

Hawks' Bid Pauses Due To Health Scare

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Democrats' lone candidate for federal office says her campaign has taken a back seat as her daughter has dealt with a health scare.
U.S. House candidate Paula Hawks told The Associated Press on Monday that she anticipates putting all of her attention back into campaigning in January.
Hawks says her 15-year-old daughter found a lump in her neck in early November. She's undergoing surgery to remove the mass, which doctors believe is benign.
A conservative blog has commented on the lack of activity from Hawks' campaign. Hawks says she intends to "do what it takes to be a competitive candidate in this race."

Suspect In SF Car Shooting Arrested

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A man accused of shooting at an occupied car several times in Sioux Falls earlier this month has been arrested in Missouri.
KRCG-TV reports police in Jefferson City, Missouri, arrested 20-year-old Sioux Falls resident Christian David Ladin-Villela on Monday. A warrant for his arrest carrying a \$500,000 bond was issued Dec. 14. He faces 10 counts of aggravated assault and discharge of a firearm at an occupied car.
The station reports Ladin-Villela surrendered after members of a SWAT team got inside the home where he was tracked down to.
Police in Sioux Falls have said nobody was hurt when Ladin-Villela shot at the car the night of Dec. 10.

45 NE Guard Soldiers Welcomed Back

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (AP) — Family, friends and community members have welcomed back 45 Nebraska City-based National Guard members from their Persian Gulf deployment.
Omaha television station WOWT reports that the members of the 192nd Law and Order Detachment were warmly greeted Monday at Nebraska City Middle School. They'd left for the Persian Gulf on Feb. 21.

Artwork Stolen From SD Hotel Returned

ABERDEEN (AP) — A framed photograph that was stolen from a northern South Dakota hotel has been returned to the facility.
Randy Grismer is the general manager of the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen. Grismer tells the *Aberdeen American News* that police in Aberdeen identified a suspect and tracked down the stolen artwork to Florida.
Grismer says officers contacted the suspect and told him that it would be in his "best interest" to return the photograph.
The newspaper reports it's unclear whether the suspect is facing any charges in connection with the incident.
The artwork was stolen Dec. 10, the same day it had been delivered to the hotel. The image is among a number that the hotel commissioned from a local photographer as part of a remodeling project.

Former Senator Chosen Tax Commissioner

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former state senator from Lincoln has been chosen to serve as Nebraska's tax commissioner.
Gov. Pete Ricketts announced Monday that he has chosen Tony Fulton for the position in the Nebraska Department of Revenue. The 43-year-old Fulton served in the Legislature from 2007 to 2013, and was a member of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee.
Fulton is the founder and owner of Guardian Angels Home-care, Inc., a business that provides housekeeping, companionship, and health care services for seniors. He also is a member of the People's City Mission Board of Directors.
Ricketts says Fulton experience as an entrepreneur, policy-maker and community leader will help the administration craft a pro-business tax climate.
Fulton starts Jan. 4. His salary will be \$160,000.

Governors Appointed Nearly 10 Percent Of Current Membership

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Eight of the Legislature's 105 current members received their seats initially through appointments from Gov. Dennis Daugaard to replace incumbents who resigned.
Since he took office as governor in 2011, Daugaard has made 11 appointments to the Legislature. Of those, three lost in the next elections.
Two more current legislators were appointed by Daugaard's predecessor, Gov. Mike Rounds.
Altogether there are 10 legislators — all Republicans — currently serving

whose lawmaking careers began as gubernatorial appointees.
Three happen to hold the three seats for District 32 at Rapid City.
Rep. Brian Gosch and Rep. Kristen Conzet came in appointments by Rounds. Sen. Alan Solano received his seat from Daugaard.
Daugaard has dealt with a rash of resignations in the past few years, many resulting from new professional opportunities that became available to the legislators.
So, when considering potential appointees, what does Daugaard — who was a three-term senator and was a lieutenant governor eight years before

his 2010 election as governor — seek?
"I look for legislators who support small government and fiscal discipline," Daugaard replied Monday in an email.
"I also try to appoint people who are representative of the district. I think I've done that well, as most of my appointees have been reelected and those that lost did so narrowly," he continued.
"Finally, I obviously look for people who are able to commit the considerable time it takes to be a good legislator."
The 2016 session of the Legislature opens Jan. 12. There are 85 Republicans and 20 Democrats.

Class Rank At Grand Island High School May Be Eliminated

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — School officials are considering eliminating class rank at Grand Island Senior High.
The *Grand Island Independent* reports that consideration was prompted by the Millard and Seward school districts getting rid of the class ranking system.
Associate Superintendent Robin Dexter said the primary reason for the discussion is that there is a concern that students may be enrolling in courses to boost their rank, regardless of whether those courses align with their college and career plans.
According to Dexter, preliminary research shows that some universities and colleges are moving away from class rank, believing that the ranking might be inflated.
"The research we've got back from

colleges is they are really looking at that application essay — can a student write?" Dexter said.
Dexter said that the school is looking into whether Latin designations could give colleges an understanding of a student's relative ranking in their graduating class.
Dexter said students already enrolled at the school would not be affected if the class rank was eliminated.
The associate superintendent said she wants to speak with students who graduated from the high school to see if taking Advanced Placement and honors courses to boost their ranking was beneficial for them now that they are in college. Advance Placement and honors courses are weighted, and some colleges give credit to students who pass the Advanced Placement test.

According to Dexter, officials are considering only weighting AP classes and that more definite criteria to determine which students are eligible to take the rigorous courses is needed.
"Some students can't handle the rigor of an AP course," Dexter said.
Sophomore Lauren Frankforter, who is currently ranked No. 1 in her class, said that she plans to take a full slate of Advanced Placement courses, but would favor the school switching to a system of giving students Latin designations.
She said that she also wants to do a focus group with parents about class rank.
A final recommendation on the matter may not come until March.

Bids Opening For \$2.5 Million Brown County Jail Improvement

ABERDEEN (AP) — The final phase of improvements proposed 14 years ago for the Brown County Jail could start in the coming months, officials say.
Brown County commissioners will open bids Tuesday for improvements, including excavating under the three-stall garage to expand the basement and allow for the construction of a larger kitchen.
Commissioner Nancy

Hansen said the county is eager to open bids for the final phase after such a draw-out process.
"There's a lot of building going on, and this is something we've been working on for many years," Hansen told the *Aberdeen American News*. "With changes in rates and different needs coming up, things have to change a little bit. But it needs to be done."
The county has been saving for the final phase and

will have \$1 million set aside for the work as of next year. Work is estimated to cost about \$2.5 million.
Commissioners have been discussing how to finance the balance of this project and decided to transfer money from the Brown County Landfill enterprise fund. Commission Chairman Duane Sutton said the county will repay the enterprise fund over a seven-year period.

Previous improvements to the jail complex were completed in 2001 and 2007, Brown County Auditor Maxine Fischer said.
In 2001, \$1 million was spent on work that included remodeling of the basement for the city-county dispatch center. In 2007, about \$1.5 million was used for a garage and a recreation area, Fischer said.

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South Dakota **Stone Faces Distillery** of Hill City just released its **NEW South Dakota Club Vodka & Farmers Rum** available at HyVee.
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