



Lancers Eliminated From GPAC Tournament ■ 8

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Official: EB-5 'Not A Plot'

Program Viewed As Economic Development

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The use of EB-5 financing from foreign investors seeking favorable U.S. visa treatment was considered for economic development and discussed project by project at the top level of state government during the program's peak period from 2007 through 2010 under the Rounds administration, according to current and past officials.

Nearly 500 people are known to have together made nearly \$250 million of loans under EB-5 for South Dakota projects during the four years of then-Gov. Mike Rounds' second term. That flurry of action coincided with changes in key personnel and corresponded with a noticeable shift in the management approach for economic development within the government.

EB-5 financing, primarily through large pools of loans of \$500,000 apiece from China and South Korea investors who also paid large service fees, became a source of capital for projects that tended to fit into two categories: Those too solid to fail, such as electricity production; or too risky and pricey to attract sufficient conventional loans, such as meat processing.

The move into EB-5 came on the heels of a spectacular failure — some said fraud — involving the proposed Ridgefield Farms beef packing house at Huron and later re-proposed, but again never built, at Flaudreau. That private venture cost South Dakota investors many millions of dollars, including money from private individuals, commodity groups, Farmers Union and state government.

Neil Fulton, who was Rounds' chief of staff from November 2007 through June 2010, said EB-5 discussions were project-based. He

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A Hands-On Adventure

An estimated 287 area students gets some unique hands-on learning experiences at Riverside Park Friday with the annual Missouri River Watershed School Festival. This year's event featured an assortment of stations that allowed students to learn more about the Missouri River environment, as well as mixing in history and culture into the experience. LEFT: Yankton Middle School student Eleanor Rhoades doesn't appear to be enjoying her one-on-one with nature, which in this case takes the form of a tiger salamander, one of the reptilian creatures that is found along the Missouri River. Happily, both Rhoades and the salamander survived the encounter. ABOVE: Perhaps the most popular station at the festival each year is the fish display presented by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Fisheries Division. Here, Derek Tomes, left, and Seth Lundgren explain the differences between a walleye (held by Lundgren) and a sauger. Activities continue today (Saturday) with the annual Missouri River Clean-Up, as well as the new outdoor expo, which will be held at Riverside Park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. It will feature more than 30 stations and will be open to the public. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Candidates Target ACA At Lincoln Day Event



Lora Hubbel of Sioux Falls, who is challenging Gov. Dennis Daugaard in South Dakota's Republican gubernatorial primary, speaks to the crowd at Friday's Lincoln Day GOP dinner at JoDean's in Yankton. A poster of Daugaard looms in the background.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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During the Yankton County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner Friday evening, candidates for federal office made their opposition to the Democratic agenda in Washington clear.

The five Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate — Annette Bosworth, Stace Nelson, Jason Ravensborg, Larry Rhoden and Mike Rounds — stated their opposition to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or "Obamacare."

Bosworth said the government has intruded on too many areas of Americans' lives, especially in health care.

"As a physician, I realized that bully I stood up to at age 7 was now in my exam room and was dictating more about who I was seeing and what coverage they were going to have than my determination as a

physician on what they needed."

Government spending is out of control, according to Nelson, who was celebrating his 47th birthday Friday.

He said that he can appeal to not only Republicans but also Democrats, independents and other political stripes — all while not caving in to moderate elements of the Republican party.

The Republican party can't just be against the ideas of Democrats, Ravensborg said. It must also offer alternatives.

For health care, that could be the Patient CARE Act offered by some Republican legislators that Ravensborg said would retain parts of the ACA, such as not allowing insurance companies to deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions.

The next South Dakota senator must have

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Marsh: 'It Has Been An Incredible Honor'

BY DAVID LIAS
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VERMILLION — Jack Marsh has made official an action that his colleagues both anticipated and dreaded.

He retired from the Freedom Forum on May 1 as president of the Al Neuharth Media Center at the University of South Dakota.

Marsh, who turned 65 in April, will continue to live with his family in Sioux Falls and pursue an encore career of consulting and volunteer service.

His journalism career, which spanned more than four decades, was split between the Gannett Co. and the Freedom Forum, separate, unaffiliated organizations once led by South Dakota native Al Neuharth, who died in 2013.

"In 17 years at this university, I've had the privilege to work with a lot of people who I really like both professionally and personally, and who I respect a great deal," said USD President James Abbott at a reception held for Marsh at the Neuharth Center on March 24. "One of the really rotten things about being at the university is having to say goodbye to people you don't want to say good-



Marsh

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Yankton Man Arrested After Vehicle Pursuit

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A Yankton man was apprehended Friday afternoon after a pursuit by the Yankton County Sheriff's Office.

Cory Venables, 27, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence (fourth), reckless driving, aggravated eluding and intentional damage to property.

According to Deputy Sheriff Mike Rothschild, a complaint was received around 3:30 p.m. about a Ford Explorer that was driving erratically along Highway 50 west of Yankton.

A deputy made contact with the vehicle near Ehresmann Engineering on the northwest corner of Yankton. A pursuit ensued.

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YHS Senior Semifinalist For Presidential Scholars Program

BY DEREK BARTOS
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A Yankton High School senior's academic accomplishments have placed him among the top students in the nation.

Hunter Koch was recently named one of 565 semifinalists for the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The selections were made from more than 4,000 candidates based on achievements, leadership qualities, personal character and involvement in the community and school activities. Koch is one of only six semifinalists from South Dakota.

Finalists for the program will be announced later this month.

"It's a really big honor," Koch said. "Out of everyone in the state, to be one of the top six chosen, I thought that was really cool."

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by executive order to recognize and honor the country's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to also recognize students for achievements in the visual, creative and performing arts.

Students can become U.S. Presidential Scholars through two paths. Those who are selected for broad academic achievement are initially considered by scoring exceptionally well on the SAT or ACT. Those who are chosen for artistic accomplishment must partici-



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton High School senior Hunter Koch has been named one of 565 semifinalists for the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

pate in YoungArts, a program that identifies excellence in the arts. Koch was automatically considered for his ACT score of 35.

In addition to being a straight-A student, Koch interns as a physics research assistant at the University of South Dakota and has participated in numerous science camps. He also is interested in many forms of the arts,

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