

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### Former Orphanage Residents Decry SD Law

**SIOUX FALLS (AP)** — Former residents of an American Indian orphanage who say they were sexually abused there decades ago are criticizing a South Dakota law that sets limits on lawsuits against institutions such as churches or schools.

Under the law that took effect July 1, no person 40 or older could recover damages from any person or organization other than the person who committed the act of sexual abuse.

Joelle Casteix of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests says such limits are unfair, as it often takes many years for adults to come forward about childhood abuse. Casteix's group is helping the former orphanage residents.

Gov. Mike Rounds says the bill does not shield the abuser from litigation, and it's appropriate to have a statute of limitations.

### Neb. Getting \$3.2M AstraZeneca Settlement

**LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)** — Nebraska will be getting a \$3.2 million share of a \$520 million federal settlement with pharmaceutical manufacturer AstraZeneca.

The federal settlement resolved allegations of illegal marketing of the company's anti-psychotic drug Seroquel.

The office of Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning announced the settlement involving the Nebraska Medicaid program on Wednesday.

Bruning says the money reimburses the Nebraska Medicaid program.

Federal regulators say AstraZeneca marketed Seroquel for off-label uses — those not approved by federal drug regulators — including insomnia and psychiatric conditions other than schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

AstraZeneca denied the allegations.

### Data Suggest Neb. Foreign-Born Number Up

**LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)** — Census data from last year suggest the number of foreign-born people living in Nebraska may be on the rise.

The American Community Survey says that in 2009, there were nearly 106,200 foreign-born people in the state, compared with nearly 97,700 in 2008. That was a jump of around 8,500 in one year, compared with a decline of about 1,000 a year for the three years previous.

Nationally, the foreign-born population rose to 38.5 million, or 12.5 percent. The number had dipped in 2008, due mostly to increases in naturalized citizens.

The survey also says the Nebraska poverty rate rose to 12.3 percent last year, compared with 10.8 percent in 2008.

In Lincoln, the number of households earning less than \$10,000 last year jumped 52 percent from 2008, according to the census data.

David Drozd, an analyst with the Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that the dramatic changes in the numbers of foreign-born residents and those living in poverty should be viewed with some skepticism.

"We know that things were not as good in 2009 as they were in 2008," Drozd said, but he said it's also possible the sampling itself played a role.

The American Community Surveys are based on statistical sampling, and the 2009 survey has a 90 percent confidence level. The results are accurate to a meaningful degree 90 percent of the time.

Drozd said the 2009 sampling could have overrepresented foreign-born residents, earlier surveys could have underrepresented them or even that the large increase did occur in reality.

### Manslaughter Suspect Reaches Plea Deal

**HURON, S.D. (AP)** — A man accused in the shooting death of his brother in Huron has reached a plea deal with prosecutors.

KOKK-AM radio station reports that 21-year-old Eric Macauley will plead guilty to second-degree manslaughter in the March 14 shooting death of 21-year-old David Macauley.

As part of the plea deal, Macauley will be released from the Beadle County Jail on a personal recognizance bond while a presentence investigation is conducted.

A sentencing date has not been set.

Judge Jon Erickson told Macauley he must stay away from drugs and alcohol while released. Macauley told Erickson he has a job and will be living with his father.

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## THUNE

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spending about \$4.4 million so far during the election cycle.

Thune said he's doing everything he'd normally do in a South Dakota campaign, including talking with residents at state and county fairs, Dakotafest and other events. But he's also been traveling to Ohio, California, Texas, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Kansas in support of his Congressional colleagues.

Those trips cost money, but he still had more than \$6.9 million campaign cash on hand at the end of June.

Mark McKinnon, who served as chief media strategist for George W. Bush's two presidential campaigns and John McCain's 2008 primary bid, said despite Thune's long career in Washington, he still identifies well with voters.

"He is charming, congenial, polite and statesmanlike," McKinnon said in an e-mail interview. "Thune has that small town, Midwestern appeal that just seems to scream 'America.'"

"His problem may be that he's just too damn nice for presidential politics," said McKinnon, noting Thune might have to throw some elbows in a presidential primary. "But, if ever there was a time for a break from conventional wisdom, 2012 may be it."

The Senate Republican Policy Committee chairmanship has given Thune ample opportunities to talk policy.

In media interviews and speeches, he has preached about reducing the national deficit and proposed adopting a biennial federal budget so Congress in even-numbered years could look at how to save the country money.

Gronbeck, author of "Presidential Campaigns and American Self Images," said Thune eventually needs to shift

from discussing legislative GOP talking points to broader state-of-the-country speeches.

"He's got to start talking presidentially pretty soon if he's going to really be able to launch hard," Gronbeck said.

It's been difficult for residents in Thune's hometown of Murdo to ignore the presidential rumors, said Dave Geisler, owner of Pioneer Auto Museum, the town's main tourist attraction.

"I think it's kind of a foregone conclusion that somewhere along the line it may happen," Geisler said.

"He would be a great candidate," Geisler added. "It's just a matter of timing, I think."

Encouragement is coming from many directions.

A "John Thune for President, 2012" page on Facebook has more than 800 fans, and even Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has thrown Thune's name out there.

Thune said he appreciates when colleagues say nice things, but the priority is gaining enough seats in the chamber so McConnell is in a better position to get the Obama administration to work with other Republicans.

"It all comes back to where you think you can make the biggest difference for your state and for your country and for the people you represent," he said. "The direction of the country is wrong, in my opinion. I want to do whatever I can to change it."

Despite the recent exposure, Thune still trails other possible GOP presidential candidates — former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, ex-Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney — in name recognition, Gronbeck said.

And if he really wants to make a run, he needs to be ready this winter to hit the early voting states of New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada and Iowa, the state with the nation's first presidential caucus.

"As Iowans tend to say, if I haven't shaken your hand five times you're not getting my vote in the caucus," Gronbeck said

## Man Who Shot Two Omaha Officers Dies

BY **TIMBERLY ROSS**  
Associated Press Writer

**OMAHA, Neb.** — A 39-year-old man who led police on a high-speed car chase early Wednesday opened fire hours later at an Omaha hospital, grazing two police officers before they gunned him down, authorities said.

Jeffrey Layten, of Valley, died of his wounds shortly after 2 p.m. Wednesday at Creighton University Medical Center, Omaha Police spokesman Jacob Bettin said. Police did not disclose a possible motive for the

shootings, and the hospital's CEO, Gary Honts, said he didn't know of any link Layten may have had to the hospital.

According to police, Layten fired at the two officers, grazing them, and the officers returned fire.

Police Lt. Darci Tierney told television station KETV that the officers' "grazing wounds" were minor. They were treated at the hospital and released.

Police have not said why they think Layten was at the hospital, but hours earlier he had fled the crash scene after driving his pickup truck into a utility pole in

Ralston following a high-speed police chase in nearby La Vista.

Bettin said that just before the shooting, a caller to 911 reported that an apparently despondent man was using a pay phone at the hospital, which is a few blocks north of the city's downtown.

According to La Vista Police Chief Robert Lausten, a woman called the department at about 12:15 a.m. Wednesday to report that Layten, her sister's estranged husband, had attacked her sister in Tekamah and threatened to drive to La Vista to kill her and her mother.

Tekamah is about 40 miles north of Omaha.

According to the Burt County Sheriff's Office, deputies went to Layten's former home near Tekamah but were told he had just left in his pickup truck and had taken three guns with him.

Lausten said officers set up surveillance at the La Vista homes, and that Layten drove by his estranged wife's mother's home within minutes.

The chief said he was told Layten may have had some "special forces kind of training."

"We're really lucky no one was shot here," Lausten said.



### 2010 Avon Homecoming Royalty

Back (l-r): Trace Tjeerdsma, Chance Roth, Chris Jerke, Josh Chihak  
Middle (l-r): Cheyenne Zimmerman, Queen Emily Van Gerpen, King Frank Thompson, Danielle Koupal, Lynn Gall  
Crownbearers: Emma Yost and Brady Bierema

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### 2010 Irene-Wakonda Homecoming Royalty

Girls (l-r): Anne Brockmueller, Andrea McManus, Holley Schenk, Jordan Nelsen  
Boys (l-r): Ivan Barnett, Chad Peterson, Ethan Kiger, Marquis Knight

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