

# Man Accused Of Killing Adrian Peterson's Son To Stand Trial

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A man accused of killing the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson two years ago is set to stand trial in South Dakota. Joseph Patterson pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and other charges in the 2013 death of Tyrese Robert Ruffin, who was the son of his girlfriend and Peterson. Opening statements are scheduled to begin Tuesday in Canton, about 20 miles southeast of Sioux Falls. Here's a closer look at the case:

## OCTOBER 2013 INCIDENT

Investigators allege that Patterson assaulted Tyrese on Oct. 9, 2013, while the two were alone in a Sioux

Falls apartment. An autopsy concluded that the boy's head sustained four blows, causing his brain to bleed, and doctors determined that the injuries could not have been accidental. Patterson, 29, has denied that he hurt the boy. He said Tyrese choked on a strawberry fruit snack and that he called 911 to report that the toddler wasn't breathing. Tyrese was taken to a hospital and died two days later. Peterson said he learned that Tyrese was his son only a couple of months before his death. The NFL star said he had been planning to meet the boy, and he rushed to Sioux Falls when he heard Tyrese was hospitalized. Peterson is not expected to attend the trial.

## ROAD TO TRIAL

Patterson was freed on

a \$750,000 bond, but it was revoked when he was arrested on aggravated assault and kidnapping charges in an alleged attack on Tyrese's mother, Ashley Doohen, in June 2014. Authorities say Patterson went to Doohen's apartment, twice choked her and once caused her to become unconscious. She eventually was able to call a relative, and her parents contacted police. Prosecutors say Patterson held Doohen at the apartment for more than an hour and injured her. Patterson was released on bond again after the new charges were filed but his bond was revoked in January because authorities say he violated the terms by harassing Doohen over the phone.

## WHAT JURORS WILL HEAR

Doohen, police officers

and investigators, an emergency dispatcher and medical experts are among the people expected to testify. Court records show that the defense team intends to dispute the state's theory that Tyrese died from abusive head trauma. Defense attorney Timothy Rensch didn't respond to phone messages seeking comment about the case, but he has said in court that evidence at the apartment where the incident occurred supports Patterson's version of events.

## POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Patterson faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder, the most serious charge. He still will have to face another trial for the alleged attack against Doohen.

# \$4M Renovation Brings A Touch Of Modern To Corn Palace

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

MITCHELL — The Corn Palace has been steeped in agricultural tradition since 1892, so when the caretakers of one of South Dakota's most popular tourist attractions decided it was due for some maintenance, they also decided to gently nudge it into the 21st century. Gone are the fiberglass green-and-yellow onion domes, replaced by airy steel versions. A new marquee, larger corn murals and a walk-out balcony have been added outside. And in perhaps the most modern touch of a \$4 million renovation, the palace's night face now features LED lighting that plays dramatically across the building. "It needed a facelift," said Katie Knutson, director of the Mitchell Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It needed something to draw a different crowd." The Corn Palace, which also features an arena to host concerts and high school and college basketball games, draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Knutson and others are hoping the new look will attract a new generation of tourists — and bring back previous visitors interested in seeing

what's changed. The redesign hasn't pleased everyone in Mitchell, a town of about 15,000. Catina Kost, a Mitchell native who owns a consignment shop on Main Street, said some people think the "Las Vegas" look is too much of a change. She said some of the negativity may have come from the months-long delay between the old domes' removal and the new domes going into place. "There are so many people dissing it and being disrespectful about it when you read about it online," said Kost, who said she likes it. "I just try to be supportive," she said, adding: "It's our monument in town." The first Corn Palace was built in 1892 so settlers could display the fruits of their harvest. Almost every year since, artists have created colorful new murals on the outside walls using corn of different varieties and color, a fall tradition that costs about \$150,000 a year. The building's annual makeover begins each May when crews start tearing down the rye and sour dock that surround the murals. Workers dismantle the previous year's corn murals in late August or early September. Local artist Cherie Ramsdell then

creates paintings to be enlarged and projected onto full-size black tar paper, so her designs can be outlined in a "corn-by-numbers" pattern. A crew of decorators follows her directions on where to nail each half-split cob. Diane Bollinger, a recent first-time visitor to the Corn Palace, raved about it as she posed for a picture alongside her husband, Allen, and daughter, Lauren. The Bollingers were making a cross-country road trip to Seattle from Charlotte, North Carolina, and their first planned South Dakota stop had been the Badlands. Repeated texts from her friend in Charlotte, Francis Schonder, convinced the trio to pull off at the Mitchell exit. "I'm so glad we did," Bollinger said. "Have you ever seen anything like this?" Matt Morrison, who moved to town recently from Sioux Falls to become lead pastor of Fusion Church, acknowledged that he doesn't have the attachment to the Corn Palace that a Mitchell native might have. But he said he likes the updated look. "The options for lighting at night definitely give it an element that it didn't have before that I really like," Morrison said.

## OBITUARIES

### Gary Miller

Gary J. Miller, age 75 of Yankton passed away early Saturday morning, September 12, 2015 at the Human Services Center, Yankton. Memorial services will be 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 15 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home Chapel, Yankton with Msgr. Carlton Hermann officiating. Burial of his cremated



Miller

Gary was born July 23, 1940 in Aberdeen, SD to Frank and Margaret (Wan-

glers) Miller. He attended school in Aberdeen and Madison, SD. He worked for his father's body shop in Madison and Yankton. He loved cars and was always buying, selling and trading. He loved hunting and fishing. He had a great sense of humor and a very kind heart. He is survived by his brothers, Dan (Gail) Miller and Tim (Sherry) Miller,

both of Yankton, SD, nieces and nephews. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, and a nephew, Troy Miller. Yankton Press & Dakotan September 14, 2015

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### Kimberly (Carhart) Hepburn

Kimberly (Carhart) Hepburn, 62, of Spink passed away Aug. 13, 2015, at her residence. Celebration of Kim's life will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion, with visitation one hour prior to

the service. Kober Funeral Home, of Vermillion is in charge of arrangements.

### Doug 'Red' Farnsworth

Doug "Red" Farnsworth, 60, of Yankton Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton

No local services will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. To send an online message to the family, visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Edwin Schmeichel

Edwin Schmeichel, 88, of Freeman passed away Satur-

day at the Oakview Terrace in Freeman. Memorial services will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Freeman. Visitation with the family present will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday, with a time of sharing at 7 p.m., at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman.

## Boy Arrested For Bringing Gun To School

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 12-year-old Omaha boy has been arrested, accused of bringing an unloaded gun to his school following an argument. Omaha police say the arrest was made Thursday afternoon after officers learned that a school resource officer was detaining the boy and had secured the weapon. Investigators say that after the argument, the boy left and returned to the school with the gun. The 12-year-old was arrested on suspicion of having a firearm on school property and other weapons-related counts. The Associated Press generally does not name juveniles accused of crimes.

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## Man Gets 5 Years For Stabbing Woman

EAGLE BUTTE (AP) — An Eagle Butte man convicted of stabbing a woman approximately 20 times has been sentenced to over five years in prison. Forty-seven-year-old Theodore Provencal was sentenced to 68 months in custody followed by two years of supervised release. A federal grand jury

indicted Provencal for assault with a dangerous weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily injury on April 14. He pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon on June 23. Authorities say Provencal began fighting with a woman on April 3 in Bear Creek Community on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, stabbing her repeatedly with a kitchen knife.


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Solitaires

A social group of ladies who have lost their spouse which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Hospitality Center on the grounds of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Please join us for our next social on  
Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm Potluck  
6:45pm Deb Overseth,  
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Calendars for These  
Solitaires Dates:  
October 21,  
November 18



Honoring  
Their Memory

Our Thoughts And  
Prayers Are With Them


Our care and concern does not  
end with the funeral service.  
This week we remember with  
family and friends the  
anniversary of the deaths of:

Douglas 'Boomer' Nelsen  
who passed away  
September 14, 2014

Helen Howen  
who passed away  
September 20, 2007

This remembrance is brought  
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