

**STATE NEWS**

**Request to postpone hearing for officer denied**  
 OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The preliminary hearing for a white police officer who fatally shot a black man will not be delayed, Douglas County Judge Lawrence Barrett ruled.

Officer Jerad Kruse is charged with manslaughter for fatally shooting George Bibins, 35, on July 19 after pursuing him in a stolen Jeep.

A grand jury is required by law to investigate the shooting. It is scheduled to convene Aug. 21, three days after the preliminary hearing.

The Douglas County Attorney's office cited special prosecutor Sean Brennan's concerns that the hearing could taint the grand jury pool in asking for the delay.

Kruse's attorney, Mike Fabian, said concerns about tainting the grand jury should have been addressed before Kruse was charged and press releases issued by the county attorney's office.

The situation has raised questions over the responsibility for prosecuting Kruse. Douglas County Attorney Jim Jansen has said it is his statutory obligation to prosecute crimes within the county and filed charges of manslaughter and using a weapon to commit a felony.

A grand jury is required by law to investigate cases when someone is shot while in police

custody or in the process of being arrested.

The grand jury can indict Kruse on criminal charges.

**Judge to decide appeals of discipline order against doctor**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska attorney general's office believes a Lexington doctor accused of giving substandard care to at least four patients, including one who died, received too lenient a punishment from the state's chief medical officer.

Dr. Kerrey Buser thinks the order against him was too harsh.

Lancaster County District Judge Steven Burns on Wednesday heard appeals from both sides, but made no immediate ruling.

Buser in February was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and work under close scrutiny of medical examiners for one year. A state board had wanted his medical license to be revoked.

The state argued in its appeal that the sanction imposed on Buser was excessively lenient considering his prior history of discipline in Minnesota, the evidence presented at the hearing and the Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery's recommendation his license be revoked.

Buser was disciplined by the Minnesota Board of Medical Examiners in 1997 after four of

his patients there also died. "Enough is enough," Assistant Attorney General Jim Smith argued. "The medical board recommendation to revoke his license should be upheld."

Buser's attorney, Patrick Meyer of Omaha, said the testimony and evidence entered at the earlier hearing do not prove that Buser committed malpractice or is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

He pointed out there was no hearing on the Minnesota cases; Buser entered into a stipulation and an order.

Buser has denied wrongdoing, and he has said the cases under question in Nebraska represent a small portion of the more than 1,900 surgical procedures he has performed since moving to the state in 1995.

Nebraska Chief Medical Officer Richard Raymond said Buser clearly erred in four of the Nebraska cases, including one involving a 60-year-old woman who bled to death when Buser failed to recognize a massive hemorrhaging that developed from his abdominal surgery on her.

**Teen-ager charged, will be tried as an adult**

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — A North Platte teen-ager will be tried as an adult after being charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Maricela

Martinez, 18. Lincoln County Attorney Jeff Meyer filed charges Tuesday against Tyler Keup, 16. His bond was set at \$5 million.

He also was charged with felony use of a firearm and possession of a firearm.

Martinez died of a single gunshot wound to the head from a .25-caliber semiautomatic handgun, police said. Her body was found in a mobile home Friday afternoon.

Neighbors told police that after they heard a loud bang they saw a young male leave the trailer and ride away on a bicycle.

According to police records Keup's father contacted police and told them his son had witnessed the shooting.

Keup and his father went to the police and the youth turned in the gun, the records showed.

Police arrested the 16-year-old about 10 p.m. CDT Friday.

Police said Keup and Martinez were acquaintances.

**Rally provides Chadron with economic boost**

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) — For some people, a 125-mile motorcycle ride is the perfect way to start the day.

Those who are making that trip to the 60th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, S.D., this week are providing an economic boost for Chadron, where hotels are filled with peo-

ple planning to attend. The event is expected to draw more than 400,000 bikers to the Black Hills and forced some participants to seek out accommodations well away from the center of the action.

There are advantages, some participants said, to being on the fringes of what is admittedly a noisy event.

"Coming back here at night, I can get some sleep," Stanley Bell of Canton, Mo., said.

Chadron is a nice ride from the Black Hills and the South Dakota Badlands, Jim "Hop Sing" Spurgeon, also of Canton, said.

A Chadron motel costs less than staying at a Sturgis camp site, Gayla Griffin of LaGrange, Mo., said.

Olde Main Street Inn owner Jeanne Goetzinger said she has been catering to bikers on their way to the Sturgis rally for years. Many bikers make it an overnight stop and others stay for the week, she said.

"It's a beautiful site when they start coming in on their bikes," Goetzinger said.

Goetzinger, who hosted a beer garden on the weekend before the rally, said other businesses have followed her lead.

Rally visitors are a welcome site to Pine View Motel owners Virg and Sharon Gruhn, who said the travel season has been slow.

"They're a very nice group of people," she said.

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