Vikings' Peterson Avoids Jail In Plea Agreement

BY JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

CONROE, Texas (AP) — Minnesota Vikings star Adrian Peterson avoided jail Tuesday by reaching a deal with Texas prosecutors to resolve a child abuse case that re-

vived a national debate about corporal punishment.
Peterson was sentenced to a form of probation after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge of reckless assault for using a wooden switch to discipline his 4-yearold son. It was not immediately clear how the plea deal would affect his playing status or whether he might be subject to a new NFL policy that calls for a six-game suspension without pay for a first domestic violence offense.

The All-Pro running back was indicted in September on a felony charge of injury to a child after the incident earlier this year in suburban Houston. He has been on paid leave under a special exemption from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"I stand here and I take full responsibility for my actions. I love my son more than anyone of you could even imagine and I'm anxious to continue my relationship with my child," Peterson said outside the courthouse after accepting the plea deal.

'I'm just glad this is over," he added. "I can put this behind me, and me and my family can continue to move for-

He was not allowed to be near his son while the case was pending, but now can resume having contact with the

"Adrian wants to get on with his life and have his relationship with his son and get back to playing football," Peterson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, said.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league "cannot provide a timetable" for that. We will review the matter, including the court record,

and then make a determination on his status," McCarthy The Vikings said they were aware of the plea agree-

ment, and would have further comment "at the appropriate time.' Peterson is one of a handful of NFL players who have

been involved in domestic violence cases lately, including Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy, Arizona Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer and former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice.

After receiving plenty of criticism for initially handing Rice only a two-game suspension, Goodell announced in August that he was toughening the league's punishments for domestic violence.

Attention to the issue rose considerably in September, when a video surfaced showing Rice knocking out his then-fiancee — and now wife — in a casino elevator; he soon was cut by the Ravens and indefinitely barred by the league.

Peterson has said he never intended to harm his son and was disciplining him in the same way he had been as a child growing up in East Texas. The boy suffered cuts, marks and bruising to his thighs, back and one of his testicles, according to court records. Peterson had tentatively been set to go on trial Dec. 1.

Rounds

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Committee and pushed for Reid's ouster. National Democrats ultimately didn't fulfill their pledge to pour \$1 million into the race.

Pressler, meanwhile, announced key endorsements during the waning days of the campaign from KELO-TV legend Steve Hemmingsen, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and the *Rapid City Journal*.

When You Depend Upon a Star

Wishes made upon stars may or may not

always come true. But when you look at

what you do every day, you will find that

you are a star who can be depended upon.

Fill in the weekly calendar to show your

Monday

responsibilities. The idea stars can help

Rounds will join Republican John Thune on South Dakota's senate delegation.

The survey of 848 South Dakota voters was conducted for AP and the television networks by Edison Research. This includes preliminary results from interviews conducted as voters left a random sample of 10 polling places statewide Tuesday, as well as 260 who voted early or absentee. Results for the full sample were subject to sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points; it is higher for subgroups.

County

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against Democratic challenger Pat Garrity.

Hojem, who took in 5,223 votes for 71 percent of the vote, said upgrading the office will be the biggest challenge going for-

"Technology's the biggest (challenge), but the auditor's office has to adapt just like all the state."

the other auditor's offices in

She added working with the commission to save money is a key goal.

"I'd like to work with the commissioners more on saving tax dollars and more with getting younger people out to vote," she said.

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China Develops Laser System Against Drones

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese engineers have successfully tested a laser weapon that can shoot down low-flying, slow-moving drones, state media reported Tuesday.

The Low Altitude Sentinel system can detect a small aircraft within a 2-kilometer (1.2-mile) radius and shoot it down within five seconds, the English-language news-paper China Daily said, citing a statement from the China Academy of Engineering Physics.

The system is designed to destroy small drones flying below 500 meters (1,600 feet) at a speed less than 180 kilometers per hour (110 mph), the China Daily said.

Senate

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important," he said. "The Medicaid expansion is so important to so many people who just don't have a lot of champions in Pierre. It is critically important that we get health care access to these 47,000 hard-working people that just can't afford

In the District 18 House race, the vote totals were: Mike Stevens (R) 4,604; Jean Hunhoff (R) 3,966; Terry Winter (D) 2,672; and Jay Williams (D) 2,336.

Stevens and Jean Hunhoff both said they were ecstatic

to be returning to Pierre to continue to serve the people of District 18.

"It is just such a humbling experience to get to represent Yankton County and District 18," Stevens said. "I am so excited to get back to Pierre and get everything done to help the state and the county.'

He noted that he had always said that education was the focus of his campaign and acknowledged that the issues haven't changed.

"We still need to work on funding education (and) teacher pay," he said. "We need to get equity in funding the state's priorities.'

Jean Hunhoff said she is looking forward to getting back to Pierre and hopefully returning to the Appropriations Committee.

We have major issues facing the state that are going to take work," she said. "I am just so excited to be sent back and to represent the district. Every election is the people deciding if you have done a good job or not, so to be sent back and transition back to the House is humbling.'

She added there are many issues facing her upon her return to Pierre.

'There were so many priorities other than the main issues that were not given enough attention," Jean Hunhoff said. "We need to look at the Department of Social Services, Human Services Center, our Veteran's Services and roads, just to name

a few, in addition to education and health care."

All the winners on Tuesday said they had appreciated the quality of the candidates running against them, and that the debates and forums had raised issues that would be addressed when they went to work in January.

"We had four good candidates - we had some differences of opinions, but we all had the opportunities to share our viewpoints," Stevens said. "I want to congratulate all of the candidates on a great election."

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Pool

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Ray Ring of Vermillion and Republican Nancy Rasmussen of Hurley retained their seats. The two incumbents collected 3,282 and 3,279 votes, respectively. The rest of the field included Democrat Marion Sorlien of Viborg with 2,784 votes and Republican Sheri Kaufman of Vermillion with 2,183.

Republican Jamie Boomgarden of Chancellor, who formerly served in the Legislature, withdrew from the House race and was replaced with Kaufman.

In District 21, the two House seats remained with Republican Lee Qualm of Platte and Democrat Julie Bartling of Burke. The incumbents collected a respective 4,757 and 4,298 votes. The third candidate, De-

mocrat Carrie Ackerman-Rice of Lake Andes, received 1,762.

District 21 consists of Charles Mix, Gregory, Tripp and part of Bon Homme counties. The following results

were available from area southeast South Dakota counties. Some results, along of Vermillion defeated Re-

with northeast Nebraska results, weren't available at press time.

BON HOMME: In the District 3 county commission race, Republican challenger Duane Bachmann of Tyndall defeated Democratic incumbent John Pesek of rural Tyndall 238-215.

Pesek currently serves as commission chairman.

CHARLES MIX: In the auditor's race, incumbent Sherri Fuchs of Wagner, running as an independent, defeated Republican challenger Kristina Kranig of Geddes by a 1,588-1,301 margin.

In the sheriff's race, Republican incumbent Randy Thaler of Lake Andes defeated Democratic challenger DesaRae Gravatt of Wagner 2,049-943.

Thaler, a former South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper, won his first term as sheriff in 2010. Gravatt serves as a full-time Wagner police officer and also works part-time for the Douglas County sheriff's department.

CLAY: In the auditor's race, Democratic incumbent Carri Crum of Vermillion defeated independent challenger Kathy Timm-Heles of Vermillion by a margin of 1.802-1.574.

In the register of deeds race, Democrat Jane Olson publican Rhonda Taggart of Vermillion by a 1,872-1,676 margin.

A new register of deeds was guaranteed as Democratic incumbent Ray Hofman didn't run for re-election. Hofman unsuccessfully sought a Clay County commission seat when he lost in the Democratic primary. Olson currently serves as the deputy register of deeds.

In the county commission race, voters chose Democrats Micheal Manning and Phyllis Packard, both of Vermillion, with a respective 2,523 and 1,577 votes. The third candidate, independent Grant Sammelson of Vermillion, finished with 1,369

Packard currently serves on the commission. Manning will replace incumbent Leslie Kephart, who didn't run for re-election. **HUTCHINSON:** In the au-

ditor's race. Republican Diane Murtha of rural Scotland defeated Democrat Sherry Friman of Tripp 1,809-Murtha will replace long-

time auditor Wilma "Jeannie" Simonsen of Menno, who didn't run for re-election.

TURNER: In the sheriff's race, Republican incumbent Byron Nogelmeier of Parker defeated independent challenger Michael R. DeNeui of Hurley by a margin of 2,241-

DeNeui, a former Charles Mix County chief deputy, currently serves as Viborg police chief.

In the District 5 county commission race, Democratic incumbent Gary Hansen of rural Parker defeated Republican challenger James J. Benson of rural Hurley by a 410-245 margin.

UNION: In the District 5 county commission race, Republican incumbent Milton Ustad of rural Beresford defeated independent Richard W. Stene, also of rural Beresford, by a 734-272 margin.

The delayed release of South Dakota voting results meant some area results were not available at press time. In addition, the later poll hours in Nebraska meant Knox and Cedar county results were not available at deadline.

Those results can be online and in social media as well as continued print coverage in the Press & Dakotan.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Kid Scoop Together:

TRY THIS AT HOME

Observation Game

With your learning buddy, look

a picture to study. On the lines below, list every detail you can

observe about the picture. Next

to each detail, write the letter F

if it is a FACT and the letter O

through the newspaper and find

Star Gazer

for an OPINION.



1

 \Box

Friday

Saturday

Thursday

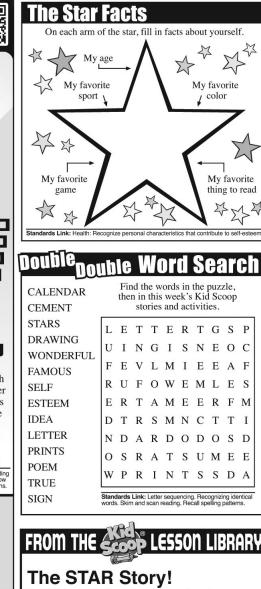
Do my

homework

Make

Wednesday

Standards Link: Health: Recognize personal characteristics that contribute to self-esteem such as responsibility. Measurement: Understand the structure of calendar to represent time.





and words that tell about you and your life. Use the words and pictures to make a book about YOU!

Look through the

newspaper for words that start

with each letter in

your name. Use

the words to write

a poem about

YOU! Start each line of the poem

with a letter in your name.

terrific

O outfielder

M master

Standards Link: Writing

Standards Link: Health: Students participate in activities that promote self-confidence and self-esteem.



You're a celebrity! You are writing your autobiography. How did you become famous?

