

## Hoven Deals With Loss Of School To Fire

HOVEN (AP) — Residents of the small northern South Dakota town of Hoven are dealing with the shock of losing their school. The building was destroyed in a Sunday fire, despite the efforts of firefighters from about 10 area towns. No one was hurt. The cause is still being investigated, Doug Hinkle, the state's chief deputy fire marshal, told the American News.

The school had stood in the town of about 400 people for more than 70 years. A lot of tears were being shed in the community, Superintendent Peggy Petersen told KELO-TV.

"It's just been devastating loss for our community," she said. "Lots of memories in that old building."

Linda Coyne graduated from the school in 1968, has taught there for 37 years and even met her husband there. She told the *American News* that it's hard to believe the school is gone — along with other things including her classroom posters and books.

Seniors graduated on May 18. Classes concluded for other students last Wednesday. The school's enrollment is about 50 students.

Petersen said school board members likely will meet later this week to talk about the future. The community plans to rally, volunteer firefighter Sam Ruckman told KELO-TV.

"I've never lived in a community like this before in my life. They'll pull together and stay strong," he said. "It'll work out."

## Man Faces Charges In Omaha Stabbing

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man faces charges in connection to his girlfriend's stabbing injuries in Omaha.

Omaha police say Michael Jennings was arrested Friday following an incident at a house on the city's north side.

Jennings is accused of assaulting his girlfriend and stabbing her several times. The woman told police the couple had been arguing.

The woman was able to escape the house with her children. As police responded to the incident, Jennings is accused of running back into the house with a knife and barricading himself inside. He surrendered peacefully several hours later.

Jennings faces charges of felony assault, use of a weapon to commit a felony and two counts of child abuse. Court records do not list an attorney.

The woman is expected to recover from her injuries.

## Buffett's Older Sister Lends A Hand

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Billionaire Warren Buffett has received scores of individual requests for help since he announced that he would gradually give away his fortune. So, he turned to his big sister.

Doris Buffett and her Sunshine Lady Foundation reviews the letters to find people struggling through no fault of their own and has given the letter writers an undisclosed amount.

She has also given away more than \$150 million of her own money to help victims of domestic abuse, people with mental illnesses, prison inmates and individuals in the communities where she lives.

Northeastern University professor Rebecca Riccio teaches about philanthropy. She says the personal approach Doris Buffett uses and her willingness to consider individual requests set her apart from others.

## Former Employee Shoots Self At Prison

YORK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a former staffer at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women walked into the state prison with a rifle and demanded to be let inside before shooting herself in the chin.

A Department of Correctional Services spokeswoman says 50-year-old Robin K. Staehr of York walked into the prison's public lobby at around 5:15 p.m. Sunday. Authorities say prison staff members recognized Staehr as a former employee who resigned in 2005, and observed a rifle behind her back.

Staff members refused to allow her inside and called 911. Staehr then shot herself in the chin before dropping the .22-caliber rifle and walking out. She was stopped outside the entrance, and taken to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

## South Dakota

# When A Governor Seeks Second Term, Challengers Rarely Win

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The last time a governor wasn't re-elected to a second term in South Dakota was 1970.

Democratic challenger Dick Kneip knocked off Republican incumbent Frank Farrar.

And Farrar first was softened up in the Republican primary by legislator Rudy Henderson.

Kneip won twice more. Henderson went on to be a state Supreme Court justice.

That's a tough crowd.

So where do Democrats Susan Wismer of Britton and Joe Lowe of Piedmont, and Republican challenger Lora Hubbel of Sioux Falls, stand this year heading into the June 3 primary elections?

They hope to unseat Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the Republican incumbent.

Daugaard is the only candidate for governor this year who has previously run a statewide campaign.

He was on the Republican ticket twice as lieutenant governor in 2002 and 2006, and as a candidate for governor in 2010 was on the statewide primary ballot and then the general election ballot.

Lowe has been elected as mayor of a California city. Wismer has been elected three times to the state House of Representatives. Hubbel has been elected once to the state House and lost in a state Senate primary.



Daugaard

Daugaard turned down a statewide TV debate that South Dakota Public Broadcasting wanted to hold Thursday, May 22. He was scheduled to be the main speaker at a Republican event in Mitchell.

That meant Hubbell couldn't get on TV.

The Democrats will get their SDPB debate on Thursday, May 29. They can count on two hands the joint appearances they've had.

Hubbel has managed to get some of her red roadside signs in place. Daugaard has signs out too — more than Hubbel, but less than Mike Rounds or Stace Nelson has in the Republican U.S. Senate contest.

With their Lincoln Day dinners in county after county, Republicans have a better structure than Democrats for exposing their candidates to local party members.

At the Davison County Republicans dinner Thursday, more than 100 party members who weren't candidates of some sort gathered.

At the Brookings County Democrats question-answer session Tuesday for Lowe and Wismer, there were about 25 local party members.

Daugaard hasn't hurt himself either by shifting tens of thousands of dollars from his campaign fund into the South Dakota Republican Party's treasury, to help pay off debt from the 2012 campaign cycle.

During 2012 and 2013, the Daugaard campaign sent a total of \$72,000 to the SDGOP account. For party activists, that is an important consideration.

Republicans have voter registration on their side as well. Republicans number 236,683 heading into the primaries. Democrats are at 175,169. Independents total 96,572.

Democrats haven't been able to stop a slide that has cost them nearly 30,000 voters since the Obama-Clinton primary just six years ago. Republicans have been able to hold their own. Independents have grown faster than either party in recent years.

Daugaard also has the advantage of incumbency. During the past week he participated in state workforce summits at Watertown and Brookings, attended a ceremony for the new South Dakota State University football stadium project and was at a Watertown business ribbon cutting.

As the main speaker Thursday at the Mitchell Republicans event, Daugaard received a long and laudatory introduction from his chief of staff, Dusty Johnson. Hubbell nearly was overlooked by Johnson, who was serving as emcee. She received two minutes.

Daugaard talked about how he had been on the road for three days straight crisscrossing eastern South Dakota for a mix of gubernatorial and political events.

"It's a busy life, and kind of a crazy life, in an election year," he said. "But it's a great life."

## Nebraska

# Progress Seen In Child Welfare Reform

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Two years after lawmakers began a major overhaul of Nebraska's child welfare system, the number of state wards has fallen but challenges remain in caring for some of the youngest children who are taken from their homes.

State officials say the decline is driven by several factors, including a new assessment system that helps case managers decide whether children are at risk and should be taken from their homes. The system is designed to prevent arbitrary decision-making when state officials receive reports of child abuse or neglect.

Some juveniles accused of crimes were also moved to the state's probation office, rather than the Department of Health and Human Services, where they are placed in local diversion programs to try to steer them away from criminal behavior.

Nebraska had more than 6,100 wards in its protection in March 2012, compared to nearly 4,500 last week. Although the number of children in state protection has dropped, the percentage who were placed in out-of-home care during that time climbed from nearly 71 percent to more than 75 percent.

Nebraska lawmakers began a major overhaul in 2012 in response to complaints from families and escalating costs after the state turned its case management duties over to private agencies. The transition cost millions more than expected and suffered from poor oversight and unmanageable caseloads for workers, which led to high turnover.

Staff morale at the time was low, caseloads were high and field workers weren't consistently visiting all of the children who were in state care before the changes took effect, said Vicki Maca, deputy director of the state's Children

and Family Services division.

"We had a culture that really believed that kids were safer when they weren't at home," Maca said. "And that's just not always true. Kids aren't always safer when they're removed. It's generally best for kids to grow up and wake up in a bed that they know."

Maca said the changes put a new focus on case workers visiting children in their homes more often, and documenting each encounter in detail to track their progress.

Department officials also worked to improve response times once they receive a report of child abuse or neglect from family members, doctors or school officials. The state hired nearly 150 case workers under a law that passed two years ago to address the complaints about workloads, and developed an award system to recognize employees who went beyond their normal duties.

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Mississippi River Cruise	7/20/14	7/23/14
British Columbia, Washington, Oregon	8/7/14	8/16/14
Door County	8/18/14	8/22/14
Quilt Tour in Grand Rapids	8/18/14	8/23/14
What's Cooking in Clarksville Culinary Tour	9/8/14	9/13/14
Mackinac Island & Upper Peninsula	9/12/14	9/17/14
Cranberry Festival	9/25/14	9/28/14
New England	9/25/14	10/10/14
Autumn in Duluth & The North Shore	9/29/14	10/2/14
Norsk Hostfest	9/30/14	10/3/14
Norsk Hostfest	10/2/14	10/5/14
Des Moines Quilt Show	10/3/14	10/4/14
Coulee Highlights of Wisconsin	10/8/14	10/11/14
Christmas in Branson	11/14/14	11/19/14
Christmas in Branson	12/1/14	12/6/14
Christmas in Chicago (Amtrak)	12/4/14	12/8/14
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