3 Dead, 1 Injured In 2-Vehicle Crash

MINA — Three people are dead and one is seriously injured following a two-vehicle crash in northeastern South Dakota.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the incident occurred Sunday near the Mina overpass.

Authorities say a sport utility vehicle was traveling east on U.S. Highway 12 when 62-year-old driver Charles Neuharth lost control, crossed the center line and collided almost head on with a westbound car driven by 23-year-old Shelby Thaver.

Both drivers were killed as was 86-year-old Frieda Trautman, who was a passenger in the SUV. The Highway Patrol says a second passenger in the SUV, 62-year-old Marilyn Neuharth, sustained life-threatening injuries.

Authorities say the three occupants of the SUV, all from Eureka, were wearing seatbelts. Thayer, of Aberdeen, was not

The Highway Patrol says the incident remains under investigation.

Inside Probe Clears Deputy In Shooting

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Lancaster County sheriff says an internal investigation shows a deputy followed department protocol in shooting an armed 18-year-old, ending a chase across a street from the Nebraska Capitol.

Sheriff Terry Wagner said Monday that Deputy Jeffrey Moeller acted within the scope of the policy on use of force. Wagner says Moeller and a deputy U.S. marshal shot Tareik Artis after Artis pointed a loaded .45-caliber handgun at them. Artis was fleeing from a Lincoln officer after a traffic stop. Lincoln police say the officer saw that Artis was carrying the gun, so the officer called for more aid.

The U.S. Marshals Service hasn't named the deputy marshal involved. The agency and Lincoln police also are investigating the shooting.

SD Inmate Who Escaped Arrested

RAPID CITY — A state prison inmate who escaped from a minimum-security prison in Rapid City in early August is back in custody.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says 31-year-old Raymond Freeman was arrested Monday in Rapid City.

Freeman was placed on escape status Aug. 1 after he failed to return to the corrections facility from a work release job

Freeman is serving five years in prison for drug convic-tions in Hughes County. His prison term began in June 2014.

2 Teens Hurt In Colfax County Crash

LEIGH, Neb. — Two teenagers have been injured in the collision of an all-terrain vehicle and a pickup at a rural intersection in Colfax County.

The *Columbus Telegram* reports that the accident oc-curred around 1:30 p.m. Sunday about five miles southeast of Leigh. The Colfax County attorney's office says 17-year-old Blake Paprocki, of rural Clarkson, didn't stop his northbound ATV at a stop sign and it collided with a westbound pickup.

Paprocki was taken to a Schuyler hospital. His passenger, 16-year-old Sydney Folken, of rural Leigh, was flown to an Omaha hospital.

The attorney's office says the pickup driver wasn't injured. He was identified as 47-year-old Jarrod McCullough, of rural Leigh.

Commission Rejects \$5.2M Regional Jail

SELBY — The Walworth County Commission has rejected a proposal to build a \$5.2 million regional jail in Selby.

The proposed project would have involved the South Dakota counties of Corson, Dewey, Stanley, Campbell, McPher-son, Edmunds and Walworth, and the North Dakota counties of Emmons, Sioux, Logan and McIntosh.

Walworth County Sheriff Josh Boll tells the American News that the County Commission recently voted 3-2 not to move forward with the project, but Boll says he'll keep pushing for a new facility. He says renovating the existing jail would cost about \$2 million.

The current jail in Walworth County is a 32-bed facility, and parts of it are a century old. The proposed new jail

Nebraska

Death Penalty Petition Drive Spent More Than \$900K

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A group seeking to reinstate Nebraska's death penalty spent more than \$900,000 on its effort to place the issue on the November 2016 ballot, according to campaign disclosures filed Monday.

Nebraskans for the Death Penalty spent nearly \$346,000 in the latest filing period on staffing, consultants, travel costs and legal fees, among other minor expenses.

The disclosure period from July 28 through Sept. 28 covers the final weeks of the group's statewide signature-gathering campaign. Nebraskans for the Death Penalty announced in August that it had collected nearly 167,000 signatures after lawmakers voted in May to abolish capital punishment despite the objections of Gov. Pete Ricketts. Enough of those signatures have already been verified to force a referendum and prevent the repeal from going into effect before then.

The largest contributions in the last reporting period were \$100,000 from

PIERRE – A state lawmaker

said Monday he wants produc-

Rep. Mike Verchio, R-Hill

City, outlined his proposal at

a meeting of the Legislature's

task force on tribal economic

Verchio also wants the

Development to help finance

Currently the federal gov-

ernment considers all forms of

marijuana including industrial

hemp to be Schedule 1 drugs

that are generally banned.

Heroin is another Schedule 1

facilities for processing the

tion and sale of industrial

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

Dakota.

hemp

development.

Robert Mercer, a New York hedge fund operator, and \$100,000 from the Washington-based Judicial Crisis Network. according to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

Mercer, a computer scientist, has given millions to conservative Super PACs and is a major financial supporter of Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz, of Texas. The Judicial Crisis Network is a conservative group that describes itself as "dedicated to strengthening liberty and justice in America." It previously gave \$200,000 to Nebraskans for the Death Penalty.

The group had previously raised more than \$652,000, including \$200,000 from Ricketts and \$100,000 from his father, TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts, but neither man contributed in the latest period.

Nebraskans for the Death Penalty spokesman Chris Peterson said his group received contributions from more than 600 individual donors, mostly in small amounts that fell below the \$250 reporting threshold.

The filing revealed the names of 56 donors, including University of Nebraska

Regent Hal Daub, Falls City businessman and GOP activist Charles Herbster, and C.L. Werner, the CEO of the Omaha-based Werner Enterprises. Contributions also came from state Sen. Merv Riepe of Ralston and the campaign accounts of Sens. John Kuehn or Heartwell, Lydia Brasch of Bancroft and Jim Smith of Papillion.

Even though the election is more than a year away, a spokesman for the group said its leaders will continue raising money to pay its legal fees for a pending lawsuit filed by death penalty opponents. They also are planning a media campaign as the election nears.

"We know opponents are and will continue to be well-funded," said spokesman Chris Peterson.

Nebraskans for Public Safety, a group that opposed the referendum drive, reported raising nearly \$462,000 since the signature-gathering campaign began.

The largest donor by far was the Massachusetts-based Proteus Action League, a progressive social justice group that has help finance death penalty repeal efforts in other states. The nonprofit donated \$400,000 in a previous reporting period.

Could Industrial Hemp Be A Wonder Non-Drug For SD Farmers?

industrial hemp. The Legislature considered a resolution in 2014 from Rep. Elizabeth May, R-Kyle, that called for the federal govern ment to recognize industrial hemp as "a valuable agricultural commodity."

House members including Verchio supported May's resolution 61-6 but the Senate rejected it 21-13.

May and Verchio serve on the Legislature's tribal economic development panel. She told Verchio she would support his legislation once she sees the final version.

Verchio said industrial hemp's production and the related construction of processing facilities could be a development opportunity for tribal governments that have large expanses of agricultural land.

He described it as one of the easiest plants to grow.

In its current form, Verchio's bill would require a person engaged in industrialhemp activities of production, processing or research to apply for a license from the state Department of Agriculture.

The licensing process for producers and processors would include state and national criminal background checks. The license wouldn't be conditioned upon approval from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

The seed types and varieties would have to be reported to the state Department of Agriculture. Sales and distribution also would be subject to reporting requirements.



no more than three -tenths of 1 percent of tetrahydrocan-Known as THC, the chemi-

hemp to become legal in South cal compound produces the altered mental and physical states associated with marijuana use. THC levels in marijuana seized by law enforcement agents in the United States hovered between 2 and 4 Governor's Office of Economic

would designate industrial

hemp as an oilseed if it has

nabinol.

percent during the 1980s and then began climbing steeply in the mid-1990s, reaching 10 percent by 2009. That is according to a Uni-

versity of Mississippi monitoring report distributed by the federal Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Verchio wouldn't be the first South Dakota lawmaker to seek a path for legalization of

Black Motorists Stopped At Uneven Rate

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Crime Commission says Lincoln police officers stopped black motorists at a disproportionately higher rate than other motorists last vear.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that the commission report released last week says officers pulled over more than 54,000 motorists in 2014, and 10.2 percent of them were black drivers. Black residents account for 3.9 percent of the city's population.

Eighty-two percent of Lincoln's population is white, and white drivers were pulled over in 78.8 percent of the Lincoln Police Department's stops last year.

Civil liberties and civil rights advocates say the report's findings are troubling. Lincoln Public Safety Director Tom Casady says he

doesn't think racial bias is behind the disparity but also says he doesn't know why the disparity exists.

Spearfish Man Dies In Rollover Crash

SPEARFISH — A Spearfish man died in a weekend crash in Lawrence County.

The Highway Patrol says the car driven by 56-year-old Anthony Crawford left Homestake Road about 8 miles west of Spearfish and rolled shortly before 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Crawford was pronounced dead at the scene. He was alone in the vehicle.

66-Year-Old Woman Stabbed In Home

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities are investigating after a 66-year-old woman was stabbed in her Omaha home. According to police, Charlotte Jones was stabbed by an intruder around 12:45 a.m. Sunday. Jones was transported to a hospital with cuts to her hand, torso and ear. Authorities say her injuries are not considered to be life-threatening.

Police have not made any arrests in the case.

Woman Dies In Single-Vehicle Crash

DELL RAPIDS — A weekend crash near Dell Rapids killed a 55-year-old woman from the city. The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office says Charlene

Adams lost control of her vehicle and it rolled several times in a ditch about a mile north of Dell Rapids shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday.

A deputy who responded to the crash attempted lifesaving measures, but Adams died at the scene.

Historic Firearms To Be Displayed In NE

ELYRIA, Neb. (AP) - U.S. military firearms will be on display at central Nebraska's Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park next month.

The fort, in conjunction with the Grand Army of the Frontier, will present "The Timeline of American Military Firearms 1860-1990.

The event is scheduled for Oct. 3-4 at the park, which sits three miles northwest of Elyria in Valley County. A park entry permit is required.

Members of the Grand Army of the Frontier will be dressed in period uniforms and will use original and reproduction firearms in explaining the development of the military weapons.

Fort Hartsuff was an active military fort from 1874 to 1881.