

## Buffett Calls For Higher Taxes On Rich

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Billionaire Warren Buffett says it's Congress' fault that he and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney both pay much lower tax rates than middle-class workers pay.



Buffett

Buffett talked to Bloomberg Television Monday after meeting with a Republican congressman who took him up on his offer to match any contributions to reduce the national debt. Virginia Rep. Scott Rigell met with Buffett over breakfast.

Buffett has argued for several years tax law should change, so people like him who make their money from investments pay a fair rate. Buffett says his tax rate was about 17 percent in 2010. Romney has estimated his tax rate was around 15 percent.

Buffett, who is a Democrat, says Romney shouldn't be criticized for paying what's required, but the law should be changed.

## Senate To Vote On Boosted Drugs List

PIERRE (AP) — A South Dakota Senate panel is set to vote on whether at least 23 substances generally known as synthetic marijuana should be added to the controlled substances list.

The substances include so-called "night lights," a date-rape drug, and bath salts, which are growing in popularity with young adults as high-inducing chemicals.

Some committee members and others who planned to testify couldn't make it to Monday's hearing because of the weather, so Health and Human Services Chair Jean Hunhoff postponed voting on the matter until Wednesday.

## S.D. Lawmakers Nix County Recall Bill

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers have rejected a measure that would have allowed people to seek recall elections to remove county commissioners from office.

The House State Affairs Committee voted 12-1 to kill the bill after opponents said recall elections are not needed for county commissioners.

The bill's main sponsor, Rep. Mike Verchio of Hill City, said recall elections can now be held for city commissioners and mayors if voters collect enough petitions. He says his bill would have allowed the same kind of recall elections for county commissioners.

Bob Wilcox of the South Dakota County Commissioners Association says recall elections are not needed because voters can decide every four years whether to keep a commissioner in office.

Lawmakers say county commissioners who commit crimes can already be removed from office.

## Heineman Questions Child Welfare Bill

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman says a bill that would return child welfare case duties to the state would only rehash policies that have failed in the past.

The Republican governor told reporters in a conference call Monday that he questions a measure (LB961) that would restore the state's role in managing children who are abused, neglected, or suffering from behavioral problems.

Heineman says he's open-minded about the broader child welfare reform effort, but still supports the move toward privatization that began in 2009.

Heineman says he's also skeptical of a bill that would eliminate the state Foster Care Review Board, and shift power to local boards.

## South Dakota

# Lawmakers Target Low Mileage Policy

BY CHET BROKAW  
 Associated Press

PIERRE — A House panel Monday recommended asking South Dakota voters to get rid of a 122-year-old constitutional provision that reimburses lawmakers only 5 cents a mile for their initial and final trips to and from the annual legislative session.

The 105 members of the Legislature are reimbursed 37 cents a mile, the rate paid to all state employees, for routine trips between their homes and the state Capitol in Pierre. Yet the constitution requires that they get only 5 cents a mile for their trip to Pierre for the beginning of the session and their trip home at the end of the session.

The House State Affairs Committee voted

7-6 to endorse a proposed amendment that would remove the language referring to the 5-cent reimbursement from the constitution. If the Legislature approves the proposal, voters statewide would decide this fall whether to approve the constitutional change.

The measure's main sponsor, Rep. Jim Bolin, R-Canton, said the small reimbursement amount, set when the constitution was written in 1889, is clearly out of date because it costs more to operate a vehicle now.

Voters rejected the same proposal on the 2008 ballot, with 59 percent opposed and 41 percent in favor. Bolin said voters likely rejected it in 2008 because that ballot was crowded with proposed laws and constitutional amendments.

"This is something that is illegitimate. It is

wrong. We should take it back to the voters again," Bolin said.

Bolin said he has not done a detailed analysis, but believes it would cost the state less than \$10,000 a year to pay the higher mileage reimbursements to lawmakers at the beginning and end of annual sessions.

Rep. Charles Turbiville, R-Deadwood, said now is a bad time to make such a proposal because voters in South Dakota and across the nation are disgusted with government. The 5-cents-a-mile reimbursement is an annoyance, not a huge financial burden, he said.

Bolin said the proposal would not change lawmakers' salaries, which are \$6,000 a year, or the \$110 a day they get to cover living expenses during the annual legislative session.

# S.D. House Rejects Increase In Court Search Fees

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota House has rejected a measure that would increase search fees charged to people who want to see court records.

The proposal would raise the current \$15 search fee to \$25. The bill failed in the House on a

vote of 45-21, falling two votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass measures raising fees.

However, supporters say they will ask the House to reconsider the proposal.

The fee applies to searches

for criminal and civil records, but there is no charge when people request records dealing with themselves. The fee also applies for searches to check court case files unless the person requesting the information knows the file number.

The fee increase would replenish a fund the court system uses to upgrade its computerized management system.

## Huron Rape Suspect Loses Alcohol License

HURON (AP) — The South Dakota Secretary of Revenue has revoked the alcohol license of a Huron bar owner accused of raping three young girls at the tavern.

Authorities say 34-year-old Werner Fajardo assaulted a 12-year-old and two 14-year-olds at the El Cuervo bar. He's charged with six counts of rape and several counts of providing alcohol to minors. He has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

Jason Evans with the state Department of Revenue says Fajardo's license was revoked shortly after the Huron City Commission recommended to the state that it be yanked earlier this month.

Police say Fajardo met the girls he's accused of raping through teen nights held at the bar.

**New Health Insurance Plan?**  
*You DO NOT have to transfer your prescriptions*

**We Accept ALL Prescription Drug Plans!**

Need a refill? Call 665-8261  
 or refill online [www.hy-vee.com](http://www.hy-vee.com)

EMPLOYEE OWNED 2100 Broadway, Yankton • 665-3412

YOU'RE NEWS! THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

*I've been thinking...  
 Now's a good time to get the carpets cleaned.*

**Carpet Cleaning Special**  
**Only \$75.95**  
**for any 2 rooms**  
(up to 300 sq. ft.)

Not good with any other offer.  
 Must present coupon.  
 Expires 2/15/12

**665-5700**  
**1-800-529-2450**

*Since "1968"*

**KYNT**  
 AM 1450

**MORNING COFFEE**  
 WEEKDAYS  
 MONDAY-FRIDAY

**Tuesday, January 24**  
 7:40 am The Center  
 (Tammy Matuska)  
 8:15 am Hy-Vee Dietician  
 (Rachel Pinos)

**Wednesday, January 25**  
 7:40 am Sack Pack Program  
 (Sandi Kramer, Melanie Ryken)  
 8:15 am Hy-Vee Nutrition  
 (Chef Staci)

**ORECK Vacuums**

Available at...

**Larry's APPLIANCE**  
 920 Broadway • 665-9461

Leading another healthy race to the top.

Avera

Sacred Heart Hospital

2011 Top Performing Hospital for providing reliable, efficient and safe care.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital is among the 2011 Top Performing Hospitals in the Premier Healthcare Alliance's national QUEST® collaborative – one of only two hospitals in South Dakota to receive this distinction. This is the third year in a row that Avera Sacred Heart Hospital has achieved top performance.

QUEST supports hospitals in delivering the best care possible, as well as sharing collaborative solutions to improve health care nationwide and influence public policies. Together, the current 278 QUEST members share ideas, strategies and proven practices to reduce variation, an approach that has been shown to improve care quality, safety and cost.

---

*Avera Sacred Heart Hospital looks forward to continuing to provide high-quality health care to your community.*

---

www.premierinc.com