

Heineman Says He'll Consider US Senate Bid

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman says he'll consider a run for the U.S. Senate in the 2014 election, but it's too early to decide one way or the other.

Heineman said Monday that a U.S. Senate seat was "the farthest thing from my mind" until he received word that Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns wouldn't seek re-election.

Heineman says he'll give some thought to running. The Republican governor is leaving office in 2015 because of term limits. But he says he isn't yet sure he wants to embark on another statewide campaign, and he hasn't yet discussed it with his wife, Sally.

Heineman says he could just easily see himself playing golf after he leaves office, or helping his son run his business.

At Sioux Falls Clinic, Students Are The Doctors

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — At one clinic in Sioux Falls, students run the show.

One evening a month, students from the Sanford-USD School of Medicine come to the Avera Health clinic in downtown Sioux Falls to diagnose and treat patients, write prescriptions and give them advice.

The *Argus Leader* reports that the students do everything but collect the patients' money, because everything is free.

The students see about a dozen patients during the three-hour span each month.

Both patients and students say they find the arrangement beneficial because the students need the practice and the patients are able to get medical treatment that they may not otherwise have been able to afford.

Area physicians also supervise the students.

Police Charge Man In Death Of Omaha Man

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police have charged a man in the death of a man who died last week.

Police on Monday say they charged 31-year-old Samuel Sprunger, of Omaha, in the death of 38-year-old Kueth Guor.

Police say officers responded to a call of a person down on Thursday and found Guor. He was taken to Creighton University Medical Center, where he died.

Police haven't specified Guor's injuries. It wasn't clear Monday whether Sprunger has a lawyer.

Meth Lab Dump Site Found Near Park In S.F

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Authorities in Sioux Falls say they have located a methamphetamine lab dump site near a park.

The abandoned meth lab was found Sunday night when someone walking their dog near Family Park in Sioux Falls noticed suspicious items and called police.

Officials discovered a hydrogen chloride gas generator and other items used to manufacture methamphetamine at the dump site.

Police and the hazmat team are working to clean up the site. Anyone with information is asked to call authorities.

Feeding South Dakota Gets New R.C. Home

RAPID CITY (AP) — The Rapid City-based Feeding South Dakota is moving into a new building that will allow it to serve more people.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Feeding South Dakota is moving into a new building that will triple its capacity, allowing the organization to serve more people.

The new 30,000-square-foot warehouse includes a large freezer and cooler, loading docks, office space and parking.

In the last 17 years, the Rapid City food bank has more than doubled its food distribution from 1.34 million pounds to more than 3.2 million pounds.

Matt Gassen is the executive director of Feeding South Dakota. He says the organization is excited about the new home, but also disheartened by the size because it means there is that much of a need.

Migrating Sandhill Cranes Trickle Into Neb.

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Migrating sandhill cranes have begun trickling into south-central Nebraska's Platte River Valley.

Hundreds of the hundreds of thousands of crane have arrived between Grand Island and Kearney on their way to nesting areas in the Arctic.

Bill Taddicken is director of the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, and he told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that by mid- to late March, the cranes will be feeding in farm fields during the day and resting in shallow waters of the Platte River at night.

The cranes making their way north from Texas, Oklahoma or Mexico stop for food and rest during their annual migrations north and south.

Nationals' Mascots Visit The Black Hills

RAPID CITY (AP) — Some of the most well-known political figures are visiting South Dakota's Black Hills.

The Washington Nationals presidential mascots are spending President's Day at Mount Rushmore.

This is the first time the mascots have visited western South Dakota. The team includes the four presidents whose faces appear on Mount Rushmore: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. William H. Taft just joined the Nationals team. He was the first president to throw the ceremonial first pitch at a season opener.

Other places that the mascots visited during their three-day trip to South Dakota included Custer State Park, Wall Drug Store and Deadwood.

The Black Hills, Badlands & Lakes Association invited the mascots and are acting as host. Video footage from their tour will be played during future games.

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Legislator To Run For Governor

BY ALISSA SKELTON
Associated Press

FREMONT, Neb. — Republican Sen. Charlie Janssen, known for his strong opposition to illegal immigration and his support of small government, announced Monday that he's entering the wide-open race to be Nebraska's next governor.

Janssen, a military veteran and business owner, was first elected to the Legislature in 2008, and made his announcement in his hometown of Fremont. He said wants to preserve the state's conservative values and grow the business sector.

"It is because anything is possible that I stand before you today, a kid that grew up in a town of 200 people, to announce that I am a candidate to become the next governor of the great state of Nebraska," he told a crowd of about 150 people gathered for the announcement at Midlands University.

Janssen, 42, has introduced guns-rights bills this year and is trying to end state-funded prenatal care coverage for illegal immigrants. But he also said he wants to limit big government and stand up for state rights, like Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker have in their states.



Janssen

"I am confident Nebraskans share this vision for a limited state government — one that works efficiently and effectively and otherwise just stays out of our way," he said.

He said his decision was not swayed by former Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy and former state Sen. Mike Flood dropping out of the race. Sheehy stepped down after the *Omaha World-Herald* reported he had misused his state-issued cellphone to make thousands of calls to four women other than his wife. Flood dropped out of the race in December, after his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer.

No one else has officially announced a gubernatorial bid, but other possible candidates who've expressed interest include Republican State Treasurer Don Stenberg, Democratic state Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha and former University of Nebraska regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons.

Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh introduced Janssen to the stage, saying he supports Janssen's bid for governor.

"Charlie has been a solid conservative leader in the Nebraska Legislature and has advanced

legislation that reflects the conservative values of everyday Nebraskans," Lautenbaugh said.

Lautenbaugh, who joined several Republican lawmakers in supporting Janssen, said he thinks Janssen is ready to be governor and won't shrink to any challenger.

"Charlie never backs away from a fight and he has never compromised his principles," he said.

Janssen added that many lawmakers forget the core values when they arrive at the Legislature, saying: "We have got to stop compromising our principles."

Janssen said his time serving as a U.S. Navy search and rescue swimmer during the first Gulf War prepared him for leadership and any challenge that might come his way. He also said his background as a business owner would make him able to relate to Nebraskans. Janssen owns RTG Medical, a medical staffing agency, and said he would try to cut back on government regulations that are preventing businesses from starting in Nebraska.

"Let's reduce the negative influence the government has on that process and we could grow our economy, create more job opportunities for our children, and we can allow businesses to flourish without government in the way," he said.

High-Stakes Soybean Fight Looms At U.S. Supreme Court

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vernon Hugh Bowman seems comfortable with the old way of doing things, right down to the rotary-dial telephone he said he was using in a conference call with reporters.

But the 75-year-old Indiana farmer figured out a way to benefit from a high-technology product, soybeans that are resistant to weed-killers, without always paying the high price that such genetically engineered seeds typically bring. In so doing, he ignited a legal fight with seed-giant Monsanto Co. that has now come before the Supreme Court, with argument taking place Tuesday.

The court case poses the question of whether Bowman's actions violated the patent rights held by Monsanto, which developed soybean and other seeds that survive when farmers spray their fields with the company's Roundup brand weed-killer. The seeds dominate American agriculture, including in Indiana where more than 90 percent of soybeans are Roundup Ready.

canola, sugar beets and alfalfa. The result has been a dramatic rise in seed prices and reduced options for farmers, according to the Center for Food Safety. The group opposes the spread of genetically engineered crops and says their benefits have been grossly overstated.

"It has become extremely difficult for farmers to find high-quality conventional seeds," said Bill Freese, the center's science policy analyst.

Consumer groups and organic food producers have fought Monsanto over genetically engineered farm and food issues in several settings. They lost a campaign in California last year to require labels on most genetically engineered processed foods and produce. Monsanto and other food and chemical companies spent more than \$40 million to defeat the ballot measure.

Monsanto says the success of its seeds are proof of their value. By and large, "farmers appreciate what we do," David Snively, Monsanto's top lawyer, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Herbicide-resistant soybean seeds first hit the market in 1996.

To protect its investment in their development, Monsanto has a policy that prohibits farmers from saving or reusing the seeds once the crop is grown. Farmers must buy new seeds every year.

Like almost every other farmer in Indiana, Bowman used the patented seeds for his main crop. But for a risky, late season crop on his 300 acres in Sandborn, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis, Bowman said, "I wanted a cheap source of seed."

He couldn't reuse his own beans or buy seeds from other farmers who had similar agreements with Monsanto and other companies licensed to sell genetically engineered seeds. And dealers he used to buy cheap seed from no longer carry the unmodified seeds.

So Bowman found what looked like a loophole and went to a grain elevator that held soybeans it typically sells for feed, milling and other uses, but not as seed.

Bowman reasoned that most of those soybeans also would be resistant to weed killers, as they initially came from herbicide-resistant seeds, too. He was right, and he repeated the practice over eight years.

Some Ammo Harder To Find In Nebraska, Iowa

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The possibility of tougher gun control has made some ammunition in Nebraska and Iowa harder to find, gun sellers say.

Demand for ammunition and guns took off after the Dec. 14 shooting in Newtown, Conn., that killed 20 schoolchildren and six adults.

President Barack Obama has called for tighter gun control measures, especially for military-style semi-automatic rifles like the ones used in last year's mass shootings at a Connecticut grade school and at a Colorado movie theater.

The shortages are apparent at gun shows and many stores. Dealers say .223-caliber ammunition used in semi-automatic rifles, 9 mm bullets and even .22-caliber bullets seem to be in short supply.

Kemlin Hart said he's seeing more customers at Hart Brothers Weaponry in Mason City, Iowa, stock up on ammunition instead of just buying enough for a week-end shoot.

"A lot of people are doubling down, so to speak, getting a lot of ammunition so they know they're covered for a while," Hart said.

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