish this story. If elephants could fly, every time they flew by we would think there were big, dark rain clouds. But if they flew in a clump in front of the sun, we would call it an elephant eclipse. India, 2nd grade If elephants could fly, we would need large umbrellas. Rachel, 8th grade If elephants could fly, that would mean dogs

could talk. If dogs could talk, then dolphins could walk. If dolphins could walk, then bats could see. Then what would this strange world come to be? Lindsey, 8th grade

If elephants could fly then I would want one as a pet. I would be up in the air soaring high in the sky. I would call him Babe and he would live with me and we would be best friends. Jenny, 5th grade

If elephants could fly, I think that we wouldn't need cars because all you would have to do is get a ride from an elephant. Then we might get really advanced and have elephant taxis.

Kenny, 6th grade If elephants could fly, then pigs could burrow. Chickens would have lips and pythons would have hips. And moles would live above the ground. If only elephants could fly!

Alex, 6th grade If elephants could fly, there might be danger. Elephants are huge and fat. If they fell on you, you might die. What if they crashed into a building?So let's just be happy with the elephants the way they are. Sammy-Jo, 5th grade