

Former SDSMT Student Sentenced For Threat

RAPID CITY (AP) — A former South Dakota School of Mines and Technology student has been sentenced to 180 days in jail for leaving a threatening note on the campus.

KOTA TV reports that 19-year-old Boyce Way of Mitchell admitted in court that he was stressed out financially and academically when he left the threatening note at the college in Rapid City in April.

In the letter, Boyce warned of a school shooting and the burning of a dean’s house.

Way was immediately expelled from the school. He will not be allowed into any state school for six years.

Neb. Couple Gets Prison For False Tax Returns

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska couple that claimed more than \$48 million in federal tax refunds has been sentenced to six years in federal prison.

Prosecutors say that 61-year-old David L. Kleensang and 59-year-old Bernita M. Kleensang of Hay Springs were sentenced on Monday. They were found guilty after a June trial.

Federal prosecutors say the Kleensangs claimed in their 2007 returns that the government owed them \$48.5 million, even though they hadn’t filed since 2003. They also failed to file between 2008 and 2011.

Authorities say the couple continued to claim multimillion-dollar refunds even after they were warned that the filings appeared fraudulent.

The couple also argued they did not have to pay taxes because they were not federal employees and did not live in Washington, D.C.

Rain Slows Neb. Harvest But State Still Dry

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Recent rains slowed down the harvest in Nebraska, but there wasn’t enough rain to change the dry soil conditions statewide.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday that the corn harvest is already about 23 percent done. That’s well ahead of the average of 2 percent at this time of year.

But the corn crop remains in poor condition because of this summer’s dry weather. About 33 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. That’s well below the average of 79 percent.

The soybean harvest has also started. About 19 percent of that crop is in good or excellent condition. That’s also well behind the average of 78 percent at this time of year.

National Guard Unit Returns From Afghanistan

PIERRE (AP) — A South Dakota Army National Guard unit based in the northern Black Hills is back in the United States after spending a year in Afghanistan.

National Guard officials say 160 members of the 842nd Engineer Company of Spearfish, Belle Fourche (bell-FOOSH) and Sturgis arrived Monday at Fort Bliss, Texas. They will spend a week or more at Fort Bliss before returning to South Dakota.

The unit deployed a year ago to provide construction and engineering support. The soldiers used bulldozers, scrapers, cranes, loaders and dump trucks to build and maintain roads, build base protection measures and provide limited clearing operations.

Officials say details are not yet known of the unit’s arrival in South Dakota or welcome home ceremony.

Neb. Man Gets 13 Years For Child Pornography

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man has been sentenced to 13 years in federal prison for distributing child pornography.

Prosecutors said Monday that 31-year-old Brent Bailey, of Lincoln, for having more than 300 files depicting child pornography on his computers.

The Nebraska State Patrol arrested Bailey after investigators traced child pornography to his computer in 2011.

The patrol searched Bailey’s home in December and found video and image files containing child pornography on a desktop computer in the kitchen.

Bailey pleaded guilty to receiving and distributing child pornography in June. Bailey’s past record included a prior conviction for attempted sexual assault.

After his prison sentence, Bailey will be on supervised release for the rest of his life.

S.D. Man Pleads Guilty To Federal Drug Charge

PIERRE (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of conspiring to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana has pleaded guilty in federal court.

Brendan Johnson, U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, says 48-year-old Lyle Ferguson will be sentenced later for his conviction of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. The maximum sentence for the offense is 40 years in prison and a \$5 million fine.

Johnson says the charge relates to Ferguson and others conspiring to distribute a large quantity of marijuana in South Dakota and elsewhere.

Fire Destroys Andover Honey Company Building

ANDOVER (AP) — A weekend fire destroyed a building at the Taylor Honey Co. in the northeastern South Dakota town of Andover, but the company owner and others say the incident could have been worse.

The Sunday afternoon fire started in the engine of a fuel-powered pump that two workers were using inside the building, Fire Chief Torre Raap said. One man was treated at the scene for minor burns.

Firefighters contained the blaze to the honey company building but a few homes nearby were evacuated as a precaution.

Sue Clynick, who lives a block away from the building, said she could hear explosions and see pieces of steel flying through the air.

“You could just hear poof, poof; it was just scary,” she told the American News. “It could have been really bad here in Andover.”

Fire departments from four area towns were called in to help battle the blaze, KDLT-TV reported. Smoke from the fire could be seen more than 20 miles away.

The building contained beeswax, honey-combs and other items, but no honey.

“Fortunately, we’re kind of wrapping up the honey harvest,” business owner Paul Taylor told the newspaper. “In this area, we just finished last week. The honey had been shipped off.”

“It could have been a lot worse,” he said.

Family Searches For Missing Neb. Man

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The family of a retired California man who disappeared from an Amtrak train somewhere between Denver and Chicago last week is searching for him in Nebraska.

It’s not clear where 69-year-old Charlie Dowd left the train, but family members are focusing their initial efforts in Omaha and Lincoln because of unconfirmed reports that an Amtrak conductor may have talked to the retired firefighter Friday when the train was in Omaha.

Relatives said his health is a concern and he may have been disoriented when he got off the train because he has been without his medication since leaving the train.

His daughter, Jen Dowd, said she hopes

the family can raise awareness of her father’s disappearance by posting missing fliers in Omaha on Monday and in Lincoln on Tuesday.

“We need someone to have seen him and call in that report,” she said.

Charlie Dowd, who lives in San Mateo, Calif., boarded the Amtrak train on Wednesday in the San Francisco area. His luggage arrived in Chicago on Friday, but he wasn’t on the train.

The last time family members talked to him was Thursday evening when the train was in the Denver area. Dowd was travelling to visit family in Montreal, Canada.

Jen Dowd said she is frustrated that Amtrak officials and police don’t seem to be doing more to search for her father.

“Amtrak police don’t seem to be physically looking for him anywhere,” Jen Dowd

said.

Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said the railroad’s police department is conducting an active search for Charlie Dowd, and Amtrak officials are working with local police departments along the train’s route.

Dowd is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 175 pounds. He has blue eyes and gray hair.

Jen Dowd said that if her family’s efforts in Omaha and Lincoln fail to produce any new information, they plan to move east later this week and trace the train’s route to Chicago.

Anyone with information about Charlie Dowd’s whereabouts is asked to call Amtrak police at (800) 331-0008.

ONLINE:

Search for Charlie Dowd: <http://www.facebook.com/MissingPersonCharlieDowd>

Deer

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While the disease itself is not unknown to South Dakota, it’s not as common in the southeast, Schelhaas said.

“This typically occurs in other parts of the state, particularly the southwest part. But now, it’s showing up more and more in southeast South Dakota,” he said.

The owner of a Hutchinson County hunting preserve says the heavy deer losses have already struck a blow to his business.

Mark Bauer operates Martin Creek Outfitters & Lodge eight miles west of Freeman, specializing in white-tail deer archery. Bauer said his hunting area experienced large deer losses already in mid-August, and he contacted Game, Fish and Parks officials about the problem.

“As far as the deer in my hunting area, there were more than 50 dead by the 18th of August,” he said, adding the county losses could be even higher because many deer go unreported by the public.

Bauer pointed to the Milk River hunting region of northern Montana, which suffered upwards of 90 percent of its deer wiped out by EHD.

Because of the depleted deer numbers in Hutchinson County, Bauer canceled all of his white-tail deer hunts for this year. He refunded the money to 13 customers who had booked hunts, taking a

large financial hit in the process.

And he fears it’s just the beginning.

Bauer has asked Game, Fish and Parks officials to revisit the upcoming deer hunting season and number of licenses. Hutchinson County is allowed 800 deer tags, which he said would decimate what’s left of the county’s deer population.

“Why are they turning out the normal amount of tags for a healthy herd in the county, when the number is depleted significantly?” he asked. “You’re turning 800 hunters loose on maybe 50 percent or even 25 percent of those (normal) numbers. It’s taking the deer here down to a dangerous level. Why are they doing that?”

“I wonder if some of this is revenue driven. Do they care about (our natural resources), or is this just a revenue move?” he asked.

Bauer believes this year’s historic drought has fueled the EHD outbreak in South Dakota, but he hasn’t confirmed his suspicions.

However, he does know the financial realities of the deer losses.

“I don’t know all of the scientific things. I’m not a game biologist. I’m just an entrepreneur with a business out here,” he said.

“There is a whole lot of frustration. I have lived out here for 31 years and have been in business for 12 years.”

The EHD and blue tongue impact will be felt for years, Bauer predicted.

“It will take 10 years before they get back to the number of deer,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) has

received reports on its website of multiple deer deaths in various locations.

While the disease typically occurs in low levels annually, this year’s outbreak appears to be significant, according to the NGPC.

The total effect of the disease on the Nebraska deer population will not be known until the close of the deer seasons. Biologists then will look at hunter success to determine the portion of deer mortality that may be attributed to the disease.

NGPC officials encourage hunters to hunt and harvest as usual. Some hunters can expect to see fewer deer in their area this fall, where others may not notice a change. There are no plans to modify 2012 deer seasons in response to EHD losses at this time. Deer populations typically have recovered quickly following past EHD die-offs.

EHD normally occurs in late August to early September when hot and dry conditions exist that are favorable for the breeding conditions required by the midges. This year it started in mid-July.

The virus does not infect humans or pets, according to the NGPC. Humans are not at risk for handling or eating venison from infected deer or being infected by a midge. If a hunter harvests a deer that appears sick, he or she may bring the carcass to a district office or conservation officer and request revalidation of the permit.

Cattle may be infected by the biting insects; however, few will develop clinical symptoms, which may include fever, lameness or oral lesions. Producers should

seek the advice of a veterinarian if they encounter these symptoms in their cattle. Deer do not transmit this disease directly to cattle.

Authorities are asking the public to report any findings of dead deer. While the virus doesn’t infect humans, Schelhaas advises against contact with the deer.

“If you find a dead deer, leave it be so we can come out and take a look. If the animal hasn’t died very long ago and we’re fairly certain it’s EHD, we would like to get a sample of its blood and be able to send it (for testing),” he said. “We also want to be able to get information on the deer to determine its sex and approximate age.”

In South Dakota, dead deer can be reported to Schelhaas at (605) 668-2985, Extension 13; any other regional conservation officer; the Sioux Falls regional GF&P office at (605) 362-2700; or the state GF&P office in Pierre at (605) 773-5913.

In Nebraska, the public should report any deer deaths that may be attributed to this disease to their nearest Game and Parks office. In northeast Nebraska, the Norfolk office can be reached at (402) 370-3374. Calls can also be made to the state NGPC office in Lincoln at (402) 471-0641.

For more information on the EHD virus, visit online at <http://www.vet.uga.edu/scwds/pdf/s/HDPdf>

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

S.D. Man Sentenced For Assault

PIERRE (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to more than eight years in prison after pleading guilty to two federal counts of assault.

Brendan Johnson, U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, says 32-year-old Jody Jeremy Dupris of Cherry Creek was indicted by a grand jury in two separate cases.

Johnson says Dupris assaulted and severely injured another man in August 2010. The U.S. attorney says Dupris drove a vehicle into a van driven by a woman in May 2011.

RTEC Announces Class Dates

CNC Machine Operator Training Program
Sign up for this course featuring Amatrol’s industry-validated learning system, On-The-Job Training and a chance to prepare for and earn certification from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS). The course runs Oct. 16 to Jan. 24 on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4-8 p.m. Cost is \$2,700. Class size is limited. Apply today!

Welding Basics Course
You’ll have an opportunity to learn the basics of five different types of welding in this introductory 48-hour training course. It will run from Oct. 1 through Nov. 19 and classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m. Cost is \$1,375.

AWS Skill Upgrade Welding Course
You can enhance your existing welding skills and prepare to earn AWS (American Welding Society) Certification in this 48-hour course. It runs Oct. 2 to Nov. 8 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-8 p.m. Primary welding processes are GMAW and SMAW. Cost is \$1,375.

Financial assistance and scholarships may be available. Visit www.rtecedu.org or stop in today for more information!



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Kids, stop in to see Homer on Tuesday!

Join Us For Our Open House!

Visit Home Federal this week during our Open House. Our big kick-off is Tuesday, September 18:

- Enter to win an Apple iPad†
- See Homer with free balloons for the kids
- Receive \$100 with a new checking account*
- Save \$250 on first mortgage closing costs*
- Get \$50 off consumer loan origination fees*
- Listen Tuesday to our live remote broadcast on KYNT from 11 am - 1 pm
- Enjoy cookies, refreshments and MORE!

Open House

September 18 - 21



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† No purchase necessary. Drawing to be held at 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 21. * Limit one offer per person per account. Offers expire September 30, 2012 and are subject to 1099-INT reporting. Direct deposit and \$100 opening deposit required for Rewards Checking account. May not be combined with any other offer. \$50 discount on consumer loan origination fee if closed within 90 days of account opening. \$250 off first mortgage closing costs if mortgage is more than \$100,000.

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