

S.D. Murder Suspect's Trial Set For Oct. 31

RAPID CITY (AP) — A Rapid City woman accused of stabbing her aunt to death will go on trial Oct. 31. Heidi Waloke faces alternate counts of murder and manslaughter in the May 23 death of 38-year-old Jada Jeunesse. She could face life in prison if convicted. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Circuit Judge Janine Kern on Wednesday set Waloke's trial date. Kern refused to reduce Waloke's bond from \$250,000. Waloke's attorney, Tom Diggins, says she is pregnant and not a flight risk. But prosecutors say Jeunesse's parents are worried that Waloke could try to hide on an Indian reservation. Police say Waloke and Jeunesse had argued after a day of drinking. Waloke has pleaded not guilty.

Omaha Man Sentenced For Daughter's Death

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man who admitted to killing his 8-month-old daughter has been sentenced to 22 to 25 years in prison. Judge Russell Bowie sentenced Augustine Rubio Wednesday morning. KMTV is reporting that the 31-year-old Rubio showed no emotions as he was sentenced. Rubio had claimed his daughter Tatiana fell off a bed in an Omaha apartment when he was supposed to be watching her in January 2009. He later changed his plea from not guilty to no contest. The girl was rushed by paramedics to the hospital where she was placed on life support. She later died. Prosecutors say the girl had been shaken and slammed into the floor or furniture. An autopsy showed she had multiple skull fractures, head injuries from being shaken and a broken leg and ribs.

Omaha Police Investigate 'Suspicious' Death

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police in Omaha are investigating a man's death that is being called suspicious. KETV-TV is reporting that officers were called to a home after noon on Wednesday. Inside the home they found the man's body. No other information has been released.

Heineman Nervous About Levee Strength

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman says he's nervous that the worst effects of the Missouri River flooding are yet to come. Heineman praised local flood-preparation efforts Wednesday during a conference call with reporters. But the governor said he remained worried that the levees protecting Nebraska land will not hold under months of water pressure. Flooding remains a concern all along the river because of the massive water release by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from upstream reservoirs.

Remains May Belong To Missing Man

RAPID CITY (AP) — Authorities in western South Dakota's Pennington County say human remains found in March could belong to a man who's been missing for five years. A team at the University of North Texas has reported so far that the remains are likely from a white male between 50 to 70 years old. Sixty-one-year-old Michael Berry disappeared in June 2006 after leaving a note that he was going hiking in the Black Hills. Capt. Marty Graves of the Pennington County sheriff's office says the quality and condition of the remains are consistent with the time when Berry disappeared. A logger found the remains in a remote area near Keystone. Authorities are still waiting for a DNA comparison report from the university team.

Police: Woman Robs 2

S.D. Casinos In 4 Days

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City police are searching for a woman they say tried to rob two casinos in four days. Authorities say the latest attempt came early Wednesday, when the woman walked into a Happy Jacks Casino with a machete and demanded money from a clerk. The clerk refused, and the woman fled. Police say that late Sunday, the woman entered Market Square Casino, threatened a clerk with a large knife and then fled with an undetermined amount of money.

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Heineman Backs Death Penalty

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press



Heineman

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman said Wednesday the state's struggle to obtain a key drug used in executions hasn't swayed his support for capital punishment and that he's "more determined than ever" to see death sentences carried out. Heineman told reporters in a conference call that Nebraska needs to move forward with executing death row inmates such as convicted killer Carey Dean Moore, who was scheduled to die last month. Moore's execution was delayed when new questions surfaced about whether the state had legally purchased sodium thiopental, one of three drugs required to carry out the sentence. Last week, a defense

attorney of Moore's argued that prosecutors had engaged in psychological torture because Nebraska did not have all of the needed lethal injection drugs. Heineman said the focus should be on the victims and the rights of inmates. "I find it frustrating, and I'm a bit angry that we're worried about the cruel and unusual punishment of these criminals," he said. "We need to find a way to carry out the death sentences that are appropriate for these first-degree murderers." Nebraska plans to obtain a new supply of sodium thiopental, but state officials said there's no rush

to do so. The Department of Correctional Services announced in January that it had obtained 500 grams of the drug from an Indian company, clearing the way for Nebraska's first execution by lethal injection. The Drug Enforcement Administration has been investigating whether several states properly registered with federal regulators before importing the sedative, which is no longer manufactured in the United States and is in scarce supply worldwide. Stockpiles of sodium thiopental were confiscated from a handful of states, including Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee. The DEA has declined to say whether Nebraska's stockpile is under investigation. Nebraska's supply was purchased for \$2,000 from Mumbai,

India-based Kayem Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd. State officials said they might end up destroying Nebraska's sodium thiopental at the State Patrol crime lab. Kayem no longer sells sodium thiopental, citing concerns about its use in executions. Officials in Nebraska said the state doesn't face a hard deadline because Moore's June 14 execution was delayed. Moore, 53, was convicted of first-degree murder for the 1979 slayings of Omaha cab drivers Maynard Helgeland and Reuel Eugene Van Ness during botched robberies. He had been scheduled to be executed in April, but the Nebraska Supreme Court issued a stay in May allowing him to challenge the state's purchase of sodium thiopental. Moore's appeal is pending in Douglas County District Court.

S.F. Day Care Shut Down For Death Inquiry

SIoux FALLS (AP) — An in-home day care in Sioux Falls where a 4-month-old child died last week has been shut down while authorities investigate, though they say the death does not appear suspicious. Connie Edwards' registration to operate the day care — which has been issued four citations this year — has been suspended during the investigation, which authorities say could take months. "What we are doing additionally is doing some random surveillance of that home to make sure that we don't see evidence of a day care operating there," City Health Director Jill Franken told the *Argus Leader* newspaper. Edwards did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment on Wednesday. Police say it could be a while before they know exactly how Meredith Ulmer died.

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