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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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**(S.D.)-Man Sentenced To Prison For Beating Girlfriend With Candlestick**



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/26/2014 08:40 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - A Rapid City man convicted of beating his girlfriend with a glass candlestick holder on New Year's Day 2013 has been sentenced to more than two decades in the State Penitentiary.

Authorities said 30-year-old Luke Elk Nation struck the woman with the candlestick holder, broke a lamp over her head and repeatedly kicked and hit her. He also was accused of having methamphetamine in the hotel room where they were staying.

A jury last month convicted Elk Nation of aggravated assault and possession of a controlled substance. Judge Wally Eklund on Tuesday sentenced him to 20 years in prison on the assault charge and another three years behind bars on the drug charge. Elk Nation will be eligible for parole after serving about 60 percent of his sentence.

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