

Neb. Killer To Stay In Mental Hospital

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judge on Tuesday ordered a man who killed six members of a western Nebraska family in 1975 to remain in a psychiatric hospital.

Lincoln County District Judge Donald Rowlands ordered Erwin Simants, 68, to remain at Lincoln Regional Center, the Lincoln Journal Star reported (<http://bit.ly/179iZNp>).

That's where Simants has lived since 1979, the year he was found not guilty by reason of insanity for the shooting deaths of six in the Kellie family of Sutherland.

Prosecutors say Simants took a rifle from his sister's house and went next door and shot and killed Henry and Audrey Kellie; their son, David, 32; and three of their grandchildren, Florence, 10; Deanna, 7 and Daniel, 5. Autopsies showed the grandmother and one of the granddaughters were sexually assaulted after they died.

Simants was convicted at his first trial and sentenced to death, but the Nebraska Supreme Court ordered a new trial because the county sheriff — a trial witness — played cards with some of the jurors while they were sequestered.

A judge has reviewed Simants' psychiatric reports every year since 1979. All concluded Simants remained mentally ill and dangerous, keeping him in state mental hospital.

That changed this year, when doctors agreed that Simants is no longer mentally ill. But Rowlands ruled Tuesday that there is evidence that Simants "is and continues to be mentally ill and dangerous to others by reason of mental illness, and that he will continue to be dangerous in the foreseeable future as demonstrated by the overt acts of Oct. 18, 1975."

Flu Death Is From Minnehaha Co.

PIERRE (AP) — A Minnehaha County resident in their 70s is the first South Dakotan to die of the flu this season.

The Department of Health says the person's name and more information will not be released.

The state has reported three laboratory-confirmed cases of flu and one flu-related hospitalization.

Health officials say the flu vaccination is recommended for everyone but some people are at particularly high risk and should be sure to be vaccinated, including people over 50, pregnant women, those with chronic medical conditions and health care workers.

Accused Teens To Undergo Evaluations

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Two teenagers accused of stabbing workers at a North Platte youth center will undergo psychological evaluations.

Attorneys for 18-year-old Keenan Lambert, of Amherst, and 16-year-old Jordan Baker, of Hastings, requested the evaluations during a court appearance Monday. A judge granted them.

The teens are accused of stabbing two workers at the Nebraska Youth Center in July and then fleeing in one of the employees' vehicles. The workers were later hospitalized and survived.

Both teens have been charged as adults with attempted murder, use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony, escape and theft.

Neb. Ag Group Attacks Chipotle's Video

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation is criticizing Chipotle Mexican Grill's video called "The Scarecrow" as an attack on agricultural producers and their methods.

The Lincoln Journal Star says the group has sent a letter to the Denver-based restaurant chain, voicing "extreme disappointment and concern."

Chipotle has joined other restaurant groups in seeking more humane treatment of farm animals. Chipotle spokeswoman Danielle Winslow told the newspaper that "The Scarecrow" and an accompanying video game offer a way to educate the public on agricultural trends.

The 3-minute video has been posted on Chipotle's website. Chipotle says in a news release that the game and video "depict a scarecrow's journey to bring wholesome food back to the people by providing an alternative to the processed food that dominates his world."

Nebraska

Termination Of Man's Parental Rights Reversed

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The Nebraska Court of Appeals on Tuesday reversed a decision to terminate the parental rights of a father who spent time in jail for physically assaulting his ex-wife, saying he had taken steps to improve and that "the law does not require perfection of a parent."

According to court records, the man and his ex-wife had three children together and lost their parental rights to the oldest two in December 2010, when she was pregnant with the youngest, Damien. The father, whom the court refers to only as "Jerry S." in its opinion, was arrested in March 2011 for assaulting his ex-wife while she was still pregnant. He was convicted and served jail time for domestic violence.

A Douglas County juvenile court later terminated the ex-wife's parental rights to Damien for engaging in domestic violence with a boyfriend in front of the boy. Authorities also moved to terminate Jerry's parental rights to Damien, and the matter went to trial last November.

At that trial, evidence was presented that showed that although Jerry was sometimes the aggressor in physical altercations with his ex-wife, she was the aggressor at other times.

A caseworker testified that Jerry should lose his parental rights to Damien because of his prior loss of parental rights to two older children, his history of domestic violence and his violation of a court protection order for responding to a Facebook message his ex-wife sent him.

But the caseworker also testified that Jerry had taken steps to improve, including refraining from initiating contact with his ex-wife, taking GED classes, attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, completing anger management classes and participating parenting classes.

A worker who supervised Jerry's visitation with Damien testified that Jerry was an attentive parent who showed care and affection, and that the boy was excited to see his father during the visits.

The trial court determined that there was clear and convincing evidence that terminating Jerry's parental rights was in the child's best interests.

A three-judge panel of the appeals court disagreed, unanimously voting to restore the father's parental rights and noting that "the law does not require perfection of a parent."

"Since his release from jail, Jerry has taken numerous steps to prove he is a capable father for Damien," Judge Francie Riedmann wrote in the opinion. "At the same time, Jerry took substantial steps to improve his own life so that he could become a dependable caretaker for Damien."

Jerry's attorney, Susanne Dempsey Cook, said Tuesday that her client is eager to reconnect with his son, whom he hasn't been allowed to see since the trial court ruled against him almost a year ago. She declined to give his last name.

The state has 30 days to appeal Tuesday's ruling. Deputy Douglas County Attorney Brenda Beadle said her office is "strongly considering" appealing to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

"We respectfully disagree with opinion" of the appeals court, Beadle said. "We need to be able to consider a person's prior history when we're trying to protect children."

S.D. Officials

Few Details On Health Care Enrollees

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota insurance regulators said Tuesday they don't know a lot about the people signing up for health insurance under the new health care law because the online market is run by the federal government.

Members of the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee asked state insurance officials about the characteristics of the more than two dozen South Dakotans who have signed up for insurance since the online health exchange started operating Oct. 1.

State Insurance Director Merle Scheiber and Melissa Klemann, assistant director of life and health insurance for the state Insurance Division, said they know little about those who have signed up because South Dakota is one of 36 states letting the federal government run its health exchange, where consumers can compare plans and buy insurance.

Rep. Justin Cronin, R-Gettysburg, said he wants to know whether people enrolling had insurance before or are now getting it because the federal government is subsidizing the cost for people with modest incomes.

Klemann said the only way the state could find out that information is if people who sign up report it to their new insurance companies.

Scheiber said many people are calling his office, mostly to report they are having trouble using the online health exchange, which has been plagued by problems nationwide. He said state officials help people as best they can, but federal officials are in charge of the exchange.

Avera Health Plans, Sanford Health Plan and DAKOTACARE, which is associated with the South Dakota State Medical Association, are approved to offer plans in South Dakota.

Blizzard-Lost Plains Cattle Will Hurt Area Economy

RAPID CITY (AP) — An early October blizzard that killed thousands of cattle in western South Dakota will have a staggering impact on the regional economy, the head of the state Stockgrowers Association said.

The cattle in the area before the blizzard were worth \$550 million, with a potential economic impact of \$1.7 billion in the region. But many of those cattle died in the storm, Stockgrowers Executive Director Silvia Christen told the Rapid City Council on Monday night.

State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven has estimated cattle losses at between 15,000 and 30,000. Affected ranchers also won't be buying trucks, eating at restaurants and participating in activities, Christen said.

"This is going to have an impact on Rapid City. Most of these producers, their financial institutions are based here, their attorney services are here, their (cattle) feed," she said.

About \$300,000 has been donated to a relief fund set up since the Oct. 4 blizzard dumped up to 4 feet of snow on the region, Christen said.

"We've received donations from 48 states and three different countries, including some really generous donations from individuals

who I know are scraping together to make that donation," she said. "They have a lot of empathy for what our producers are dealing with."

Ranchers in northwestern Nebraska and southwestern North Dakota also suffered heavy cattle losses. So far there has been no federal aid because a government program to help ranchers recover livestock losses has expired, and Congress has yet to pass a new farm bill.

Aaron Krauter, North Dakota state executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, which handles federal farm programs, told Agweek that he was optimistic Congress would pass a new farm bill that reauthorizes funding for the program and makes it retroactive to cover losses from the blizzard.

Some ranchers have private insurance that would compensate them for at least part of their blizzard-related losses, but such insurance is rare, said Jesse Konold, with Key Insurance in Mobridge, S.D. Konold told Agweek that he estimates only about one-fifth of his company's clients have the insurance, which can cost as much as \$7 for each \$1,000 of coverage.

"That's a big hit to profits," Konold said.

OUR CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU!
CALL THE P&D AT (605) 665-7811

© 2013 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schmitt, Graphics Vol. 29, No. 45

W

U

K

M

Q

B

C

R

T

E

R

J

U

B

O

T

Y

D

H

L

P

A

O

Why do leaves change color in the fall?

It's Not Easy Staying Green

Photosynthesis slows in fall as winter approaches. Trees and plants live off their stored food. The green chlorophyll disappears leaving red, orange and yellow leaves. The dry, brittle leaves soon drop from trees with the help of crisp autumn breezes.

When the rain comes down, what goes up?

Find the answer in the fall leaf border! Start here. Then read every other letter as you move clockwise around the border.

Lookalike Leaves

All of the leaves at right have an identical twin — except one. Can you find it?

Extra! Extra! Fall Syllables

Find words in the newspaper that have the same number of syllables as the fall words below. Paste each word on the picture with the matching number of syllables.

Leaf

Acorn

Harvested

Jack o' lantern

How many leaves can you find on this page in two minutes?

Have a friend try, too.

Who found the most?

Can you find at least five silly things in this fall scene?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Standards Link: Decoding and Word Recognition: Decode regular multi-syllabic words.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

LEAVES	S Y S E R E D R O B
WATER	Y S E L B A L L Y S
SYLLABLES	A T A L A R S V E R
CARBON	D O S A S E C H A E
SEASON	G O O F V T A N C T
WINTER	R R N A C A R B O N
SCENE	E N E C S W G E R I
BORDER	E L G P S I R C N W
CRISP	N R A E P P A S I D
ACORN	
GREEN	
DISAPPEAR	
ROOTS	
FALL	
DAYS	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Autumn

Find five words in the newspaper that describe the autumn season. Paste the words onto a sheet of paper. Write a sentence using each word. Decorate your paper with images of fall.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use adjectives in writing. Sentence Structure: Write simple and complex complete sentences.

Write On!

Eat like a plant?

Would you like to "eat" like a plant — meaning have the ability to turn sunshine, water and CO2 into food through photosynthesis? Why or why not?

FALL WORD GAME

Each row of squares below has the letters of a word that can be found on this page. Read today's Kid Scoop page and then try to unscramble them all.

1 - 3: Junior Hiker

4 - 7: Botanist

8 - 10: Dendrologist (Tree scientist)

C R O O L

B R A N O C

T W E R I N

G R O N E A

T H U S L I G N

B R A S O B

G Y O N E X

A V E L S E

G E N A C H

M U A U N T

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words correctly.