

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### S.D. Sites Qualify For Road Repairs After Flood

PIERRE (AP) — State and local officials have identified more than three dozen sites that qualify for state-funded emergency repairs in the wake of spring flooding.

Gov. Mike Rounds has pledged up to \$10 million to help counties and townships make the temporary repairs to critical-access roads. As of Friday, the state says, 16 repair projects totaling almost \$1 million were under contract. Another 23 repair projects were identified, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Officials continue to identify additional repair sites in Brown, Day, Roberts, Marshall and Spink counties.

### Husband Fights Conviction Over Wife's Murder

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A 63-year-old man is asking a federal appeals court to overturn a state court conviction that he killed his wife in what prosecutors said was an attempt to protect assets from a divorce and collect life insurance.

David Aesoph is serving a life sentence in the state penitentiary after a jury convicted him in 2000 of murdering Tania Aesoph, 50, at their Hyde County farm northeast of Highmore.

Aesoph said his wife died in an accidental fall down a flight of stairs while he was away.

After exhausting all appeals and challenges in state court, Aesoph went to federal court to argue there were constitutional violations before and during his trial that require overturning the verdict.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange dismissed his claim.

Aesoph, who is acting as his own attorney, now takes his request to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is generally the last step in the appeals process, said South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Aesoph's challenge to his conviction covers nearly a dozen issues that include his interrogation, trial testimony, juror selection, and difficulty helping his attorneys prepare for trial after his bail was revoked because he missed a daily check-in with the sheriff.

### Researcher Obtains Embryonic Stem Cell Line

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A University of Nebraska Medical Center professor has obtained an embryonic stem cell line approved under President Barack Obama's less restrictive research guidelines.

UNMC announced Friday that Angie Rizzino will soon begin using the new line. His research focuses on how stem cells work and their role in the growth of cancer, among other things.

UNMC says Rizzino's cell line was developed from embryos not viable for in vitro fertilization.

The university regents' policy requires stem cell researchers to follow state and federal guidelines.

Last year, Obama removed government funding restrictions imposed in 2001 by his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Three teams have been conducting research on embryonic stem cells at UNMC.

### Coach's Widow Settles Insurance Lawsuit

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The widow of a record-breaking South Dakota high school basketball coach has settled a lawsuit against a Nebraska insurance company.

The settlement between Micki Tibbetts and United of Omaha Life Insurance Co. was reached just days before a jury trial was to begin. Terms were not disclosed.

Fred Tibbetts died in 2008 after a battle with colon cancer. His wife accused the life insurance company of wrongfully denying her an \$83,000 life insurance claim. The company said it did not have to pay because Tibbetts was disabled when the policy took effect.

Tibbetts' 551 career wins included a 111-game win streak by the Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School girls team.

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## MEAD

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of the Dakota Territorial Museum.

The Yankton County Historical Society is focusing its efforts on the Mead Building, but it is also acting as an ally with Preserve South Dakota and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to find uses for other buildings on the campus.

Formerly the South Dakota Hospital for the Insane, the historic Human Services Center campus is the oldest institution in South Dakota. The buildings on the campus were constructed between 1882 and 1942, and feature neoclassical, Art Deco, Italianate, Prairie and Neo-Renaissance influences. Many of the structures were constructed using South Dakota-quarried Sioux quartzite.

The aforementioned organizations and others hold a monthly conference call to assemble information for potential developers of the campus and to find avenues that might make preservation of the buildings more feasible and attractive. Information about the advocacy group's efforts will be shared Sunday.

"We're trying to build awareness for the larger historic campus and to talk about economic development activities for those buildings and how that could be a benefit to Yankton's economy," said Jenny Buddenberg, a program officer for the National Trust. "These are state-owned buildings but belong to the residents of South Dakota. South Dakota residents have a say in how these buildings are used. It's something to remember. They are very much involved in this discussion, and we'd love to hear from them. We hope the public will become further engaged with the project and assist us in our advocacy."

Some development ideas have been or are being explored, Buddenberg said. However, nothing firm has transpired yet.

"The economy has been tough, but we're certainly pulling out of it," she stated. "Hopefully, we'll see some more prospects as things progress. We have not dropped away from this. We really want to find uses for these buildings that make them economically viable and sustainable."

Mensch-Nelson said an encouraging feasibility study regarding the assembly of funds for the Mead Building has been completed.

The historical society has not decided when it will commence with the fundraising effort, however.

One focus Sunday will be on the preservation month theme of "Old Is The New Green." The theme touches on the belief that renovation of existing buildings is more eco-friendly than constructing new buildings.

"We want to show the community how we plan to do that," Mensch-Nelson said. "This is a social event where we really want to encourage people to tell us their thoughts and create a dialogue with the community."

The Mead Building is located on the south side of the historic Human Services Center campus. Turn north at the first driveway a half-mile west of the Highway 81/31st Street intersection.

## DECISION 2010

# Man Runs For U.S. House As Independent

Marking, If Elected, Says He Would Base Voting On Issues From Multiple Internet Polls

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — B. Thomas Marking of Custer said Friday he is running as an independent for South Dakota's lone seat in the U.S. House because Republicans and Democrats are too busy fighting each other to solve the nation's problems.

Marking, 61, also said if he is elected, he would set up an Internet system that would enable South Dakotans to express their opinions on top issues. He would base his votes in Congress on the results of those Internet polls.

"I think a big part of the frustration out there is the feeling that people have lost control over their lives. Maybe this is a way to give them a sense they still have some of that," Marking told The Associated Press.

However, a political science professor said Marking's plan to base a House member's votes on an opinion poll would run counter to

the representative form of government set up by the nation's founders.

Marking, who worked for several federal agencies through the years including the U.S. Department of State and Federal Emergency Management Agency, became an official candidate by turning in more than the 3,356 petition signatures needed for an independent candidate to get on the November ballot.

Democratic Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, who is seeking a fourth full term in the House, faces no opposition from within her own party.

Three Republicans are running in the June 8 primary for their party's nomination to face Herseth in November. They are Secretary of State Chris Nelson, state Rep. Blake Curd of Sioux Falls and state Rep. Kristi Noem of Castlewood.

Marking said he would like to test his idea for having citizens weigh in on legislative issues through a poll on the Internet. He said an objective summary of a bill could be placed on a congressional website, and peo-

ple could vote for or against the measure.

"That would guide my vote in Congress," Marking said.

Bill Richardson, chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of South Dakota, said Marking's idea is distressing because the legislative branch was created to filter the opinions of citizens who most likely do not have time to study lengthy bills and policies in detail.

Members of Congress are selected with the idea they will study measures in depth before casting their votes, Richardson said, noting that some bills contain thousands of pages.

"We intend for our legislators to read this in great detail, to ponder it, to discuss it with their peers, and they are supposed to be better informed on it than we could ever possibly be sitting in our den in the evening going through a polling effort," Richardson said.

Marking also said he believes Congress should be reformed so representatives and senators are subject to any law they pass. He also would work to simplify federal tax laws.

## Iowa Hearing Begins Marathon Farm Bill Process

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A hearing on the new federal farm bill Friday in Des Moines began the arduous process of writing a mammoth bill that covers everything from farm credit to food stamps.

The current \$284 billion bill, approved in 2008, expires in September 2012, and members of the House Agriculture Committee hope to avoid disagreements that delayed passage last time.

Hearings are scheduled to continue through May 18 in Nampa, Idaho; Fresno, Calif.; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Morrow, Ga.; Troy, Ala.; Lubbock, Texas; and Sioux Falls, S.D.

"During these field hearings, I want to hear from farmers and ranchers, not only about what has worked well in the past, but also whether the current farm programs offer the best safety net possible for producers," said committee chairman Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn.

Peterson told the roughly 100 people at the hearing that it

would be a long, difficult process to craft a bill that takes on so many issues.

Frank D. Lucas, R-Okla., the committee's ranking minority member, said his goal is to provide the tools farmers need "to do what you do best" — that is, produce the world's "safest, most abundant, most affordable food supply."

"I think it's extremely important to hear from you about what is working, what is not working and what changes we can make," he said.

Lucas said he also hopes to help producers avoid what he sees as negative effects of environmental regulations that hinder their ability to market crops.

About 75 percent of the bill's funding goes toward food nutrition programs, such as food stamps.

It also supports commodity crops, horticulture, livestock, conservation, trade, agricultural research, farm credit, rural development, energy and forestry.

Some of that support comes in the form of controversial direct payments to farmers, although the

2008 bill was changed to prohibit all subsidies to anyone whose non-farm adjusted gross income exceeds \$500,000. The current measure also banned most direct payments to anyone with more than \$750,000 in adjusted gross income from farming.

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### In Honor Of Grow Rite

The Ambassadors celebrated a First Dollar ribbon cutting in honor of the opening of Grow Rite Greenhouse located at 4200 West 8th St. The owner of Grow Rite is Glen Rabenberg, Office Manager is Michelle Raabe and the Greenhouse manager is Alice Miller.

Grow Rite Greenhouse is a soil, plant nutrient company that sells nutrients for agriculture, lawn and gardens. Our Greenhouse shows what our nutrients can do. We grow quality food with no chemicals. We will be selling produce & starter plants.

Grow Rite Greenhouse will be having an open house May 7. Their contact information is (605)689-4769 or [www.gsrcaulium.com](http://www.gsrcaulium.com) or [info@gsrcaulium.com](mailto:info@gsrcaulium.com). The hours of operation are 9-5 with an occasional Saturday.

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