the midwest

Lawmakers Introduce Neb. Gov.'s Proposals

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lawmakers have introduced two tax reform measures championed by Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman.

State Sens. Beau McCoy and Brad Ashford, both of Omaha, submitted the proposals on Tuesday. One option would eliminate the state's income tax and make up the lost revenue by ending \$2.4 billion in state sales tax exemptions.

The other would reduce the amount of income taxes paid by retirees, while getting rid of about \$395 million in sales tax exemptions.

Heineman, a Republican, argued in his State of the State address that Nebraska's current tax system is outdated and needs an overhaul. Many of the sales-tax exemptions now on the books were enacted in 1967.

Heineman has said he wants a public debate about the exemptions. though he opposes lifting a sales tax exemption for food.

Ex-Teacher Pleads Guilty To Sex With Student

RAPID CITY (AP) — A former New Underwood teacher has pleaded guilty to having sex with a 15-year-old student.

Kyle Keegan of Rapid City faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced in March. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that he entered his guilty plea Tuesday on a charge of sexual contact with a child under 16.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors agreed to dismiss a fourth-degree rape charge.

Twenty-six-year-old Keegan was arrested in October, five days after court documents indicate he had sex with the victim. He had taught social studies and was a guidance counselor at New Underwood High School when the allegations surfaced.

Nebraska Ethanol Plant Sold At Public Auction

O'NEILL, Neb. (AP) — An ethanol company's plant in northeast Nebraska has been sold at a public auction.

Radio station KBRX reports NEDAK Ethanol's Atkinson plant was sold for \$22 million Tuesday at the Holt County Courthouse in O'Neill. The station reports Choice Ethanol Holding of Fargo, N.D., bought the

plant as the only bidder.

It is unclear what will happen to the plant or to the company. The plant uses approximately 19 million bushels of corn a year, and

produces approximately 51 million gallons of denatured fuel-grade ethanol. The company temporarily stopped production last May to monitor the corn and ethanol markets.

S.D. Bison Star Of Inaugural Luncheon

RAPID CITY (AP) — While most people are talking about President Barack Obama's inaugural address and his wife's glamorous fashion choices, South Dakota residents are buzzing about another inaugural

feature: the bison tenderloins served to the first couple Monday. That's because the meat showcased in the inaugural luncheon came from Rapid City.

Rapid City is in the middle of the buffalo world. We have more buffalo within 250 miles of us than any other place in the world," Bruce Anderson, owner of Western Buffalo Co., told the Rapid City Journal. His processing plant provided the meat that was the star of the luncheon's second course.

The inaugural menu is designed to feature foods that the first Amer-icans enjoyed, according to Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY, the luncheon host and part of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Inaugural Ceremonies.

Agriculture has always played a starring role in American culture and has been at the heart of our cuisine since the birth of our nation," Schumer said in a news release.

Monday's tenderloins were accompanied by red potato horseradish cake, strawberry preserve with red cabbage and butternut squash puree.

OBITUARIES

Adeline Rokusek

Funeral Mass for Adeline A. Rokusek, 98 of Wagner will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, January 25, 2013 at St. John

Catholic Church in Wagner, with burial in the parish cemetery, rural Wagner.

Visitation will be at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral



Loup City, NE; and Deb Ustrud and husband Dallas of Dacula, GA; 15 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; three step great grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; brother Ed Cihak and wife Lucille of Wagner; many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends; and special friend, Hattie Flynn of Wagner.

Adeline was preceded in death by her husband; parents; infant brother and sister Helen and Frank: an infant great grand son; and two brothers: Adolph and Albert Cihak.

South Dakota

Panel Kills Crackdown On Repeat Speeders

BY CHET BROKAW Associated Press

PIERRE — A legislative panel on Tuesday rejected a measure that would have given South Dakota the option to suspend the licenses of drivers who repeatedly speed.

Press&Dakotan

Motorists can lose their licenses if they accumulate too many points for moving violations, including drunken driving, reckless driving and running a stop sign. But no points are assessed for speeding.

The House Transportation Committee voted 9-4 to kill the bill after opponents said it would inconvenience drivers and require extensive record-keeping just to crack down on a few hundred who repeatedly speed.

"It's really overkill and keeping track of a whole lot of records that will really be irrelevant," Rep. Manny Steele, R-Sioux Falls, said.

But the bill's main sponsor, Rep. Steve Hickey, R-Sioux Falls, said speeding should add points to drivers' records because it would save lives.

"Fines have not proven to be a deterrent in slowing down drivers who want to speed, Hickey said. "The purpose of this bill is not to suspend licenses. It's to slow people down." Hickey said his father was killed in a

crash that involved speeding.

"I've lost a family member to that. It's not funny," Hickey said after the hearing.

Hickey said speeding used to be included in the point system, but was removed in 1986 when the national speed limit was 55 mph. After speed limits were raised again in 1996, the Legislature declined to add speeding back to the list of offenses that earn points, he said.

South Dakota law states that a driving license can be suspended when a driver gets 15 points in a 12-month period or 22 points in a 24-month period. Drunken driving carries 10 points, reckless driving carries 8 and run-

ning a stop sign or red light carries 3. Hickey's bill would have assessed one to three points for speeding, depending on how far over the speed limit a driver was traveling.

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Hickey said South Dakota has about 602,000 licensed drivers and 38,000 speeding tickets were issued in 2009. But about 500 drivers accounted for more than 5,000 tickets. One South Dakota driver got 31 speeding tickets in one year, he said.

Rep. Lance Russell, R-Hot Springs, said his experience as a lawyer has taught him that suspending licenses can harm people who need to drive for work. Assessing points for speeding would put more people in danger of losing licenses, he said.

Russell, a former prosecutor, said fines are sufficient to make most people slow down. "We are keeping the streets as safe as we

can," Russell said.

S.D. Wants More Authority In Uranium **Mine Regulation**

RAPID CITY — South Dakota environmental officials have asked the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission for more authority in regulating a proposed Powertech USA Inc. uranium mine near Edgemont.

The 2011 Legislature suspended the state's power to directly regulate in-situ uranium mines, which pump chemicals into groundwater to free uranium from the surrounding ore so it can be pumped to the surface. Powertech USA officials had argued that state permits for the mining method were an unnecessary duplication of federal regulation, and the Legislature deferred to the NRC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources is not trying to reclaim in-situ permitting authority but to have a bigger role in setting reclamation bonds and doing inspections, spokesman Eric Holm told the Rapid City Journal.

"We had, from the public, some interest in having state in-spectors out there," he said. "I think, considering customer service, we wanted to be able to provide that."

The state still has authority to grant or deny water rights, a wastewater discharge plan and a large-scale mining permit needed by the Powertech project. But none of those offer direct authority over the in-situ mining process.

State lawmakers are considering legislation to restore the state permitting authority over in-situ uranium mining.

"The people around Edgemont have really been on me about this," said Sen. Jim Bradford, D-Pine Ridge, who filed three bills Friday to strengthen state regulations on uranium mining and restore the state permitting authority over the insitu process. "And they're coming to Pierre to support these bills.

The Rapid City-based Clean Water Alliance is one supporter of more state regulation.

"In a state where we value keeping government close to the people, it makes sense for the state to regulate uranium mining, rather than some distant federal government official," said Lilias Jarding, an alliance organizer. "We support a larger role for the state, both in working with the NRC and in removing the limitations the Legislature passed a couple years ago.

Mark Hollenbeck, a rancher near Edgemont who also is

Senate Chair: Count Up Hagel Vote After Hearing

BY DONNA CASSATA Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top Senate Republicans said Tuesday they would reserve judgment on Chuck Hagel's nomination until after his confirmation hearing next week, a positive sign for President Barack Obama's choice to head the Defense Department.

Hagel, who already has drawn strong opposition from six Senate Republicans, continued his outreach to lawmakers on Tuesday, meeting with Sen. John McCain, whose support for the nomination could smooth the way for the former GOP senator and provide political cover for other Republicans to back the nominee.

"Senator Hagel and I are old friends and we had a very frank and candid conversation, and I'll be looking forward to the hearing and asking him questions," the Arizona Republican told reporters at a news conference on his recent overseas trip. "He should be given the opportunity of a hearing be-

fore any of us make a judgment." Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said earlier in the day that it was too soon to count the votes and he would have a better assessment of the support for Hagel after his confirmation hearing on Jan. 31.

Asked if there were any Republican votes for Hagel, Levin said, "I haven't seen any, but there may be that I haven't seen. That doesn't mean that there won't be.'

The Hagel nomination gained momentum last week as Sens. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., two of the strongest pro-Israel Democrats in the Senate, said the former Nebraska senator had addressed their concerns about his stand on Iran sancWednesday with Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., a committee member who has said she was perplexed by the nomination.

Another panel member, Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., said Tuesday, "I look forward to visiting with him and hearing his testimony and we'll see where it goes.'

Concerns about Hagel replacing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta have centered on whether he is sufficiently pro-Israel, his description of pro-Israel groups as a "Jewish lobby," and his stand on gay rights. Some GOP lawmakers also are concerned about potential cuts to defense spending and Hagel's past support for reductions in nuclear weapons.

'That's of great importance to me,' said Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Corker's state is home to the Y-12 nuclear facility and significant cuts in the nuclear arsenal would affect his state.

"I want to delve beyond the one-liners and sentences that have been brought forth by groups. It'll be a very earnest conversation. I always start with an open mind. But I do have concerns," said Corker, who is scheduled to meet with Hagel on Friday.

Democrats hold a 55-45 advantage in the Senate and would have the votes to confirm Hagel on a simple majority, but they would need five Republican votes for the 60-vote threshold to break a GOP filibuster. A Republican effort to block Obama's choice of a former Republican senator would set off a firestorm as Senate leaders try to negotiate new rules on filibusters. Hagel has reached out to all 100

senators.

Separately, a GOP-leaning group launched an anti-Hagel ad campaign in

from noon to 5 Rokusek p.m Thursday, followed by a 7:00 p.m. Rosary/Wake service at the church.

Adeline Ann Rokusek, daughter of Albert and Mary (Sedlacek) Cihak, was born May 28, 1914 on a farm near Dante, SD. She died Sunday, January 20, 2013 at the Wagner Community Memorial Hospital. Adeline attained the age of 98 years, seven months and 24 days.

Adeline married George Rokusek on January 15, 1934. Six children were blessed to their union. Together they farmed until 1954 and then moved into Wagner. She worked as a nurses aid at Wagner Community Hospital for 20 years. In 1997, Adeline moved into the Community Villa. George died November 4, 1998. Adeline continued to live in her apartment until she became hospitalized in December of 2012.

Adeline was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, an honorary Altar Society member and a former member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Adeline loved to play Bingo and cards. She enjoyed listening to Czech music, crocheting, baking and visiting with friends and family. Adeline had a love for life which showed in her laughter and genuine love for people. She loved to make and bake things to share with others.

Thankful for having shared her life are her children: Don and wife Janet of Shawnee, KS; Betty Jenison and husband Larry of Cresco, IA; Elaine Bartunek and husband Merle of Wagner; Connie Schander and husband John of Sioux Falls; Dave and wife Ellen of



Yankton Press & Dakotan January 23, 2013

Milton Sorenson

Milton Sorenson, 77, Sioux Falls, SD, died January 20, 2013, at Sanford / USD Medical Center.

Milton Lee Sorenson was born May 6, 1935, to Milton and Pearl (Nelson) Sorenson, in Wakonda, SD. After graduating from Southern Teachers College in Springfield, SD,

he worked at



Sorenson

Sears Automotive where he was a salesperson until 1987. After retirement, Milton worked at Elmwood Golf Course. Throughout his life, he spent many years officiating local sporting events.

Milton's survivors include his wife, Kathy Sorenson; children, Lynn Moser (Jerry), Sandra Anderson (Frank), Lisa Toft (Brad), Mark Sorenson; nine grandchildren; and his sister, Nancy Swan-

Private family services will be held at a later date. Milton's wishes were to have his body donated to the Sanford School of Medicine, USD. Memorials may be made to sender's choice in Milton's name.

Yankton Press & Dakotan January 23, 2013

AM 1450 MORNING

Wednesday, January 23

(Amanda Johnson)

8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods

(Chef Staci)

Thursday, January 24

7:40 am Ykn Chamber

(Carmen Schramm)

(Lisa Scheve)

project manager for Powertech's proposed Dewey-Burdock uranium mine, said the state already has substantial involvement and power in regulating the water rights, the discharge plan and the mine permit.

"The other side keeps saying the state doesn't regulate us, but I've got four different state permits that say otherwise," Hollenbeck said. "All they're talking about is another hurdle for us to jump.'

Speaker

will probably take more than one

year to get over the trend line (for

Taylor spoke of severe drought cycles running every 89 years. The

worst recorded years in the west-

"Look out for 2025," he said. "If

In regards to the more immedi-

ern Corn Belt have fallen in 1847

there is a year like the Dust Bowl

this century, this year (2025) is

ate future, he displayed satellite

pictures from Monday morning. He showed the falling levels of the

Ohio and Mississippi rivers, which

going down the river and fertilizer

has limited shipping for corn

From Page 1

and 1936.

the most likely."

back upstream.

corn production).'

tions and support for Israel.

But Hagel still faces ambivalence among Republicans, if not outright opposition, and could emerge from the Senate committee vote with only partyline support. Sen. Jim Inhofe of Öklahoma, the panel's top Republican, has announced his opposition as have several other committee members. Hagel was scheduled to meet on

the home states of five Senate Democrats up for re-election next year.

"Say no to Chuck Hagel before it's too late," said the commercials from Americans for a Stronger Defense. The spots target Sens. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Mark Begich of Alaska, Mark Udall of Colorado, Mark Pryor of Arkansas and Kay Hagan of North Carolina.

The situation could reverse itself with the right conditions, he said. When the soil moisture gets back up to normal, it recharges the wells and rivers, he added.

Moisture has greatly affected planting choices, Taylor said. He used the example of Southern farmers who have chosen corn over the traditional rice crop because of weather and prices.

"It was a good year for rice — if we planted it. But we planted corn," he said. "It was the highest yield of corn that those states ever had. The South was above some Corn Belt states. And they're not planting rice again (in the South)."

However, he looks for those states to return to rice production in the future.

"In the long run, places tend to grow what grows best there," he said. "Eventually, they will go back to rice.'

Modern agriculture practices

have allowed farmers to produce steadily rising yields, including corn at 200 bushels per acre, he said. The trend reverses a history of depleting the soil with each crop, he said.

We can improve the soil while we have the production from the soil," he said. "We have never done that before in history. We have reached sustainable agriculture.'

However, drought trends appear likely to take a continued toll on corn yields, he said. Normal weather would produce a trend line of 160 bushels an acre, but last year saw a trend line of 123.4 bushels an acre.

"2013 is likely to be better, but still our fourth year of below-trend yields. And that follows six years of consecutive record yields," he said.

Taylor spoke of the govern-

ment programs and their response to prolonged drought. With the "fiscal cliff" and federal deficit, lawmakers may look at scaling back or eliminating some farm programs, he said.

Farmers have also become a shrinking minority of the nation's population with less political clout, Taylor said. However, the urban areas can't survive without a dependable food supply, he said.

Farming is the most important industry on this earth," he said.

No matter what the future brings, producers have shown the ability to roll with the punches, Taylor said.

"We'll survive and do just fine," he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

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