

## 13K In SD Used Insurance Marketplace

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Federal officials say that 13,104 South Dakotans have chosen health plans through the new insurance marketplace created by the nation's health care law, falling short of expectations.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a report Thursday with enrollment figures that cover most of the open enrollment period that ended March 31.

The federal government had projected that 19,000 South Dakota residents would enroll during the six-month period.

Data show that 24,147 South Dakotans were found eligible to enroll in a marketplace plan, and 16,243 were eligible to receive financial assistance for those plans.

The health care law requires nearly every American to have insurance coverage or pay a tax penalty of either \$95 or 1 percent of income, whichever is higher.

## 2 More Jump Into US Senate Race

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The race for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Tim Johnson is getting even more crowded.

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant has approved the nominating petitions for two additional independent candidates — Gordon Howie and Clayton Walker.

Howie served in the state Legislature between 2005 and 2010. Walker is a 33-year-old Black Hawk resident.

The two join former Republican U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler, who is running as an independent.

Republicans seeking the seat are former Gov. Mike Rounds, state lawmakers Larry Rhoden and Stace Nelson, attorney and Army Reserves Maj. Jason Ravnsborg and physician Annette Bosworth. They'll face off in a June 3 primary.

Sioux Falls business owner Rick Weiland is the lone Democratic candidate.

## Nearly 43K In Neb. Enroll In Marketplace

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A new federal report says nearly 43,000 Nebraskans signed up for health insurance in the six months since the federal marketplace was launched.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported Thursday that 42,975 Nebraskans enrolled between Oct. 1 and March 31. An estimated 74,606 people in Nebraska were deemed eligible to enroll.

Nationally, more than 8 million people signed up by the end of the first national enrollment period. That includes 5.4 million who signed up through the federal marketplace. Another 2.6 million enrolled through state plans.

Nebraska is among 36 states relying on the federal website to enroll residents in the health marketplace, which is part of the federal health care law.

## Extension Granted For Neb. Policies

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraskans with insurance policies that don't comply with the federal health care law may be able to keep their plans for a few more years.

The Nebraska Department of Insurance announced this week that it would allow insurers to keep offering plans that were issued before Jan. 1. Policies for individuals and small businesses can now be extended through Oct. 1, 2016.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska says it will allow the extension for its customers and will notify the affected policy holders about their options.

Any new policy sold after Jan. 1 must comply with the Affordable Care Act. Non-compliant policies that are extended will not qualify for federal cost assistance.

## Casino Workers Get Layoff Notices

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — The Argosy riverboat casino in Sioux City has sent layoff notices to all of its more than 300 workers.

The notices were sent Wednesday in accordance with a federal law that requires employers with more than 100 employees to provide at least 60 days' notice of a workplace closing or mass layoff.

But Argosy's parent company, Penn National Gaming Co., says it is not ending its fight to keep open the casino.

The Argosy's pending closure stems from the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission's decision to allow a land-based casino in downtown Sioux City to replace the Argosy. Penn National lost its bid to operate the land-based casino to Sioux City Entertainment, which is building and will operate a Hard Rock Casino.

## 1 Dies In Northeast Nebraska Collision

WINSIDE, Neb. (AP) — One driver has died in a collision on Nebraska Highway 35 in northeast Nebraska.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office says the accident occurred about 12:15 a.m. Wednesday around five miles south of Winside. A northbound vehicle crossed the center line and rammed into a southbound sport utility vehicle driven by Shelby Pesek, of Winside.

The Sheriff's Office says Pesek and her passenger, Julie Liles, were taken to Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk for treatment of their injuries. The name of the driver who died isn't being released until his relatives are notified.

## Rural Leaders: Planning, Support Key

WASHINGTON (AP) — Witnesses are telling a Senate panel that rural communities need to sell what they are, not what they are not in order to thrive economically.

They also say government support is important for growth and that small cities and towns should band together to maximize their potential.

A subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee focused Thursday on how to boost rural economies. Witnesses included business and community leaders from North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Mark Tilsen is the chief executive officer of Native American Natural Foods based in Kyle, South Dakota. He says his company has studied other rural businesses to plan for success.

But he says that for his business to succeed, the government has to follow through on programs designed to boost rural economies.

## Hot Springs Murder Trial Moved

RAPID CITY (AP) — The murder trial of a Fall River County man accused of killing his mother and hiding her body will be held in Rapid City this summer.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Circuit Judge Jeff Davis granted a defense request to move 28-year-old Matthew Tornquist's trial.

Defense attorneys Matthew Stephens and Betsey Harris of Rapid City have said their client cannot receive a fair trial in Hot Springs because of community prejudice and media attention given to the case.

The judge, however, was more concerned about the size of the Fall River County courthouse and finding enough jurors to empanel a jury.

"The Fall River County facility is not equipped to handle the trial," Davis said Wednesday.

Davis set July 8 as a tentative start date for the Pennington County jury trial.

Catherine Tornquist was 56 when she disappeared the first week of October 2011.

Her son has pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree and second-degree murder as well as grand theft in the disappearance of his mother. He remains in custody.

# 6 South Dakota Residents Sentenced In Immigration Case

BY DIRK LAMMERS

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Six South Dakota residents, five of whom are from the same family, have been sentenced for their roles in a five-year conspiracy to harbor people living in the country illegally so that the immigrants could perform contract work for the U.S. Forest Service, a federal prosecutor said Thursday.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson said the immigrants worked for Munoz Logging and Construction Company, Black Hills Thinning Company, Escalante Logging Company, Escalante Logging and Thinning Company, and Pine Forest Logging and Thinning, which all regularly submitted bids that were significantly lower than competitors.

"Many times their bids are hundreds of thousands of dollars less than the competition," Johnson said in the original indictment. "By employing undocumented aliens who are not paid fair wages, benefits, and overtime as prescribed by law and as outlined in the contract, they are able to secure profits even when submitting what are much lower bids."

Angel Munoz-Escalante, 60, owner and operator of Munoz Logging and Construction Company, was sentenced to one year in prison for false statements and ordered to pay more than \$500,000



Johnson

in restitution and forfeit more than \$260,000 in vehicles, equipment and cash.

Prosecutors said Munoz-Escalante intentionally submitted about 50 contract certifications for payment to the U.S. Forest Service that contained materi-

ally false statements. The work performed on the contracts was not done in accordance with the contract terms because Munoz-Escalante employed workers living in the country illegally and failed to pay the prevailing wage and benefit rates. He is scheduled to begin his prison term on May 26.

Munoz-Escalante's wife, 55-year-old Barbara Munoz, was sentenced to one year of probation and 100 hours of community service for failing to report the crimes. Johnson said Munoz was also an owner and operator of the company.

Aurelio Munoz-Escalante, 51, owner and operator of Black Hills Thinning Company, was sentenced to three months in prison for false statements, and Rogelio Escalante, 57, owner and operator of Escalante Logging Company and Escalante Logging and Thinning Company, was sentenced to six months in prison for false statements. Prosecutors said the two submitted contract cer-

tifications for payment to the U.S. Forest Service that contained false statements because the work was not done in accordance with the contract terms.

Attorneys for the four did not immediately return telephone messages left by The Associated Press on Thursday.

Two other men were each fined \$2,500 and ordered to forfeit money and equipment for violating employment laws.

Prosecutors said 31-year-old Miguel Soto, who is not related to the family, was fined for knowingly employing workers living in the country illegally while running his own logging crew for Black Hills Thinning Company. Pascual Munoz, 55, owner and operator of Pine Forest Logging and Thinning, was fined for hiring workers living in the country illegally, not paying insurance or overtime and not providing safety equipment, all in violation of his U.S. Forest Service contracts.

Attorneys for Soto and Munoz said Thursday they did not wish to comment on the sentences.

Johnson said the convictions are a result of a criminal investigative operation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. The crimes occurred between January 2008 and May 2013, and the sentences were handed down last week.

# Economic Survey Index Hits 3-Year High

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly economic index for nine Midwestern and Plains states hit a three-year high in April, suggesting more economic growth over the next three to six months, according to a report issued Thursday.

The overall Mid-America Business Conditions Index rose to 60.4 from 58.2 in March.

"Much like the national economy, the Mid-America region continues to expand with growth prospects improving monthly. This is the highest overall reading that we have recorded since March 2011," said Ernie Goss, director of

Creighton University's Economic Forecasting Group, who oversees the report.

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Looking six months ahead, the business confidence portion of the overall index jumped to 64.2 in April from 59.0 in March.

"Improvements in the job market supported supply managers' business outlook for the month," Goss said. "Furthermore, some of the uncertainty surrounding the number of signups for the Affordable Care Act has been reduced, thus boosting confidence."

The supply managers last month were asked to gauge the impact of the implementation of the health overhaul on their companies. Almost two-thirds, or 65.5 percent, reported little or no impact; 3.6 percent reported a significant negative impact; and 29.8 percent reported a negative impact. Just 1.2 percent

reported a positive impact from the act.

After declining below growth neutral for December, the employment index has remained above the threshold for fourth straight months. It dipped slightly in April, to 54.2 from 54.4 in March.

"Durable-goods manufacturers, including vehicle producers, and nondurable-goods producers, such as food processors, are adding jobs at a healthy pace," Goss said. "There are more workers employed in the nine-state region than ever. I expect current growth to continue in the months ahead," he said.

# South Dakota Trappers Face A Live-Bait Ban

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

SYLVAN LAKE — Trappers in South Dakota have increasingly used live animals, including domestic cats and rabbits, and live birds as bait during recent years, according to state wildlife officials.

Now the practice might be outlawed.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission will hold a public hearing June 5 in Yankton at its next meeting.

The commission also is considering a requirement

that trappers remove all equipment from public land and public rights of way prior to May 1.

The August goose hunt dates also might be changed.

The proposal calls for changing the starting date from the first Saturday of August to the third Saturday of August.

If approved, the hunt would run Aug. 16 through Aug. 31. The hunt is intended to reduce goose populations. Hunters can take 15 geese apiece per day.

The hunt is conducted in

Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington (west of the Cheyenne River), Roberts, Spink, Turner and Union counties.

Last year 2,345 hunters went to the field. They reported harvesting 18,592 geese. Those numbers were down from 2012 when there were 3,581 hunters who reported taking 36,757 geese. The August hunt is open

only to South Dakota residents. Commissioner Jim Spies of Watertown said he hears many opinions about the hunt, including questions about why non-residents aren't allowed if the goal is to reduce geese numbers.

"We'd like to shoot this many," Spies said, raising his hand above his head, then dropping it down, "but we're only killing this many."

The goose starting date change will also be considered at the public hearing June 5.



## With Fondest Memories

**We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.**

*On Saturday, May 24th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.*

*Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.*

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.	8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.	9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.	10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.	11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.	12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.	13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.	14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
	15. I have written my own message and it is included.

Name of deceased\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth\_\_\_\_\_ Date of passing\_\_\_\_\_

Number of selected verse\_\_\_\_\_ OR Personal message (25 word limit)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Print your name here\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip\_\_\_\_\_

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo.

Fill out the form and mail to:  
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/  
With Fondest Memories  
319 Walnut St.,  
Yankton, SD 57078

**Deadline: Friday, May 16, 2014, 5pm**