

Neb. Colleagues: GOP Senate Nominee Is Tough

BY MARGERY A. BECK AND GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Until a few months ago, most Nebraskans had never heard of Deb Fischer, a state legislator and rancher from Valentine who overcame two better-financed opponents to claim the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, pushing her into a high-stakes fall campaign against Democrat Bob Kerrey.

Friends and political strategists say Fischer's success is a combination of hard campaigning in some of Nebraska's most isolated hamlets, her appeal as a conservative rancher and a flood of outside money that paid for relentless television ads critical of Attorney General Jon Bruning, who had been considered the GOP front-runner.

Fischer had proclaimed herself the underdog, but neighbors and colleagues said they never counted her out in the race to see who would challenge Kerrey, the former occupant of the seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson.

Rowdy Kluender, chairman of Valentine City Council, had known Fischer all his life. He said he knew she was capable of beating her better-known GOP competitors, Bruning and state Treasurer Don Stenberg.

When Fischer announced her Senate campaign less than a year ago at an Omaha steakhouse, only a few dozen people showed up — mostly reporters or family members of Fischer and her campaign aides. But her star power was heightened in the subsequent months, and Kluender said last week he watched a crowd gather around just to watch Fischer pump gas in Neligh in northern Nebraska.

"By the time we left, there were probably 20 or 30 people there listening to her," he said. "That's how she is. She's easy to talk to. She's good to get along with. She seems to have the interest of the taxpayers and community at heart."

Democratic Party donor Bud Pettigrew, who is also Fischer's neighbor in Valentine,



Fischer

said he doesn't like Fischer's politics, comparing her to outspoken conservative U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., but he said she is less prone to making controversial statements than the former presidential candidate.

"I don't like her ideas, but I'm not going to underestimate her," Pettigrew said.

"She's extremely intelligent."

Fischer's colleagues in the Legislature describe her as a tough lawmaker and an unwavering advocate for her overwhelmingly rural district in north-central Nebraska.

Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood, a Republican who came into office the same year as Fischer, said he could tell Fischer was "tough as nails" when they met during an orientation for freshman lawmakers.

"It didn't take me very long to figure out she was in it to achieve great things," Flood said. "She does not back down. She does not squirm. She looks you straight in the eye to tell you what she's going to do, and she works with people to get it done."

He said Fischer developed the relationships required to pass bills in a Legislature that lacked official party leaders, often lining up more than a dozen people to testify for measures she supported. Other lawmakers good-humoredly dubbed those she recruited to speak at legislative committee hearings as "Fischer's army."

The tactic has worked. Last year, she hammered through a road project spending package that was unpopular with some members of her party who argued the money was better spent elsewhere.

Fischer credits her GOP win to a boots-on-the-ground campaign, in which she put 45,000 miles on her car traveling rural Nebraska.

"That's the kind of campaign you have to run in Nebraska," she said in the days leading up to the Tuesday primary. "You know, my legislative district is the size of New Jersey."

Still, small meetings and handshakes likely

wouldn't have been enough if not for more than \$1 million spent by outside groups on campaign ads, said University of Nebraska at Omaha political science professor Paul Landow, who called her come-from-behind win "amazing."

First there was a series of TV ads that favored Stenberg and slammed Bruning, then in the final weeks before the election, a super PAC bankrolled by TD Ameritrade founder and Chicago Cubs co-owner Joe Ricketts dropped more than \$250,000 on an ad blitz that again criticized Bruning, this time supporting Fischer.

James Lawrence, 61, of Omaha, said he had planned to support Bruning in the GOP primary but decided to instead back Fischer because she seemed to stay positive in the campaign.

"I got a little tired of the negative ads, and I think she offers a refreshing approach," Lawrence said.

Jack Pfeifer of Omaha also took notice of Fischer when the ads began running and said her background in agriculture influenced his decision to vote for her.

"I grew up on a farm, and I guess that makes me feel like I can connect with her," Pfeifer said.

As a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fischer had wanted to study political science, go on to law school and launch a career in politics. Instead, she married Bruce Fischer in 1972, moved to Valentine to help run the family ranch and raise three now-grown boys.

Fischer has played up her "ranch gal" persona throughout her campaign, but bristles at the suggestion that she's too much of a political novice to win in the fall.

"Some folks seem to think I came out of nowhere in this race," she said. "I have been a state senator for eight years. But more importantly than that, I've been involved in a number of organizations in the state for 30 years. I'm not an unknown."

Associated Press writer Grant Schulte reported from Lincoln.

S.D. Reservation Grocery Store Remains Closed

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

PINE RIDGE — The sole grocery store on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation remained closed Wednesday despite the attorney general of the Oglala Sioux saying a temporary restraining order has been lifted.

Oglala Sioux Attorney General Rae Ann Red Owl said she has dismissed the order and it is up to the owners to decide when to reopen the store. The Sioux Nation Shopping Center has been closed since Friday after the tribe filed the order.

"We've stepped aside," Red Owl told The Associated Press.

The tribe claims the store was selling outdated meat. Oglala Sioux President John Yellow Bird Steele has also criticized the store's prices, which he said are far higher than non-reservation stores. Steele told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he

expected the store to open by the end of the day. Police were lined up outside the store in case a protest erupted with the store's opening.

But there was no protest because the store didn't reopen.

A lawyer for the store did not respond to a message seeking comment, but he told the Rapid City Journal that the store should reopen Thursday.

In a statement, Sioux Nation store director Richard Whitmarsh said the store has corrected all violations and has been working with tribal health officials to correct any violations. He noted that Indian Health Serv-

ice confirmed no incidents of food poisoning were reported or found in Pine Ridge and that any violations found have been quickly corrected.

The closure has forced reservation residents to shop at convenience stores or travel to grocery stores in other towns. Nearby Whiteclay grocery businesses have reported an increase in traffic since the closing.

Tami Matthews, who lives in Pine Ridge, said she's not surprised the store is still closed.

"If it changes something, it's good. But if not, it's just been closed for several days," she said.

Matthews said many of her family members already catch rides to Rapid City when they need to go shopping.

Residents without transportation or family members may be the ones most affected by the closure, she said, although she noted that grocery stores in Whiteclay, Neb., are 2 miles away.

"You can walk there. It takes maybe 15 minutes to walk there," she said.

Copper Moss, who owns Whiteclay Grocery, said she had seen business increase "a whole lot" since Sioux Nation's closure on Friday.

Kauer

From Page 1

I will. But for now, I want to travel and enjoy life."

Kauer said she intends on spending her time by gardening, learning how to play the guitar and fishing.

"I'm a biologist," Kauer said. "I really want to be outdoors more and do more outdoor activities."

Spending time with her children and grandchildren is also going to be a priority for Kauer.

Lillie said it is unusual for a teacher to stay in the ALC program for as long as Kauer did.

"She has a true desire to help students and make sure they are successful," Lillie said. "She has always been understanding and willing to help students one on one."

Kauer said she will miss the students and everyone she has been able to work with over the years.

"The best part about the job was working with the students and helping them," Kauer said. "It's always neat to see the students accomplish their goals and graduate."

Bear said Kauer was always student friendly and very supportive of the students.

"She was very kind, encouraging and she was very dedicated to helping the students find their place. She always did a really good job with that," Bear said.

Kauer will be recognized for her time with the Yankton School District at the Annual Recognition Social tonight at Minervas Bar and Grill beginning at 4:30 p.m., along with Wally Bosch, Cynthia Gorman, Sandy Haro, Kenneth Howen, Barb Mechtenberg, Deborah Merkwon, Ted Powell and Doug Winstead.

YOU'RE NEWS!
The Press & Dakotan

Out On The Town

MAY 18, 19, 20
THE THREE STOOGES
DIGITAL UP AND RUNNING!
Fri. 7:30 PM - Sat. 7:30 PM - Sun. 4 PM
Students \$2.00 Adults \$5.00
Idle Hour Theatre
Tripp, SD

VFW Post 791
209 Cedar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Wednesday & Sunday
5-7pm Cooks Choice
Thursday
Karaoke with Papa Ray
7-11pm
6-7pm - Domestic Beers
\$1.50
5-7pm - Hamburger/
Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**
Friday
Chicken Pot Pie
Serving 5:30-8:00
Saturday
Outback
8:00
Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30
Chislic Served Last
Wednesday of Each Month

Happenings in May
at the
Moose Lodge
Every Friday Night: 50¢ Wings
Friday, May 18th
Gary's BBQ Ribs
\$8 - 5:30-8pm
Saturday, May 19th
Walleye Fishing Day
Sign up Friday night
Saturday, May 26th
Birthday/Anniversary Night
Prime Rib 5:30-8pm
Sunday, May 27th
Breakfast - 8am - noon
310 Walnut, Yankton
Everyone Welcome

CJ's At The Lake
SAVE ON YOUR WALLET - OPEN EVERY DAY!
Cjathelake.com for menu's, events & bands • 402-388-4267
Weigan Rd., NE side of the lake • 10 miles north of Crofton • 11 miles southwest of Yankton
BREAKFAST BUFFET EVERY SUNDAY 8AM
SUNDAY NITE: 3 Piece Chicken & Salad Bar ONLY **\$8.95**
MONDAY: 14 Oz. Ribeye with Salad Bar **\$12.95**
TUESDAY: Taco **99¢**
WEDNESDAY: 14 Oz. Ribeye with Salad Bar **\$12.95**
THURSDAY: Hamburgers **\$1.25**
FRIDAY: All You Can Eat Walleye & Grilled Shrimp ONLY **\$13.95**
SATURDAY: All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs ONLY **\$13.95**

Customer Appreciation
Friday, May 18
4 to 7 p.m.
FREE
Hot Dog, Chips & Pepsi
(while they last)
3708 W 8th, at the Lake
Pump & Stuff
CONVENIENCE STORES
Keystone 30 pks.....\$14.99
Miller/Coors 9 pk Aluminum Cans.....\$8.99
Mikes assorted drinks 6 pk.....\$6.99
Bud/Bud Light 18 pk cans.....\$12.49
Pepsi 12 pk cans2/\$7.99

Trivia Question...
What is the distance from Yankton to The Argo Hotel & Steakhouse in Crofton, NE?
Answer...
14 Miles
Come & Enjoy
Nebraska Hospitality & Wonderful Food!
The Argo
Open Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. at 5:30
1-402-388-2400
www.theargohotel.com
email: argo@gncm.net CROFTON, NE

Wolf Found Dead In SD Came From Yellowstone

PINE RIDGE (AP) — A federal wolf specialist says a gray wolf found dead on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation came from Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Mike Jimenez with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says information from a tracking collar identifies the wolf as a 3- to 4-year-old male that was part of a pack in the southeast part of Yellowstone. He tells the *Rapid City Journal* the wolf made the 400-mile journey to southwest South Dakota in less than two months.

The wolf was found dead along U.S. Highway 18 near the town of Pine Ridge, apparently struck by a vehicle late Sunday or early Monday. South Dakota does not have a resident wolf population, but the animals sometimes wander in from other areas.

Minn. Apple Crop Survives Untimely Frost

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The sudden cold snap that interrupted Minnesota's warm spring five weeks ago doesn't appear to have been as big a disaster for the state's apple crop as initially feared.

The frost bit hard the nights of April 9 and 10 while many trees were blooming unusually early. While that will certainly affect the size of the crop, researchers and growers say it looks like the losses won't be as bad as they could have been.

University of Minnesota apple breeder David Bedford says the losses vary widely.

Some Minnesota apple growers say they got through frost in good shape, while others say they're hurting and worried. They'll find out for sure come August and September when orchards start picking their Zestars, SweetTangos, Honeycrisps, Haralsons and other popular regional varieties.

Sidney Woman Arrested In Child Abuse Case

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) — A Sidney woman who was ordered to stop providing child care services to anyone but her own children has been arrested on a child abuse charge.

KSID radio says police say 55-year-old Nancy Gipfert was arrested on Tuesday on a warrant regarding an incident that happened last September that resulted in a 2-month old child being hospitalized.

Cheyenne County Attorney Paul Schaub had previously forwarded the case to the Nebraska attorney general's office.

Schaub says Gipfert's bond is set at \$75,000. A telephone message left for her attorney, Donald Miller, of Sidney, was not returned on Wednesday.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services issued an emergency order against Gipfert in September 2011.

Oglala Sioux Tribe Tries To Extend Bus Program

PINE RIDGE (AP) — For the people living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, traveling to Rapid City may soon be as simple as hopping on a bus.

The Oglala Sioux Transit hopes to begin offering service to Rapid City from the reservation as early as this summer. Fares would be \$10 to \$20 for a one-way trip.

Oglala Sioux Transit Coordinator Emma Featherman Sam says the primary goal of the service would be for residents to receive medical service in Rapid City, which is more than two hours away. But other residents could use the service as well.

The Oglala Sioux Transit began offering bus service within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation three years ago.

Featherman Sam says the system allows residents a way to travel that they might not otherwise have.

Neb. Primary Turnout Higher Than Expected

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's top election official says turnout for the primary topped 25 percent, and the percentage will grow once all provisional ballots are counted.

Secretary of State John Gale said Wednesday he was pleasantly surprised by the number of registered voters who showed up at the polls.

Preliminary figures show 24 counties had at least 35 percent turnout. Boone County had the highest, with nearly 60 percent of registered voters casting a ballot.

Gale predicted a very high turnout for the November general election, which will include the presidential contest and a nationally watched U.S. Senate race between Democrat Bob Kerrey and Republican Deb Fischer.

Rounding 3rd
Bar & Casino
Entertainment Every Saturday!
May 19 Mike & Jay
May 26 Go Figure
June 2 Hairtrigger
June 9 Kings of Oblivion
Music Starts at 9PM
304 W. 3rd, Yankton

Don't Miss Our
All-You-Can-Eat
Broasted Chicken & Pollock Buffet
With Salad Bar
Every Wednesday 5 to 9pm
Joe's Substation
Rural Lesterville • 605-364-7414

Sweet Adelines
Sub Sandwiches for Memorial Day
Three Meat and One Cheese on a 6" Sara Lee Bun \$3 each
Orders Due Saturday, May 19th
Call Phyllis - 668-0659, Dorothy 661-7162 or Mary 660-3029
Pick up orders Friday, May 25 • 10am-2 pm
First United Methodist Church, 207 W 11th St., Yankton

OHIYA CASINO & BINGO
WEDNESDAY'S IN MAY
Come join Match Play
Buy \$10 in credits, get \$5 in Free Play
First 25 customers at 1 & 7 p.m.
Last Month to Play to WIN
2012 Kawasaki 4-Wheeler
Drawing to be held May 26th, 11 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 19th
\$1000 in total Cash Drawings
\$100 Drawn every 30 min.
7:30-Midnight
OHIYA RESTAURANT
SATURDAY, MAY 19TH
Ribeye Special \$13.95
Saturday and Sunday Breakfast Buffet \$7.50
Ohiya CASINO
Nebraska's First Casino
5 miles east of Niobrara, NE
off Hwy. 12 • 402-857-3860
www.ohiyacasino.com
Owned and Operated by
The Santee Sioux Nation
Mgmt. has the right to make changes at any given time.

OHIYA BINGO HALL
FRIDAY, MAY 18TH
No Bingo
Due to local HS Graduation
SATURDAY, MAY 19TH
Armed Forces Day
\$5 off buy-in purchase with proof of military action
\$30 Pays \$150
Warm-ups 6p.m.
Session 6:30p.m.
SUNDAY, MAY 20TH
This will be the make-up
Bingo from Friday Nights
Cancellation.
Warm-ups 4p.m.
Session 4:30p.m.