



Crash, crime info from Sturgis Rally

JOURNAL STAFF

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety released crash and crime stats Sunday afternoon detailing the work of law enforcement during the early days of the 85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The information provided covers 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 through 6 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 3. The department reported one fatal crash, on U.S. Highway 16A near mile-marker 56.

The department said at 09:34 a.m. Saturday the driver of a 2019 Harley Davidson motorcycle traveling westbound in the passing lane was unable to negotiate a curve in the roadway and tipped onto its right side and slid into the eastbound lanes. The 2019 Harley Davidson collided with three motorcycles that were traveling east. The 58-year-old male driver of the 2019 Harley Davidson suffered fatal injuries. The east bound riders received serious non-life-threatening injuries. Helmet use

for all four individuals is under investigation, the department said.

The department reported 17 driving under the influence arrests in Sturgis over the timeframe, with another four in the Rapid City area.

Reports on injury crashes during the timeframe, according to the department:

At 9:26 a.m., Saturday, US 16, mile marker 61: A 2019 Harley Davidson motorcycle was turning North onto US 16 from the Happy Place Campground. The front brake locked up causing the rider to lay the motorcycle down. The driver and motorcycle fell onto the right side. The driver was not wearing a helmet. The rider of unit 1 was transported to Rapid City Monument hospital for minor injuries.

At 10:49 a.m., Saturday, SD 44, mile marker 167: A 2013 Victory motorcycle was traveling west on South Dakota Highway 44. The motorcycle had a flat tire. As the driver was slowing down to pull over,

he lost control and entered the ditch. The driver and passenger were separated from the motorcycle. They were not wearing helmets and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 2:26 p.m., Saturday, I-90 westbound, mile marker 131: A 2015 Harley Davidson was traveling west on Interstate 90. The driver struck the rumble strips as they were negotiating the curve in the roadway causing the Harley Davidson to enter the median. After entering the median, the driver became separated from the motorcycle and came to rest in the median. The driver received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was not wearing a helmet.

At 12:31 p.m., Saturday, SD 87, mile marker 62: A 2011 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling north on SD 87 near mile marker 62. The driver failed to negotiate a left turn and ran off the roadway to the right. The motorcycle traveled up an embankment. The driver became separated

from the motorcycle. The motorcycle fell on top of the driver. The driver was transported to the hospital via LifeFlight. The driver received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was not wearing a helmet.

At 01:01 p.m., Saturday, SD 87, mile marker 67: A 2024 Harley Davidson trike (unit 1) was traveling north on SD 87 near mile marker 67. A 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle (unit 2) was traveling south. The 2009 Harley Davidson crossed into north bound traffic and made contact with the 2024 Harley Davidson. The passenger of the 2024 Harley became separated from the motorcycle. The driver of the 2009 Harley was also separated from their motorcycle. The driver of the 2024 Harley was not injured. The passenger of the 2024 and the driver of the 2009 were both taken to Monument Health in Custer for minor

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TRIBAL POLICE FIGHT FOR RECOGNITION



JOHN HULT, SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Sisseton-Wahpeton Police Captain Gary Gaikowski speaks to the State-Tribal Relations Committee on July 31 in Agency Village.

JOHN HULT South Dakota Searchlight

AGENCY VILLAGE — If a Sisseton police officer gets punched on state land in Sisseton, Roberts County State’s Attorney Dylan Kirchmeier can charge the assailant with a felony for assaulting a police officer.

If that assailant also punches a tribal police officer who’s there to assist, Kirchmeier doesn’t have that option.

South Dakota law doesn’t include tribal police in its definition of a law enforcement officer, Kirchmeier told members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee on Thursday. But in Roberts County, tribal police work alongside sheriff’s deputies and city officers on a regular basis, sometimes as backup, sometimes as first responders when they’re closer to the scene when a call comes in.

“I feel like that is doing a disservice to the tribal officers, because they’re doing the same job that any state law enforcement officer is,” Kirchmeier said. “It’s a bad loop-hole.”

Roberts County includes parts of the Lake Traverse Reservation, where the Sisseton-Wahpeton Police Department and tribal courts have jurisdiction. But the check-

erboard nature of tribal land — one side of the road can be tribal, the other state — means that policing agencies wind up interwoven, for the safety of their officers and residents alike.

It’s not uncommon for suspects to cross tribal and state lines in the course of committing a crime, Kirchmeier said, particularly in vehicle pursuits.

Gary Gaikowski, the tribal police captain for the past 20 years and a longtime member of South Dakota’s Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission, said the working relationships benefit both sides and public safety.

“Everything that affects the state, Roberts County, the city of Sisseton, affects us,” Gaikowski told the committee. “And most of the time, it’s the same individuals that we’re arresting.”

That should move the Legislature to change the law to recognize tribal officers as law enforcement.

“It does kind of, excuse my language, suck, to not be recognized as law enforcement officers,” he said.

Both men urged the committee to explore changes to the law to protect tribal police who aid their stateside counterparts.

Mutual aid agreements: Thorny territory

Gaikowski said he understands the thorny nature of cooperation between tribes and outside law enforcement. Attempts to push for more formal mutual aid agreements have met political resistance at the tribal council level, he told the committee.

Algin Young, South Dakota’s secretary of tribal affairs, told the committee he faced some of the same resistance during his stint as chief of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Police Department in Pine Ridge.

Tribal governments don’t want state officials arresting their citizens, Young said, but might nonetheless see value in outside help. Working with the tribe and Pennington County eventually led to a setup in 2022 that opened the door to mutual aid between the county and the tribe, Young said, without giving the county the power to enforce state law on tribal land.

That should be the model for a state agency like the Highway Patrol, Young said.

“We have to be sensitive to what the tribes want,” he said. “We’ll go

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Tensions rise amid official’s Jerusalem prayer visit

WAFAA SHURAF, SAM METZ AND SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — A far-right Israeli minister visited and prayed at Jerusalem’s most sensitive holy site on Sunday, triggering regional condemnation and fears that the provocative move could further escalate tensions. The visit came as hospitals in Gaza said 33 more Palestinians seeking food aid were killed by Israeli gunfire.

With Israel facing global criticism over famine-like conditions in the besieged strip, Itamar Ben-Gvir’s visit to the hillside compound threatened to further set back efforts by international mediators to halt Israel’s nearly two-year military offensive in Gaza.

The area, which Jews call the Temple Mount, is the holiest site in Judaism and was home to the ancient biblical temples. Muslims call the site the Noble Sanctuary. Today it is home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

Visits to the site by Israeli officials are considered a provocation across the Muslim world and openly praying violates a longstanding status quo. Jews have been allowed to tour it but are barred from praying, with Israeli police and troops providing security. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said after Ben-Gvir’s visit that Israel would not change the norms governing the site.

Ben-Gvir visited following Hamas’ release of videos showing two emaciated Israeli hostages. The videos caused an uproar in Israel and raised pressure on the government to reach a deal to bring home the remaining 50 hostages who were captured on Oct. 7, 2023, in the Hamas-led attack that triggered the war.

Ben-Gvir called for Israel to annex the Gaza Strip and encourage Palestinians to leave, reviving rhetoric that has complicated negotiations to end the war. He raged against a video that Hamas released Saturday of 24-year-old hostage Eviatar David showing him emaciated in a dimly lit Gaza tunnel, and called it an attempt to pressure Israel.

Ben-Gvir’s previous visits to the site have prompted threats from Palestinian militant groups. Clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian demonstrators in and around the site fueled an 11-day war with Hamas in 2021.

Sunday’s visit was swiftly condemned as an incitement by Palestinian leaders as well as Jordan, the Al-Aqsa Mosque’s custodian, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Houthi rebels in Yemen said they fired three drones at Israel; Israel’s military said a “suspicious aerial target launched from Yemen” was intercepted.

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