

MIDWEST DIGEST**Rep. Herseth Sandlin To Hold Flood Meeting**

HURON (AP) — Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin will hold community meetings in Huron and Aberdeen to discuss the response to spring flooding and options for future flood mitigation.

Meetings are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at Northern State University and 10 a.m. next Friday at the Huron Community Campus. A news release from Herseth Sandlin's office says state and local officials, emergency personnel and a representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will speak.

Woman Gets 3 Years For Robbery Conspiracy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha woman who admitted helping her boyfriend plan robberies at two bank branches where she worked has been given three years in federal prison.

A news release from U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg says 23-year-old Marquita Jensen also was ordered to pay restitution of more than \$5,300. She was sentenced on Thursday.

Jensen's boyfriend, Devin Enriques, has already been sentenced to 13 years in federal prison for his role in the fall 2008 crimes.

Prosecutors say Jensen gave Enriques information about the security systems at the TierOne bank branches she worked at and helped plan the robberies. The second robbery didn't take place because Jensen alerted Enriques in a text message that police were present.

Corn, Soybean, Wheat Stocks Up In S.D.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Agriculture Department says stocks of corn, soybeans, wheat and sorghum all are up in South Dakota this fall.

As of March 1, corn stocks totaled 446 million bushels, up 23 percent, and soybean stocks stood at 61.3 million bushels, up about 10 percent.

Stocks of all wheat were up slightly to 55.8 million bushels, while sorghum stocks were nearly double, at 1.4 million bushels.

Oat and barley stocks were down from a year ago.

Phony Tickets Land S.D. Man In Prison

ABERDEEN (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who cashed in fraudulent video lottery tickets at various Aberdeen businesses late last year is headed to prison.

Twenty-eight-year-old Jake Collins pleaded guilty to one count of grand theft by deception and one count of forgery, and other charges were dismissed. He was sentenced to serve 10 years in prison, and will be eligible for parole after 2 1/2 years.

Collins also must pay \$2,700 in restitution, and undergo chemical dependency and gambling treatment.

Authorities say Collins used computer software to make the fake winning tickets.

Spring Snow Hits Western Dakotas

RAPID CITY (AP) — Spring snow in the western Dakotas isn't likely to stick around for long.

National Weather Service meteorologist Melissa Smith in Rapid City says that with fairly warm ground temperatures, the snow should melt quickly. She says it's a typical spring storm.

Rapid City had 3 inches of snow on the ground early Friday, and the Deadwood area had 7 inches. The forecast called for up to a foot of snow in the northern Black Hills by midday, but only 3-6 inches in most other parts of western South Dakota and North Dakota.

Rapid City set a rainfall record on Thursday. The weather service says 0.41 inches was recorded, breaking the record for the date of 0.32 inches set in 1957.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Officials Try To Determine What Caused 911 Outage

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Now that phone and 911 service has been restored across southeast Nebraska, officials were trying Friday to determine what caused the outage and how such incidents might be prevented.

Thursday's outage forced emergency officials in several counties to improvise with cell phones and inconvenienced some businesses, but no serious problems had been linked to the outage as of Friday morning.

Officials with the Nebraska State Patrol and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency said they weren't aware of any emergency situations exacerbated by the outage.

About 36,000 customers were affected. At least twelve counties had 911 service interrupted: Butler, Seward, Saunders, Lancaster, Clay, Adams, Gage, Jefferson, Cass, Saline, Richardson and Fillmore. Outages also were reported in Nuckolls, Thayer and Pawnee, but it's not clear whether 911 services were affected there.

In Lancaster County, cell phone numbers were set up for emergency requests, and sheriff's deputies were stationed at rural fire departments to help residents. Cass County emergency dispatchers also used cell phones to answer emergency calls during the outage.

NO INTEREST For 12 Months*

*SEE STORE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

Larry's APPLIANCE

920 Broadway • 665-9461

S.D. LEGISLATURE**GOP Runs More Candidates For 2010**

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — South Dakota Republicans have started the battle for control of the Legislature with an advantage over Democrats.

The GOP has candidates for 32 of the 35 seats in the South Dakota Senate, while Democrats are contesting only 26 Senate seats. Republicans have candidates for 60 of the 70 House seats, while Democrats are contesting only 53 House slots, according to nominating petitions filed with the secretary of state's office.

Republicans currently outnumber Democrats 21-14 in the Senate, while the GOP has a 46-24 edge in the House. The last time the Democrats controlled a South Dakota legislative chamber was the two-year term after the 1992 election — the same year Democratic President Bill Clinton was elected — when they won a 20-15 Senate edge over Republicans.

This year's election is particularly important because lawmakers elected in November will redraw the legislative boundaries to conform to population changes recorded in the U.S. Census. The way those boundaries are drawn can favor one party or the other in elections for the next decade.

Senate Minority Leader Scott Heidepriem of Sioux Falls, also the Democratic candidate for governor, said his party believes it will fare well in the fall election because it has recruited a good list of House and Senate candidates. Heidepriem said he hopes voters will agree Republicans have controlled the state Capitol for too long.

"We think it's time to have a legitimate two-

party system in South Dakota. I think the people will agree with us," Heidepriem said.

Senate President Pro Tem Bob Gray, also the state Republican Party chairman, said the GOP has a strong lineup. Many of the Senate candidates are current House members who are looking to switch chambers, he said.

Officials from both parties expect government spending to be a big issue in statewide and legislative campaigns.

"Clearly the theme we're seeing nationally is fiscal responsibility, living within our means not only personally but within our government as well," said Lucas Lentsch, executive director of the South Dakota Republican Party.

Heidepriem said Democrats proposed better ideas for balancing the state budget than those approved earlier in the week by the GOP majority in the Legislature.

"We're the party of fiscal restraint," the Senate Democratic leader said.

Republicans pointed out that some Democratic lawmakers sought to increase spending to boost state aid to school districts and give state employees a pay raise.

But Heidepriem said the main Democratic proposal would not have allowed those spending increases unless the state receives some extra federal aid to cover expenses in Medicaid, the state-federal program that pays for health care for low-income people.

Republicans said they were proud they balanced the state budget without using any reserve funds.

Because each party failed to contest some Senate races, some candidates will be re-elected without opposition unless independent candidates file by June 8.

Democrats unopposed in Senate races

include Sen. Jim Hundstad of Bath, and Rep. Jason Frerichs of Wilmot, who is seeking to switch chambers. Sen. Kathy Miles of Sioux Falls has no Republican challenger, but faces a Democratic primary challenge from Angie Buhl.

Unopposed Republican Senate candidates are: Sen. Art Frysli of Willow Lake, Sen. Russell Olson of Madison, Sen. Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, Sen. Corey Brown of Gettysburg, Sen. Larry Rhoden of Union Center, Sen. Stan Adelstein of Rapid City, and Sen. Craig Tieszen of Rapid City.

In some districts without Democratic candidates, the GOP has a primary contest between two Senate candidates.

Some interesting Senate races are expected in the fall election.

Sen. Dan Ahlers, D-Dell Rapids, is being challenged by House Speaker Tim Rave, R-Baltic.

Sen. Pam Merchant, D-Brookings, will face Rep. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, the current House Appropriations chairman who is seeking to switch to the Senate.

Sen. Sandy Jerstad, D-Sioux Falls, will run against Republican Mark Johnston, a former chief of staff for Gov. Mike Rounds. A Constitution Party candidate, Slade Ammann of Sioux Falls, also is in the race.

Two current senators also have switched parties in their bids for re-election. Sen. Jim Bradford of Pine Ridge, who won two years ago after switching to be a Republican, is changing back to the Democratic Party. Sen. Ryan Maher of Isabel, who has been a Democrat, is running this year as a Republican.

Neb. Flag-Desecration Case May Be Tried In August

PAPILLION, Neb. (AP) — Another Nebraska judge has refused to dismiss the flag-desecration charge against a Kansas woman.

Douglas County Judge Joseph Caniglia was appointed to hear the Sarpy County case after two other judges were removed from the case. Caniglia refused Friday to throw out the case against Shirley Phelps-Roper on constitutional grounds.

Phelps-Roper was accused in

2007 of letting her then-10-year-old son stand on an American flag during a protest at the funeral of a National Guardsman in Bellevue. Authorities say she wore a flag as a skirt that dragged on the ground.

Nebraska's law bars intentionally "casting contempt or ridicule" upon an American flag. Phelps-Roper has argued the law is unconstitutional.

Caniglia scheduled an Aug. 23 trial.

www.smilesforsiouxland.com

Vermillion/Brower Dental Health
Josh Brower DDS
Gary Prosser DDS
605-624-8695 or 712-548-4615
Accepting New Patients & Late Appointments Available

FREE Wisdom Teeth Consultation
Includes necessary x-rays. We answer your questions. I.V. sedation in office available. Same day tooth removal!

FREE Braces Exam
Includes Orthodontic Exam, X-rays, and Consultation
\$99 per month braces

Dental Implants
Placing and restoring implants for use in the same day! Implants under \$1,000.
Free Consultations!

NEW NONSTOPS. CHICAGO O'HARE AND DALLAS/FORT WORTH.



Daily service beginning April 6, visit AA.com

American Airlines
American Eagle

SIoux FALLS REGIONAL AIRPORT
Travel Easy.

YANKTON AREA SPRING BANQUET
Saturday, April 10th

MINERVA GRILL & BAR
Doors Open at 4:45pm!
Tickets available at the door
All profits are spent locally.



PHEASANTS forever
The Habitat Organization

HE Is Risen

Avera

Sponsored by the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters

www.Avera.org