

MIDWEST DIGEST

Former S.D. Senator Settles Page Lawsuit

FORT PIERRE (AP) — A former legislative page's sexual battery lawsuit against former state Sen. Dan Sutton has been settled after almost four years in court.

Documents filed this week at the Moody County courthouse close the case. The filing includes Sutton's written apology to Austin Wiese, which doesn't admit wrongdoing.

Wiese has said he was fondled against his will by Sutton in a Fort Pierre motel room in February 2006. Sutton has denied the allegation. Wiese, who was 18 at the time, had sought at least \$250,000.

Following lengthy hearings, senators said molestation charges were never proven but censure was appropriate because Sutton admitted he had shared a motel bed with the young man. Wiese was a family friend and stayed with Sutton during a stint as a legislative helper.

Nebraska Jobless Rate Holds At 5 Percent

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's unemployment rate held at 5 percent in April, state officials said in a report released Friday.

The rate was also 5 percent in March, up from 4.8 in February.

The state's rate is a 0.4 percentage point higher than April last year but 4.9 percentage points lower than the national rate of 9.9 percent this April.

At 5 percent, Nebraska had the third-lowest rate in the nation, trailing North Dakota, 3.8 percent, and South Dakota, 4.7 percent.

The Nebraska report said three sectors of the Nebraska economy added jobs last month: leisure and hospitality, up 4,571 jobs; mining, logging and construction, 2,357; and trade, transportation and utilities services, up 2,067 jobs.

Nebraska's seasonally adjusted labor force included 990,247 people in April. Of those, 49,671 were listed as unemployed, which is 2,204 more than in March and 5,193 more than April 2009.

S.F. Mayor Frustrated With High Airfares

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether says he's frustrated with the high cost of flights in town.

Huether says he wants the city to make investments and take action to increase competition and bring down airfares.

Huether says he's ready to attend meetings with airlines and develop incentive plans for carriers.

S.D. State Parks Hold Open House

SIoux FALLS (AP) — State parks across South Dakota are holding an open house in conjunction with free fishing this weekend.

Entrance fees are waived for all visitors to state parks and recreation areas. Camping fees still apply.

Anglers don't need a fishing license, although all state fishing regulations such as daily limits remain in force.

Some parks are holding special events as part of the Open House Weekend.

Victim Of ATV Crash Near Oacoma Identified

OACOMA (AP) — Authorities have identified a Brookings man killed in an ATV crash near Oacoma.

Thirty-five-year-old Donald Harold Young was killed just before noon Thursday after his ATV rolled over while he was spraying for weeds near Oacoma.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Young was a seasonal employee of the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

Young was operating an ATV equipped with two 24-gallon tanks of chemical spray near the Missouri River, about 1.5 miles north of Cedar Shore Resort, when the vehicle tipped on an incline.

The ATV rolled and landed on Young.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 31st, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

- Out On The Town — Wednesday, May 26
- Tuesday, June 1 newspaper — 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 26
- Wednesday, June 2 newspaper — 5 p.m., Thursday, May 27
- Thursday, June 3 newspaper — 5 p.m., Friday, May 28

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May, 31, 2010.

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DECISION 2010 — S.D. GOVERNOR

Knudson Touts Primary Endorsements

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — Two former state budget directors and three former top aides to South Dakota governors said Friday they back Sen. Dave Knudson in the five-man primary battle for the Republican nomination to run for governor.

The endorsements were made just a few days after current Gov. Mike Rounds went on television with his ad endorsing Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard in the GOP primary. In the ad, Rounds' said: "Dennis Daugaard is ready to lead."

But the five who endorsed Knudson said the state Senate majority leader from Sioux Falls is best suited to dealing with South Dakota's economic and budget problems.

The group backing Knudson includes Rob Skjonsberg, who was Rounds' chief of staff in 2003-2007. Skjonsberg said he remains one of Rounds' strongest supporters, but he believes Knudson should be the next governor.

Skjonsberg said in his five years as chief of staff, he worked with both Daugaard and Knudson during legislative sessions. He said

Knudson is most qualified to lead state government.

"He's clearly, in my opinion, the most capable of driving economic solutions for South Dakota and really leading us through this recession," Skjonsberg said during a telephone press conference hosted by Knudson.

Knudson was also endorsed by Frank Brost, chief of staff for Govs. George Mickelson and Walter Dale Miller in 1987-1994; Ron Williamson, chief of staff for Gov. Bill Janklow in 1979-1983; Jim Hill, budget director for three governors in 1988-1995; and Steve Zellmer, budget director for Janklow and Mickelson in the 1980s.

Daugaard's campaign manager, Tony Venhuizen, said Friday he had no comment because campaigns typically do not respond to endorsements given to other candidates.

Daugaard and Knudson are considered the top two candidates in the June 8 GOP gubernatorial primary. The race also features Sen. Gordon Howie of Rapid City, Buffalo Gap rancher Ken Knuppe and former Brookings mayor Scott Munsterman.

In Friday's press conference, Hill said he is backing Knudson because they worked

together when Knudson was chief of staff for Janklow in 1995. Knudson developed Janklow's program to cut local property taxes, he said.

"It's a support based on actually knowing this is a guy who can get things done," Hill said.

Knudson, Daugaard and other candidates for governor have sparred over the seriousness of South Dakota's budget problem and what should be done about it.

Knudson has said he led the Legislature's effort to close a \$40 million gap and balance the state budget in March. Daugaard has noted he took part in the final negotiating session on the budget, a meeting that did not include Knudson. Knudson has countered that he believes Daugaard played no role in devising the budget plan.

"I've not merely been sitting in a room watching. I've been rolling up my sleeves and working," Knudson said Friday.

Daugaard recently said he was involved in negotiating the budget deal.

"I think everyone who participated in the budget discussion made a contribution. I played a role," Daugaard said.

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