

Police ID Suspect In Fatal Shootings

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An arrest warrant has been issued for an Indiana man police say is responsible for two deaths in Omaha over the weekend.

Omaha Police said Monday that they are looking for 53-year-old Michael A. Nolt of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Nolt is a suspect in the shooting deaths of 26-year-old Malquan King and 23-year-old Arelius Hassell early Saturday. A 25-year-old woman was also wounded.

Police say Nolt knew the three victims, but they didn't discuss a motive for the shootings.

Nolt is a white man who is 5-foot-11-inches tall and weighs 160 pounds. He has gray hair and hazel eyes, and he wears eyeglasses.

Strong Winds Factor In Semi Rollover

MURDO (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says strong winds were a factor in the rollover of a semi-trailer in the south-central part of the state.

The Highway Patrol on Monday said the 33-year-old driver from Katy, Texas, lost control of the semi-trailer when a gust wind pushed it off U.S. Highway 83 as he hit a curve. The driver suffered minor injuries and received treatment at the scene, about 16 miles south of Murdo.

A wind advisory was in effect when the incident happened at 2:48 p.m. Sunday.

Several parts of South Dakota have been under wind advisories and warnings Monday. Strong winds have toppled trees and caused at least one power outage.

Grass Fire Prompts Evacuation Of Town

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Most residents of Cannon Ball on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation are back in their homes after a grass fire fanned by strong winds destroyed buildings there and prompted evacuations.

There were no injuries in the Sunday afternoon fire, but the flames burned three homes and a church.

A second large fire began burning on the reservation Monday in the Wakpala area, but no structures were immediately threatened.

Tribal Emergency Manager Elliott Ward says hay bales caught fire north of Cannon Ball on Saturday night, and the flames spread into town Sunday when winds gusted up to 60 mph.

Residents were evacuated after power poles got knocked down. Shelters were set up at the tribal casino and in Porcupine.

KXMB-TV reports only about two dozen families are still displaced.

Man Dies In Grand Island Cycle Crash

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 32-year-old man has died after his motorcycle crashed in Grand Island.

The accident happened around 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Police say Russell Kelley, of St. Paul, lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into a light pole and a parked truck.

Police say Kelley may have been drinking alcohol before the accident.

Animal, Bird Deaths Linked To Algae?

HURON (AP) — South Dakota officials say the recent deaths of animals and birds at Lake Byron in Beadle County might be due to bacteria producing toxins in the water.

The *Huron Plainsman* reports that the state Game, Fish & Parks Department is cautioning people to avoid contact with the water and to keep their animals away from the lake while water samples are tested.

Late summer and early fall offer prime conditions for blue-green algae growth in many waters. Swimmers in waters with the bacteria might have allergic reactions, while animals, birds and fish can be poisoned by high levels.

The algae blooms occur during hot, dry weather. The threat diminishes once the weather turns colder.

Fire Prompts Evacuation Of RC Hotel

RAPID CITY (AP) — A fire on the rooftop of the pool area prompted the evacuation of a Rapid City hotel.

Fire alarms at The Best Western Ramkota went off about 6:45 a.m. Monday. Firefighters quickly put out the fire and no injuries were reported.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately determined.

Administrator: TSA Needs To Refocus Mission On Security

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Airport screeners should be allowed to focus on the Transportation Security Administration's primary of mission of security and let officials think about how fast the lines move, the agency's head said Monday.

The TSA has come under scrutiny after the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General found earlier this year in that undercover agents carrying mock explosives, weapons and other prohibited items made it through airport checkpoints in 67 of 70 instances.

TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger, who visited Sioux Falls and toured the regional airport with U.S. Sen. John Thune, called the called the 96 percent failure rate "disturbing." But he said covert testing is important. "because you want the good guys to break the system and not the bad guys."

Neffenger said TSA had developed a disproportionate focus on efficiency instead of its primary mission of security.



Neffenger

The former Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard wants the agency to refocus its screeners and managers on the primary mission as if the TSA was a U.S. military branch.

"I want front-line screeners doing what they're supposed to do, which is screening and making sure that things that shouldn't get past the checkpoint don't get past," he said. "I let leaders and managers worry about things like queuing and line speed."

Neffenger was confirmed as the TSA's head in June after the checkpoint report came out. The classified report was based on an investigation conducted by Homeland Security Inspector General John Roth; ABC News first reported the results of the audit. Following the disclosure, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson reassigned then-Administrator Melvin Carraway to a different job within the department.

Thune said Neffenger has a strong military background and is highly quali-

fied to take on the challenges facing the agency.

"I think he has the right skill set to turn the TSA around," Thune said.

Neffenger said terrorism threats are "more diverse and more challenging" than ever, and the TSA has been studying the specifics of the checkpoint failures and assessing the breakdowns in technology, people and processes.

"If we can get answers to those questions, I think you can train out the failure, the systemic problems in the organization," he said.

Some of the solutions the agency is looking at are improving how it responds to the finding of prohibited items, deterring people from bringing such items through security, increasing effectiveness, increasing threat testing to sharpen officer performance and improving the Advanced Imaging Technology system.

Neffenger complimented TSA's screeners for taking an oath to perform in a job that is seldom appreciated by travelers.

"They are really dedicated," he said.

Nebraska

Son Of Dead Man Wants Bars Held Liable For Overserving

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The son of a man who died after fracturing his skull at an Omaha bar says Nebraska should hold bars liable for injuries and deaths caused by drunken customers.

Michael Drahota, 62, fell in the bathroom at Harold's Bar and slipped into a coma after drinking over six hours on Jan. 14. He died two months later.

State law doesn't cover overserving adults, unlike Iowa and many other states' so-called "dram shop" laws, the *Omaha World-Herald* reports.

Drahota's son, Mike Drahota Jr., said he's working to get a new dram shop law introduced during next year's legislative session. His father had consumed 10 beers and 11 shots of alcohol, and his blood-alcohol level was .328 when he was brought to the hospital.

The bar was given a 20-day suspension of its liquor license by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. The bar's manager,

Harold Newbanks Jr., said it will avoid the suspension by paying \$2,000 in fines, an option allowed by law.

Newbanks said the bar's staff is more closely watching customers for signs of drunkenness. He said he had known Drahota for 45 years, and that he could "drink up a storm" without showing it. He described his death as a tragic accident.

"I feel very bad about the whole thing," Newbanks said. "Mike was a great guy. Some guys just have their demons."

Past dram shop law proposals have failed amid debate on whether businesses should be punished for an individual's actions. Sen. Les Seiler, who heads the Judiciary Committee, said he would be willing to take another look.

Nichole Carritt of Omaha-based Project Extra Mile, which seeks to prevent underage drinking, said new faces in the Legislature will give a fresh perspective on the issue.

"It may be time for a renewed discussion of this issue in Nebraska," she said.

Winds Fuel New Wildfire On Reservation

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Strong winds hampered firefighters' efforts to contain a large wildfire on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation Monday, a day after another grass fire prompted the evacuation of a small town on the reservation that straddles the Dakotas.

Monday's fire began about 3:30 a.m. about 6 miles north of Wakpala, South Dakota, and had not been contained by midday as wind gusts surpassed 40 mph, said Johnelle Leingang, the tribal chairman's executive secretary and a member of the tribe's emergency response team.

"It's moving quickly," she told The Associated Press. "It's in the Oak Creek area now, a very wooded area."

No structures were threatened and no injuries were reported. There was no immediate word on the cause of the fire, which Tribal Emergency Manager Elliott Ward said had grown to about 1 1/2 square miles. A Red Cross team was being dispatched from Rapid City to help responders.

On Sunday, three homes and a church were destroyed in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, and the 875 residents were evacuated from their homes in the Standing Rock Indian Reservation community when electrical poles were knocked down.

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