

Woman Apologizes To Nebraska Church For 50-Year-Old ‘Sin’

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — An Oklahoma woman has apologized to the First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln for a “sin” that she says she committed 50 years ago.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that the Rev. Jim Keck, the senior minister of the church, received an anonymous letter from a Tulsa woman, who said that she was writing to make peace with a sin she committed as a little girl. The woman said that she shattered one of the church’s windows with a rock.

“I willfully destroyed your property without thinking of the consequences and the cost,” the woman wrote in the letter. “Please accept my sincere apologies. I am sorry that it took me all these years to realize my sin and to try to make amends.”

The minister, who wonders what moved her to apologize, estimates that the woman is about 60 today. “Some people who fight addiction go through making amends,” Keck said. “Maybe she’s going through that process. Or maybe she has

been hurt recently and they made amends with her. You can just come up with so many scenarios.”

A \$300 money order was included with the letter. Keck says the money might not cover the cost of the damage, but that it was more than enough, spiritually. “(The letter) was so poignant,” he said. “It made me wonder if I have anything that I need to apologize for.”

Keck says the church experiences a fair amount of vandalism and theft since it is open to the public.

Motel

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“The weather was just real bad for us,” she said. “Last year, we started kind of late so it just rolled into winter. ... It took a little long, but it turned out really good, so we’re super excited.”

The motel adds 59 rooms to the city and sports a staff of 14.

Brown said she’s happy the construction process is over.

“It’s really exciting because everything is so new and it’s a larger hotel,” she said. “It’s just exciting to see where we came from. It was just a frame when I first

saw it and now it’s a complete hotel.”

Brown, who’s also a manager at the Yankton Days Inn, said she’s noticed the strain the city’s hotels have been under, especially over the last year.

“I really think it’s going to help out just because we are short of rooms for all locations,” she said. “I’m also at the Days Inn and we really have to send people different places, especially with the Colonial (Inn) not being around anymore. Yankton lost quite a few rooms. (EconoLodge) is going to help out with that.”

She added she has already seen a number of future bookings for weddings and school activities.

Schramm said there will be a number of benefits to

an extra hotel not only for travelers, but also the city.

“It’ll contribute to the BBB (bed, board and booze) tax, we’ve got more rooms now, we can offer more nights,” she said. “It really just kind of expands on what we already have. “Just being able to have lodging that’s available when we need it is critical for us to continue to go after new events and new tournaments. It’s one more new business, and we love to see new business growing in the community.”

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Election

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publications,” Viereck said. “There’s different notices you have to remind people of — for instance: voter registration and the closing time for that, the actual ballots themselves getting printed. And then it’s just setting up the different voting centers.”

Nelson said this also allows the city to work with commissioners a little bit earlier.

“We have to find out who’s going to be elected before we can start talking with them about roles and responsibilities of a commissioner,” she said. “Because we know who our commissioners are and we

have some incumbents who are going to be commissioners, we can carry on with business as usual with them.”

She added this also helps bring the commissioner’s newest commissioner up to speed.

“And with (new city commissioner) Nathan Johnson, we can sit down and start talking and meeting with him about some of the projects that are going on and talking to him about what the budget session looks like, because that’s one of the first things we take on in the spring,” she said.

Viereck said usually an election involves 15 polling workers across three election sites around the city.

“When we team with the school, we typically have five election workers at each polling center,” he

said. “In the past, we’ve had three polling centers and that’s what we were counting on again.”

Plans were to use JoDean’s Restaurant, the Yankton City Hall gymnasium and the 4-H Center as polling places.

As a result of the election cancellation, the city will not have to incur the cost of a municipal election — which Viereck said was going to be significantly more than the \$7,159.75 spent on Yankton’s 2014 municipal election.

“Last year, the state covered all of our expenses as far as the voting centers,” he said. “When Secretary of State (Shantel) Krebs took office, they were reviewing some things and the reason the state covered this in the past was the state had some funds that were considered federal funds. Well,

the new interpretation is that those are for statewide/national elections, so we were going to be on our own. We had been working with a private firm and it was going to be approximately \$6,000-\$6,500 more on our end. If it would’ve been a joint election, we would’ve split that in half with the school, but one way or another, the election was going to cost

\$6,500 more.”

The money will remain in the general fund.

The City Commission reorganizes during the second meeting in May.

Viereck said while saving money is great, he hopes this isn’t a sign of disinterest in city government.

“It’s kind of nice to save some of the money, but hopefully it’s not apathy

and it’s just that people are happy with the way the city’s being run right now,” he said.

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Funding

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millions of dollars in increased revenue, but the committee also limited future revenue by reducing the number of years that the gas tax would increase from eight to three.

The committee also removed Senate-imposed re-

quirements on the way counties could assess property taxes for infrastructure spending. Gosch said he anticipates disagreement when the Senate considers the bill again.

Republican Rep. Thomas Brunner argued on the House floor against raising taxes on South Dakota residents. He said the increased license plate fees are tough to stomach and the revenue hikes would hurt residents.

“The old song says that

the spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down,” said Brunner, R-Nisland. “Well there’s not enough sugar in this bill.”

Another piece of the proposal would increase the maximum interstate highway speed limit in law from 75 mph to 80 mph. Secretary of Transportation Darin Bergquist has said the state Transportation Commission has the authority to set lower speed limits.

Ban

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“I was crossing my finger that this wouldn’t happen because it is kind of early for it,” Nickles said. “I know that it affects a lot of people who wanted to burn tree piles. It even has affected the fire department because some of our training for the firefighters hinges around controlled burns of wild lands and structures. We are even having to curb that for a while.”

Nickles said that the low humidity is also why the ban is in effect.

“The last time I checked, the humidity was down to 21 percent,” he said. “That, along with things not recovering from winter yet and the increased temperatures, are all the good makings for easy ignition of grass and brush. Last weekend was a good example. We were out twice

over the weekend while Lesterville was out once. We were also out again (Monday).”

According to Nickles, each one of those fires was due to controlled burning.

To check on the burn ban status, people can call their local fire departments or check the status on the National Weather Service’s website.

When the ban is lifted, people who are doing controlled burns must call Dispatch at (605)-668-5220, according to Yankton County Public Ordinance 17.

“They will be able to advise them if they can burn or not,” Nickles said.

Those who are burning are advised to look at the weather for the week ahead to make sure the conditions are suitable for a controlled fire.

“Last year, the majority of Yankton’s responses were due to rekindlings from previous controlled burns that

people did, which were as long as a week old after the wind came up,” Nickles said. “It would also help if people cut the size of their piles down so they can better manage the fire.”

Controlled burns should also be started far away from structures and have the area cleared.

“If there is water available, whether it be a tank of water or a garden house, that would be a huge help,” Nickles added.

He said one of the most important parts of maintaining a safe controlled fire is staying with it.

“I have been on a few complaints in the last week where people just lit it and left,” Nickles said. “That is where we run into trouble.”

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