

Principal

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Lein said.

"I'm not sure what Mason's actions would have been had Mr. Rollinger not been present," he said. "There may have been more tragedy."

The 16-year-old Buhl has been charged as an adult with first-degree attempted murder and commission of a felony while armed with a firearm. He was indicted on both charges.

Rather than seek retribution, Lein has put his Catholic faith into action and has shown compassion for Buhl and his family.

"I should have gotten to (Buhl) earlier. If I had known the trouble and pain in his heart, I would have looked into it earlier," Lein said. "I know my staff and counselors had seen him six or seven times. They had seen him as much as possible, but he was really closed."

Lein hopes the young man turns around his life.

"I pray for Mason, whatever his trouble is," the principal said. "I hope, out of this, that his life isn't ruined."

Lein returned to work the day after the shooting and no longer wears a sling. His arm turned black and blue from the bullet. He continues to experience difficulty but expects to be back to normal after a month of exercises.

THE INCIDENT

Lein said the shooting followed an apparent period of difficulty for Buhl after transferring from Pierre to Harrisburg.

Buhl had tried to leave school early on the Friday preceding the shooting, even after Lein told him to stay in school until the final dismissal.

"I said at the end, 'Next week, we'll talk because there's something on your mind. There's something troubling you, and we'll talk next week,'" Lein said.

Rollinger talked with the student early the next week, telling Lein the student seemed angry and didn't open up when it came to conversation. Buhl indicated the student wished he was back in Pierre.

The following Wednesday, Lein was in his office and talking on the phone. He looked out the corner of his eye and saw Buhl coming toward him without prior notice and without being summoned to the office.

"I was surprised to see him," Lein said.

The shooting happened quickly, and Lein said he could only recall a peaceful feeling with the sudden realization that he could die.

"I didn't have any fear or anxiety," he said.

After overcoming the gunshot and seeing Buhl apprehended, Lein's immediate thoughts went to placing the school into lockdown and caring about his students and staff. The school district followed its protocol, and the situation went as smoothly as possible.

"The kids had done a tremendous job in getting out of harm's way," he said. "My number one concern was to make sure everyone felt safe."

The school board and administration decided to hold school the next day. Lein said it was the right move, as the students and staff showed support and

compassion for each other.

"The hugs were many, and the tears were many," he said. "But the school and community are working to feel safe again."

TAKING ACTION

The shooting continues to resonate across South Dakota and the nation. Rollinger's heroic actions – he also received a Superman suit from students – were featured in People magazine.

In addition, the Harrisburg shooting incident has become the latest part of a national debate on guns and school safety.

Lein insisted he didn't want the Harrisburg situation to become political. He supports the Second Amendment, but he opposes guns and armed sentinels in schools.

"I can tell you, in this instance, it wouldn't have made a difference if there had been guns in school," he said.

Rather than arm the schools, Lein believes in showing a genuine concern about each other that won't leave people feeling hopeless and turning to despair and violence.

"I believe in necessity of dealing with this on a micro level. How can we genuinely care about the person next to us?" he asked. "If we generally and sincerely try to get to know people – that's the most important factor in our life. We need the hugs and the real love. If you do that, somebody isn't aiming a gun at you. They just can't."

Lein said he hasn't had contact with Buhl since the shooting and is praying what step to take.

"I'm reflecting whether I should send Mason a note," the principal said. "I want him and his family to know my thoughts and prayers are with them."

Lein emphasized the shooting and one student doesn't define Harrisburg and the school system. He believes a positive message can come out of the shooting incident if it results in greater concern for others.

"It could be the person next to you, at church, at the family dinner table, at a basketball game," he said. "Treasure them and make them feel real. Then they'll have hope."

Lein has received a tremendous outpouring of support, including from Yankton and Mount Marty College friends, since last week's shooting. The number of contacts has reached the hundreds and even thousands.

"I have received all sorts of messages on Facebook and Twitter," he said. "I have cards and letters on my desk that I haven't opened yet."

As for the future, he refuses to let fear guide his life. But he also says that innocence has been lost. He used the analogy of an intensive experience during a trip he had taken.

"One day I was in Montana, in the middle of Big Sky Country, without a cloud in the sky. I stopped to look at the scenery and drink it in. Then, out of nowhere, a lightning bolt hit and it was gone," he said.

"I think that's what happened to me here (with the Harrisburg shooting). It was a great blue day, then the lightning bolt hit and was gone. It may never happen again, but you remember the lightning bolt because it happened."

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Facebook Video Leads To Cruelty Charges

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is charged with animal cruelty after the Humane Society alerted police to a Facebook post allegedly showing him slamming and strangling two dogs.

The *Argus Leader* reports that a grand jury has indicted Nicholas Snowden on four counts, each of which carries a maximum punishment of two years in prison.

Snowden was jailed without bond and it was not immediately clear if he has an attorney. He told authorities that the angle of the Facebook video made the alleged incident appear worse than it was.

Authorities say the dogs belonged to Snowden's former girlfriend. He's also accused of burning a dog with scalding water.

Prosecutor Sues Omaha, Alleges Race, Gender Discrimination

OMAHA, Neb. — An African-American assistant city prosecutor in Omaha is suing the city, saying she didn't get promotions and had to work in a hostile environment because of her race and gender.

Makayla Maclin's lawsuit alleges management-level employees asked Maclin continually if she was pregnant or going to be, and that they said women are a "uterus factory." Maclin also says she was passed over for promotions that white colleagues got instead, and that management has repeatedly asked her if she's

related to black criminal defendants.

The lawsuit seeks money for lost wages based on promotions Maclin says she should have received, the *Omaha World-Herald* reports. The lawsuit doesn't name colleagues or supervisors she accuses of mistreating her.

City Attorney Paul Kratz said many of the complaints have been reviewed and officials "believe appropriate action was taken." He declined to comment further.

Maclin alleges in the lawsuit that supervisors have told her to stay in her

office when not in court. She says that she wasn't allowed to get a new office chair, unless she paid the city for it and put it together herself.

The lawsuit says a co-worker put a book with a title that's an epithet for black people on another African-American employee's desk. According to the lawsuit, the co-worker also referred to Asians using racial slurs.

Maclin has worked for the city since 2004. She made \$80,894 in 2014, tied for the fifth-highest among salaries for the dozen city prosecutors.

FEMA Sending Trailers To Pine Ridge Reservation

PINE RIDGE — The federal government is sending trailers to South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where residents are still recovering from severe storms last spring.

Crews are delivering 50 Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers to the Oglala Sioux tribe to help tribal members affected by storms, straight-line winds and flooding over a three-

week period in May.

The first two homes were shipped from Alabama and arrived at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City on Thursday. They'll be sent from there when tribal officials are ready for their arrival.

For now they're being housed in an old parking area for bombers, according to Dana Powell, who works with the base's Plans and

Programs office.

"Now it's used for a good use," Powell said.

President Barack Obama in August declared the reservation a disaster, paving the way for federal aid that includes temporary housing, low-interest loans, grants for home repairs and disaster unemployment assistance.

"We've had more than 1,600 applications for assistance," FEMA spokesman

Brian Hvinden said. "We have to go through the eligibility determinations on those, but we're hoping to help as many families as are eligible for our assistance."

Hvinden said the trailers are being sent to Pine Ridge for permanent use.

Man Gets 30 Days For Shooting Dogs

PAPILLION, Neb. (AP) — A Papillion man found guilty of shooting his family's two dogs with a BB gun, killing one, has been sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The *Omaha World-Herald* reports that Barry L. Richey was sentenced Thursday. He pleaded no contest in July to two counts of cruel mistreatment of an animal.

Prosecutors say Papillion police responded to a disturbance at Richey's home on April 20. Police say Richey's wife told officers that when she took her Yorkshire terriers to the veterinarian, she learned they had been shot several times. One dog later died.

Richey will only spend 20 days in jail due to time already served.

Fatherhood Program For SD Inmates Loses Funding

SIoux FALLS — The future is unclear for a fatherhood program for outgoing inmates in South Dakota after it lost its federal grant funding.

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota learned this week that it lost its bid for continued funding of the Fatherhood and Families program, which it ran in a partnership with the state Department of Corrections, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported.

The program offered training on family reintegration for inmates within six months of their release from prison. Its three goals were improving spousal relationships, teaching parenting skills and improving economic stability through job search, interview and resume training.

A grant of at least \$1.3 million would have

paid for the program for five years, and LSS applied for funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services earlier this year. The Sioux Falls-based nonprofit was not among the five fatherhood programs selected nationwide, according to Rebecca Kiesow-Knutson, LSS vice president of community services.

"We are obviously very disappointed not to have been successful at obtaining a grant, but continue to believe that equipping people for success at the point of re-entry helps to strengthen our families and communities in the state," Kiesow-Knutson said in a statement to the *Argus Leader*.

The jobs portion of the program will continue on a limited basis through unspecified funding from United Way.

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