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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-yearold 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.

ing Doohen over the phone.

ROAD TO TRIAL Patterson was freed on

Doohen, police officers

a \$750,000 bond, but it was

and kidnapping charges in

mother, Ashley Doohen, in

went to Doohen's apart-

ment, 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 Pat-

terson held Doohen at the

apartment for more than an

Patterson was released

on bond again after the new

bond was revoked in January

violated the terms by harass-

because authorities say he

charges were filed but his

hour and injured her.

Authorities say Patterson

June 2014.

revoked when he was ar-

and investigators, an emergency dispatcher and medirested on aggravated assault cal experts are among the people expected to testify. an alleged attack on Tyrese's 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-andyellow 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 every-

one 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-

Vegasy" 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.

> both of Yankton, SD, nieces and nephews.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, and a nephew, Troy Miller.

Hunting Licenses Now On Smartphones

PIERRE (AP) — Hunters, anglers and trappers in South Dakota now have an additional option to carry their licenses.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is debuting an option that allows people to have their small game, fishing or trapping license scanned directly from their smartphone.

Wildlife officials say people logging into their account through the department's online licensing system will notice that their small game, fishing or trapping license has a bar code in the upper right hand corner. The bar code will allow state conservation officers to scan the license on smartphones.

Hard copies of those licenses are still accepted. The new system does not apply to federal waterfowl stamps, tags and licenses mailed from the department's licensing office.

Regional Health Considering Expansion

RAPID CITY (AP) — Regional Health is considering an expansion of its dialysis services in western South Dakota to meet the demand from locals and travelers.

Regional Health Vice President Paul Clemments tells the Rapid City Journal that the health system was able to accommodate the dialysis needs of a few travelers during the winter and early spring, but by late spring it was forced to quit providing treatments to travelers to allow staff to meet the local demand.

Clemments says dialysis nurses have special credentials and are difficult to recruit.

Kelli Collins with the National Kidney Foundation says Davita and Frensenius are the two largest providers of dialysis services in the country, but neither has facilities in western South Dakota.

Clemments says budgets for Regional's dialysis service expansion are awaiting board approval.

Man Protests Killing Of His Pit Bull

RAPID CITY (AP) — A man whose pit bull was shot and killed by Pennington County authorities this week says the shooting was unnecessary and that he believes the reputation of the breed played a role.

Billy Morrow, of Rapid Valley, protested the death of his 4-year-old pit bull Leonitus on Friday in Rapid City.

Authorities say a Pennington County sheriff's deputy and an animal control officer were trying to catch the dog that had escaped from Morrow's house on Wednesday. They say it lunged at them and that the deputy was forced to shoot it five times.

The shooting "ripped a whole part of my life away," he said, adding that he is convinced the bad reputation of pit bulls is the reason for the shooting, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Morrow said authorities should have used pepper spray or a tranquilizer gun to subdue his dog. He said his neighbor told him the dog wasn't causing any problems.

Capt. Jay Evenson, with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, said his deputy acted responsibly because the dog resisted every attempt to be captured without violence and had to be shot after it charged at the deputy.

April Vegas, who also owns a pit bull, joined Morrow in his protest.

[®]Dogs in general can be misunderstood, no matter what the breed," she told KOTA-TV. "And it's unfortunate that the pit bull takes the brunt of the bad things that you hear. You hear a hundred negative stories for every one good story.'

Evenson said the breed of the dog did not play a role, and that his daughter has a friendly pit bull.

"When she first got it, it scared me to death," he said. "But her pit bull is the biggest baby."

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.

Gary Miller

OBITUARIES

Gary J. Miller, age 75 of Yankton passed away early Saturday morning, Septem-015 at the Human ber 12 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

Cemetery.

gler) Miller. He attended remains will school in Aberdeen and be in the Sacred Heart Madison, SD. He worked for his father's body shop in Madison and Yankton. He Visitaloved cars and was always

WHAT JURORS WILL HEAR



Miller

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

Kober Funeral Home, of

buying, selling and trading. He loved hunting and fishprior to the service at ing. He had a great sense the funeral of humor and a very kind heart. chapel.

He is survived by his brothers, Dan (Gail) Miller and Tim (Sherry) Miller,

Yankton Press & Dakotan September 14, 2015

> PSAHL-KOSTEL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC. Online condolences at: www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

day at the Oakview Terrace

Memorial services will

be held Saturday, Sept. 19,

at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lu-

theran Church in Freeman.

present will be from 5-8 p.m.

Friday, with a time of shar-

ing at 7 p.m., at the Walter

Funeral Home in Freeman.

Visitation with the family

in Freeman.

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.



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

Vermillion is in charge of arrangements.

the service.

Doug 'Red'

Farnsworth

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

Man Gets 5 Years For Stabbing Woman

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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 Provencial was sentenced to 68 months in custody followed by two years of supervised release. A federal grand jury

indicted Provencial 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 Provencial

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.

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.

Edwin Schmeichel

Edwin Schmeichel, 88, of Freeman passed away Satur-



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 16th **6:00pm Potluck** 6:45pm Deb Overseth, **Retired Senior Volunteer Program**

> Mark Your Calendars for These Solitaires Dates: October 21, November 18

2901 Douglas Ave., Yankton • 605-665-3644 • www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

INTZ & RAY

FUNERAL HOME and

CREMATION SERVICE



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 rememberance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. ving families with come ion and trus PSAHL-KOSTEL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC Funeral Home & Crematory, Yanktor Memorial Resource Center, Tyndall Tabor & Menno

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