Races

Republican; and • Treasurer — Pamela K.

Marchand. Commissioner Donna Freng told the Press & Dakotan in January that she would be seeking reelection. However, her name was not on the Secretary of State's candidate list Tuesday evening. A message left with Freng was not returned by press time.

According to The Associated Press, the Republican Party will apparently once again field more candidates than Democrats in South Dakota legislative races.

State Democratic Party Chairman Ben Nesselhuf says he expects that by the time all candidates have filed, Democrats will compete for about 25 of the 30 Senate seats and 55 of the 70 House seats.

State Republican Party Executive Director Tony Post says the GOP expects to run candidates for 32 Senate seats and 65 House

The following are petitions filed as of Tuesday afternoon for area legislative districts:

• District 16 (Lincoln and Union counties) — State Senate, Democrat Jim Holbeck of Harrisburg and Republican Dan Lederman of Dakota Dunes; State House, Republicans Jim Bolin of Canton, Kevin Jensen of Canton and Patty Miller of North Sioux City and Democrats Juanita

Grewing of North Sioux City and Ann Tornberg of Beresford;

• District 17 (Clay and Turner counties) — State Senate, Republican John Chicoine of Parker and Democrat Tom Jones of Viborg; State House, Republican Nancy Rasmussen of Hurley and Democrats Ray Ring of Vermillion and

Marion Sorlien of Viborg; • District 19 (Bon Homme, Douglas, Hutchinson and Turner counties) — State Senate, Democrat Frank Kloucek of Scotland and Republican Bill Van Gerpen of Tyndall; State House, Republicans Stace Nelson of Fulton, J.E. 'Jim" Putnam of Armour and Kyle Schoenfish of Scotland and Democrat Alan Fenner of Menno;

• District 21 (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Gregory and Tripp counties) — State Senate, Republican John Meyer of Winner and Democrat Billie Sutton of Burke; State House, Democrats Julie Bartling of Burke and Gary Coleman of Dante and Republicans Lee Qualm of Platte and Dave Scott of Geddes;

The following are candidates for county, city and school races

by Tuesday afternoon: BON HOMME: County Commissioners — District 2, Republican John Fathke of Avon; District 4, Republican John Hauck of Tabor; State's Attorney, Republican Lisa Rothschadl of Tyndall; Treasurer, Democrat Jason Humpal of Tyndall;

CHARLES MIX: County Commissioner, District 2, Republican Neil VonEschen of Wagner; State's Attorney, Democrat Pamela Hein of Lake Andes and

Republican Thomas Deadrick of Platte; Treasurer, Republicans Karol Kniffen of Wagner and Jessica Nielsen of Pickstown;

CLAY: County Commissioners (at large), Democrats Ruth Bremer of Vermillion, Raymond "Dusty" Passick of Burbank and Leo Powell of Vermillion; and Republican Travis Mockler of Centerville; State's Attorney, Democrat Teddi Gertsma of Vermillion; Treasurer, Democrat Catherine Powell of Vermillion; Coroner, Democrat Tim McClelland of Vermillion

DOUGLAS: County Commissioners — District 2, Democrat Sue Denning of Corsica; District 4, Republican Karen Blume of Armour; Auditor, Republicans Gary Denke of Delmont and Phyllis Mehren of Armour; Sheriff, Republican Jonathan Coler of Armour; State's Attorney, Republican Craig Parkhurst of Armour; Treasurer, Republican Julie Brenner of Delmont;

HUTCHINSON: County Commissioners — District 2, Republicans Gillas Stern and Steven Friesen, both of Freeman; District 4, Republican Brad Henke of Parkston; State's Attorney, Republican Glenn Roth of Freeman; Treasurer, Republican Tamara Miller of Olivet;

TURNER: County Commissioners — District 2, Republican Lyle VanHove of Parker and District 4, Republican John Overby of Viborg; State's Attorney, Republicans Tiffani Landeen of Parker and Matthew Olson of Centerville: Treasurer, Republican Marlys Andersen of Parker; Coroner, James Jones (listed as nonpartisan) of Parker;

UNION: County Commissioner, District 2, Democrat Doyle Karpen of Jefferson; State's Attorney, Republican Jerry Miller of Burbank; Treasurer, Republican Myron Hertel of Elk Point

VERMILLION CITY COUNCIL: Central Ward, Kelsey Collier-Wise and Jenny French; Northeast Ward, Clarence Meins; and Northwest Ward, Howard Willson

VERMILLION SCHOOL BOARD: Mark Bottolfson, Tim Schwasinger and Dave Stammer Special districts fielded the

following candidates: JAMES RIVER WATER DEVEL-OPMENT DISTRICT: Area 4 Director, Gary Boomsma of Wolsey and Leon Fredrichs of Forestburg; Area 5 Director, Leanne

Gutormson of Huron; Area 6 Di-

rector, Dan Koupal of Mitchell; SOUTH CENTRAL WATER DE-VELOPMENT DISTRICT: Area 2 Director, Gregory Powell, Chamberlain; Area 6 Director, Gary La-

Compte, Tyndall; VĒRMIĽLION WATER DEVEL-OPMENT DISTRICT: Area 1 Director, Roger Tigert of Vermillion; Area 4 Director Lowell Andersen of Hurley; Area 5 Director, Barry Olson of Chancellor

HEARTLAND CONSUMER POWER DISTRICT: District 1 Director, Mark Joffer of Parker; District 2 Director, Dan O'Connor of Burbank; District 3 Director, Larry Nielsen of Tulare; District 4 Director, Kay Anderson of Beresford; District 10 Director, David Westbrook of Madison;

Voting

Dowling said. "We've used allmail ballots for a sales-tax vote in Fordyce and a budget override measure in Coleridge. But this will be the first time that we use all-mail voting in a county-wide

Registered voters in the affected precincts will be sent ballots by first-class mail starting April 25, Dowling said. The mailing will include envelopes with sufficient first-class postage for the ballots to be returned. The ballots must arrive in the county clerk's office by the close of polling hours on Election Day.

Dowling said he chose the six Cedar County precincts for two particular reasons.

"I looked at precincts with lower voter turnout," he said. "I also looked where polling places are not centrally located. In those cases, travel may be a problem that keeps people from voting. For example, some voters would need to travel 10 miles to reach a polling place in Magnet or St. Helena, depending where they live in the precinct.

Dowling released figures showing the current number of registered voters and the turnout for the 2008 primary:

• Precinct 1, the St. Helena area, 248 voters and 15 percent

• Precinct 3, the Bow Valley area, 252 voters and 9 percent turnout;

• Precinct 8, the Fordyce area, 121 voters and 17 percent • Precinct 9, the Pleasant Val-

ley area near Hartington, 342 voters and 7 percent turnout; • Precinct 11, the Magnet area,

175 voters and 7 percent turnout; • Precinct 13, the Belden area, 160 voters and 17 percent

Dowling believes voter turnout with an all-mail election was higher for the Fordyce and Coleridge elections than it would have been with polling places. He sees those elections as an indicator of similar success at the county level.

'In my opinion, we'll get at least twice the voter turnout as we do with traditional polling places," he said. "People find it more convenient to mail in their ballots than make the trip to the polls on Election Day.

All-mail voting also brings a measure of effectiveness, Dowl-

'We don't need to get election workers or rent a polling place,

erized election equipment is cheaper," he said. "We hope the cost is less. We'll know more after the election."

One real measure of success has come in the form of voter reaction to previous all-mail elections, Dowling said.

and the programming of comput-

After the last two mail-in elections, we received a lot of favorable comments," he said. "We haven't received an unfavorable comment from people who call our office or stop at the counter."

Dowling also looks at the track record for Cherry County, a sprawling county that has used all-mail voting for the past four

"I visited with the Cherry County clerk, and (all-mail) has worked well for him," Dowling said. "That's especially a good deal in Cherry County, because they have precincts that are two hours away from the courthouse.

In his recent action, Secretary of State Gale approved all-mail applications not only for Cedar County but also for six precincts in Stanton County, three precincts in Hamilton County, three precincts in Merrick County and one precinct in Cherry County. Nebraska now has 4⁴ all-mail precincts in nine counties out of approximately 1,400 precincts in the state.

Dowling emphasized the allmail balloting isn't to be confused with the ability of voters in other precincts to cast early ballots. Early voting can offer mailed ballots as an option, but all-mail balloting offers no other options.

Dowling also noted his office will continue to purge and update voter registration lists on a regular basis. The process includes making address changes for voters and removing the names of deceased residents from the

Even before seeing the outcome of the May primary election, Dowling is considering the addition of another precinct to the all-mail list for future elections.

"You wouldn't do all-mail for every precinct," he said. "Generally, it's used just for precincts with fewer than 300 voters. And you cannot have an all-mail special election or recall election."

Still, Dowling expressed enthusiasm for the future of all-mail voting, particularly in rural areas. Washington State has gone with all-mail balloting for all elections,

'We'll see how it goes after this election, but I think all-mail voting will be a really good thing," he said.

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divided on how to proceed," he said. "Some wanted to get public feedback before moving forward with an architect and all that it involves, while other members wanted to get the architect and all the details before meeting with the public. The board settled on getting the public together and seeing what they have for concerns and weighing the pros and concerns of the project.

Monday's audience contained a mix of opinions, Alvey said.

"The way one patron put it, very eloquently, 'You're not putting up an auxiliary gym, you're replacing the three gyms that you got rid of when you closed the other facilities (at Kaylor, Lesterville and Scotland elementary),' Alvey said. "We consolidated all of the students and facilities into one building, but that left us with one gym for the entire school

As a result, the district is faced with a space and scheduling crunch for the gym, with no si lar alternative available in the community, Alvey said. School officials often turn away requests from the public for using the weight room or gym because the facility is filled from early morning to late at night, he said.

'If you look at any school or co-op in our area, we're the only one with only one gym," he said.

"We really stressed at Monday's meeting that this would benefit both the kids and the district, and this would have a positive impact on the community as a whole.'

The consensus at Monday night's meeting was that an auxiliary gym, if built, should be attached to the school rather than built off site, Alvey said.

The district has two possible locations, each with benefits and drawbacks, the superintendent

The school could use the parking lot to the south, but that would mean closing a city street. The district could also demolish and relocate its current ag shop on the southeast part of the school, using the site for the auxiliary gym, but that would increase the project's cost.

To finance the project, the district would bond it out through capital outlay over 10 years, Alvey said.

We would reduce our opt-out and increase our capital outlay so it has a very limited effect on taxes," he said. "Right now, we have an opt-out authorizing up to \$350,000 annually through 2014, but we have been using only \$175,000 of that amount. We have also kept our capital-outlay levy at half the maximum allowed amount."

Alvey anticipates getting more details on location and cost from an architect so the board and public can make an informed decision on whether, and how, to move ahead with the project.

"We are going to take as long as needed for making a good decision," he said.

One of Berge's biggest goals

ing was to communicate that the USDA is still open for business.

great amounts of business," he stated. "We're going to work

stuff. We need to figure out how

to manage through the resources

we get and ensure that we're still

we're in a really good place to do

Berge said he will take the in-

"(It will help us) manage our

providing the service we can to

our constituents. We feel like

formation gleaned from stake-

programs and see if there are

ways we can streamline them,"

holders back to Secretary of

Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

that."

he stated.

through all this management

Flock

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fun with it. I know we're having a ton of fun with it."

Beltran said he got the idea from a similar fundraiser he par-

ideas this year for the Polar Plunge, that was one of the ideas that came up, and we thought we'd give it a shot," he said. "So far, it's worked out better than we

tran spoke with his boss, Dan Kramer, who agreed to be the first

ally good cause, and it's a good way to raise some money for it," Kramer said.

He sent the flock to his neighbors, who in turn passed it on, and the flamingos have been migrating around the neighborhood

"We see where they're at, and then we wonder where they're going to be at tomorrow," Kramer said. "It's kind of a game everybody's playing.

He added that the neighborhood is enjoying the fundraiser so much that it might take a while for the flock to reach other parts of the community.

"Anybody that I've talked to that's had it just thinks it's great," Kramer said. "It's a good way to have fun with your neighbors."

around Yankton are so nice that they just make it really easy to have fun with it," Beltran added.

The Polar Pirates, who recently added more birds to its rotation thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church loaning the group its flock, plan to continue the fundraiser until April 14. To make a donation or to purchase flamingo insurance, contact Beltran at 715-338-2938.

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diligently."

However, the cuts do have an impact, she stated. For example, sometimes offices have to be closed during the day while employees go into the field.

There are some offices that have been impacted more than others," Meeks said.

While some express dissatisfaction with the reduction of resources, others call for smaller government, Berge noted.

'It's a balancing act that we're dealing with," he said. "To the extent that we can be a sounding board and help communicate why we've gone through these management processes, the better off I think they're going to feel and the better off we're going to be in the long run."



ticipated in during college. "When we were thinking of

expected." To begin the fundraiser, Bel-

The Special Olympics is a re-

"I think part of it is people

