

# Noem To Seek Re-Election, Not Senate Bid

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Kristi Noem announced Tuesday she will seek re-election to South Dakota's lone U.S. House seat next year rather than challenge former Gov. Mike Rounds for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination.

Noem, 41, had been mentioned as a possible Senate candidate by some Republicans who believe Rounds is not conservative enough on tax and budget issues, but she said she decided to seek a third term in the House after discussing the future with her husband and children over the weekend.

Noem said she believes she can best serve South Dakota as a member of the House.

"It is a privilege to serve South Dakota in the House, and while I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish, there is a lot more we must do. At the top of that list is getting a full five-



Noem

said Republicans are needed in the Senate to rein in spending, reduce the federal debt and protect liberties.

Rounds' campaign manager, Rob Skjonsberg, said Rounds was out of the state Tuesday, but Noem called Rounds earlier in the day to discuss her decision. Rounds has pledged to help Noem win re-election to the House, he said.

"It's time to come together and support a

year Farm Bill passed to give our agriculture industry the certainty needed to plan for the future," Noem said in a written statement first posted on her Facebook page.

Noem said she will work hard to elect a Republican to the Senate seat now held by Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, who has announced he will not seek re-election next year. She

united team for South Dakota," Skjonsberg said.

Noem is a rancher and former state lawmaker from Castlewood who was first elected to Congress as part of the 2010 Republican wave that put the House under GOP control.

Bob Burns, a retired South Dakota State University political science professor, said Noem would have been taking a big gamble if she had run for the Senate against Rounds.

"She had a lot to lose if she didn't capture the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. She's probably going the safer route by seeking re-election to the U.S. House," Burns said.

If Noem had run for the Senate, she also would have left the House seat more vulnerable to Democratic attempts to regain it, Burns said.

Rounds remains the only announced Republican candidate for Senate.

Rick Weiland, an ex-staffer for former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, is the only announced candidate on the Democratic side.

## 2nd Suit Filed Over Neb. Immigrant License Policy

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A civil rights organization filed a lawsuit Tuesday targeting Nebraska's denial of driver's licenses for young immigrants who came into the country as children with their families.

The lawsuit, filed in Lancaster County District Court by the Nebraska chapter of American Civil Liberties Union, is the second one prompted by the state's refusal to recognize young immigrants with work permits under an Obama administration policy as legal residents. Late last month, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund sued the state in federal court on behalf of a 24-year-old Nebraska City woman, saying Nebraska's policy violates her constitutional right to equal protection and is unconstitutional because it's trumped by federal law.

The ACLU's lawsuit takes a different tack. It says Nebraska offi-

cials violated state law that requires state agencies to go through a public hearing and comment period before making significant changes to state rules and regulations. The lawsuit says the policy also violates the state constitution's right to due process.

Last August, Gov. Dave Heineman declared that Nebraska would deny driver's licenses to the immigrants who became eligible to work in the U.S. as a result of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Several months later, he said Nebraska will vigorously defend its policy, even if the state is sued.

ACLU Nebraska legal director Amy Miller told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Heineman should have had a state senator introduce that policy as legislation or initiated a public comment process with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles.

"He does not have any authority to, with one stroke of a press release — not even an executive

order, but a press release — to put out thousands of Nebraskans from the right to drive to get to college classes, to get to work, to get to church or medical appointments," Miller said. "That is a power grab that is absolutely forbidden by Nebraska law."

At a news conference Tuesday to discuss a jobs plan for veterans, Heineman referred questions about the lawsuit to the Nebraska Attorney General's office. But he noted that in 2009, the Nebraska Legislature passed a law saying no state agency or political subdivision shall provide public benefits to a person not lawfully in the United States.

Those suing the state argue that young immigrants enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program are lawfully in the U.S., noting that participants have work visas and have been issued Social Security numbers. The Department of Homeland Security also has said immigrants with work permits issued under the pol-

icy are lawfully present in the U.S.

The ACLU names Heineman and the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles as defendants. It was filed on behalf of four people in Nebraska, all of whom were brought to the U.S. as children, have graduated from local high schools and are now authorized under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to work in the country.

A spokeswoman with the Nebraska Attorney General's office said Tuesday that the office will defend the lawsuit. She declined to comment further.

"Without a license to drive, you constantly face limits on what you can accomplish in your life," said 20-year-old Maria Hernandez, one of the four plaintiffs in the ACLU lawsuit. "It limits the jobs you can apply for, affects where you go to school, and how much you can support your family. Having a driver's license is essential to taking advantage of opportunities, and in many cases, making a living."

### OBITUARIES

#### Melvin (Pat) Patton

Melvin (Pat) Patton, 88, of Utica, SD passed away surrounded by his family on Sunday, June 9, 2013 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Yankton.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 13, 2013 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with Rev. Ron Johnson officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories with military graveside rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791 Honor Guard, SDARNG Honor Guard, Sioux Falls, and the Patriot Guard Riders.

Visitations will be from 3-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 7 p.m. Prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be his 6 Grandchildren and honorary pallbearers will be his 13 great-grandchildren.

Melvin was born on June 6, 1925 to Jess and Edith (Bosteder) Patton in Dallas, SD. He spent his childhood in the Midwest and finished his education at Grove School in Yankton. On December 7, 1942 he was sworn into the U.S. Navy and was on the aircraft carrier Yorktown. He was a Seaman First Class and spent his time serving his country in the South Pacific in the Philippine Islands. He was honorably discharged December 1945.

Melvin married the love of his life, Sylvia Kralicek, on February 11, 1947 in Yankton. They met while he was working for her Father and Brother on a farm Northwest of Yankton. To that union two children were born, Janice and David. Together, they farmed two miles South of Utica their whole married life and had 64 wonderful years together. Melvin also worked building Gavins Point Dam and the Oahe Dam in Pierre.



Patton

Melvin was a member of the United Methodist Church in Yankton and a lifetime member of the VFW.

Melvin will be remembered for always being there to help, whether it

was taking someone to an appointment or delivering Grandma's homemade goodies to all the family. He always had a tootsie roll in his pocket for the Grandkids and a smile and candy for everyone at Fryn' Pan.

Melvin is survived by his daughter Janice (Frank) Vellek, Yankton; his son, David, Utica; Grandchildren and families: LeeAnn (Randy) Freng and their children Katie and Karlie; Lisa (Rob) Barger and their children Kayla, Austin, and Dillon; Michelle (Jim) Stucky and their children Jake (Britta Stenstrom) a great-grandchild to be born in September, Jared, and Marisa; Mark (Tami) Vellek and their children Payton and Tori; Richard (Brenda) Vellek and their children Jordynn, Dawson, and Easton; and Kristi Patton; brother, Paul Sangster, Jr., Wakonda; and sisters-in-law Dorothy Kralicek, Yankton, Lola Becvar, Tyndall, and Lorraine Schwarz, Tyndall and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Sylvia on June 29, 2011, his parents, brother Emanuel, a sister in infancy and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
June 12, 2013

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#### Settlement Reached In S.D. Medicaid Dispute

PIERRE (AP) — A South Dakota official says work on a new computerized Medicaid management system should resume soon because a settlement has been reached between the state and the company hired to do the work.

The state signed a \$62 million contract in 2008 with Client Network Service Inc. of Maryland to develop a new computerized system for managing the system that pays medical expenses for low-income people. The state ended the contract in 2010 because the work was behind schedule and of poor quality.

But federal officials persuaded the state and Client Network Service to enter mediation.

State Social Services Secretary Kim Malsam-Rysdon says the mediation led to a settlement and work should resume later this summer. She says the new system should be completed within about three years.

#### Johnson Votes For Farm Bill, Thune Against

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota's Democratic Party is criticizing Republican U.S. Sen. John Thune for opposing the farm bill that has passed the Senate.

Thune issued a statement Monday saying the Senate missed an opportunity to improve federal agriculture policy, while his Democratic counterpart, Sen. Tim Johnson, voted in favor of the bill.

Thune said the Senate bill reauthorizes an outdated program, and fails to rein in redundancy and waste.

"Many of us were eager to offer amendments to the bill in an attempt to fix some of these problems coming out of committee," Thune said. "However, despite more than 200 amendments being filed, including two I offered that would have saved taxpayers more than \$5 billion, only 14 farm bill amendments were considered and voted on prior to final passage. For these reasons, I was unable to support the final bill."

South Dakota Democratic Party Chairman Ben Nesselhuf issued a statement saying Thune had pandered to "Washington conservatives who have no idea how farming works in South Dakota."

The five-year, half-trillion-dollar farm bill passed by the Senate on Monday on a bipartisan 66-27 vote expands government subsidies for crop insurance, rice and peanuts while making small cuts to food stamps. It also eliminates subsidies that are paid to farmers whether they farm or not.

#### Heat Burst Causes Neb. Temperatures To Soar

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A so-called heat burst caused temperatures to briefly soar in southern Nebraska.

Rick Chermok, of the National Weather Service, says the temperature in Lincoln rose from 73 to 91 degrees between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Tuesday.

In Grand Island, it spiked from 73 to 99 degrees between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Similar surges were noted in Hastings, Kearney and elsewhere. Heat bursts occur when specific conditions exist.

Thunderstorms must be diminishing above a layer of dry air. Rain from those storm falls into drier air and evaporate, making the air cooler than surrounding air.

The cooler air sinks, causing atmospheric pressure to increase and warm the air again. Because of momentum, the air pushes to the surface and spreads out, causing temperatures to spike and winds to increase.

## Regents Stand Behind Hiring Of Wilson At SDSMT

BY KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A new report showing that the incoming president of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology collected nearly half a million dollars in questionable payments has not changed the Board of Regents' support in her hiring, the executive director of the board said Tuesday.

A Department of Energy inspector general report shows Heather Wilson failed to provide documentation for work she did to earn payments from four federally funded nuclear labs. The questionable payments included \$20,000 Wilson received a month from New Mexico's Los Alamos and Sandia national labs from 2009 to 2011.

"I think as I understand a bit of this, because I have been in touch with her, I think the report cited the agencies not adequately documenting work. My best information indicates that Heather Wilson performs what is expected of her," Jack Warner said.

Warner said Wilson contacted him to let him know the report might be released soon.

The Board of Regents unanimously approved the hiring of Wilson, a former U.S. representative, in April, following the death of Robert Wharton. Her contract is for one year and her salary is \$321,360.

While Wilson officially begins as president of the 2,400-student school next week, Warner said she is already focusing on the big issues at the school, including fall enrollment, housing and research initiatives.

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology has close ties to the Sanford Underground Research Lab in Lead, a facility 4,850 feet underground supported in part by the Department of Energy.

Wilson's previous work with labs was a key component to her hiring, Warner said.

"The connection between the school and that facility is very important to us," he said, adding that he does not anticipate the report having any effect on the relationship between the school, the lab and the Department of Energy.

A spokeswoman for the school of Mines & Technology said the school does not have a comment.

## S.D. Officials Working To Prevent Bank Tax Mistakes

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota officials told state lawmakers Tuesday they are working to prevent further mistakes in handling state taxes paid by banks.

In an audit covering the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2012, the Department of Legislative Audit found the state Revenue Department sometimes made mistakes in determining whether tax payments were for credit card operations or general banking operations. Because taxes on credit cards and other bank operations are divided differently between the state and local governments, money was sometimes distributed improperly, the audit found.

Mike Houdyshell, director of special taxes for the Revenue Department, said the tax money was eventually distributed correctly.

"At the end of the day, the distributions were accurate. The state and the counties received the money they were due," Houdyshell told the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee.

In the next year, the department will start running bank taxes through a computer program that handles some other taxes, Houdyshell said. That program not only will help the department collect information from banks on the purpose of each tax payment and what period it covers, but also will help distribute the money correctly, he said.

In addition, the department will improve communication with banks so payments are accurately designated as credit card tax or the gen-

eral bank franchise tax on other income, Houdyshell said.

The state gets 95 percent of the credit card tax and 26.67 percent of the bank franchise tax. The rest is distributed to the county where a bank is located, and the money is then divided among local governments in the county.

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Date of Birth (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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