

Friday, February 20, 1998

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Assault reported -- Shelby man dies of self- inflicted shot

SHELBY -- A 22-year-old Shelby man, accused of allegedly sexually assaulting a Neola woman last weekend, died later that morning, the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, it was reported this week.

Ryan D. Meinke was pronounced dead by the Shelby County Medical Examiner Saturday, Feb. 14. Sheriff's deputies were called to his Shelby residence at about 2:53 a.m. that morning on a report of the gunshot.

Upon investigation, Pottawattamie County Sheriff's officials reported that Meinke had allegedly assaulted a 20-year-old woman in Neola earlier that morning. Reports indicate Meinke was at the Blue Moon Bar Friday night, had

too much to drink and his car keys were taken away by friends.

Meinke reportedly went to the apartment of the woman where the alleged assault took place. The woman told police she got away from Meinke, called relatives and was taken to the hospital, reporting the incident to sheriff's deputies.

Meinke was a 1994 graduate of Tri-Center (Neola) High School in Neola,

and was a forklift operator for Weyerhaeuser Co. in Council Bluffs.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Knutson Funeral Home in Avoca with burial in the Minden Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Adria and daughter, Alisha, both of Shelby his parents, Reinhold Meinke of Northglenn, Co. and Diana Meinke and David Gittins of Minden; brothers and sisters, Rodney Meinke of Omaha Rusty Meinke serving in the Army in Korea, David Gittins, Jr. of Neola, Joe Gittins of Omaha and Julie Gittins of Neola; grandparents Klara Meinke of Mitchell, S.D., Marie Pitkin of Shannon City and Iva Gittins of Council Bluffs; great-grandparents Bernadine Pitkin of Shannon City and Marie Hanon of Creston; in-laws Dale and Barb and Eric Robertson of Underwood; other relatives and friends