

South Dakota

State Sen. Rhoden Will Run For U.S. Senate

BY CHET BROKAW
 Associated Press

PIERRE — State Sen. Larry Rhoden, a longtime leader in the South Dakota Legislature, said Tuesday he will challenge former Gov. Mike Rounds for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate next year.

Rhoden has long been mentioned as a possible candidate by some Republicans who believe Rounds is not conservative enough on tax and spending issues. But Rounds, considered the front-runner, holds a substantial edge in name recognition in the race for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, who is not seeking re-election after three terms.

Rhoden, 54, a rancher and custom welder from Union Center in sparsely populated western South Dakota, said he will formally announce his candidacy Wednesday in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. He said he knows he will have to campaign heavily in more populous eastern South Dakota, where he is not well known.

Rhoden has been a state legislator since 2001, serving as majority leader in the House for four years before being elected in 2008 to the Senate, where he is majority whip. He said that experience demonstrates he has the backbone to change the way things are done.

"Given the situation we're in at the national level with the national debt and the federal government basically out of

control, it's going to take some strong people with strong will and a strong backbone to do something that's going to make a meaningful difference," Rhoden told The Associated Press. "I think my experience in the Legislature and leadership positions have given me that kind of character so I can do something."

Rhoden said people have been urging him for more than a year to run for the U.S. Senate. Asked how he would differ from Rounds, Rhoden said he will let Rounds "define what he would do and how he would do it."

Rounds said he's been friends with Rhoden for years and the two worked together while Rounds was governor and Rhoden was a House member.

"He was one of my best supporters in the Legislature. I could always count on him to work with me on budgets and projects," Rounds said.

Asked about criticism of his record on budget issues, Rounds said the Legislature passed budgets that spent more than he had recommended five of his eight years as governor.

As a state lawmaker, Rhoden has been considered a conservative on spending and other issues, including gun rights.

Rhoden said the federal government has failed to control spending and deal with other issues, such as immigration



Rhoden

and border control. "Somehow we need to change that way of thinking and get back to the principles our founding fathers believed in, in limited government and personal responsibility," Rhoden said. "It sounds pretty lofty, but maybe I'm just naive enough to believe we can do that."

He acknowledged that Rounds is the front-runner, but said he believes he can compete with the former governor in the primary.

Former South Dakota State University political science professor Bob Burns said it has been evident for some time that some conservative candidate would emerge to challenge Rounds in the primary, largely because of discontent with Rounds' budget policies and his refusal to sign a pledge not to raise taxes.

Rounds is a formidable candidate because he was a popular governor from 2003 to 2010, Burns said.

"Governor Rounds has near 100 percent name recognition. He left the governor's post with high approval ratings and continues to have the Mr. Nice Guy image," Burns said.

Rhoden's challenge will force Rounds to spend money in a primary when he would rather save for the general election, Burns said, adding that Rounds is unlikely to adopt more conservative positions just to win a primary.

Some Republicans had hoped Rep. Kristi Noem would run for U.S. Senate, but last month she announced she will seek re-election to the state House.

Nebraska Cash Reserve To Hit All-Time High

BY GRANT SCHULTE
 Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — An upswing in state tax revenue will push Nebraska's rainy-day fund to an all-time high, prompting Gov. Dave Heineman to renew his call Tuesday for tax relief when lawmakers reconvene next year.

Nebraska Tax Commissioner Doug Ewald said revenues in the last fiscal year will bring the state's cash reserve to \$679 million, the largest in state history in terms of dollars.

The tax commissioner's office reported that net revenues came in just shy of \$4.1 billion during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, about 1.3 percent higher than the state's unofficial forecast from two months earlier.

"I think it's probably indicative that the economy is recovering," Ewald said.

The announcement came as Nebraska lawmakers embark on a study of the state's tax system. The newly formed Nebraska Tax Modernization Committee is slated to meet on Wednesday, with a focus on the state's sales taxes.

Committee members are expected to travel the state later this year for a series of public-input hearings.

Heineman, a Republican, said in a statement Tuesday that lawmakers should now focus on passing new tax cuts for Nebraska residents, given the large cash reserve and the improved economy.

"Tax relief should be the top priority of the next legislative session," he said.

The \$679 million represents a little more than 17 percent of the state revenue that's expected during the current fiscal year, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office. Nebraska's emergency cash reserve reached about 15 percent in 2007, just before the recession, and then fell because lawmakers tapped the fund when the economy tanked.

Sen. Heath Mello, chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, said the additional money will likely be used for some type

of tax reform. But Mello, who also sits on the tax committee, stressed that lawmakers hadn't yet delved into their review of Nebraska's tax climate.

"The Legislature made the fiscally responsible decision in rebuilding the cash reserve," Mello said. "When we did that, we were anticipating that we'd utilize the cash reserve for responsible tax reform proposals next year. This doesn't change our perspective."

Another tax committee member, Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha, pointed to state-level budget cuts in recent years that led to the elimination of aid for cities and counties. Nordquist said some local governments, as a result, have been forced to raise property taxes. He cited Douglas County's vote on Tuesday to raise taxes to help fill a \$3 million budget shortfall.

Nordquist also argued that lawmakers shouldn't base changes in Nebraska's tax

structure on short-term revenue gains.

"Nebraska is a great state for business and has a strong cash reserve, so let's focus on property tax relief," Nordquist said.

The increase in the last fiscal year was mostly driven by net individual income taxes and net corporate income taxes, which came in nearly 13 percent and nearly 20 percent higher than expected, respectively. Net sales-and-uses taxes came in less than half a percent below the projections, while net miscellaneous tax receipts were nearly 3 percent above.

Nebraska's net tax revenues in June came in nearly \$28 million above expectations set by the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board, which predicts state revenue. The state Department of Revenue reported \$390 million in tax collections in June, compared to the \$362 million that the board had projected.

The new state budget went into effect on July 1. Earlier this year, lawmakers voted to move \$53 million in excess tax revenue for the budget that's now under way.

S.D. Man Gets 50 Years In Fatal Crash

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been sentenced to 50 years in prison for causing a fatal wreck while trying to elude police in a stolen SUV.

Judge Patricia Riepel on Monday gave 20-year-old Kyle Jones the maximum possible term for manslaughter, the most serious charge he pleaded guilty to in April. She said Jones' misbehavior in jail since his arrest factored into the severity of his sentence, noting that he put a corrections officer in a choke hold and had been involved in incidents involving razors and tattoos.

"I think he has a long way to go for redemption," she said.

Authorities said Jones was driving a stolen Chevy Suburban on March 1, 2012, when he ran head-on into a van at an intersection, killing Jade Thie, a 33-year-old married father of two young children. A police supervisor called off the pursuit moments before the collision because of unsafe speeds, which authorities said topped 80 mph.

About 30 of Thie's friends and family members were in the courtroom Monday and many applauded upon hearing the sentence. Many were dressed in yellow and green tie-dyed shirts depicting ears of corn, which they said was Thie's favorite shirt.

"You, young man, have given us all a life sentence," Jade's father, Toby Thie, told Jones during the sentencing hearing.

Jones apologized in court, saying "every day I have guilt." Defense attorneys unsuccessfully argued for a lighter sentence. Jones will be about 44 when he first becomes eligible for parole.

Riepel sentenced Jones to a two-year suspended sentence for an aggravated eluding charge he pleaded guilty to and ordered him to pay more than \$12,000 in restitution and more than \$9,000 in legal fees, fines and court costs.

Woman Gets Prison For Faking License

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A woman accused of pretending to be a licensed psychologist in Nebraska has been sentenced to four years in prison.

U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg says Annette Crawley, also known as Kenya Sade Bryant, was sentenced Tuesday for health care fraud and false claims.

Prosecutors say Crawley, who formerly lived in Missouri, created a new identity to obtain a Nebraska license and to obtain employment. Between October 2011 and July 2012, she is accused of using her fake name to work at several behavioral service centers in the state.

Records show Crawley treated more than 200 patients at one center and illegally conducted psychological evaluations that were partially paid for by Medicaid, the Social Security Administration and the state of Nebraska.

Sioux Falls Getting \$1.2M For Expansion

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Officials in Sioux Falls say they're receiving a \$1.2 million federal grant to help spur an industrial expansion in northeast part of the city.

The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration grant will be used to extend Bahnson Avenue from East 60th Street North to East Benson Road.

City officials say Bahnson Avenue will run through the heart of Sioux Empire Development Park 8 and open up more than 270 acres of land for new development.

Mayor Mike Huether says the award will help the city expand its local economy, open up more areas for development and improve the city's connections to interstate highways.

Neb. Man Dies In Motorcycle Accident

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities are trying to determine what caused the motorcycle accident that killed a 29-year-old Norfolk man.

The *Norfolk Daily News* reports Brandon Blum died Monday night after the collision around 8 p.m.

Norfolk Police Capt. Michael Bauer says Blum was driving his motorcycle east on Omaha Avenue when a car began to merge into the lane he was in.

Blum drove up on the median and flew off the motorcycle. Bauer says that Blum slid underneath an oncoming 1997 Chevrolet Suburban and his motorcycle struck the SUV.

Blum died at the scene of the accident.

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Exploring Swamps and Wetlands

Wetlands are areas of land that are covered by water at least part of the year. Wetland habitats include freshwater and salt water marshes, wet meadows and vernal pools. They are some of the most productive places on earth. They are defined by the type of soil and plants found and the presence of water.

GREAT EGRET

CLAPPER RAIL

CRAYFISH

HARRIER HAWK

Wetlands are important because they:

- Provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Absorb and slow excess runoff during rainy seasons and help prevent floods.
- Filter toxins and wastes out of water.
- Provide protection and nourishment for the young of many species.
- Provide a resting place for migratory birds.
- Provide a natural area where humans can go for relaxation and recreation.

A wetland is like each of these things. Match the description to each item.

A wetland is like a pillow because

A wetland is like a whisk because

A wetland is like a cereal box because

A wetland is like a sponge because

a. it absorbs water.
 b. it provides food.
 c. it is a resting place for migratory birds.
 d. it provides shelter for wildlife.
 e. it filters impurities from the water.
 f. it helps clean the environment.
 g. it mixes nutrients and oxygen in the water.

Water Collage

Look through the newspaper for headlines and articles about water. These can include rivers, lakes, oceans, streams and the watershed. Make a collage poster using these articles.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Swamps

Swamps are wetlands that are always covered with water and have lots of trees, grasses and wildlife. Connect the dots to discover one of the most famous swamp creatures.

These are the largest reptiles in North America. They are believed to be over 200 million years old. Once nearly extinct, they can live between 35 to 50 years in the wild.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Dig into Reading at Your Local Library!

Miss Viola Swamp is the meanest substitute teacher ever. She appears in class one day after a classroom of students are not so nice to their teacher. Did something sinister happen to their teacher? The students begin to wonder!

Unscramble the title of this book. Then, check it out at your local library this summer! —Bart Bookworm

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read age-appropriate texts in a variety of genres.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

WETLANDS
REPTILES
WILDLIFE
SWAMPS
FILTER
PILLOW
CEREAL
SPONGE
WATER
MOUSE
RAINY
CLEAN
SOIL
WISK
WET

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE KID SCOOP LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Little Known Facts

Look through today's newspaper and find three to five facts that you think not too many people know. Create a question for each fact. See how many people know these facts.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Ask questions to demonstrate comprehension.

Write On!

If I Were a Teacher

Send your story to: Press & Dakotan c/o Noelle Schlechter 319 Walnut Street Yankton, SD 57078 605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: August 4 Published: Week of September 1 Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Talking To Frogs

What would you do if you could communicate with frogs?

It is not easy being green. That's what a frog would say. I would tell the frog that everyone loves the color green and that we want you to stay green and be happy.

Kayla, 3rd grade

I think talking to a frog would be very interesting. You would learn what it is like to live in a pond and be able to make giant jumps. I would ask all sorts of questions. What do you like to eat? What games do you play? When do you go to sleep? How do you manage to stay wet all the time?

Josh, 5th grade

Ever wonder what frogs are saying? Can they really communicate with humans? Frogs can communicate with a wide variety of sounds, songs and calls that they use for warnings, mating and defense. The sounds we hear are called "ribbing." They let us know where they are and it's easier to find them that way. But, they do not really talk our language.

Rayne, 3rd grade

I would invent a special language to talk to frogs. They would tell me how hard it was to find food and how their favorite time was late at night when they could make lots of noise.

Michael, 4th grade