

## Police Chief Retiring After 25 Years

STURGIS (AP) — The man believed to be the longest-serving police chief in South Dakota history is calling it a career.

Sturgis Chief Jim Bush says he's retiring in January. He'll be succeeded by Assistant Chief Geody VanDewater.

Bush joined the Sturgis force in 1978 and became the chief in 1990. One of his jobs has been overseeing the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which draws hundreds of thousands of people to the region.

Sturgis Mayor Mark Cartensen says Bush has been "a role model for our department and departments around the state."

## Ride-Hailing Service Settles Complaint

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The ride-hailing service Lyft has paid an undisclosed fine to settle a complaint filed by Nebraska regulators.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that the Nebraska Public Service Commission accused the company in July of failing to seek authority to operate in Nebraska and of operating illegally in the state for more than a year.

Lyft later applied for the authority, which was granted in September.

The commissioners agreed to close the complaint Tuesday, after Lyft paid the fine.

Mark Breiner, director of the transportation division of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, said Wednesday that the settlement includes a provision that the amount of the fine not be disclosed.

## SF Won't Move Single-Serve Booze Ban

STIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls City Councilman Dean Karsky is backing off on a suggestion to have the city restrict sales of single-serve alcohol products in stores.

Karsky earlier broached the idea as a possible way to reduce the thousands of booze-related nuisance calls police get annually. He believes store sales of products such as 40-ounce cans of malt liquor contribute to the problem.

Karsky says he still believes the sales are impacting city resources but that he decided against formally proposing a ban after talking with business owners, law officers and substance abuse professionals. He says he hopes the industry will find a solution instead.

## Bank Manager Admits Embezzling \$323K

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A January sentencing hearing has been scheduled for a former bank manager who admits embezzling more than \$323,000 from a branch in Wahoo.

Federal court records say Margaret Cherovsky pleaded guilty after making a deal with prosecutors, who are recommending she serve five years of probation. Her sentencing is set for Jan. 11. The records say Cherovsky already has paid back the money.

A document filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Omaha says FirstBank of Nebraska officials learned in April last year that the money was missing. The document says Cherovsky had been depositing varying amounts over the past 20 years into her accounts. She faked bank records to show that the money was mutilated or otherwise damaged and could no longer circulate.

## Man's Roommate Murder On Trial In RC

RAPID CITY (AP) — A man accused of fatally stabbing his roommate is on trial in Rapid City.

A jury was seated Tuesday in the trial of 21-year-old Samuel Tyburec, who's accused of killing 25-year-old roommate Matthew Wassenaar in May by stabbing him in the back five times.

Tyburec has said he feared Wassenaar and acted in self-defense. He's pleaded not guilty to alternate counts of second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter.

The trial is expected to last through the rest of the week. Tyburec could face a life sentence if convicted.

## Political Entities Must Refund Payments

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) — Cheyenne County and 15 political subdivisions such as school districts must repay nearly \$122,000 to a company that won its property valuation challenge.

The *Sidney Sun-Telegraph* reports that the county Board of Commissioners learned Tuesday that it must refund \$31,000 of the total to Frontier Pipeline. County officials say the company protested the original 2014 valuation of \$6.7 million that was determined by the Nebraska Revenue Department. The department recalculated and came up with a new value: \$1 million.

That means the county entities must refund their share of the tax money already collected. They can claim a hardship, which would give them five years to return the money.

## Fallen Officers To Be Honored In SF

STIOUX FALLS (AP) — Fallen law enforcement officers are being honored in Sioux Falls as part of an event held nationwide every fall.

The city's sixth annual Blue Light Ceremony will take place Thursday evening at the Empire Mall. Color guards with the South Dakota State Penitentiary and the Sioux Falls Police Department are expected to attend the program.

The ceremony was organized by Harrisburg Mayor Julie Burke-Bowen. She tells the *Argus Leader* that the event will feature a video tribute to fallen officers created by Harrisburg video production students.

The names of the 53 officers who have died in the line of duty in South Dakota since the 1880s will be read at the ceremony.

According to the website Officer Down Memorial Page, 101 officers have died in the U.S. this year.

## Ex-Guard Drug Smuggling Gets Probation

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former guard at Tecumseh State Correctional Institution accused of trying to smuggle drugs to inmates has been sentenced to 18 months of probation.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that 21-year-old Michael Splittgerber was sentenced Monday. He pleaded guilty in August to conspiracy to convey an article to a committed offender.

Prosecutors say Splittgerber offered to sneak marijuana into the prison to an inmate in May 2014.

According to an arrest affidavit, prison officials learned of the offering when an inmate reported to Splittgerber's superior that the guard told the inmate he had something for him. Authorities say a search of Splittgerber's pockets by prison officials turned up marijuana inside a staff-issued plastic glove.

Splittgerber worked for the Department of Correctional Services from December 2013 to June 2014.

## Woman Dies, Passenger Hurt In Crash

INLAND, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 21-year-old Hastings woman has died after the pickup she was driving ran off a rural road and crashed in Clay County.

The accident occurred a little before 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, about 4½ miles northeast of Inland.

Clay County Sheriff Jeff Franklin says Jennifer Spatz was driving south when her truck ran into the west ditch and crashed, tossing her through the truck's sunroof. Her passenger, 24-year-old Andrew Taylor, also of Hastings, used his cellphone to call 911. He was treated at a Hastings hospital and released.

The accident is being investigated.

# Boston Bombing Survivor Advocates For Disabilities Rights

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO  
 Associated Press

STIOUX FALLS — A bystander of the Boston Marathon bombing who had part of her leg amputated as a result of the attacks shared her journey of recovery and resilience before a group of health care professionals and others Wednesday in Sioux Falls during a one-day event meant to raise awareness about the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Heather Abbott narrated how she became an advocate for people with disabilities after going through the process of having to learn to live with one from the moment she was forced to choose between a life of crippling pain or one without part of her leg. She told the crowd about her fears before agreeing to have her left leg amputated below the knee, the support she received from family, friends, medical professionals and other survivors, and her decision to now help other amputees.

"I was helping my company to attract and retain women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities," Abbot said of her job before the 2013 terrorist attacks at the marathon finish line. "Never, ever did I think I would become one of those people with a disability, so I have a whole new perspective now on that part of life."

Abbott, of Newport, Rhode Island, was waiting in line with friends to go into a restaurant when the bombs exploded, tearing the heel off her foot. She continues to work as a human resources manager, but now in a part-time setting, and travels across the country to share her story with others.

As part of the 25th anniversary of the

Americans with Disabilities Act, the office of the U.S. Attorney in South Dakota, Avera Health and LifeScape sponsored the conference. The federal law requires businesses, public services and telecommunications to provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities.

Abbott told the nearly 200 attendees that there is a need for greater awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities.

"I hear all the time from other amputees that they are not working anymore because they couldn't do their job, and I just wonder sometimes 'Could they have done their jobs?'" Abbott said after her presentation. "I work for a huge company that is very closely monitored by the Department of Labor to make sure that we are complying with laws around ADA and making reasonable accommodations for people when need them. And I wonder sometimes if other people with disabilities who aren't as familiar with the law are asking the questions that they should ask and making sure that their employer is doing everything they can to keep them, and unfortunately, sometimes that is not the case."

Artificial limbs come with a price tag in the thousands and not all are covered by insurance. For Abbott, a basic artificial leg wasn't enough to help her get her life back and has since been fitted with additional specialty prostheses that enable her to run, swim and wear heels—she appeared on stage with black high-heeled peep-toe shoes. She has now established a foundation to provide artificial limbs to those who have suffered limb loss through trauma.

"To know that there can be some good that's come out of it is somewhat satisfying," she said.

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