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The **Daily Journal**  
 www.fergusfallsjournal.com

**Wednesday**  
 August 14, 2013  
 Vol. 140, No. 191  
 Fergus Falls, Minn.

# Inmate tip led to Burris arrests

By Heather Rule  
 Daily Journal

Following more than a year of investigation, including interviews with multiple people and polygraph exams with the two suspects, the sheriff's office appeared to get a break in the Scott Burris murder case July 15. According to the criminal complaint, an inmate in the Otter Tail County Jail told authorities that around March 2013 Michael Kyle Burris said he and his dad killed his cousin because of a drug debt.

Michael Alan Burris, 64, and Michael Kyle Burris, 23, both formerly of Fergus Falls, were arrested Monday in Mesa, Ariz. They've each been charged with one felony count of second-degree murder. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison.

Autopsy results showed Scott Burris, 33, died from a small caliber gunshot wound to the head.

Scott Burris was reportedly last seen alive in May 2012 at the residence of his uncle and cousin, where he had allegedly gone

to pick up drugs. Scott Burris reportedly owed his uncle about \$20,000.

During the conversation with the inmate and Michael Kyle Burris, he reportedly said that he and his father went to Scott Burris' home until he came out, and there was reportedly a weapon in the back of his father's truck. They allegedly transported the body in the back of the truck.

Michael Kyle Burris also allegedly told the inmate that he couldn't handle the stress of knowing that he and his dad

killed his cousin.

The Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office started its investigation May 24, 2012 when an abandoned vehicle with blood inside was found north of Elizabeth. Scott Burris was listed as a missing person until he was found June 15, 2012 in the Otter Tail River west of Orwell Dam.

Cell phone records for Scott Burris reportedly showed numerous calls from Michael Alan Burris and Michael Kyle Burris up until the disappearance May 22, 2012. However, there were no



Michael Alan Burris



Michael Kyle Burris

phone calls from Michael Alan Burris or Michael Kyle Burris to See **Arrests** — Page 3



Rian Bosse/Daily Journal

School worker Miles Anderson patches over some damaged cement on the south-side bleachers at the high school field. Because of a defect in the support beams of the main bleachers on the north side, the south side will serve as the seating section for fans in Fergus Falls this fall.

## Seating at high school field rearranged for fall season

By Rian Bosse  
 Daily Journal

Hometown fans in Fergus Falls will see football and soccer games from a different angle this 2013 fall sports season.

The main set of bleachers at the high school football and soccer field has been closed to the public because of a defect in the support beams. To prepare for attendance during the upcoming season, temporary bleachers have been placed on the track's north side.

The temporary bleachers will serve as seating for visiting fans.

The city of Fergus Falls has also moved several metal bleachers from city parks behind the south side stands, which will serve as the home section. A concession trailer will be brought to the south side as well.

"Obviously, safety is the number one concern," said Superintendent Jerry Ness. "We're making it as nice as we can for our fans this season."

The school board hired an engineering study after the defeat of the Outdoor Facility project in April. While performing the study, the defect, along with other structural

issues, were found and deemed necessary to fix.

The study helped determine the extent of the work needed to improve the structure of the bleachers and bring them to handicap accessible code. The school board will investigate the cost of improvements and weigh that option against replacing the bleachers altogether.

The board should know what course to take this fall after further evaluation of the structure and possible improvements. If new bleachers are needed, including a

See **Bleachers** — Page 3

## Farmers: corn crop needs more heat, rain

By Rian Bosse  
 Daily Journal

As summer starts its final weeks, a plague of cooler days has farmers in the county worried. Dry soil has made matters worse.

"It's great for grilling and having fun, and certainly there haven't been many mosquitoes," said Charles Piekarski, who grows corn and soybeans west of Fergus Falls. "But you go north, south, east and west, everybody is concerned with farming right now."

From this time in August to the first half of October when the harvest usually takes place, the area would need around 35 days averaging 70 degree nights and 80 degree days, according to Piekarski. Even with warmer weather in the forecast, that much heat with the addition of enough rain might not make its way into the area.

"We're in a little bit of trouble," Piekarski said. "This is going to be a catchy one."

But even with enough sun and warm weather to encourage growth, the lack of water will continue to keep the corn yield low. Piekarski said the corn has started to "fire up," which means the bottom leaves are wilting as the plant wants to make a cob but doesn't

### State expects 2nd largest corn crop in history

Associated Press

WORTHINGTON — Minnesota farmers are expected to harvest their second-largest corn crop in state history.

According to this week's projections from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Minnesota's corn and soybean crops are expected to be slightly smaller than 2012, partly because fields in some places were hurt by too much spring rain, followed by a cool streak.

But many parts of Minnesota have potential bumper crops developing, mirroring the national trend. Minnesota's corn harvest is projected at 1.36 billion bushels. Nationwide, the corn crop should be the largest ever at 13.8 billion bushels.

have enough water.

See **Corn** — Page 3



Rian Bosse/Daily Journal

Charles Piekarski looks at leaves in the corn field that are "firing up" at the bottom of the plant. Leaves wilt and die off if there isn't enough water in the stalk when the plant starts forming cobs.

## Xcel Energy seeks to acquire ND wind project

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — Xcel Energy Inc. announced Tuesday that it plans to take over a long proposed 150-megawatt electricity-generating wind farm near the Canadian border in north-central North Dakota.

Mark Nisbet, the North Dakota manager for the Minneapolis-based utility, said the company is seeking approval from North Dakota regulators to acquire the permit for the Border Winds project in Rolette County.

The project was first considered in 2005 and was being developed by Sequoia

Energy U.S. Inc., a unit of Winnipeg, Manitoba-based Sequoia Energy. In 2011, the North Dakota Public Service Commission approved a site plan for the project, which was expected to be completed in 2012.

Jerry Lein, a commission manager in Bismarck, said Sequoia had done no

construction work on the project. The site plan permit issued by North Dakota regulators is valid for four years and can be transferred to another company, he said.

Lein said Tuesday that North Dakota regulators had not received formal notice of Xcel's plans to take over the project.

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