

Construction Begins On Pilger School

WISNER, Neb. (AP) — Construction has begun on a new school to replace the one Pilger lost in the 2014 tornado, but it won't be in that town.

The *Norfolk Daily News* reports the Wisner-Pilger school district held a groundbreaking ceremony last week for the new building being built in Wisner.

The new \$10.7 million school will house elementary and middle school students. It replaces the district's middle school that was destroyed in Pilger and its elementary school in Wisner.

Insurance money will pay for most of the new school, and the district will also receive help from the federal and state emergency management agencies.

Women Receive Award Honoring Service

PIERRE (AP) — Two South Dakota women are set to receive an award honoring their service in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Monday will present a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal to WWII Civil Air Patrol veterans Lois Schmidt and Pauline Hanson Brehe.

The medal is being given to members of the organization for their role in protecting the U.S. against German U-boat attacks during World War II and carrying out other wartime domestic missions.

The organization was founded on Dec. 1, 1941, six days before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Daugaard will present the recognition to the women during a ceremony in Pierre.

Family Moves Into 200-Foot Home

SELBY (AP) — A family of five has traded in their 2,500-square-foot house for a 200-square-foot living space in northern South Dakota.

Bethany and Matthew McBride sold their old house in Montana, bought their new tiny home for \$25,000, hitched it to their vehicle and drove to South Dakota after selling most of their belongings. The tiny home currently sits on her family's farm in the Selby area, but the couple is still deciding whether to stay in South Dakota.

"That's kind of why we wanted to move here, for that transitional period," Bethany McBride told the *Aberdeen American News*. "This is my dad's property, so we're just trading some work for everything, such as electric, rent and water."

The family opted for the smaller dwelling because it is allowing them to eliminate their debt, while providing more family time.

"We wanted time freedom," Bethany McBride said. "When we were kind of chasing the American Dream, it was just kind of a rat race."

She and her husband had looked into homes for self-sustainable lifestyles before going small.

"A year ago, we went down to New Mexico, and were interested in the Earthship homes, which are completely off the grid. And that's what got us to the idea of alternative lifestyle living, of just not living huge," she said.

The monthly bill for the tiny home is about \$30, including the title, which classifies the structure as a trailer because of its mobility. In addition to the low costs, the limited space inside the home also works to Bethany McBride's advantage because it requires less upkeep and doesn't afford room for an excess of material items.

"You would think that living in tight quarters, especially with three kids under the age of 4, that'd you'd go batty," she said. "I became almost claustrophobic in my old house with so much to manage. Our kids are always in our little circle, so even though I have this tiny house people ask, 'Aren't you claustrophobic because your kids are all over you?' Well, they were all over me anyway. If I'm cooking, they're underneath me. If I'm reading, they're on top of me."

The family wants to move back up in size someday, with plans to buy a ranch and build a house.

General Warns Of IRS Phone Scam

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Attorney General's Office is warning residents of a telephone scam in which callers say they're trying to collect money owed to the Internal Revenue Service.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the scam involves a caller telling the person that they are being sued by the IRS for an unresolved debt. Some of the threats claimed that an arrest warrant had been issued. Callers then ask for personal identifying information or demand a wire payment.

Jackley says the IRS does not ask for personal identifying or financial information through phone calls. He says anyone receiving such calls should contact his office's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or consumerhelp@state-sd.us.

Salon Owner Has Talent For Fundraisers

BROOKINGS (AP) — After working at a corporate hair salon that didn't allow her to provide free cuts to a boy with cancer and a soldier who later died in combat, a Brookings woman opened her own salon to help people in need.

Reflections Hair Designs owner Tonya Beynon estimates that she, her staff, family and friends have worked to pull together about 30 fundraisers in the past three years. Her fundraisers include big events with 500 people and auctioning off gift baskets at her salon.

"I wanted to be in a position to help people without saying no," she told *The Brookings Register*.

Beynon opened her salon in 2011. Now she's able to give a free haircut to any deploying member of the military who walks into Reflections Hair Designs. She also can hold events and offer specials as a means for collecting donations, including money, food and services.

"As the owner, I was in a position I could do whatever I wanted for anyone," Beynon said.

The first fundraiser she held was The Buzz Off for Cayden's Crusaders in May 2012 to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on behalf of the local organization.

"Cayden's aunt, Erin Weinkauff, is my very best friend," Beynon said. "I've known the family for 15 years now. When I opened here and had the opportunity to do fundraisers, I thought 'Why not?'"

That initial event got the ball rolling. Her team later raised \$15,000 for a friend's 17-year-old son who has cancer. But the salon staff doesn't only come to the aid of friends and family.

"Not just friends, I've done some for people I didn't even know," Beynon said. "It varies from a simple basket here (at the salon) to 500 people showing up in one day (for an event)," she said.

Federal Delegation Crisscrosses State During August Break

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota's federal lawmakers are still discussing Planned Parenthood and the Iran nuclear deal during their August break, but at county fairs and coffee shops rather than in the halls of Congress.

The all-Republican delegation — Rep. Kristi Noem and Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds — have dozens of events scheduled from Buffalo to Parker over the congressional recess. Lawmakers say the break allows them to hear concerns from regular South Dakotans and to get feedback about where members' priorities should be when they return to Washington in September.

"It's like I'm in rehab," Rounds said, sitting in his Pierre office after a recent meeting with state officials and tribal veterans service officers. "It feels so good to be back where things are normal and common sense is found in people around you."

Rounds, the newest member of the delegation, said he's hearing from residents that they're fed up with a federal government that's bloated and unresponsive. Thune said he hears about

local issues like storms and disaster relief, but both he and Noem named the Iran deal as a major topic in discussions with residents. Noem said she's also hearing about trade and tax policy.

At the Turner County Fair in Parker, 68-year-old Judy Harig followed a loudspeaker announcement to find Noem at the Republican booth. Speaking with the third-term congresswoman, Harig recounted her dismay about recently released undercover footage in which Planned Parenthood officials discuss fetal tissue from abortions being used for medical research.

The Sioux Falls resident talked about her sense the Democratic Party has shifted left over the last quarter-century and asked Noem if she ever wonders why she's in Washington and not back on her ranch.

"She said, 'That's why it's important to come back and connect with the people, and ... hear what they have to say,' so she can go back and represent better, which is wonderful to hear," Harig said.

Marlyn and Rose Waltner of Marion came to the county fair to speak with Thune and Noem. They

asked Thune what concerns him most, and the three discussed Iran.

"He asked what (our concerns) were, and I felt that he had kind of hit on what was bothering me," Rose Waltner said. "We've been watching the political issues quite closely, and I think our next presidential nominee is going to be very important. It's going to be a tide-shifting moment."

"Are you out here campaigning for Trump?" Gordon Ludens, a farmer from Viborg, joked to Thune.

The state's senior senator, like Noem, has so far declined to wade into the presidential race. Rounds has endorsed former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Noem and Thune have their own re-election campaigns to worry about, but so far only Democratic state Rep. Paula Hawks has announced a challenge to Noem. State Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said the party is working to run a candidate against Thune, and she said Republicans aren't listening to South Dakotans on issues such as education.

"I think their views are representative of the class that funds their campaigns,

and those huge war chests that they've put together with corporate backing are indicative of the voices that they're listening to," she said.

Aside from events with the public and businesses, the three sitting lawmakers said they're enjoying time with family members during the recess. Eating pie at a diner in Murdo with his wife and father, Thune said by the time the August break is over "we'll pretty much touch down most places" in South Dakota.

Rounds said he plans to travel to coffee shops to talk to "normal people." Noem also said she plans to spend a lot of time "crisscrossing our state."

"It's one of my favorite times of the year because the reason I serve South Dakota is for the people," Noem said.

Harig, who spoke to Noem at the Turner County Fair, said she values that her representatives are accessible.

"It's nice to see them here," Harig said. "These are their people. We all are."

Backers Of Wind Power, Solar Seeking Tax Credits

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — With Nebraska facing pressure to meet more stringent federal emission requirements, renewable energy advocates will push again next year for a state tax credit aimed at wind farms and solar projects.

Supporters have spent the summer meeting with senators in hopes of passing the production tax credit, which was narrowly defeated by lawmakers this year.

"It offers tremendous economic development and property tax relief for Nebraska," said David Levy, a lobbyist for the Northeast Nebraska Public Power District. "We have some catching up to do, but we have tremendous wind resources."

The proposal by then-state Sen. Jeremy Nordquist won initial approval in the Legislature in April but stalled on a second-round vote because several senators who supported it were excused from the Capitol. Their votes were required to overcome opponents who launched a filibuster to block it.

Levy said he believes the bill has a good chance of passing in next year's session, which begins in January. Nebraska has the capacity to generate far more electricity from wind than the state could ever use, he said, creating an opportunity to sell power out of state.

Levy said the state may be forced to develop more wind energy to comply with President Barack Obama's newest push to cut greenhouse gases from U.S. power plants.

The federal Clean Power Plan rules unveiled this month require states to limit the amount of carbon dioxide produced by 2030. Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson and officials

from other Republican-led states are fighting the requirements in a federal lawsuit.

Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala will usher the bill through the Legislature in place of Nordquist, who resigned in June.

"It's one more step that other states have taken to move their development forward," Schilz said. "Will it work here in Nebraska? I believe it will help."

Nordquist said last year that his bill would help Nebraska compete with states like Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma, which offer richer incentives and have seen a greater expansion of wind farms.

Opponents argued that the state shouldn't subsidize wind energy and contended the bill would cut into state revenue by allowing wind farms to sell their tax credits to other profit-making businesses to generate cash. Some criticized the turbines as an eyesore in rural areas and complain about the whooshing and thumping noises made by the spinning blades.

The measure could also apply to producers of solar, biomass and landfill gas energy. It would allow companies a 1-cent tax credit for every kilowatt-hour generated for the first two years. The credit would shrink to 0.6 cents per kilowatt-hour over 10 years, after which it would end.

Wind-energy companies could also turn down that option in favor of a one-time tax credit totaling 30 percent of their construction costs, up to \$2 million.

Despite having enormous potential for wind energy production, Nebraska ranks 26th in the energy it could generate with equipment currently installed. It lags behind neighboring states Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas.

From his doorstep in Kimball County, Jim Young said he can see hundreds

of new wind towers on the horizon in neighboring Colorado, but efforts to bring a project to his area have failed because Nebraska isn't competitive.

"Nebraska doesn't really offer much," said Young, chairman of the Banner County Wind Energy Association, which was formed to entice wind farms. "Hopefully we can get things rocking and rolling soon."

Five central Nebraska cities are on the brink of launching a pilot project with solar panels that could help lower their utility costs, but have struggled because the communities can't directly receive federal tax credits.

"The state credits would make a gigantic difference in allowing those communities to put in solar," said Cliff Mesner, a Central City attorney who has worked on the project with Gothenburg, Lexington, Holdrege, Minden and Central City officials.

Renewable energy advocates say Nebraska is far from tapping the full potential of wind, which could produce additional income for farmers and counties to help offset property taxes.

Nebraska will have developed 1,316 megawatts of wind energy by the end of 2016, generating an estimated \$8.5 million in local property tax revenue annually for 20 years, said John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union. Project landowners and farmers will collectively receive about \$5.3 million each year in revenue. Hansen said the bill would also help smaller community projects that use solar energy.

"The numbers are huge, and we just don't have that many new sources of revenue staring us in the face," Hansen said. "Solar and wind both have a real place in helping us diversify our electricity generation portfolio."

Planned Parenthood Drops Plans For Clinic

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — Planned Parenthood has dropped its plan to expand to Kearney and other parts of central Nebraska, a spokeswoman said.

"The goal right now is to stabilize the organization as we wait to see how the organization will change with our new CEO Suzanna M. de Baca," organization spokeswoman Angie Remington told the *Kearney Hub*. "As of right now, there are no plans to expand in central Nebraska or in Kearney. But six

months to a few years from now, that could change."

The organization had announced in 2011 that it would open a location in Kearney and possibly several other Nebraska communities, including Fremont, North Platte, Hastings, Norfolk and Grand Island.

The expansion was to be part of an \$11.5 million capital campaign for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, which operates clinics in Nebraska and Iowa. The group has commitments of

\$7 million, but recent woes may keep it from reaching its goal by the 2016 deadline, officials said.

The group has been the subject of renewed criticism since the release last month of undercover videos showing officials discussing aborted fetal organs it provides for research.

Planned Parenthood has said allegations it profits from the practice are fabricated accusations from abortion opponents.

Planned Parenthood

currently has Nebraska locations in Omaha and Lincoln.

The organization provides a variety of reproductive health care services, including abortions at some locations. It says it served 9,139 women and men in Nebraska from July 2013 through June 2014. During that time, it recorded 19,921 patient appointments related to contraception and performed nearly 13,702 sexually transmitted infection tests.

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