

Grand jury will convene after report received

By Russ Pankonin

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Officials with the Chase County Attorney's Office and the Nebraska State Patrol still await the results of an autopsy conducted on Dwayne Lawrence, 38, of Lincoln.

Lawrence became the subject of a statewide manhunt after kidnapping Imperial native Julie Hanes at gunpoint from her beauty salon in Lincoln Saturday, Aug. 24.

Hanes and her estranged husband and captor were spotted Sunday morning, Aug. 25, northwest of Imperial. Lawrence hid Hanes in a cornfield in that area throughout much of the day but released her at 6:25 p.m. that night.

About 90 minutes later, Lawrence died in the cornfield from a self-inflicted gunshot to the head.

Chase County Attorney Arlan Wine said Tuesday that Attorney Charles Brewster of Kearney has been appointed to conduct a grand jury investigation of the death.

Wine said the grand jury will not convene until the autopsy report is received and Nebraska State Patrol investigators are ready to present their findings to the grand jury.

Wine did not speculate on how long it will be before the secret grand jury convenes.

State Patrol Capt. Jim Parish said an autopsy and grand jury investigation are conducted whenever a suspect dies while in custody or will be taken into custody as a result of their efforts.

Hanes has remained in Imperial with family members since the incident.