

# PRESS & DAKOTAN

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# Carlson Joins Neb. Governor Race

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Pledging to campaign "not as a politician, but as statesman," Nebraska state Sen. Tom Carlson announced his candidacy for governor on Friday.

The 71-year-old Republican pointed to his experience in the Legislature, including his committee leadership positions focused on agriculture and the state's natural resources. He also invoked his Christian faith, and promised to govern with integrity if elected.

"Those are characteristics that I believe I have, and I think they provide strength in carrying out the responsibilities of the governor of the state," Carlson said during a news conference at the Capitol, while his family and crowd members stood watch.

Carlson said he plans to focus his campaign on public safety, education and developing roads and bridges. He also said he would work to ensure services for residents who can't take care of themselves, while pushing for policies that encourage able-bodied people to work.

Carlson jumps into a GOP primary field for governor that could become crowded. Another Republican, state Sen. Charlie Janssen of Fremont, announced in February that he would seek the party nomination for governor. Charles City businessman Charles Herbster could declare that he's joining the race as early as Monday. Former Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy had

**"I pledge to you that I will run this campaign not as a politician, but as a statesman. I'll treat the candidates with the respect they deserve, and I'll answer any concerns with honesty and integrity."**

STATE SEN. TOM CARLSON

also confirmed his intention to run, but dropped out after resigning from office for improper use of a state cellphone.

A fifth Republican hopeful for governor, former Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood, withdrew from the race after his wife, Mandi, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Carlson said Friday that he would have supported Flood, had he stayed in the race, because he believes they agree on many issues.

Asked to contrast himself with Janssen, Carlson said: "I've got more experience. I've held leadership roles in the Legislature, and I think that's an indication that my colleagues who worked me believe I can handle responsibilities, and so they've elected me to these positions."

Janssen, 42, has emphasized his conservative reputation on both fiscal and social issues, particularly immigration, gun rights and taxes.

As a lawmaker, Carlson said he was most proud of his work on state water issues, including an effort to clear vegetation out of the streambeds of the Platte and Republican rivers.

He also pointed to his work to break

stalemates in the Legislature, most recently with a compromise proposal on a new sentencing range for juveniles who committed murder. Lawmakers disagreed over an appropriate minimum prison term, but eventually adopted Carlson's proposal to set it at 40 years to life.

"I pledge to you that I will run this campaign not as a politician, but as a statesman," Carlson said. "I'll treat the candidates with the respect they deserve, and I'll answer any concerns with honesty and integrity."

Carlson was elected to the Legislature in 2006 and re-elected in 2010. He serves as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, and was previously chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He is ineligible to run for the Legislature in 2014 because of term limits.

Among the Democratic prospects for governor, former University of Nebraska Regent Chuck Hassebrook has formally launched a campaign. State Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha has embarked on a statewide "listening tour" while pondering a run.

## Last Of Inmates Caught In Lower Brule

LOWER BRULE (AP) — The U.S. Marshal's Service says the last of the four inmates who escaped from a jail in Lower Brule has been captured.

Authorities say 21-year-old Troy Fairbanks was caught early Friday morning in Lower Brule.

Fairbanks and three others broke out of the jail Tuesday night. The other three were caught earlier.

Fairbanks was being held by the Lower Brule Tribe on allegations of domestic assault.

## Company Suing Former State Legislator

MITCHELL (AP) — An insurance company is suing a former state legislator to recover nearly \$10,000 in medical expenses over a mishap during a parade.

The *Daily Republic* reports that State Farm Insurance is suing 65-year-old Edwin W. Olson, of Mitchell, for expenses it paid on behalf of Davison County Auditor Susan Kiepe, who fell off the back of a Corvette Olson was driving in the 2010 Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo Parade.

The lawsuit says Olson stepped on the gas, causing the vehicle to lunge forward with Kiepe tumbling off the back and onto the pavement. Kiepe was taken to the hospital and treated for cracked ribs and other injuries.

Olson has not yet filed a response, and a current telephone listing for him could not be found.

## Food-Borne Illness Sickens 23 In Neb.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The number of confirmed cases of a rare food-borne illness in Nebraska has climbed to 23 as state and federal public health agencies try to figure out where it's coming from.

An outbreak of cyclosporiasis is confined mostly to eastern Nebraska and could be linked to Iowa where 45 people were confirmed sick as of Friday.

Iowa's public health medical director Dr. Patricia Quinlisk says fresh vegetables may be the culprit but the investigation continues.

Consumers should wash fruits and vegetables to reduce the risk of getting the illness, which causes diarrhea lasting an average of 57 days. It's caused by a parasite carried in human feces that contaminates food.

The illness is rare in Nebraska. No cases were reported in the last four years.

## Tree-Planting Event Set For Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Volunteers in Sioux Falls will be planting hundreds of trees this fall to replace some of those lost in a three-day ice storm in April.

The "Tree the Town" event will focus on planting trees at the homes of disabled, low-income and elderly residents. Helpline Center spokeswoman Sara Carothers says as many as 1,000 trees might be planted on Oct. 26.

The Helpline Center is teaming up with the Sioux Empire United Way, KELO-TV, *Argus Leader* Media and the Washington Pavilion on the project.

The storm hit South Dakota's largest city on April 9. Cleanup of downed trees and branches didn't wrap up until two months later.

## Man Pleads Not Guilty To Clinic Break In

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Kadoka man has pleaded not guilty to breaking into an Indian Health Service clinic in Wanblee and stealing prescription painkillers.

Twenty-year-old Lynn Standing Bear is charged in federal court with larceny. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that he is being held without bond in Rapid City.

Authorities allege that Standing Bear stole 1,100 hydrocodone pills from the Pine Ridge Reservation clinic on July 5.

## 2 Charged In North Platte Stabbings

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Two residents of a North Platte group home for at-risk boys have been charged with stabbing two workers there.

They were arraigned on Wednesday and each charged with attempted first-degree murder, use of a deadly weapon, escape and theft. Bail was set at \$2 million each.

One of them, 18-year-old Keenan Lambert, of Miller, was a state ward who had been placed at the Nebraska Youth Center by Buffalo County authorities. The other boy, a 16-year-old from Hastings, was placed there by Adams County authorities. The Associated Press doesn't routinely name juveniles accused of crimes.

Authorities say the two stabbed Diana Johns and Robin Schneider early Tuesday morning before fleeing in Schneider's car. They were captured in Dawson County as they traveled down Interstate 80. The two women were hospitalized.

## Settlement Proposed In Bankruptcy

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The court-ordered trustee who is overseeing the largest personal bankruptcy in South Dakota history has settled allegations that friends and family helped debtor Kent Vucurevich hide assets from creditors seeking as much as \$70 million.

Lawyer Lee Ann Pierce has asked the court to approve a settlement of \$600,000 for the Sioux Falls businessman who is the son of Rapid City banker and philanthropist John Vucurevich.

Any of 45 creditors can object to the settlement before Aug. 1. The agreement disallows them from making claims. However, University of South Dakota law professor Jon Van-Patten says Kent Vucurevich still could be ordered to pay creditors if he acquires any future assets.

# Kearney Selected For New Veterans Home

BY NELSON LAMPE  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Kearney's mayor said Friday that his community approached the competition for the new state veterans home with two guiding thoughts: What's the best economic proposal for Kearney?

The approach paid off, as Kearney edged out three other cities' bids to be home to the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home, Gov. Dave Heineman announced Friday. "We didn't do any lobbying. We said to each other, 'Let the process work.'"

Mayor Stan Clouse said after Heineman announced the news during a news conference in Kearney, a community of about 31,000 residents that is about 165 miles west of Lincoln.

Kearney's proposal bested those from Grand Island, Hastings and North Platte, which all were submitted on June 11.

"This was not an easy decision," Heineman said in a news release issued earlier in

the day. "We have four outstanding communities who submitted outstanding proposals. The proposals were financially stronger and better than we anticipated."

Clouse said the governor contacted him Thursday afternoon to share the good news and talk about the process for announcing Kearney's selection.

"We're all pretty happy here," Clouse said. "This is a big deal." The \$121 million project will replace an outdated, 225-bed facility in Grand Island. The current home in Grand Island has about 375 employees, and the new home is expected to generate millions in fresh economic activity.

Grand Island Mayor Jay Vavrick said the news was disappointing for residents and local veterans, as well as the volunteer committee that helped put together the city's proposal.

"To see this move to another community is so very disappointing," he said. "It's a tough day."

The state's site selection committee was composed of three state department

heads: Department of Labor and Economic Development Director Cathy Lang, Division of Veterans' Homes Director John Hilgert, and Department of Administrative Services Director Carlos Castillo.

Nine major categories were evaluated in each proposal: physical factors, utilities and infrastructure, cultural factors, environmental factors, community services, regulatory factors, workforce factors, community support factors and program enhancements.

Kearney's score was 1033, and was followed by Hastings at 977, Grand Island at 889 and North Platte's 855, the committee said.

"In central Nebraska we have friends and colleagues in each community," Clouse said. "We knew it was a close decision."

The Kearney City Council committed \$8.5 million in direct funding and utility cost reductions for the project. The commitment came on top of \$1 million approved by Buffalo County officials, \$100,000 from an economic development group, and \$500,000 promised by a veter-

ans' memorial committee.

Grand Island has promised at least \$3.3 million, Hastings offered more than \$8 million as part of its bid and North Platte committed at least \$4 million.

The replacement facility had to be located at least two hours' drive from existing veterans homes in Norfolk and Bellevue — a requirement all four cities met. The home will require at least 45 acres and will have a workforce large enough to handle 225 residents in a long-term care facility.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee and the governor have earmarked \$47 million from the state's reserves for the project, which allows the state to apply for \$80 million to \$100 million in federal funds to help with construction.

The home will be situated on the northeast side of Kearney, near the Nebraska National Guard Armory.

With the administrative and funding processes ahead, Clouse said, he doesn't expect the home to be in operation until 2018.

## East Coast Vacation Ad Places Mount Rushmore In ND

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The famous faces of Mount Rushmore remain in western South Dakota's Black Hills, not in North Dakota as one vacation mailer produced by marketers on the East Coast claims.

The AAA advertisement for "Great American Vacations" features a postcard of the chiseled presidential visages of Jefferson, Lincoln, Washington and Teddy Roosevelt emblazoned with "North Dakota." The Mid-Atlantic AAA club sent the mailing to thousands of members in Delaware; Maryland; Washington, D.C.; and parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Club spokesman Lon Anderson told *The Forum* newspaper that he's embarrassed about the mistake and that the marketing team is "humbled by the error." He said he did not see the ad before it went out and would have noticed the mistake.

The mistake is fairly com-

mon, according to North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman. Officials in her office field questions related to Mount Rushmore quite often, she said.

"This just goes to show people still think of us as the Dakotas," she said.

Most people have been good-humored about the ad, AAA North Dakota spokesman Gene LaDoucer said.

For example, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem posted the ad on his Facebook page and quipped, "I would like to thank our good friends in South Dakota for this very generous gift to North Dakota!"

**Thank You**  
We have been down many roads in life. This road of cancer has probably been the hardest. We are thankful to all of you who have helped us with calls, cards, prayers, visits, and thoughts of kindness. God has been good to us through all of you. As Harold continues his battle with cancer, we appreciate your continued prayers and concern.  
**Harold and Arda Hoffman**

## OBITUARIES

### Francis Uecker

Francis Gene Uecker, 75, of Wagner died Thursday July 11, 2013, at his home, the farm he was born on, northwest of Wagner, with his family at his side.

Memorial services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 16, at the United Methodist Church, Wagner. There will be a prayer service at 7 p.m. Monday at the church.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of the arrangements.

### Marjorie Haug

Marjorie Greenwood Weber Haug, 95, of Yankton, died Friday, July 12, 2013 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

To celebrate her life, the family will receive friends from 2-4 p.m., on Friday, July 19, 2013 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. Inurnment will be held later at the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

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