

## Suspect Arrested In Deadly Omaha Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police have made another arrest in the shooting death of an Omaha teenager. Police say Friday that 20-year-old Angelo Tolbert was taken into custody for first-degree murder, first-degree assault and two counts of use of a weapon to commit a felony. Tolbert is one of five men now in custody in the shooting death of 16-year-old Montrell Wiseman last Sunday on the city's northeast side. A 16-year-old girl was wounded in the shooting. Earlier Friday, a Douglas County judge set bond at \$2 million for 38-year-old Francis Cayou. He's charged with conspiracy to commit a felony in Wiseman's death. Police on Friday also say officers arrested 21-year-old Nikole Gamble on an accessory charge in the case.

## Man Accused Of Trying To Burn Down Home

BOX ELDER (AP) — A Box Elder man is accused of trying to burn down his mobile home while his live-in girlfriend and another man were inside. Twenty-nine-year-old Joseph Hodges is charged with arson and reckless burning — charges that could land him in prison for 35 years if he's convicted. It was not immediately clear if he had obtained a lawyer. Authorities say the two people inside the home when it went up in flames about 5 a.m. Thursday were able to get out safely.

## Board: Nebraska Budget Outlook Brightening

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers will have a smaller-than-expected budget shortfall to fill when they convene in January, according to new state revenue estimates. The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board set new estimates Friday that will shrink the state's projected shortfall for the two-year budget that begins in July 2013. Lawmakers were expected to face a \$624 million shortfall when they returned to the Capitol, but the new projections will shrink that by \$231 million. Board members say Nebraska farms have persisted through this year's extreme drought, and unemployment remains relatively low. But they say businesses are hesitant to invest because of uncertainty over federal tax laws.

State officials caution that the numbers will likely change once adjustments are made to the state's school-aid formula and other parts of the budget.

## Man Arrested After Standoff In Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say they arrested a 38-year-old man after he threw a Molotov cocktail at a SWAT rescue vehicle during an hours-long standoff at his house. The device did not ignite. Officers responded to the home around 12:50 a.m. Friday after receiving a call about a possible suicidal person. Police say that after the cocktail was thrown, SWAT team members shot in pepper spray and Johnny Jay Thomas came out around 9:15 a.m. Police say Thomas during the standoff also pointed a rifle at SWAT officers several times. Officers later found a one-pot meth lab in the house. Thomas was charged with aggravated assault on law enforcement, manufacture of a controlled substance and other charges. Attorney information was not immediately available.

## Sentencing Set For Convicted Bar Owner

HURON (AP) — Sentencing has been set for a South Dakota bar owner convicted of raping three girls after serving them alcohol. KOKK radio reports that Werner Fajardo, of Sioux Falls, could face life in prison when he is sentenced Nov. 6. The 35-year-old owner of the former El Cuervo bar in Huron was found guilty in August of assaulting a 12-year-old girl and two 14-year-olds at the bar late last year. The El Cuervo closed after state regulators revoked Fajardo's liquor license in January.

## Mom Pushes Omaha To Build Overpass

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha mother wants the city to build a pedestrian overpass at the intersection where her 13-year-old son was fatally injured. Jennah Chase told television station KETV that she wakes up every day with a mission to ensure that no other child dies at the busy west Omaha intersection. Jeremiah "J.T." Buttrick-Chase was hit by a car on Sept. 21 as he was headed to school. But the city of Omaha so far has rejected her request. City engineer Todd Pfitzer says statistics don't indicate such overpasses make it safer for pedestrians. In fact, he says, statistics show the overpasses made it more dangerous, because drivers stop watching for pedestrians who might not be using the overpasses. Chase is raising money to continue her fight for a safer intersection.

## School Of Mines Cuts Ribbon On Building

RAPID CITY (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is cutting the ribbon Friday on its new downtown campus building in Rapid City. The 18,000-square-foot building is housing the university's industrial engineering department and a four-room conference center for community use. Guests attending the 10:30 a.m. grand opening ceremony will be offered facility tours and refreshments following speeches by school and community officials. The industrial engineering program and its nearly 150 students have operated out of the top two floors of the building for the past year while renovations continued on the main floor and basement. The university is expanding into downtown is two-fold to connect with Rapid City's economic development plans and expand its campus to accommodate growth.

## Interim Fremont Police Chief Tapped For Job

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — The man serving as interim police chief in Fremont has been tapped to get the job permanently. The *Fremont Tribune* says Mayor Scott Getzschman has selected Jeff Elliott to lead the department. Getzschman will officially make the appointment, pending city council approval, during the council meeting on Tuesday. Elliott, who was deputy chief, became interim chief in May after Tim Mullen retired in March. Elliott joined the police department in 1989.

## Nebraska Regents OK First Step In Arena For UNO

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The University of Nebraska at Omaha is closer to getting an arena. The Board of Regents voted Friday to authorize President J.B. Milliken to sign a letter of intent with developers to work on the \$76 million arena that would seat 7,500. UNO athletic director Trev Alberts says he's excited about the regents' support for an on-campus home for UNO's hockey team and eventually men's and women's basketball and volleyball. The current proposal calls for a privately constructed and privately financed arena that would be acquired by the university through a lease-purchase agreement.

# Tribe, County Go After Meth

BY JOHN HULT  
Argus Leader

WAGNER (AP) — Since the death of a 2-year-old girl in Laurie Cournoyer's rural Wagner home in July, the Yankton Sioux Tribe and Charles Mix County law enforcement have cracked down on the methamphetamine use that might have contributed to the toddler's death. The tribe passed a meth code that tightens penalties for use of the drug on Indian land, and tribal employees are being drug-tested more aggressively than in the past. The Charles Mix County State's Attorney's office has indicted more than 20 people on methamphetamine charges since July. The aggressive enforcement, particularly by the Wagner Police Department's drug enforcement officer, has forced drug dealers to work harder to avoid capture, Charles Mix County Chief Sheriff's deputy Mike DeNeui said. "The people who were deep in the game in July are changing things around, because we've locked a lot of them up," DeNeui said. But officials say there's more work to do. The drug problem is far reaching, as evidenced by the conviction of former Wagner Police Chief Jim Chaney for failing to report his girlfriend's meth use. Cournoyer's indictment last week for allegedly using meth in jail is another sign of how pervasive the drug problem is for the county, State's Attorney Pam Hein said. "That she was able to get it into the jail, that's something that we're very concerned about," Hein said.

The case that brought the meth problem into focus remains open. Laurie Cournoyer, 29, and her husband Taylor, 22, were indicted this summer for child abuse and failure to report the death of a child. Laurie Cournoyer called 911 to report the girl's death July 4, nearly two days after the child had died. Court documents allege the Cournoyers continued to use meth, prescription painkillers and marijuana after learning of the death. The Cournoyers had been the girl's caretakers since early 2012, and Laurie Cournoyer is related to the child. An 11-year-old boy has been charged in the death, which was ruled a homicide. The charges have not been released because he is a juvenile. Taylor Cournoyer pleaded guilty last week to drug possession and maintaining a place for the use or sale of drugs. As a habitual offender, he could get up to 25 years in prison at sentencing next month. Chaney lost his job as Wagner's police chief and was sentenced to community service for his offense, which came to light within weeks of the Cournoyers' arrests. In the wake of the girl's death, members of the tribal community and others throughout the region reacted harshly to what many had seen as a long-standing drug problem. Protesters stood outside the Charles Mix County Courthouse in Lake Andes during the Cournoyers' initial court appearances, demanding justice. Tribal officials organized a walk in Lovell's memory and pledged to tackle the pervasive drug problem. It later came out that the tribe failed for two

years to spend more than \$400,000 in federal grants earmarked for addressing the drug problem. The money was designated in part for a meth officer who never was hired. A tribal meth program eventually was established but stopped abruptly when the tribe failed to earn an extension of the three-year grant. The tribe also rejected a proposed meth code last fall that would have given tribal authorities wider latitude to investigate and prosecute drug cases. The conversation has changed since Lovell's death, according to Yankton Sioux Tribal Chairman Thurman Cournoyer. "The biggest change I've seen is in people's attitudes," the chairman said. "People are getting more and more riled up about the problem." The tribe passed a methamphetamine code last Tuesday during a reservation-wide vote. It increases penalties for possession and makes ingestion or the use of meth in the presence of children offenses punishable in tribal court. A previous attempt to pass a meth code was marked by controversy and concerns about wording, Chairman Cournoyer said. The tribe also hopes to use a separate set of grant funds, awarded in 2010, to hire a meth officer. There have been "a few applications," received for that post, the chairman said. A memorandum of understanding between local and tribal law enforcement hasn't materialized, however. Such an agreement would free up Charles Mix County sheriff's deputies and Wagner Police Department officers to investigate crimes on tribal land more easily and assist the Bureau of Indian Affairs officers who have jurisdiction over those lands.

# Kerrey Struggling In Nebraska Senate Race

BY HENRY C. JACKSON AND MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Democrats hoped Nebraska's Senate race would be the story of Bob Kerrey's political revival. Instead, the emergence of Republican Deb Fischer, a previously little-known state senator, has given Republicans their clearest shot at taking a U.S. Senate seat away from Democrats. Fischer is the clear favorite, and Kerrey has taken on the scrappy tone of an underdog, insisting he may yet spring a surprise. Polling and the checkbooks of both national parties indicate Fischer has a comfortable lead. After some initial interest in the summer, neither the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee nor the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has invested in the race down the stretch. Fischer's ability thus far to fend off a challenge from Kerrey, who

was lured by national Democrats out of retirement in New York City, where he was president of The New School university, has been a notable success in Republicans' push to take back the Senate. It has also bucked a trend of Democratic over-performance in red states: GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney is expected to win handily in Montana, Missouri, Indiana and Arizona, but the Senate race in each of those states is considered close or favors a Democrat. Republicans need to net four seats to take control of the Senate next year if President Barack Obama is re-elected, three if Romney wins since the new GOP vice president would get a tie-breaking vote. Both parties now agree that the Nebraska Senate seat of retiring Democrat Ben Nelson looks like the GOP's surest pickup. Kerrey, a former governor, senator and one-time presidential candidate, isn't giving up. He has continued to advertise heavily in

the state, released a quirky video with comedian Steve Martin to support his campaign and portrayed Fischer as a rubber stamp for conservative Republicans. "She's promised to be a reliable vote for the Republican caucus ... and I think it's likely that the problems that we have as a consequence of this hyper-partisanship will get greater," Kerrey said in an interview. Kerrey has tried to reconnect with Nebraska voters but admits



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