

Rounds Creates Leadership PAC To Help Like-Minded Lawmakers

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, like many freshmen Republicans in the upper chamber of Congress, has created a political action committee often used to raise a politician's profile and help get like-minded candidates elected.

The South Dakota lawmaker's team started fundraising with the Peter Norbeck Leadership PAC last month, said Rob Skjonsberg, the assistant treasurer of the committee who also served as Rounds' campaign manager during the 2014 race. Skjonsberg said the senator's team is focused more on the leadership PAC than Rounds' campaign committee, which had about \$30,300 of debt at the end of June.

Skjonsberg said the last six or eight weeks of the 2014 Senate campaign were a "battle." Rounds ultimately won handily in the November election. The senator doesn't face



Rounds

re-election until 2020, but Skjonsberg said they "fully intend to keep the majority in the U.S. Senate" and "want to do whatever we can do to help" candidates in the upcoming elections.

At least nine of the 12 freshmen Republican U.S. senators have a leadership PAC active for the 2016 election cycle, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Leadership PACs are often used to give contributions to other lawmakers to help secure a good committee post or build support for a leadership run, Viveca Novak, a spokeswoman for the Center for Responsive Politics said. The committees also can be used as another avenue for donations, she said.

Geoffrey Skelley, associate editor for Sabato's Crystal Ball,

a political analysis website run by the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, said "a very large number" of sitting senators have leadership PACs.

"If you can help (candidates) win, they will probably like you more and will probably be more inclined to work with you on issues that are important to you," he said.

John Thune, South Dakota's senior U.S. senator, formed the Heartland Values PAC in 2005, the year he was sworn into the Senate. Joshua Shields, campaign manager for Thune's 2016 re-election bid, said Thune sees the PAC as a way to support like-minded candidates who "share his common-sense conservative values" and maintain Republican majorities in Congress.

The Heartland Values PAC raised roughly \$1.5 million during the 2006 election cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Skjonsberg said there's not currently a fundraising goal for the Peter Norbeck Leadership

PAC. It hasn't yet reported fundraising to the Federal Election Commission.

Peter Norbeck was a U.S. senator from South Dakota and a former governor for the state. He played a key role in establishing the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the 1920s. He died in 1936.

Rounds, who also served as governor, called Norbeck "a great role model" shortly after his inauguration to the Senate in 2015.

The Norbeck PAC's launch event was a dinner with U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama as special guest, Skjonsberg said in an email. He said that a future event might include pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

"We are still fine tuning our creativity — no concerts or sporting events so far," he said in the email. "In the future, we hope to incorporate our favorite pastime — shotgun, roosters and ribeyes."

Appeals Court Reverses Drunken Driving Conviction

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A Wisner man's constitutional rights were violated when a police officer stopped him to gather information about someone else's possible criminal activity, then used the stop to convict him of drunken driving, the Nebraska Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday.

Adam Woldt, 26, was convicted last year of first offense drunken driving. He was sentenced to six months' probation and ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

Woldt was driving behind another truck that an officer pulled over in September 2013 while investigating an act of vandalism, according to court records. Woldt testified that the truck and officer's open car door was blocking his

path, so he began backing up to take a different route. The officer then held up his hand to signal Woldt to stop.

The officer testified that he wanted to ask Woldt if he had seen the other truck run over traffic cones on a Wisner street, but that he smelled alcohol when he got to Woldt's pickup truck and began a DUI investigation. Woldt failed field sobriety tests and his blood alcohol content was measured at .148, which is nearly twice the legal driving limit.

Throughout his trial and appeal, Woldt argued that none of the evidence gathered after he was stopped should have been allowed. He contended that because the officer had no suspicion of criminal activity when he stopped Woldt, his constitutional right to be free of unreasonable search and seizure had

been violated.

The appeals court agreed, even though it noted that "the degree of intrusion on Woldt's liberty interest was not great." It said the officer's desire to question Woldt and his concern for public safety didn't outweigh Woldt's constitutional right.

Cuming County Attorney Dan Bracht didn't immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment.

Woldt's attorney, Thomas Donner of West Point, said he was pleased by the ruling but hadn't had a chance to read it or speak to Woldt yet.

"Our position going in was that a suspicionless, warrantless search was not supported by the evidence in the case," Donner said.

Nuke Plant Shuts Down After Coolant Pump Leaks

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant has been shut down for repairs roughly a month after a planned outage for maintenance and refueling.

The Omaha Public Power District shut down the nuclear plant Monday after a water leak was discovered in one of Fort Calhoun's four reactor coolant

pumps after a seal failed.

The utility says the coolant water that leaked was contained inside the plant and treated.

A spokeswoman says Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors are monitoring the repairs.

Fort Calhoun sits along the Missouri River about 20 miles north of Omaha.

OPPD says the length of this outage will be determined by the repairs. If needed, the utility will buy electricity from other sources to maintain service.

OPPD has more than 360,000 customers in 13 counties in southeast Nebraska.

OBITUARIES

Alfred Stockholm

Funeral service for Alfred C. Stockholm, Jr., 86 of Springfield will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2015 at St. Vincent's Catholic Church in Springfield, with Pastor Ken Johnson officiating. Burial will be in the St. Vincent Catholic Cemetery, rural Springfield.

Visitation will be Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Springfield.

Alfred C. Stockholm Jr. was born April 20, 1929, to Alfred and Emma (Swenson) Stockholm in Niobrara, Neb. He died Sunday, July 19th, 2015, at the Good Samaritan Society in Tyndall at the age of 86 years.

He married Neva Jean Weisser on June 17, 1952. The couple had three children and made their home in Springfield. Alfred was a carpenter and cabinet maker for more than 60 years in the Springfield area including Wagner, Yankton, and Lake Andes. Operating his own business, he constructed homes, commercial buildings, school additions, and churches including St. Vincent's Catholic Church and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Springfield. A true craftsman, "Stocky" brought a custom touch to and took pride in his building projects.

Alfred served on the Springfield Volunteer Fire Department and Springfield City Council for more than two decades. He was a past member of the Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in the construction of the Springfield City Swimming Pool made possible with volunteers. Alfred continued to make cabinets into his 80's and was regularly seen about town with his beloved dog Zipper.

Thankful for having shared in his life are two sons Doug Stockholm and

Robert 'Tubby' Ekeren

Robert "Tubby" Ekeren, age 83, of Yankton, South Dakota died Sunday, July 19, 2015 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton. Memorial services are 2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 24, 2015 at Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill, South Dakota with Reverend Velma Larson and Reverend George Ekeren officiating.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the memorial service at church. Inurnment with military honors will be at the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota at a later date.

Robert Ekeren was born on June 27, 1932 (in the morning) to Olaf and Lucille (Warden) Ekeren in rural Mission Hill, South Dakota.

wife Debbie of Springfield; Greg Stockholm and his wife Sandy of Springfield; and daughter Becky and husband Scott Settje of Cumberland, Rhode Island; brother-in-law Marvin Alport; sister-in-law Rita (Weisser) Hajek; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren, and many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

Alfred was preceded in death by his wife Neva, his parents, five sisters, Phynus (Herbert) Thompson, Evelyn (Amos) Hoerger, Betty (Bob) Dixon, Darlene (Marvin) Alport, and Violet (Richard) Dirks; and a grandson Simon Lee Stockholm.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Springfield Volunteer Fire Department or the Springfield City Swimming Pool.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 22, 2015

Mary Waldner

Mary Kay Waldner, 72, of Redfield died Monday, July 20, 2015, at Golden Living Center in Redfield.

Mary Kay was cremated and her Mass of Christian



Ekeren

He graduated from Gayville High School in Gayville, South Dakota in 1950. Tubby then farmed with his family for several

years before enlisting in the United States Army in January 1953. He was stationed in Germany as a Morse code interpreter and sharp shooter during the Korean War. After his discharge, Tubby worked in California and Wyoming for a few years. On March 17, 1957, Robert married Rose Bogner in Yankton. After their marriage, they lived and farmed in the Yankton area and then Tubby started working for a fertilizer plant in Yank-

ton. He worked there for around 12 years and then started his own company painting houses. In 1984, Tubby and Rose moved to Lead, South Dakota where they managed Terry Peak Lodge for 15 years. After retirement, Tubby and Rose lived in Belle Fourche and then Deadwood. Rose passed away in April 2011 and then Tubby moved to Yankton to be closer to his family. Tubby was known for his witty sense of humor and loved to tell jokes. He enjoyed playing fast-pitch softball, baseball, pinocle, horseshoes and shuffle board. Tubby also loved hunting and fishing and hearing all the hunting stories from his children. He enjoyed going on road trips and camping at Yellowstone National Park. Tubby and Rose enjoyed wine making and canning, which they

were very proud to give most of it away. Tubby was also proud of his Norwegian heritage and his favorite baseball team, the St. Louis Cardinals.

Robert is survived by seven children: Russ (Janelle) Ekeren of Yankton, Terry Ekeren of Scotland, SD, Tom Ekeren of Deadwood, SD, Dan (Jana) Ekeren of Yankton, Pam Ekeren and fiancé, Bob Buehlmann of Sturgis, SD, Lonnie (Lynett) Ekeren of Garretson, SD and Barb Ekeren of Scotland, SD; 13 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; eight brothers and sisters; Maurice (Kay) Ekeren of Yankton, Darrell (June) Ekeren of Mission Hill, SD, Milford (Helen) Ekeren of Yankton, Marvin (Marilyn) Ekeren of Yankton, Bonnie Silvernail of Platte, SD, Dennis Ekeren (Connie Jensen) of Lead,

SD, Jim (Donna) Ekern of Titusville, FL and Judy (Bob) Hackett of Yankton; and many nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rose Ekeren; and two infant siblings, Sharon and Gene Ekeren.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Thursday, July 23, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

David A. Stanga, 49, of Yankton died unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, July 19, 2015 in Yankton. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 24, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton with the Rev. David Gunderson officiating. Burial will take place at a later date at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Sioux Falls. Visitation is from 5-8 p.m.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

David Stanga
10:30 AM, Friday
St. John's Lutheran Church
Yankton

Robert "Tubby" Ekeren
2:00 PM, Friday
Vangen Lutheran Church
Mission Hill, SD

Bonnie Wardell
10:30 AM, Saturday
St. Benedict Catholic Church
Yankton

Michael Ishmael
10:30 AM, Saturday
St. Vincent Catholic Church
Springfield, with burial in the

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Yazidis Forced To Flee Want Cemetery

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Members of a religious minority who say they were forced to flee their homes in Iraq by Islamic extremists want to establish a cemetery in Lincoln.

Shekh Hassan, speaking through an interpreter in his apartment, told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that local Yazidis used to send their dead back to Iraq for burial. But the 46-year-old said that option has become more difficult and dangerous now that many Yazidi cemeteries have been destroyed or overrun by the Islamic State group.

Nearly 300 Yazidi families live in Lincoln, and Hassan — considered a religious leader among Yazidi community — said many have asked him to help establish a cemetery for them.

"If we find a spot (in Lincoln), then we'll feel more at home," he said. "Then we can establish roots here."

The Islamic State group has killed many Yazidis, forced women and children into slavery and caused thousands to move away. Those who left maintain a deep connection to Yazidis still in the Middle East.

Hassan said that his aunt is currently in hiding and that his uncle recently tried to flee with his children, but suffered a heart attack during the journey. His young children are caring for him.

Hassan expressed feelings of guilt at not being to help his family in Iraq, but he said he sees an opportunity to help others by helping get a cemetery reserved for local Yazidis.

Farms Hit By Bird Flu Restocking Time

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — One of the first Iowa turkey farms to get bird flu is getting nearing the time at which birds can be restocked but most of the 77 farms affected are still weeks away from introduction of new flocks.

Iowa Department of Agriculture officials said Tuesday all farms have been cleared of dead chickens and turkeys but disposal of manure, compost and other waste continued at 18 farms.

All birds that died or were euthanized have been incinerated, buried or taken to landfills.

Iowa lost 34 million chickens and turkeys in the bird flu outbreak that began in mid-April. The last reported case was June 16.

One turkey farm in Calhoun County will finish a required 21-day fallow period this week and if tests remain negative may begin restocking.

Man Accused Of Murder Is Sentenced

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota homeless sex offender has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the killing of a Sioux Falls woman.

The 58-year-old Arthur Lee Brundige was sentenced Tuesday for a manslaughter charge. He pleaded guilty in May to the charge stemming from the strangulation death of 39-year-old Sabrina White.

A relative found White Nov. 25 dead in her apartment. Her death was initially ruled an unattended death, but an autopsy later determined she died by strangulation.

Some of White's acquaintances who had been at her apartment three days earlier told police they had left her place around 11 p.m. that night, but Brundige stayed.

Brundige is a registered sex offender for convictions in the 1980s.

SD Boy Scouts Heading To Japan

HURON (AP) — A group of South Dakota Boy Scouts is heading to Japan for a gathering of more than 30,000 Scouts from around the world.

KSFY-TV reports Troop 222 in Huron is the only South Dakota group headed to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree.

Boy Scouts from dozens of countries are expected to participate in the event scheduled for July 28 through Aug. 8. The event allows participants to learn about global issues, explore the environment, participate in community service activities and make friends from around the world.

Boy Scout Aaron Eckmann says he is looking forward to meeting Scouts from other countries. He plans to trade uniforms with them.

The stations reports the troop's trip came with a \$54,000 price tag. The troop raised the money through various fundraising efforts.

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www.heartlandhumanesociety.net
or call 605-664-4244 for more info

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