

Millionaire's New Test Rocket Reaches Orbit On First Attempt

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A multimillionaire's test rocket blasted off on its maiden voyage Friday and successfully reached orbit in a dry run for NASA's push to go commercial.

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket achieved Earth orbit nine minutes into the flight as planned, drawing praise from NASA, the White House and others eager for the company to start resupplying the International Space Station.

"This has really been a fantastic day," said an exuberant Elon Musk, SpaceX's founder. He said Friday's launch helps vindicate President Barack Obama's plan to give private companies the job of ferrying cargo and ultimately people to the space station, freeing up NASA to aim for true outer space.

"This bodes very well for the Obama

plan," said Musk, the co-founder of PayPal. "It shows that even a sort of small new company like SpaceX can make a real difference."

In a telephone news conference, Musk said celebratory margaritas were on his immediate radar. But he's already looking ahead to the next Falcon 9 launch this summer and, hopefully, the first cargo run to the space station next year. Astronauts could follow within three years of the company getting a contract from NASA, he said, and quite possibly average citizens in five to six years.

"This is the dawn of a new era in space exploration, I think a very exciting era and one which I think will lead to the democratization of space, making space accessible to everyone eventual-

ly," Musk said. "Yeah, I think this is really a historic moment."

SpaceX's brand new rocket soared off its launch pad into thin clouds at mid-afternoon, carrying a test version of the company's spacecraft, named Dragon. The goal was to put the capsule into a 155-mile-high orbit, which it did. The capsule will remain in orbit for a year before descending and burning up in the atmosphere.

"A near bull's-eye," Musk said. The first attempt to launch the 158-foot rocket was aborted in the final few seconds earlier in the afternoon because of questionable readings with the engine-ignition system.

NASA hopes to use the Falcon-Dragon combo for hauling supplies and possibly astronauts to the space sta-

tion, once the shuttles retire later this year or early next.

Hawthorne, Calif.-based SpaceX — one of several companies vying for NASA's business. It was founded eight years ago by Musk, 38, a South African-born entrepreneur.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden called Friday's launch "an important milestone in the commercial transportation effort" and said it puts the company a step closer to supplying the space station.

And the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy shot out this tweet: "what a show!"

"My e-mail box has gone bonkers," Musk said, "and my phone has been ringing off the hook."

Along with all the congratulations, there were cautionary words from critics like Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, who noted "this modest success" does not mean commercial companies are ready to step in and replace NASA.

Musk acknowledged Friday's flight to orbit does not mean the commercial space industry can do anything, anytime, but noted it should provide "a huge boost of confidence" for the industry.

The Planetary Society shares his assessment. "Hats off," the society said in a statement. "Today's flight of Falcon 9 could be the first small step toward relieving NASA launchers of the burden of low-Earth orbit, thus freeing the U.S. space agency to reach new worlds."

VOTE

From Page 1A

"We have sent out 125 absentee ballots, with about 120 returned," she said. "But one of the (Hutterite) colonies requested to vote absentee, and we got 51 ballots from the colony. That's about half the total."

"It's been relatively slow (for early voting) compared to other years, so I do think it will be a quiet election."

Charles Mix County voters are finding few races on the primary ballot, which has held down local interest, Meyerink said.

"The Democrats have the sheriff and county commission races," she said. "The Republicans will choose three at-large delegates to the state convention, along with the U.S. House, governor and state representative."

District 21, which includes Charles Mix County, features a Republican primary for the South Dakota House. GOP voters will choose two candidates from among James Schaefer of Kennebec, Lee Qualm of Platte and Kent Juhnke of Vivian.

The Democratic Party allows independent voters to cast ballots in its primary, which could boost the turnout somewhat, Meyerink said.

Charles Mix County has 2,924 registered Democrats; 2,018 registered Republicans and 537 registered independents.

In addition to Tuesday's primary election, Lake Andes voters are holding a separate city election, Meyerink said. Troy Myers, Steven "Ace" Nielsen and Mervin Durham are running for a two-year term as Ward II alderman.

In Bon Homme County, barely more than a dozen absentee ballots have been cast so far, said Auditor Tammy Brunken.

"It's been very light, about 14 or 15 absentee ballots so far. There aren't many items to vote on the ballot," she said. "Our ballot in Bon Homme County has just the U.S. House and governor's races for the Republicans, and the Democrats don't have anything at all for their primary."

However, Brunken is not letting down her guard when it comes to preparing for Tuesday's election.

"Even though we are expecting a light turnout, we are planning for 100 percent turnout," she said. "We ordered the number of ballots for the number of voters we have (on the registration lists)."

While the number of voters may be

down for the upcoming primary election, the number of candidates is looking up for the general election, Brunken said. The field could become even more crowded come Tuesday, the filing deadline for independent candidates.

Brunken noted more interest in the offices up for election.

"I think it's the economy," she said. "In some of the smaller communities, where there aren't a lot of job opportunities, people are looking at these offices as a way to stay closer to home rather than commute to Yankton or Mitchell."

The following is a round-up of primary races for area counties.

CHARLES MIX: Democrats have the only primary, deciding two races. For sheriff, Randy Thaler and Derek Laska, both of Lake Andes, seek the nomination. The District 1 county commission race pits Lake Andes residents Jack Soulek and Charon Asetoyer.

DOUGLAS: Republicans will decide two primary races. The sheriff's race features Tim Simonsen and Neal Moad of Armour and Troy Strid of Corsica. The auditor's race includes Gary Denke of Delmont, Diane Christensen of New Holland, and Jeanette Smith and Chareen Gerber, both of Armour.

HUTCHINSON: In the lone primary race, Republicans will choose from between Betty Bauer of Freeman and Jerome Hoff of Memo for District 1 county commissioner.

TURNER: Republicans will select two primary winners. For sheriff, Byron Nogelmeier faces Matthew Wetterling. For registrar of deeds, Carol Viet faces Lisa Carlson. All four candidates are from Parker.

UNION: Republicans will decide three primary races. The sheriff's race pits Dan Limoges of Elk Point against James Heeren of North Sioux City. The registrar of deeds race features Dana Foltz and Bindi Trometer, both of Elk Point. The District 5 county commission sends Milt Ustad of Beresford against Doug Maurstad of Alcester.

In addition to county and local races, Republicans will select a gubernatorial nominee from among Dave Knudson, Scott Munsterman, Dennis Daugaard, Ken Kruppe and Gordon Howie.

For the Democrats, Scott Heidepriem is the only candidate seeking the governor's office and will challenge the GOP winner.

Republicans will also select their nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives from among Kristi Noem, Blake Curd and Chris Nelson. The winner will face Democratic Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin and independent B. Thomas Marking.

As candidates make their final push

Clay County, Vermillion Voters Face Choices

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VERMILLION — The faces of Vermillion city government could change dramatically, or at least resemble musical chairs, following Tuesday's municipal election.

The impact of city races is even spilling over into the Clay County primary, also on Tuesday, as a current Vermillion alderman has decided to seek county office.

Clay County Auditor Ruth Bremer said the large number of candidates has created some interesting preparations for Tuesday's election.

"We have 14 different ballots because there is a race in every precinct in the city," she said. "Looking at the whole county, there are two ballots for the rural areas. Then there are 12 different ballots for the city, because they have races in each of the four precincts."

And that doesn't include the Republican primary for the U.S. House and governor's races.

Tuesday's outcome marks the final results for Vermillion city races, Bremer said. On the other hand, the primary will advance federal, state and county candidates to the November general election.

The Vermillion mayor's race pits Jack Powell, the current Northwest Ward alderman, against newcomer Nick Severson. A new mayor is guaranteed, as incumbent Dan Christopherson has chosen not to run for another term.

That set off a chain reaction, as Powell's alderman vacancy in the Northwest Ward has attracted candidates Tom Davies, a former city councilman, and Jim Wilson. The winner claims a four-year term.

In the Southeast Ward, a new alderman is guaranteed as incumbent Ray Hofman has passed up a re-election bid in favor of running for Clay County registrar of deeds.

The Southeast Ward voters will choose Hofman's council replacement from among Dennis Zimmerman, Kenneth (Andy) Anderson and John Erikson. The winner serves a four-year term.

Two other council races will be decided in Tuesday's election.

In the Central Ward, incumbent Mary Edelman is seeking re-election as alderman. She will face John Grayson for the four-year term.

And in the Northeast Ward, incumbent Kent Osborne faces challenger James Hoefelmeyer for the four-year seat on the council.

The Clay County primary features two elections, both for Democrats.

For registrar of deeds, the three-person Democratic race features Holly Meins, Jane A. Olson and Ray Hofman. A new

official is guaranteed this year, as incumbent Betty McCambridge is not seeking re-election.

The Democratic primary will also select two of three candidates running for county commission. The race features Les Kephart, Phyllis Packard and Alex Ufford. The winners will face Republicans Leonard Rasmussen and Jere Chapman, who claim the two GOP spots and automatically advance to the general election.

Clay County Republicans will help select a nominee for governor. The GOP field includes Dave Knudson, Scott Munsterman, Dennis Daugaard, Ken Kruppe and Gordon Howie.

On the Democratic side, Scott Heidepriem is the only gubernatorial candidate and advances directly to the November election.

Republicans will also select their U.S. House nominee from among Kristi Noem, Blake Curd and Chris Nelson. The winner faces Democratic incumbent Stephanie Herseth Sandlin and independent B. Thomas Marking.

Clay County has 3,864 registered Democrats; 2,592 registered Republicans and 1,936 registered independents.

However, Tuesday's final voter turnout will likely fall far short of those numbers, Auditor Bremer said Friday afternoon.

"We have about 200 absentee ballots so far, and normally we have 500, so we are down," she said. "Locally, we have just the register of deeds and one county commission race, along with the city election."

"Ironically, independents could raise the voter turnout in a primary election, Bremer said.

"The Democrats are allowing independents to vote in their primary, and we have had some independents who come in and say they are voting on the Democratic ballot," she said.

"With the city election, the independents will go to the polls anyway. I think, for Tuesday's election, we may have more independent voters than we normally do."

Tuesday also marks the deadline for independent candidates to file for office, Bremer said. Those candidates must file by 5 p.m. Tuesday to make the general election ballot.

At area meetings, county officials have noted the larger number of local candidates this year, particularly for offices that formerly didn't attract a lot of interest, Bremer said.

"Some of it may be the economy," she said. "People are losing their jobs, or the number of jobs is down, and people are more interested in running for these offices."

The polls for both the primary and municipal elections are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. People can follow Vermillion and Clay County election results online at www.claycountysd.org or www.sdsos.gov.

ROUNDS

From Page 1A

They're not there," Rounds said. "So we're getting by simply (through) becoming more efficient and using one-time dollars wherever possible."

Rounds encouraged the Girls Staters to consider entering politics, but conceded that attitudes such as these might make them "run away" from it.

"If you look at it at the national level and unfortunately sometimes at the state and local level, you'll see people look at it as something that is less than desirable because we have a tendency to strike at one another rather than talking about policy, talking about differences," he said.

"If we keep politics in a position where it becomes an issue of debating about new ideas and about ways in which we can make improvements, I think

more people would want to get involved in politics. Politics does not have to be dirty. It does not have to be mean. It can be a case of trying to make things better for the next generation."

Rounds said he hoped audience members would make this a goal of their own.

"You are the best of the best," he said. "I think that's probably something we don't say enough. You have very special talents and abilities, but you also chose to do something with those talents and abilities. You worked hard, you developed them and you improved on what you had to make yourself better."

The governor said he had two points he wanted to make concerning the girls' career choices when they finish high school and college.

The first of these had to do with the nature of business and work in South Dakota, compared to large cities.

"Most South Dakota companies don't have thousands of employees," Rounds said. "If you

take a job in a large company in another state, you can expect to have a very specific job where you will be doing a very specific task for a long, long time."

In a South Dakota company, an employee could expect to perform up to 10-15 different tasks each day, he said.

"In a few months, you'll probably move on to do something more and different," Rounds said. "In a job here, you'll learn more, you'll learn it much faster, and because of that you will advance faster."

The second point dealt with South Dakota's ranking as last in the nation in terms of wages.

"It's true, but it's the wrong statistic to look at," Rounds said.

"The stat that matters the most is how much money you have left in your pocket after taxes, and then how much you can buy with it ..."

"Many young people discover when they take a high-paying job in another state, they really don't have more money to spend because, in many other states, they have higher taxes, and they have higher costs of living," he said.

Rounds said the state used to rank near 24th-28th in the nation when the cost of living was factored in, but now ranks 10th.

He told the audience members that while he hoped they would all be successful, they should remember that with suc-

cess comes responsibility. "If you are truly going to be a problem-solving person, also remember that there's nothing wrong with being recognized as

being kind and generous," Rounds said. "As talented as you are, you can really change the world."

www.smilesforsioduxland.com

Vermillion/Brower Dental Health
Josh Brower DDS
Gary Prosser DDS
605-624-8695 or 712-548-4615
Accepting New Patients & Late Appointments Available

FREE Braces Exam
Includes Orthodontic Exam, X-rays, and Consultation
\$99 per month braces

FREE Wisdom Teeth Consultation
Includes necessary x-rays. We answer your questions. I.V. sedation in office available. Same day tooth removal!

Dental Implants
Placing and restoring implants for use in the same day!
Implants under \$1,000.
Free Consultations!

RISE ABOVE THE COMPETITION!

Interested in Buying or Selling a home?

GARY PALMER
the "Ballooning Brit Broker"

will go above and beyond to help you find your dream home or sell your current home!

CALL 660-1129

Lewis & Clark Realty West
801 Mariner Lane
665-2225
www.yanktonareahomes.com

Warm Air Heat Pumps, Geothermal and Air to Air

Quieter and 22° warmer than any other.

Available exclusively at... Turn to the Experts

Larry's HEATING & COOLING
920 Broadway • 665-9461

Steamway CLEANING & RESTORATION

"THE AREA'S LARGEST CLEANING & RESTORATION COMPANY"

- Carpets
- Upholstery
- Duct Cleaning
- Water Restoration
- Fire Restoration
- Mold Testing & Remediation
- Tile & Grout Cleaning

WATER • SMOKE • FIRE FREE ESTIMATES (ask for details)

IICRC CERTIFIED FIRM Satisfaction Guaranteed

Mitchell 996-6921 Yankton 665-5700 Chamberlain 734-0733
Vermillion 624-4666 Huron 352-5252 Sioux Falls 334-1991

Toll Free 1-800-529-2450
www.steamwaycleaning.com