

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### Blown Transformers Cause Outage In SE S.D.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two blown transformers near Interstate 29 in southeast South Dakota has left more than 1,000 homes and businesses without power.

Xcel Energy says the outage started just before 10 a.m. Friday and affects the communities of Baltic, Crooks, Dell Rapids, Garretson, Renner and Sioux Falls and outlying areas.

The Tea fire department says the blown transformers pulled down power lines, causing the outage. Schools there were without power, forcing district officials to cancel classes and send students home.

### New Trial Set For AIM Reservation Slaying

RAPID CITY (AP) — A new trial date has been set for two suspects in the 1975 death of an American Indian Movement activist in western South Dakota.

The state attorney general's office says John Graham and Thelma Rios will be tried together on state charges on Nov. 29.

Graham faces one count each of felony murder in relation to kidnapping, felony murder in relation to rape and premeditated murder in the slaying of Annie Mae Aquash in December 1975.

Rios is charged with one count each of felony murder in relation to kidnapping and premeditated murder.

Last month, Richard Marshall was found not guilty of first-degree murder in Aquash's death. Prosecutors had said he provided the gun used in the killing.

### New Date Set For Fremont Immigrant Law

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — Fremont's special election on a proposed illegal-immigrant ordinance has been pushed up a day, to June 21.

On Tuesday, the council approved June 22 for the public vote. But a scheduling conflict subsequently raised by the Dodge County clerk's office forced the council to meet Friday and set a new date.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit both hiring and renting to illegal immigrants.

The special election originally was supposed to be held last summer. But it was stopped after the city raised concerns about the constitutionality of the measure, then asked a court to stop the process. The city lost in district court and in appeal to the state Supreme Court.

### Emergency Road Projects Approved In S.D.

PIERRE (AP) — The number of South Dakota sites that have qualified for state-funded emergency road repairs in the wake of spring flooding is now up to 59.

Gov. Mike Rounds has pledged up to \$10 million to help counties and townships make the temporary repairs to critical-access roads. So far, more than \$3.4 million in emergency work has been approved in five hard-hit northeastern counties.

As of Friday, 30 sites totaling nearly \$1.9 million in emergency work were under contract.

Officials also have created a web page for program updates. The site is at: [http://www.sddot.com/Operations/Water\(underscore\)Over\(underscore\)Roa d/2010ProjectsApproved.pdf](http://www.sddot.com/Operations/Water(underscore)Over(underscore)Roa d/2010ProjectsApproved.pdf).

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online ([www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net))

## DECISION 2010

# Howie: Pastors Should Endorse Candidates

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — Republican gubernatorial candidate Gordon Howie on Friday urged South Dakota churches and their pastors Friday to defy federal law by endorsing candidates.

By law, churches that endorse or oppose candidates or parties risk losing their tax-exempt status.

Howie, a state senator from Rapid City, said he believes the 50-year-old tax law is an unconstitutional violation of freedom of speech.

"Pastors have a constitutional right to speak freely. When you look at our history, you see the people who led the charge for independence, the people who led the charge in civil rights, those were spiritual leaders, those were pastors," Howie said.

Howie faces four other candidates in the June 8 primary to determine the Republican Party's candidate for governor in the fall election.

Asked if his call for political endorsements from the pulpit would help him in the primary, Howie said the issue is important in all races.

"Obviously, this is campaign season, but this is about something much bigger than my campaign," Howie said.

Internal Revenue Service spokeswoman Carrie Resch said the agency cannot comment on a specific case, but she noted the IRS has published guidelines for churches and charitable organizations.

The law prohibits churches and religious organizations from taking part in political campaigns to support or oppose candidates, according to the IRS. Those organizations can sponsor non-partisan voter education activities. They also can advocate for or against issues and to some

extent ballot issues.

Pastor Scott Craig of Bighorn Canyon Community Church in Rapid City joined Howie in calling for churches and pastors to endorse candidates. Craig, who supports Howie's campaign, said many of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence were pastors, and they believed government should not restrict free speech.

Craig said the tax law is sometimes touted as protecting the separation of church and state, but it instead involves government telling churches what to do. He said he is not worried that his nondenominational church could lose its tax-exempt status.

An IRS publication says the law does not prevent pastors from expressing their political views as individuals, but they

cannot do so on behalf of their church or at an official church function.

Howie said he has already spoken at some churches during the campaign and will continue to make appearances in churches.

"I'm not standing up and saying support Gordon Howie for governor. I'm saying stand up and evaluate candidates based on their moral convictions," he said.

## Meet Dr. Raval, Neurologist

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF

**Jugal T. Raval, M.D.**  
Board Eligible Neurologist

Dr. Raval is a graduate of Government Medical College, India. He completed his Internal Medicine residency training at Civil Hospital, India, followed by his Neurology residency training which was completed at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Additionally, Dr. Raval completed a post-residency fellowship in neurophysiology, electromyography and electroencephalography at the University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

Please join with us in welcoming Dr. Raval and his wife, Jyoti, to the Yankton area. The Clinic is pleased to bring a Neurologist to our medical community as well as to the many patients he will serve.

Dr. Raval began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. on May 10, 2010. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-1082.

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## Stimulus Road Projects On Track In Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska officials have quieted concerns that millions of dollars worth of stimulus-funded road projects would be delayed, saying that construction on all the remaining projects in the state will be under way this spring and summer.

"No one wanted Nebraska to fail," said Kahlil Jaber, project manager engineer with the Nebraska Department of Roads. "Last year we were skeptical, we thought we were going to have some problems."

But contracts have been awarded for all 122 stimulus projects, both state highway and local roads, paid for with about \$235 million in federal stimulus dollars. Local projects make up almost \$74 million of the total.

Early in the stimulus-project process, state officials including Gov. Dave Heineman partially blamed too much red tape from federal officials for expected delays in local road projects paid for with stimulus dollars. A year ago, just one contract, in McCook, had been awarded for a local project.

But they also had themselves to blame: They hadn't fully complied with requirements stemming from a 2007 federal audit that showed a lack of local oversight of local road projects. State highway projects didn't face similar problems.

Jaber said state and local officials worked together to meet federal requirements and fast-track road projects without cutting corners.

"If we had followed the normal process, there's no way we would have gotten these projects out quickly," Jaber said.

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