

# Prosecutor: Man Shot Tot, Then Mother In Apartment Break-In

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Prosecutors say a man accused of shooting five people in a northwest Omaha apartment first shot a 2-year-old girl, then the girl's mother, who both died at the scene.

Dontevous Loyd, 23, has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the Sunday night shooting deaths of 22-year-old Destacia Straughn, whom he had dated, and 2-year-old Kenacia Amerson-Straughn. Loyd also faces three counts of attempted murder in the shootings of three other women in the apartment — 18-year-old Jamie Latner, 21-year-old Larrison Williams and 22-year-old Kachelle Roby. Five counts of use of a deadly weapon and one count of being a felon in possession of a gun rounded out the charges against Loyd.

Loyd made his first court appearance on the charges Thursday in a Douglas County jailhouse courtroom,

where a judge read him his rights, the charges against him and ordered him held without bond. The judge also advised Loyd that he could face the death penalty if convicted of the first-degree murder charges.

All of the other charges each carry a sentence of up to 50 years in prison.

His next court appearance has been set for Jan. 4, when he will be asked to enter a plea. A public defender will be appointed to represent Loyd, the judge said.

Family members of the survivors have said the injured women went to the apartment at Straughn's request, because she was afraid Loyd would come to the apartment and hurt her.

Investigators believe Loyd was angry that Straughn, whom he had dated on and off, had reported to police that he had taken her car without her permission. Authorities say Loyd kicked in the back door of Straughn's apartment around 11 p.m. Sunday and began firing, killing Straughn and the girl. A

prosecutor on Thursday said Straughn then chased down and shot the other women in the apartment one by one.

Omaha police have launched an internal investigation into the response of two police officers who were called to the apartment hours before the shooting.

Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said Wednesday that after someone called 911 Sunday asking police to check on Straughn's safety, the two responding officers found Straughn and Loyd at her apartment.

Witnesses say the officers took Loyd from the apartment, but didn't arrest him. The mother of one of the surviving shooting victims has told Omaha news outlets that Straughn begged police to put him behind bars for the night because she feared he would come back and hurt her.

The department said the officers have been reassigned to administrative duties pending the investigation into whether they followed proper procedures.

## Man Gets 22 Years In Fatal Stabbing

PIERRE (AP) — A 33-year-old St. Francis man has been sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison after being convicted in the stabbing death of two men with whom he had been drinking.

Daryl Dean Fool Bull was sentenced on two counts of second degree murder this week by U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Fool Bull was drinking with two men and a woman in a Todd County house in March when he became upset. Authorities say that without provocation, Fool Bull repeatedly stabbed Russell Sharpfish and Kirby Sharpfish with a kitchen knife before dragging the woman away from the home.

A child who was inside the home went to a bedroom and called 911.

Fool Bull was turned over to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

## Animal Board Reports Disease In 3 Herds

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Animal Industry Board says a reproductive cattle disease has been diagnosed in three South Dakota herds.

The board says bovine trichomoniasis, or trich, has recently been diagnosed in two Oglala Lakota county cattle herds and one herd operating in Corson and Ziebach counties.

Trichomonas foetus is transmitted between cows and bulls during breeding and can result in early term abortions. Ranchers are often unaware of the problem until the disease is established in the herd.

Signs include a high number of open cows and cows showing signs of heat when they should be pregnant.

The board is requiring that any non-virgin bull be tested negative for trichomoniasis before being sold, loaned or leased for breeding. The same rule applies to non-virgin bulls entering South Dakota.

# Court: County Within Jurisdiction To Rescind Resolution

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Fall River County acted within its jurisdiction when it rescinded a resolution and passed a nearly identical one to approve a company's plan to take in and clean oil-contaminated soil near Edgemont.

The second resolution was referred to a public vote, but a circuit judge ruled in October 2014 that commissioners did not have the authority to rescind the original resolution and ordered that referendum votes should not be counted. The Supreme

Court on Election Day 2014 ruled that the county could count the ballots, but some of the commissioners opposed tallying the votes and the ballot boxes sat dormant, said Fall River County State's Attorney James Sword.

The Supreme Court ordered the lower court to quash the writ of prohibition, saying High Plains Resources LLC had an alternative remedy — an appeal — to determine whether the board exceeded its powers.

"The existence of such a remedy precluded the 'extraordinary remedy' of a writ of prohibition," the justices said in their written opinion Thursday.

High Plains attorney Brad

Gordon did not immediately return a phone call for comment.

Sword said Fall County's auditor will now count the year-old ballots as soon as the circuit court quashes the writ.

"They're kept and locked away," Sword said.

The county commission approved the High Plains Resources soil farm, in which contaminated soil would be delivered to the site and repeatedly turned over to gradually remove toxins, in March 2014. It later sought to rescind its decision because residents were not given proper notice that the issue was being considered.

Residents also complained

that a single printed copy of the ordinance was available for commissioners to share, and no copies were made available to the two residents in attendance.

The question came up again in June 2014, with the commission giving the public a chance to comment before rescinding its March resolution and passing one that was nearly identical. Unhappy residents collected petition signatures to refer the resolution to last November's ballot.

The votes were never tallied, and the case made its second appearance before the state's high court in October.

# ConAgra Spends \$75M On 3 Of Its Omaha Headquarters Buildings

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — ConAgra Foods has bought three of the buildings on its Omaha campus for roughly \$75 million to give the company flexibility as it plans to move its headquarters to Chicago next year.

The *Omaha World-Herald* reports ConAgra now owns three of the five buildings on the downtown campus near the Missouri River. It has long-term leases on the others.

Owning more of the buildings should give the company more flexibility as it eliminates 1,500 office jobs and reduces the size of its Omaha operation.

ConAgra is also selling off most of its private-label operations to TreeHouse Foods Inc. for about \$2.7 billion and preparing to spin off its frozen potato business into a separate company

under the Lamb Weston brand.

It plans to focus on its brands, such as Orville Redenbacher, Healthy Choice, Chef Boyardee and Hebrew National, after it completes the changes. ConAgra spokesman Chris Kircher said the company is still evaluating how much space it will need in Omaha.

"While work is beginning to determine exactly what space we'll need and what our footprint on campus will look like, this is going to take a little more time before we'll be at a point where we have more details to share," Kircher said.

Local developers are already imagining possible projects that could be done with some of the ConAgra campus, but they're waiting for the company to finalize its plans.

"Until they know, we can't fill the void — we don't know what the void is," said Trenton Magid of World Group Commercial Real Estate, who also is on the Omaha Planning Board.

But already some real estate developers are discussing the possibilities of extending downtown streets into the ConAgra campus and building a mix of retail, residential and office buildings. That could help extend the successful Old Market district of renovated warehouses to the river.

Before ConAgra's current headquarters was built, the city tore down several blocks of historic brick warehouses in 1989. Nearly two dozen buildings were destroyed to make way for the development.

## Idaho, South Dakota Universities To Expedite Degree Programs

BY KIMBERLEE KRUESI  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Officials with Idaho State University say a new agreement with South Dakota State University will help students earn a bachelor's degree in physics along with a master's degree in nuclear engineering in just five years.

The memorandum of understanding would reduce the time it would take to earn a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in nuclear engineering by one year. This will be possible because students will be able to apply credits collected during their

graduate program to their undergraduate studies.

"We don't expect this to be a huge thing. Even if we just get two or three more students, that will be really good," said Mary Lou Dunzik-Gougar, chairwoman of ISU's Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics Department. "We really just want the top achievers."

The new plan has no expected extra costs because the expenses will be covered through the students' tuition.

ISU is regionally unique because it is one of the rare universities to have the infrastructure, resources and experts to offer a robust nu-

clear and physics program, Dunzik-Gougar said. For example, the closest school with similar programs is in Oregon.

School officials discussed the new plan Thursday during the Idaho State Board of Education meeting.

"Idaho State University is to be applauded," said board member David Hill. "This provides a broader range of opportunities. Doing something like this benefits everyone."

However, while the new plan has the backing of ISU and the board, SDSU spokesman Matt Schmidt said school officials are still reviewing the plan. He had

no timeline when it might be approved.

Earlier this year, business and governmental officials with Idaho's STEM Action Center began brainstorming efforts to fatten the pipeline of students choosing science, technology, engineering and math careers.

The state's Department of Labor has estimated that Idaho will face a workforce shortage starting 2022, with most of those jobs expected to require some sort of STEM education.

## Fugitive Leads Authorities On Chase

YORK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a Wisconsin fugitive led Nebraska law enforcement on a chase before leaving his vehicle and a female companion in a ditch and stealing at least three vehicles.

The *York News-Times* says a sheriff's deputy responded Tuesday to a report of a man and woman panhandling at an Interstate 80 rest stop.

York County Sheriff Dale Radcliff says the suspects gave false names and fled while the deputy checked them. They turned off the interstate and put the vehicle into a ditch. Authorities say 33-year-old Jorge M. Compan ran away.

Authorities say a Henderson city truck was stolen shortly thereafter but recovered in Hamilton County, where a pickup was stolen. That pickup was later found in Kansas, where yet another vehicle was taken.

Compan is wanted for parole violations.

YOUR NEWS! THE PRESS AND DAKOTAN

# Oilfield Firm Donates \$172M In Software To School Of Mines

RAPID CITY (AP) — Oilfield services company Schlumberger has donated \$172 million worth of software to the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology to strengthen the school's energy resources initiative, the Rapid City school announced Thursday.

Houston-based Schlumberger provides technology and other support services for the oil and gas industry in areas such as western North Dakota's oil patch.

The software will be used in courses supporting the new

petroleum systems minor and graduate certificate program, other petroleum-related curricula and faculty research, said School of Mines President Heather Wilson.

"Close partnerships with industry are a very important part of Mines' success," Wilson said.

School officials say hands-on use of commercial-grade software enhances graduating students' job prospects. Schlumberger currently employs more than 30 School of Mines graduates, including

four who have been hired in the past five years.

The 12 software technologies will allow students to interpret seismic data, correlate well logs and build reservoir models and maps. They will also help students analyze wells for surveillance and forecast modeling and simulate flow for oil and gas production.

Courses using the software include petroleum production and drilling engineering, the petroleum field camp and petroleum geology.



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is less  
than a week  
away!**

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