

## 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Heineman, a Republican, argued in his State of the State address that Nebraska's current tax system is outdated and needs an overhaul.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 Americans 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 Home in Wagner from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday, followed by a 7:00 p.m. Rosary/Wake service at the church.



Rokusek

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 grandson; and two brothers: Adolph and Albert Cihak.

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 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.



Sorenson

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 Swanson.

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



### MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

**Wednesday, January 23**  
7:40 am Keep Yankton Beautiful (Amanda Johnson)  
8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

**Thursday, January 24**  
7:40 am Ykn Chamber (Carmen Schramm)  
8:20 am Ykn Conv/Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)

## 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.

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.

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 inspectors 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 in-situ 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 Liliias 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 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

From Page 1

will probably take more than one year to get over the trend line (for corn production).

Taylor spoke of severe drought cycles running every 89 years. The worst recorded years in the western Corn Belt have fallen in 1847 and 1936.

"Look out for 2025," he said. "If there is a year like the Dust Bowl this century, this year (2025) is the most likely."

In regards to the more immediate future, he displayed satellite pictures from Monday morning. He showed the falling levels of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, which has limited shipping for corn going down the river and fertilizer back upstream.

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](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

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**MORNING COFFEE**  
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7:40 am Keep Yankton Beautiful (Amanda Johnson)  
8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

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**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Luther O. Nielson**  
11:00 AM, Wednesday  
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