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Hastings shooting

One man dead from self-inflicted gunshot wound after attempt to serve warrant in child porn case

By Austin Koeller

austin.koeller@theindependent.com

HASTINGS — One man is dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a search warrant was served in a suspected child pornography case at a Hastings residence Thursday afternoon.

According to a press release from the Hastings Police Department, the Nebraska State Patrol served a warrant at approximately 12:05 p.m. Thursday at a residence in the 5000 block of West 12th Street in Hastings.

As law enforcement knocked on the door to the residence and announced their presence, there was noted movement inside of the home. After a short time, law enforcement made entry into the residence.

The officers and troopers searched the home and found a sole occupant of the residence deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. No weapons were discharged by law enforcement at the scene, and no injuries were reported by law enforcement.

The deceased occupant of the residence was later identified as 49-year-old Kipp Pfeiffer of Hastings. An autopsy has been scheduled for Friday morning in Omaha.

Pfeiffer was the owner and president of Midwest Farm Management in Hastings. The business is located at 5052 W. 12th St. in Hastings.

The Hastings Police Department has been assigned to investigate this case as an "in-custody" death because it occurred in the presence of law enforcement. State law requires an independent investigation be conducted for grand jury purposes.

At a news conference in Lincoln Friday morning — a video of which was posted on the Lincoln Police Department's Facebook page — Officer Angela Sands said an adult reported to LPD that Pfeiffer was allegedly in possession of child pornography.

Since the crime allegedly occurred in LPD's jurisdiction, Sands said, it investigated the case.

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Independent/Barrett Stinson

As Madison Gerken of McCool Junction (right) watches with other participants, Anna Johnson of Aurora practices an elbow strike on a bag being held by Reilly Peetz of Ord (left) on Friday afternoon as Harvest of Harmony contestants learn about self-defense from Taekwondo instructor Matt Boyle at College Park in Grand Island. Boyle is an instructor at Third City Taekwondo in Grand Island. He also teaches Krav Maga and is a deputy county attorney for Hall County.

Contestants representing 28 schools

By Carissa Soukup

carissa.soukup@theindependent.com

Before music fills the air during the Harvest of Harmony Parade, one important tradition takes place the day before: The Harvest of Harmony Pageant.

On Friday, 28 girls represented their schools at the Harvest of Harmony Pageant.

Jen Barker, pageant chair, said that the girls started off the morning with a five-minute interview.

After the interview and staging practice, the contestants have lunch and then they have sessions

that will give them helpful information as they look toward college, Barker said.

Directly after lunch was a personal safety demonstration where taekwondo instructor Matt Boyle taught the girls simple ways to protect themselves.

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Madison Gerken
McCool Junction Public Schools

Miss McCool Junction crowned Miss Harvest of Harmony

Madison Gerken of McCool Junction Public Schools was crowned the 2019 Miss Harvest of Harmony Friday at the Harvest of Harmony Pageant.

Gerken is active in one-act plays, speech, youth group, cross country and track and field. She is a member of student council, National Honor Society, cheerleading, band, FCA, FFA, Hope Squad and flag corps at her school.

Her plans after high school include seeking a pre-medical undergraduate degree and then attending medical school to earn a master's degree. She intends

to become a physician assistant and work in rural areas.

Gerken will ride in the Harvest of Harmony Parade Saturday morning, along with the 27 other contestants.

Runners-up in the pageant were Lacey Hoffman of Giltner Public Schools, first runner-up; Anna Johnson of Aurora High School, second runner-up; Hannah French of Axtell Community Schools, third runner-up; and Hailey Bixler of Neligh-Oakdale Schools, fourth runner-up.

Miss Aurora, Anna Johnson, was also named Miss Congeniality.

Trump administration says plan would restore ethanol demand

By Scott McFetridge

The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Trump administration announced Friday it plans to implement new rules that will increase demand for ethanol, reversing a decline caused by exemptions given to oil refineries.

The proposal follows months of complaints by Midwest farmers, politicians and the ethanol industry that the federal government's granting of waivers to refiners had violated federal law and forced some ethanol plants to close.

Roughly 40 percent of U.S. corn is used to produce ethanol, so declining demand for the fuel additive can depress prices for the grain. The issue carries extra political weight because the ethanol



In this July 26, 2013, file photo, a motorist fills up with gasoline containing ethanol in Des Moines. The Trump administration says Friday it plans to implement new rules that will increase demand for ethanol, reversing a decline caused by exemptions given to oil refineries.

The Associated Press/Charlie Riedel

fuels. The EPA also said it would remove barriers to the sale of E15, a higher blend of ethanol that because of Trump's support now can be sold year-round.

The EPA said it will seek comments on its plan in the coming weeks and expects to take final action later this year.

Harold Wolle, who grows corn and soybean in south-central Minnesota, said he welcomed the agreement but said the Trump administration was simply agreeing to comply with federal law.

"I'm please by their willingness to abide by the law," said Wolle, who farms near St. James, Minnesota. "It's good news but they aren't going out of their way to do anything for agriculture or the ethanol industry."

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industry is concentrated in Iowa, Nebraska and other Midwest states, where farmers have been among President Donald Trump's most loyal supporters.

Although the proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Agriculture wouldn't address the current loss of ethanol demand, it would ensure

that beginning in 2020 the government would comply with a 15-billion-gallon standard already required under federal law and meet benchmarks for soybean-based bio-



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