

Father: Murder-Suicide Victim Loved By All

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The father of a 26-year-old woman killed in an apparent murder-suicide in Sioux Falls Tuesday night says his daughter dreamed of becoming a police officer and was loved by everyone.

Kun Garbang tells KELO that Nyamai Biliu was a translator for hospitals and law enforcement but had aspirations to become an officer. The family moved to the United States from Sudan 10 years ago.

Garbang says Biliu had a beautiful smile and soul.

He says he is now planning her funeral.

Police say 35-year-old Simon Maluil allegedly shot Biliu with a .45-caliber handgun, killing her, then shot and killed himself.

Police say the two both lived in Sioux Falls and had dated.

Funeral For Slain Neb. Girl Set For Today

MITCHELL, Neb. (AP) — Funeral services for a slain 8-year-old Nebraska girl whose body was found last week is scheduled for today (Thursday).

KNEB in Scottsbluff reported that funeral services for Kerra Wilson are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the Scotts Bluff County Event Center in Mitchell. Burial will follow in the Mitchell cemetery.

The third-grader's body was found Sept. 22 in a rugged area of remote ranchland in Sioux County, north of Mitchell.

She was reported missing by her mother the day before.

The girl's stepfather, 32-year-old Salvador Lopez, is charged with first-degree murder in her death and is being held without bond.

Autopsy results have not been released.

Police ID Woman Killed By Motorcycle In S.D.

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a 56-year-old woman and her dog were killed when they were hit by a motorcycle.

The crash happened at a city intersection Tuesday night when 56-year-old Maralee Chrans was walking the dog.

The motorcycle driver was taken to a hospital with injuries that police said were not life-threatening. He was identified as 20-year-old Daniel Richards of Sioux Falls.

ICE Arrests 12 Criminal Immigrants In S.D.

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested 12 convicted criminals in South Dakota as part of a national roundup.

The seven-day operation comes a month after Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that officials would focus on deporting the most serious criminal immigrants. Nationwide, 2,901 people were arrested. Nearly 1,300 of those arrested had multiple criminal convictions.

Scott Baniecke, the field office director for ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations in Minnesota, which oversees South Dakota, says arresting fugitives and criminal immigrants remains a priority for ICE to make communities safer.

Deadwood Gaming Revenue Continues Decline

DEADWOOD (AP) — Gambling revenue continues the downward spiral in Deadwood.

State figures released this week show Deadwood casinos collected \$9.7 million in August. This is down 4.8 percent from the \$10.6 million collected last August and the eighth consecutive month of decline.

Officials attribute the decline to the economy and the smoking ban that went into effect in November.

Deadwood Chamber of Commerce president George Milos tells the *Rapid City Journal* that the chamber continues to do everything it can to attract people to the area.

He says 10,000 people attended August's Kool Deadwood Nites but it was still not enough to produce an upswing for the gambling industry.

Record Neb. Farm Income Expected This Year

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Business Forecast Council expects the state will have record farm income this year and continued employment growth, the council said in a report released Wednesday.

The council said it expects job growth will slow this fall and early next year, then accelerate in the second half of 2012 and in 2013.

The 2011 farm income was forecast to reach a record \$5.4 billion. That's 35 percent higher than last year, the report said. Farm income was expected to remain strong through at least 2013.

"As has often been the case when comparing the national economy with Nebraska's in recent years, (the state) will be better off," said Eric Thompson, the director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research.

"Even a mediocre U.S. economy usually meant a decent economy in Nebraska. As long as the nation stays out of a recession, the state should be all right," Thompson said. The bureau publishes the report.

Farm incomes have been boosted by good crop and livestock seasons, as well as long-term changes in Nebraska's agriculture production sector, the report said. Commodity prices have been rising, and the report said there's been more cooperation between key crop and livestock sectors.

The state's farm incomes were expected to dip next year to \$4.8 billion and to \$4.7 billion in 2013, but the report said the forecast council projects Nebraska farm incomes to remain consistently higher than a decade ago.

Nebraska's total income growth, which

includes farm and nonfarm income, will be strong this year and moderate in 2012 and 2013, the report said.

Overall nonfarm employment was expected to rise 1.2 percent next year and 1.8 percent in 2013.

The council projected jumps of 5.4 percent in nonfarm personal incomes this year and 3.9 percent in 2012 and in 2013.

Nebraska's manufacturing was expected to continue its recovery from the recession, given its links to agriculture. The council said manufacturing employment growth should outpace the rest of the country next year and in 2013, as the demand for food, food products and farm machinery continues to grow around the world.

One-third Of Minn. Schools Seek Tax Levy Approval

BY CHRIS WILLIAMS

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — With years of lagging state support behind them and seeing little chance of a turnaround in the future, about a third of Minnesota school districts intend to go to their taxpayers for help this fall, the Minnesota School Boards Association reported Wednesday.

"When you're in a school district and you look at how the state has been funding schools for the past 10 years, and you look forward to what to expect, it's not too good," said Greg Abbott, association spokesman.

He said 113 school districts have taken the necessary question to put an operating levy on the November ballot. Fifty-one percent of them would renew an existing levy. Some seek to both renew a levy and ask for additional money.

"The big thing is that more than half of them are renewals," Abbott said. "It won't have a big increase in most people's taxes."

It will be the busiest Election Day for Minnesota schools in the past 10 years, surpassing the 101 levy elections in 2007 but trailing the 188 elections in 2001, he said.

It might even be more than 113 districts, Abbott said, but the association doesn't yet have a final tally of districts going to their voters for capital improvements, such as remodeling buildings or leasing technology. He said he expected a total of 125 to 130 districts will have questions on the November ballot.

Figures from the Minnesota Department of Education show that per-pupil education funding has failed to keep up with inflation since 2003, leaving school districts more reliant on local taxpayers.

However, Rep. Patrick Garofalo, R-Farmington, the chairman of the House Education Finance Committee, said that during the past session the Legislature approved a \$100 bump in per-pupil spending along with other increases that totaled a \$650 million increase in education spending.

Garofalo has been critical of districts asking for more money from taxpayers, as opposed to just seeking to renew an existing levy.

"For taxpayers, the first question is how are districts planning on spending their first increase (from the Legislature) before they start spending their second increase" from a new levy, he said.

Neb. Community Moves On Without Post Office

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Lincoln Journal Star

ALVO, Neb. — This town's main drag — Main Street — stretches about four blocks from a corn field on one end to a grain elevator on the other.

Until a year ago, a post office was its main hub.

"The post office was the only business in town, I guess," said Ryan Anderson, chairman of the village board. Since the U.S. Postal Service closed the office last September, "the dynamic of the town has changed a little bit."

The postal service is in the process of shuttering more than a fifth of Nebraska's post offices, most of them in villages about the size of Alvo, population 140. In all, more than 100 of the state's postal outlets are up for closing.

Alvo's office was gone before the wave started. Postal service officials said they tried to renew their two-year lease on the property, but couldn't contact the owners and were evicted.

Some residents, like 67-year-old Karen Morgan, say the loss is yet another step in the demise of a small town's life.

"There's not as much social interaction because it really was a source of socialization," Morgan said. "I would always meet somebody at the post office."

Rick Kouteka, Alvo's volunteer fire chief, agreed.

"There'd be a handful of people. ... You'd go up there, you kind of knew they'd be around," the 55-year-old said.

But Anderson, 34, didn't move here for the nightlife. In fact, he said recently, he rather likes having a mailbox just outside his door, instead of across town a few blocks away.

"The post office wasn't that big of a deal," he said. "It's tough for Alvo anyway."

The village hasn't had a shop other than the post office since the owner of the mini-mart died two or three years ago. Even that place wasn't much, Anderson said. And the bank and the bar are long gone.

Morgan called Alvo a bedroom town, but Anderson didn't agree.

Since he moved here about eight years ago, he's been joined by more than a handful of young families.

Maybe they don't go shopping or buy lunches on Main Street, but their kids ride bikes and walk around the village.

"There's a lot of young kids in town now," he said.

There's also a recycling center, which just put up a 100-by-100-foot building and is expected to soon bring about 30 people into town each day.

"We'll be trying to get new streets here. ... There's a lot of things happening."



WHO ARE THE AMERICANS WHO'LL BENEFIT FROM CANADIAN OIL SANDS?

Tim G.
Pipefitter

i'm one

Developing Canadian oil sands could support **600,000** American jobs

Tim is a pipefitter, and he knows the promise of Canadian oil sands. Today, Canada is America's number-one supplier of imported oil *by far*, and tomorrow our neighbor could supply even more. Canadian oil sands are the second-largest proven oil reserves on Earth, and developing this resource and the infrastructure to bring this energy to U.S. consumers could support 600,000 American jobs by 2035. Thousands of skilled workers are ready to start work provided that the government issues a permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline. Energy from Canada can keep driving America's economic recovery — and provide a stable, secure energy resource for generations to come.



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