

### Man Sentenced For Rape Of Young Girls

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who was convicted of rape for having sexual contact with young girls has been sentenced to 10 months in jail. Twenty-two-year-old Tyler Lee Schlotman was sentenced Thursday on one count of rape and one count of sexual contact with a child under 16. Authorities say the charges involved two victims, one of whom he met on Facebook. Authorities say Schlotman admitted to the allegations against him. He faced up to 30 years in prison. Prosecutors say 19 other charges, some of which involved three additional victims, were dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

### Weather Reports 2 Tornado Touchdowns

HURON (AP) — The National Weather Service says at least two tornadoes touched down in eastern South Dakota. Meteorologist Todd Heitkamp says one tornado tracked across part of Beadle and Sanborn counties on Thursday night and at least one hit Miner County to the southeast. Heitkamp says hail up to the size of ping pong balls and strong winds also downed some power lines and trees and caused some crop damage. Beadle County Emergency Management Director Tom Moebing says the storm damaged at least one home in the county, although he says the residents were in the basement at the time and weren't injured. Miner County Emergency Management Director Bob Calmus says there are no reports of damage beyond downed power lines.

### Fire At Church May Have Been Arson

BOX ELDER (AP) — Authorities say a fire at a Box Elder church may have been arson. Box Elder Police Chief Jason Dubbs says the Wednesday morning fire at the Harvest Time Free Will Baptist Church was suspicious. But he emphasized that the cause wouldn't be known until the investigation was finished. The Rev. Tim Coats tells the Rapid City Journal that the church seemed not to sustain structural damage but most of the interior furnishings were destroyed. Coats says the church will be unusable for upcoming services. He says the Box Elder Volunteer Fire Department offered the use of its hall.

### Man Indicted Abusing Woman On Rez

RAPID CITY (AP) — A South Dakota man who federal authorities accuse of sexually abusing a woman three times on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has been indicted. Federal court records show Jesse Miller, of Porcupine, is scheduled to appear Friday in the U.S. District Court in Rapid City on three counts of aggravated sexual abuse by force. A grand jury indictment charges Miller with sexually abusing the woman three times on April 6 near Porcupine. Miller's attorney did not immediately return a call seeking comment on the case.

### Woman In Fire Convicted Of Threats

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — A 24-year-old Norfolk woman accused of starting a small fire in an apartment complex hallway has been convicted of making terroristic threats. Norfolk radio station KNEN reports that Johna Richards pleaded guilty on Thursday after Madison County prosecutors amended the charge from felony arson. She is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 18. Police say the charge stemmed from a Dec. 29 fire. A resident of the complex used a rug to put out the flames, and another resident told officers about threatening messages he'd been getting on Facebook. Investigators eventually were able to obtain information from Facebook about the person who posted the messages, and Richards was arrested.

### Storm Leaves Behind Building Damage

WYMORE, Neb. (AP) — An early morning thunderstorm packing strong winds damaged some buildings in southeast Nebraska's Gage County. Beatrice radio station KWBE reports that the storm struck Wymore early Friday morning. Assistant Wymore Fire Chief Mark Meints told the station that the straight-line winds toppled trees and knocked branches onto buildings and vehicles. No injuries have been reported.

### Program For Troubled Boys Nears Start

ALLIANCE, Neb. (AP) — A national organization is getting closer to starting its services for troubled teenage boys at the former Nebraska Boys Ranch southeast of Alliance in the Panhandle. Teen Challenge of the Midlands executive director Dan Meinert says Teen Challenge has invested \$1 million to renovate a dozen buildings on the 35 acres. The Nebraska Boys Ranch suspended its services there in March 2010 after serving troubled youths since 1965. There are more than 200 Teen Challenge programs throughout the United States, offering a variety of services to youths and families. Meinert says 16 boys ages 13 through 18 with substance-abuse issues will be moved into the renovated facilities, where they will receive help through a Christian-centered program.

# Farmers Restocking Flocks As Bird Flu Winds Down

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Three months after bird flu wiped out two of Greg Langmo's flocks, he's among the first to start growing turkeys again. He lost half of a year's normal production and income and won't be able to sell turkeys for months, but the central Minnesota farmer feels good to be getting back to normal. "It's nerve-racking for sure," Langmo said with a laugh. "You just don't know when things are going to go over the edge. But you've got to go at some point. We can't just sit here." The U.S. hasn't detected any new cases of H5N2 avian influenza in over a month, so the focus has shifted to recovery and preparations in case wild birds that can carry the disease bring it back this fall, as they migrate south. A USDA update Friday said scientists still haven't nailed down the specific ways the virus spreads from the wild into barns but research is continuing in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, the Dakotas and Wisconsin. The toll was large: more than 48 million chickens and turkeys lost in the U.S. Minnesota, the country's top turkey producing state, lost 9 million turkeys and chickens, and Iowa, the No. 1 egg producer, lost 34 million birds on 77 farms. Brad Moline just became Iowa's first farmer to be cleared to restock, which he said he'll do late next week.

"This is probably the most excited I've been about restocking turkeys since I was a kid," Moline said. Producers' spirits are rising, agreed Steve Olson, executive director of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association. As of Thursday, 37 of the state's 108 infected farms had been cleared to restock. "They're coming out of what has been a terrible experience for them and getting back into the business of raising turkeys," Olson said. Langmo owns five farms. Bird flu struck one April 19, the second June 3. Two others didn't get hit, but were so close to infected farms that he couldn't restock them. One went unscathed. If all goes well, his first 36,000 restocked birds will become sandwich meat in three or four months. He received clearance this week to restock his second barn with 50,000 birds that will be destined to grace Thanksgiving tables. But reaching this point has taken an enormous amount of work: composting and disposing of dead birds and thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting his barns. And the government paperwork has been unbelievable, he said. "It's overwhelming. You look at it and wonder if you'll ever get it done, if it's ever going to be good enough," he said. To prevent another devastating round of bird flu, producers are taking a hard look at what more they can do

to keep anyone or anything from carrying the virus into barns, Olson said. That includes checking screens for holes that could let a bird or rodent in, switching to dedicated equipment for each barn or considering more complex entryways for barns that would separate "dirty" and "clean" areas. In South Dakota, six of eight affected turkey farms supplying Dakota Provisions have restocked, said Jeff Sveen, the Huron company's chairman. Producers there are building stricter protections, such as venting systems designed to prevent wild bird droppings from entering and wire screens to prevent wild birds from flying through. As for Langmo and Moline, they haven't made any dramatic biosecurity changes because their precautions were already tight. Moline, who lost 56,000 turkeys on all three of his farms near the central Iowa community of Manson, said he's been doing small things as he prepares to restock starting next Friday, such as placing bait stations for rodents outside his barns instead of inside and sparrow-proofing the barns. He expects to be fully restocked by mid-October, with his birds likely ending up on sandwiches at Subway restaurants. And he said he's feeling hopeful despite the threat of the virus returning. "Will we see it again? Most likely. To this degree? I certainly hope not," he said.

## Collector Asks Judge To Declare Him Owner Of Elvis' Guitar

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A collector claiming to be the rightful owner of a guitar played by Elvis Presley and later donated by a blues guitarist to a South Dakota museum has asked a federal judge to rule in his favor. The request for summary judgment from collector Larry Moss filed this month in U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls comes a year after the custody battle over the guitar ensued without the donor ever responding to the federal complaint. The National Music Museum asked a judge in July 2014 to declare it the legal owner of the guitar that the rock-and-roll king played during his 1977 tour. The Martin D-35 guitar was donated to the facility in

Vermillion by blues guitarist Robert Johnson in 2013, but months later, Moss contacted the museum saying the donor was not in a position to give away the guitar. In court records, Moss claims the museum "did little or no due diligence to determine if Mr. Johnson had rights in the Elvis guitar," which he says he bought from Johnson in February 2008 and agreed to leave on display at the Rock N' Soul Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. Moss claims Johnson then removed the guitar from that museum without his "knowledge or consent." "Thus, when Johnson delivered the Elvis guitar into the possession of NMM in February of 2013, he was a mere converter with void title, and had no rights to convey to NMM," Moss, of Memphis, wrote.

Federal court records show Johnson has not responded to the lawsuit. An attorney for Johnson has not been named in court filings and he did not immediately respond to a request for comment Friday. In a deposition in March, National Music Museum director Cleveland Johnson acknowledged that Robert Johnson never provided the museum documents indicating that he had the authority to trade the instrument, and the museum took it on face value that he had the right to do so. The rock-and-roll king played the guitar during his 1977 tour and gave it to a fan in St. Petersburg, Florida, after he broke it when a strap and string snapped. Moss has claimed that the value of the guitar is "well in excess of \$75,000."

## Law Change To Help Funeral Directors Sell Insurance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A change in Nebraska law set to take effect late next month will make it easier for funeral directors to sell insurance that covers funeral costs. A funeral life insurance policy is a method of paying for what's known as "pre-need" funerals, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported. Such policies offer advantages over putting money in a certificate deposit, which would be payable to the funeral upon death, or giving cash to the funeral home. An insurance policy can include increases in value to keep up with inflation and are portable in case the funeral ends up in a location that's different from where the buyer

had planned. About 15 states have similar rules that make it easier for funeral directors to qualify to sell "limited line" insurance. The change in state law, which will take effect Aug. 30, also sets a lower amount of training and continuing education that funeral directors and others must take to maintain licenses that allow them to sell funeral insurance. The number of directors offering insurance may now

increase by 20 to 25 percent, said William Lauber, legislative chairman and past president of the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association. Homesteaders Life Co. of West Des Moines, Iowa, is one of about a dozen companies that sell such coverage. Vice president Gerry Kraus said funeral directors don't need training like a full-fledged insurance agent would receive because it's a very "niche market."

## Man Jailed For Fire That Killed Woman

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 34-year-old man has been given 15 to 20 years in prison for killing his former girlfriend at a homeless camp south of downtown Omaha. The *Omaha World-Herald* reports that Sonny Delong was sentenced on Thursday in Douglas County District Court. He'd pleaded no contest and was convicted of manslaughter after making a deal with prosecutors who lowered the original murder charge. Investigators say Delong had told people that he was going to burn his former girlfriend, 30-year-old Amanda Brown, who used meth and was living in the homeless camp with another man. Investigators say that on May 7 last year, Delong set fire to the tent that Brown and the other man had been using. Firefighters later found her body inside the tent.

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