the midwest

Public Health Clinics To Expand In S.D.

SIOUX FALLS (AP) - The Supreme Court's upholding of the federal health care law has cleared the way for public health clinics in South Dakota to expand.

The federally funded community clinics are primarily for people who do not have health insurance, or live in communities that can't support a private clinic. The Argus Leader reports that the 44 clinics in South Dakota treated 58,000 patients last year.

Community Health Care Association of the Dakotas CEO Scot Graff says expansion of the system would have been in jeopardy had the Supreme Court overturned the health care law. He says new clinics are planned in Huron, De Smet, Flandreau and Yankton.

Fire Destroys Main Street Bar In Platte

PLATTE (AP) — A weekend fire destroyed a Main Street business in the southeast South Dakota city of Platte.

The fire at Shorty's Bar broke out about 5 a.m. Saturday and took firefighters about seven hours to put out. No one was hurt.

The cause was not immediately determined and police declined to tell *The Daily Republic* newspaper whether the fire is considered suspicious or accidental. The state fire marshal's office will be investigat-

ing. Two other businesses suffered minor smoke and water damage.

Men Sentenced For Shooting At Farmstead

 $\rm ONIDA~(AP)$ — Two farmhands from South Africa were sentenced Monday to one year in prison for the shooting of another man at a party near Onida last November.

Zane Van Der Merwe and Stephan Van Der Berg pleaded guilty earlier to attempted aggravated assault. Authorities say Gregorio Garcia was seriously injured in the shooting. KCCR radio reports that Judge John Brown ordered the men to pay

nearly \$24,000 combined in restitution.

Prosecutors say when Garcia showed up at the party, the 21-year-old Van Der Merwe and 32-year-old Van Der Berg took shotguns outside to try to force him to leave. Van Der Merwe and Garcia fought and Garcia was wounded when the shotgun went off. Brown called the incident a tragedy, fueled by alcohol and guns.

West Nile Virus Found In 4 Nebraska Counties

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - State public health officials say West Nile virus has shown up in four Nebraska counties.

Nebraska Health and Human Services says mosquitoes in Adams and Sheridan counties have tested positive for the virus. So have birds in Madison and Phelps counties.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus from feeding on an infected bird.

Officials urge people to take precautions, including using an insect repellant, wearing long sleeves and pants while outside, especially at dusk and dawn, and draining standing water where mosquitoes can breed.

West Nile virus has flu-like symptoms. Symptoms of the more se-rious West Nile encephalitis include inflammation of the brain and paralysis.

S.D. Crime Statistics For 2011 Released

PIERRE (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says crime statistics for 2011 show that South Dakota remains a relatively safe place to live.

There were 16 homicide and negligent manslaughter arrests last year, about average for the state. Sex offense arrests were up slightly, as were assaults. Drug arrests jumped 18 percent. Burglary arrests were down, along with fraud and robbery arrests.

The report says 5,775 South Dakotans were arrested for driving under the influence in 2011, almost equal to 2010 but a big drop from the average of 6,556 the previous three years.

1 Person Dead, 2 Wounded In Omaha Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Authorities say one person has died and two others have been wounded in a southeast Omaha shooting. Omaha television station KETV reports police received a call

about a shooting at an apartment just before 4 a.m. Monday. Details about the shooting, including the names of those in-

volved, have not been released. No arrests have been reported.

Nebraska **GOP Hopeful Targeted In New Ad**

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. - A new television ad from Nebraska Democratic Party portrays federal grazing leases held by Republican U.S. Senate hopeful Deb Fischer's family as a welfare handout.

Democratic Party Chairman-elect Vince Powers on Monday unveiled the statewide television ad that accuses Fischer of benefiting from a deal that less than 1 percent of Nebraska ranchers receive.

The 30-second ad, filled with ranch imagery and mooing cows, casts Fischer as a "millionaire rancher" with a "sweetheart deal" on the land leases. It concludes: "Tell welfare rancher Deb Fischer to cut wasteful spending, not profit from it."

Fischer, a Nebraska state senator, is locked in a high-profile U.S. Senate race with Democrat Bob Kerrey, a former Nebraska governor and former U.S. senator looking to reclaim his old seat. Republicans and Democrats have both identified the seat as one of their highest priorities in the November general election.



Fischer, of Valentine, has faced criticism for her family's participation in the federal grazing program. Her family's ranching corporation pays \$4,700 to graze cattle for seven months on federal land, about \$110,000 less than the market rate for leasing private land in Cherry County. Republicans say

the accusation distorts the family's true cost of grazing, which includes federal grazing permits, fencing requirements and other regulations. Public grazing also helps lower the federal government's land-maintenance costs, Fischer's supporters say.

"The Democrats have launched a false and misleading smear campaign to distract voters from Bob Kerrey's strong support for Obamacare and government-run health care in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling," Fischer campaign spokesman Daniel Keylin said.

"They're attacking Deb Fischer because they know she'll repeal Obamacare, support a balanced budget amendment, and she won't be another vote for the failed economic policies of Barack Obama, Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi."

The winner of the Nebraska contest will replace U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, a Democrat who is not seeking re-election. Nelson introduced a measure in June that would increase fees ranchers pay to graze livestock on federal lands — a move that would hit the Fischer family's pocketbook if approved. The measure would require federal grazing fees be comparable to those on private land and end what Nelson called a federal grazing subsidy.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation took issue with the ad, saying it oversimplifies a complex land-management program and creates the impression that it's a form of welfare.

"This particular ad does a disservice to the many hard working Nebraska farm families who participate in these types of programs by failing to adequately share all the facts about these types of programs," said Steve Nelson, the group's president.

Truck Driver Charged In **Deaths Of 2 Boys In Tent**

BY JAMES MACPHERSON

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — A North Dakota man accused of killing two young brothers from Texas when he drove over their tent at a campground after losing control of his speeding pickup truck was charged Monday with manslaughter and drunken driving.

Juan Acosta is also charged with reckless endangerment and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, Bottineau County prosecutor Swain Benson said.

The 30-year-old was arrested after the Sunday crash at the Hahn's Bay Campground at Lake Metigoshe in Bottineau, near the Canadian border. The accident also injured the children's father and another boy.

"He was driving too fast on a campground road, lost control and ran over the tent and crashed into a tree," Highway Patrol Trooper Capt. Gary Orluck said.

The crash killed 5-year-old Alaries Ruiz and his 9-year-old brother, Cyris Ruiz. Their 28-year-old father, Juan Ruiz, was flown to a hospital in Minot, 85 miles southwest of the campground, where he was treated for serious but not life-threatening injuries, Orluck said. The boys' friend, 9-year-old Anthony Tabarez Jr., of Newburg, has minor injuries, he said.

Acosta, of Newburg, was being held in the Bottineau County jail Monday and is expected to appear in court Tuesday. Benson didn't immediately know if Acosta had an attorney, and there was no answer Monday evening at a phone listing for him.

The brothers had traveled from their home in El Paso, Texas, to visit their father who worked in the oil patch region of North Dakota. Their bodies were sent to Bismarck for autopsies and their mother, Sandy Hernandez, was heading to North Dakota on Monday.

Orluck said Ruiz knew the driver of the truck who, along with his two passengers, had been staying at the camp-

site too. "We have an indication that they were all camping together and all par-ties were at least acquaintances," Orluck said.

The campground is located less than two miles from the Canadian border, and within the Turtle Mountain State Forest, a 12-square-mile parcel that is among the most-wooded areas of North Dakota, a prairie state.

State Forester Larry Kotchman said the 25-unit campground was closed immediately after the crash.

"We are deeply saddened by this. It is very tragic," Kotchman said.

Neb. Man Convicted Of Perjury Now Running For Office

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln insurance agent said he's pressing on with his bid for re-election to a third term on a natural resources board, despite his upcoming sentencing for perjury and other legal challenges he's facing.

Larry Hall is in the midst of bankruptcy, his insurance license is under review, and he owes an insurance company that bought his former company more than \$55,000.

But Hall, 67, told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that after talking with his supporters, he intends to remain on the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District board and press on with his campaign for a third term.

"At this time, I do not intend to resign, and look forward to serving another term if the voters re-elect me," Hall said.

Hall pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor perjury charge in June. He will be sentenced on Aug. 24 for making false statements under oath during the legal dispute over the 2007 sale of his company, Associated Insurance Managers, to the McCashland-Kirby Insurance Agency.

McCashland-Kirby sued Hall for allegedly violating a term of the sale prohibiting him from selling to his former customers for four years.

Court records say Hall tried to terminate the contract with McCashland-Kirby in February 2009 and formed a new agency called AIM Insurance. Hall used his original logo, website and email, and went after some of his previous customers he sold with the business

