

**S.D. Man Sentenced In Cab Dispute Death**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man convicted of strangling another man in an argument over a taxicab ride has been sentenced to serve 80 years in prison.

A jury last summer convicted 45-year-old Lloyd Wilson of manslaughter and aggravated assault in the October 2010 death of 42-year-old Bret Moe of Sioux Falls. The *Argus Leader* reports that Judge Joseph Neiles told Wilson during his sentencing Monday that Wilson likely won't be eligible for parole until he has served at least 52 years behind bars.

Authorities say Moe died in a hospital about a month after being choked by Wilson. The two men had argued after separately calling for a cab from a bar, then climbing into the same cab. Wilson's lawyers argued during his trial that he acted in self-defense.

**Neb. State Troopers File Pension Lawsuit**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — More than 400 current and former Nebraska State Troopers have filed a lawsuit alleging that state officials violated their labor contract by forcing them to pay more into their pension plan.

The federal lawsuit says the Legislature increased the troopers' contribution rate to 19 percent as of July 1, up from the 13 percent rate they paid in 2009.

Scott Black, a member of the State Troopers Association of Nebraska, says troopers contribute an average of about \$1,000 a month to the retirement plan.

Lincoln attorney Gary Young, who is representing the troopers, says state law prevents the Legislature from changing the plans in a way that disadvantages the troopers, unless they offset it in some other way.

The lawsuit was first reported by *The Lincoln Journal Star*.

**SUV Hits Johnny Carson's Childhood Home**

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a vehicle has hit the Nebraska boyhood home of Johnny Carson.

Police say an SUV plowed into the front of the two-story home Tuesday afternoon in Norfolk. The vehicle caused extensive damage to the porch, which collapsed. The vehicle ended up in the entryway.

Norfolk Police Chief Bill Mizner tells the *Norfolk Daily News* the driver was taken by ambulance to Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk. His identity and condition weren't immediately released.

Carson, the longtime TV talk-show host of "The Tonight Show," was born in Corning, Iowa, in 1925. Carson's family moved to Norfolk when he was 8, and he graduated from Norfolk High School. Carson died in 2005.

His boyhood home has had several owners over the years.

**Woman Sentenced To 25 Years In Killing**

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City woman convicted of manslaughter in the stabbing death of her aunt has been sentenced to 25 years in prison.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that a judge on Tuesday gave 29-year-old Heidi Waloke 25 years with five of the years suspended in the death of 38-year-old Jada Jeunesse of Pine Ridge.

The stabbing happened on May 23 in Waloke's Rapid City apartment following a night of drinking.

A jury in November acquitted Waloke of murder but found her guilty of the lesser charge.

**Pierre Man Pleads Guilty To Wire Fraud**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A 36-year-old Pierre man has pleaded guilty to wire fraud related to a scheme that resulted in netting some \$500,000 worth of equipment from a computer company.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says Erik C. Sayer used email, PayPal, and bank wire services to get Dell Inc. to ship computer components, computers and parts to six different addresses.

Johnson says email was used among several parties to transmit information with respect to fraudulent ownership of computer, and the Internet was used to chat with Dell technical services representatives and negotiate for new computer parts under warranty.

**NEBRASKA**

**Gov. Questions Child Welfare Recommendations**

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Gov. Dave Heineman voiced concern Tuesday about the potential cost of new recommendations to revamp Nebraska's beleaguered child welfare system.

The Republican governor told reporters that lawmakers have not yet given specifics on how they plan to pay for the recommendations, which include the creation of a new state department and reclaiming case management responsibilities from private contractors.

His comments came in response to an 18-point report released last week by the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee. Critics say the reform effort, which turned much of the responsibility for providing services over to private contractors, has suffered from higher-than-expected costs and poor planning.

Heineman said the state's child welfare troubles were a serious matter and should be discussed by lawmakers, judges, child service

providers and others. But he questioned the need for a new department when he said he has been trying to make government more efficient and cut costs.

"In the big picture, I'm not totally happy" with the existing child welfare services, Heineman said. "We need to continue to get better, but I've also said we shouldn't return to the failed policies of the past."

The Health and Human Services Committee report cited problems with unmanageable workloads and high turnover among case workers, poor planning and communication, a lack of oversight, inflated costs and few signs of improvement since reforms were introduced in 2009. It follows two other reports that found significant financial and planning problems in the reform effort.

Privatization began when the state signed contracts with five lead agencies to offer and coordinate child services statewide. Three of the five providers have dropped out, citing financial shortfalls, which forced the state and the remaining lead agencies to take

over the cases.

Committee members said the state needs to take back more control over child welfare cases, form a commission to guide the process, and create a state Department of Children's Services.

The new department would set all child welfare services in one place, which, according to the report, would minimize finger-pointing over which government office is supposed to pay. Committee members said the department would also reduce duplication — different offices providing the same service — catch child welfare cases that are being overlooked, and make the system easier for families to navigate.

The privatization effort was meant to address criticism that the Department of Health and Human Services lacked oversight of foster-care homes and centers. Advocates at the time emphasized the private sector's responsiveness to client needs, which they said was lacking in the old system, and efficiency which they predicted would lower costs.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Bar Owner Accused Of Rape Pleads Not Guilty**

BY KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

HURON — A Huron bar owner accused of raping of a 12-year-old and two 14-year-old girls who was later also charged with serving alcohol to minors while out on bond has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Warner Fajardo, of Sioux Falls, was arraigned Tuesday on two separate criminal complaints in Beadle County Court.

Fajardo was charged in November with one count of first-degree rape, three counts of third-degree rape and two counts of fourth-degree rape in the alleged attacks on

the girls at his business, El Cuervo Bar, in the early hours of Oct. 30. Just weeks later he was out on \$10,000 bond when he was arrested after police say they found 11 underage patrons at his bar.

Fajardo was being held at the Beadle County Jail on a \$150,000 bond.

If convicted of first-degree rape, he could be sentenced to up to life in prison.

Wearing a black-and-white jail uniform and with his hands and feet shackled, Fajardo told Circuit Judge Jon R. Erickson of Huron, via a Spanish translator, that he understood the charges and requested jury trials. Erickson set trial dates of Feb. 23 and March 28.

Michael R. Moore, Beadle County's state attorney, said Fajardo apparently knew the three girls whom he is accused of raping at his bar.

"The bar was closed, but the defendant started mixing drinks for the girls," police said in an affidavit accompanying the Nov. 18 criminal complaint filed in the rape case.

The girls told an officer they passed out or became incapacitated and felt as if they could not move. One girl said Fajardo touched her inappropriately. A second reported waking up with pain that led her to believe she had been raped. The third said she remembers Fajardo having sex with her.

Moore said one of the girls reported the alleged rapes on Nov. 11, and the girls were then examined by Child's Voice, a Sioux Falls organization that conducts examinations and interviews of children in such cases. Investigators are still trying to determine if the girls had been drugged, he said.

Fajardo is charged with first-degree and third-degree rape for the alleged attack on the younger girl, and counts of third-degree rape and fourth-degree rape for each of the alleged attacks on the 14-year-old girls. He is also charged with furnishing alcohol to those younger than 18, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and serving alcohol after hours.

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