

## Televised Debates Set For 2 SD Primaries

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota Public Broadcasting will provide what might be the only statewide televised debates before the June 3 primary elections that will decide the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate and the Democratic nomination for governor.

Public television also attempted to host a debate between candidates for the Republican nomination for governor. That May 22 event fell through, however.

One of the candidates couldn't attend, according to Stephanie Rissler, who is host for SDBP's political forums.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard will keep a previously scheduled campaign appearance instead of facing former state Rep. Lora Hubbel of Sioux Falls.

"He had already accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Davison County Lincoln Day (Republican dinner). We let SDBP know that and they decided not to reschedule," Daugaard campaign official Kelsey Webb said.

SDPB's decision displeased Hubbel. "I wanted very much to debate Daugaard and was very upset when I was told the May 22 forum would not proceed just because Daugaard had a conflict," Hubbel said Thursday afternoon.

"I could have gone on by myself or with another candidate. But just because Daugaard did not want to debate me I am censored," she said.

Hubbel added that "I am going to make a big deal out of yet another attempt to silence me."

The five candidates seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate will square off May 15 in an extended 90-minute program starting at 8 p.m. CDT.

Accepting SDBP's invitations are Annette Bosworth of Sioux Falls, state Rep. Stace Nelson of Fulton, Jason Ravensborg of Yankton, state Sen. Larry Rhoden of Union Center and former Gov. Mike Rounds of Fort Pierre.

The forum marks the second time in the 2014 campaign season that the Republican Senate candidates will sit down in a longer-form setting. The five faced off the first time in the South Dakota Newspaper Association debate

held April 12 in Pierre.

They are competing to be the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Tim Johnson, who is retiring. Rick Weiland of Sioux Falls is the only Democrat running.

Three independents seeking the Senate seat also have been certified for the November general election ballot.

They are former U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler of Sioux Falls and former state legislator Gordon Howie of Rapid City, who were Republicans when they held office, and Clayton Walker of Black Hawk, who was a Democratic legislative intern.

The two candidates vying for the Democratic nomination for governor will get their prime-time hour on May 29. The program featuring Joe Lowe of Piedmont and state Rep. Susan Wismer of Britton begins at 8 p.m. CDT.

The winner between Lowe and Wismer faces the winner of the Hubbel-Daugaard Republican primary. An independent candidate, Michael Myers of Centerville, also will be on the November ballot for governor.

## Lawmakers' Reimbursement Policy Renewed

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Legislature's Executive Board renewed its travel-reimbursement policy for another year Thursday including compensation for attending American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) events.

The ALEC provision caused the board members to split 10-3 for approval. House Democrats Spencer Hawley of Brookings and Kathy Tyler of Big Stone City joined Republican Sen. Craig Tieszen of Rapid City in voting against it.

The policy, which took effect immediately and extends through June 30, 2015, is essentially the same as the previous policy with some minor changes in wording.

Tieszen called the inclusion of ALEC "troublesome" and said ALEC "isn't compatible" with the three other organizations — National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments and Midwestern Legislative Conference — for which travel expenses are reimbursed.

Said Hawley: "I am really

disappointed we are funding that (ALEC)."

ALEC operates with a legislator and a business representative as co-chairs for its committees. Two of the other organizations operate solely with legislators in their leadership, while state government officials including legislators comprise CSG.

The Legislature's policy says a legislator who is a member of a committee for one of the four organizations will be reimbursed for travel expenses.

The policy further states any member of the executive governing board for one of the four organizations will be reimbursed for travel to attend board meetings.

The policy also explicitly says ALEC dues are eligible to be reimbursed.

There are provisions too for travel reimbursement to legislators and individuals appointed to the national Streamlined Sales Tax Project, the Uniform Laws Commission, the Education Commission of the States, and Legislative Forum.

From there, the line is drawn. "All legislative out-of-state travel not in accordance with the guidance received in the memoran-

dum will not be reimbursed," the policy says.

It adds that all requests for travel need approval by the Executive Board's chairman and any legislator who wishes to attend a national meeting without seeking reimbursement may do so without prior approval.

House Speaker Brian Gosch disagreed with the comments of Tieszen, Hawley and Tyler.

"The same people are at all three," Gosch, R-Rapid City, said about ALEC, CSG and NCSL meetings. "There's not some conspiracy or oddness or strangeness to it."

Gosch suggested that legislators should see an ALEC meeting before taking a position against the Legislature funding travel for ALEC meetings.

Tyler had suggested that legislators get a flat amount such as \$2,000 annually for travel to meetings where they can develop their knowledge on issues.

She said "not all legislators" want to serve on a national committee and the \$2,000 would provide more legislators with opportunities, such as attending the governor's agriculture summit later this year.

Challenges to Tyler's stipend concept came from a variety of Republicans including Sen. Deb Peters of Hartford and Rep. Lance Carson of Mitchell.

Tyler agreed there would need to be parameters of some kind. "I don't know that yet," she said.

Rep. Steve Westra, R-Sioux Falls, asked if any legislators have been refused travel.

The answer was a surprising yes from the chairman, Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel.

"I denied legislators this last year," Maher said.

He discussed several situations such as a legislator who wasn't a CSG member who wanted to go to a CSG conference in Alaska.

Maier said the first thing he does when he gets a travel request is call the Legislative Research Council office to find out whether a lawmaker meets the qualifications set in the policy.

The board also discussed a new state rule that requires travel vouchers to be submitted to the state auditor for review within 60 days of the trip's date of return.

"Yes," Maher said. "Yes."

## McVays

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to us about something. ... He said, 'I do believe that you have Alzheimer's, and I'm running short on time and I won't be able to discuss anything with you so good bye.' Within four minutes, we were outside of his office in the car sobbing."

But Ellen said she didn't want the disease to overcome her ability to be happy.

"At some point in the decision, I decided that I'm in charge of my life and my choice is to be happy," she said. "Because I could cry and cry and cry and not eat, and that's not very much fun. But it has helped me so much to be able to take in that I choose to be happy. I share that with my friends that have Alzheimer's. We can either cry all the time, we can be mad all the time or we can keep going and have a good time with the grandkids and so forth. Life is good — it might not be the perfect life, but life is good and that's what's at the core of what I'm living with."

Michael told the *Press & Dakotan* the decision to start advocating for greater awareness together came when the couple began seeing how widespread the disease was and how lacking the awareness of it was.

"There's a need for advocates," he said. "There's a need for people to speak out about it, the extent of the disease, the need for more research."

He added that his experience in the medical field has shown him how beneficial added research can be.

"As a physician, I'm just so aware of what research can do," he said. "As a cardiologist, it's really helped heart disease, so we're just at the beginning processes for this."

Ellen told the *Press & Dakotan* that advocacy has helped and that she's excited to participate in raising awareness.

"I think a lot of people are

feeling connected now and we feel consoled and loved and we help one another," she said. "I feel really good about being able to do this, even though I might trip over a word. We work really good as a team. We happen to love each other, so that is how we are living — one day at a time."

Michael said he's seen the public becoming more aware of the gravity of the situation since Ellen's 2010 diagnosis.

"We're just seeing, in the last couple of years, where there's more public awareness and people are realizing the huge financial implications of this for public health."

For more information on the South Dakota branch of the Alzheimer's Association, visit <http://www.alz.org/SD/>.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at [twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/](https://twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/)

## Daugaard's China Trip Targets Foreign Students, Exports

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is embarking on another trade mission to China with hopes of attracting more students to the state's universities and finding new markets for exports.

The delegation, which includes 16 business representatives and state employees, leaves Friday for a weeklong trip. Most of the trip will take place in Beijing and Shanghai, where Daugaard and others will talk business — especially dairy, sunflowers and electrical products.

One of the primary goals of the mission is attracting foreign students, especially to the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University, Daugaard said in an interview Wednesday. In the fall 2013 semester, 184 students with Chinese residency attended the state's six public institutions, the state Board of Regents has said.

Daugaard also will travel Sunday to a province in Mongolia to begin talks on establishing a "sister state" relationship, which he believes might better encourage foreign students to study in South Dakota instead of just setting up alliances between universities.

"Then you get to know the government officials over there," Daugaard said. "In a big city state like Beijing and Shanghai, that's hard to do for a small state like South Dakota. We're a pretty small fish in that pond."

Kathleen Fairfax, the assistant vice president for international affairs and outreach at SDSU, will be on the trip to promote the online course offerings for that school and for USD. She and Daugaard will meet with China's minister of education.

## Neb. Net Tax Receipts Below Projections

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A new state report says Nebraska's net tax collections in April fell more than 7 percent below projections.

The Department of Revenue said Thursday that net tax receipts for the month totaled \$483 million. The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board had set the official state estimate at \$520 million.

The report says revenue from individual and corporate income taxes and sales-and-use taxes came in lower than projected. Miscellaneous taxes were higher than expected.

Renee Fry of the OpenSky Policy Institute, a Nebraska tax-policy think tank, says this year's tax receipts are still on pace to exceed earlier forecasts, but state revenue and the economy are still underperforming when compared to historic averages. Fry says that trend is likely to continue.

## Neb. Begins 'Nice' Branding Campaign

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Tourism Commission is taking advantage of Nebraska's people and their apparent reputation for niceness in a new branding campaign.

The title is "Nebraska Nice," and among its materials is a recommendation to "Visit Nebraska. Visit Nice."

Commission director Kathy McKillip says in a news release that officials wanted a message "that would resonate with Nebraskans and will very quickly communicate Nebraska's strengths to potential visitors."

Commission vice chairman John Chapo says the new campaign evolved from intense brand research that showed one of Nebraska's strongest assets is its people.

A commission report says "Nebraska is about genuine friendliness and relaxation across all audiences but also a fun place for nonresidents."

## Alleged SD Murder Confession Allowed

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota's Supreme Court says an alleged confession to police by a teenage murder suspect should be allowed at her trial.

Maricela Diaz is charged in the November 2009 killing of 16-year-old Jasmine Guevara. Diaz was 15 at the time. Prosecutors contend that Diaz and boyfriend Alexander Salgado lured Guevara to a remote site near Mitchell, stabbed her and left her to die in the trunk of a burning car. They allege that Diaz was jealous of a developing relationship between Salgado and Guevara.

Justices say they believe Diaz understood her right to remain silent before allegedly confessing her role in the crime. They reversed a lower court ruling suppressing her statements.

Salgado earlier pleaded guilty to murder and is serving life in prison. Diaz's trial has not been scheduled.

## Spice Suspects Due In Federal Court

DENVER (AP) — Three men indicted in Denver for allegedly distributing and buying synthetic marijuana will remain in federal custody over the weekend, a magistrate judge ruled Thursday.

The three suspects — James Johnson, Orlando Martinez and Donald Creager III — were arrested in Colorado as part of a nationwide crackdown on so-called spice. They made brief appearances in federal court and will return next week, when a judge will decide whether to hold them further. Six other people indicted by a Denver grand jury on charges of conspiracy and drug distribution were arrested in other states.

They include John Bowen of Las Vegas and Daniel Bernier of Cocoa Beach, Florida. Prosecutors say they ran companies in Florida and Colorado that imported chemicals from China to make spice and sold it under various brand names to smoke shops in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Alaska, Ohio, Georgia and Illinois as well as Colorado.

In one month alone, the leafy mixture poisoned more than 200 people in Colorado and killed at least one, a 15-year-old boy. Authorities said illnesses in Georgia and Nebraska last summer were also linked to synthetic marijuana.

In addition to the nine people indicted in Colorado, federal agents made more than 150 arrests and served about 200 warrants in connection with the synthetic drug crackdown.

## Arrow Surgically Removed From Neb. Cat

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A \$2,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of whoever shot an arrow into a cat in Omaha.

A man called animal control officers for help on Wednesday afternoon, saying he'd found the wounded cat in the yard of his east-central Omaha home.

The officers took the cat, which later underwent an operation to remove the arrow. The cat is recovering at the Nebraska Humane Society.

The society says it doesn't know who owns the cat, which is described as a dark-colored, domestic long-haired neutered male that's about a year old.

## SD Man Snags 127-Pound Paddlefish

LAKE FRANCIS CASE (AP) — A South Dakota man has set a state record after snagging a 127-pound paddlefish.

Game, Fish and Parks conservation foreman Bill Harmon caught the massive fish Wednesday in the Lake Francis Case on the Missouri River.

The state agency says Harmon broke the record that was set in 1979 in the Ft. Randall tailwater. That fish weighed 120 pounds.

## 50th Anniversary Celebration



### Mr. & Mrs. Darrell McDonald

Darrell and Helen McDonald will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary May 9, 2014.

Darrell McDonald and Helen Hauger were married May 9, 1964 at St. Columbia Church, Mayfield, SD.

They have seven children: Kaye (John) Olsen, Irene SD; Greg (Nikki) McDonald, Shakopee, MN; Brad (Terri) McDonald, Crooks, SD; Cindy (Ben) Leber, Vermillion, SD; Kim (Chad) Knudtson, Sioux Falls, SD; Melissa (Frank, Jr.) Kralicek, Yankton, SD; and Paul McDonald, Irene, SD. They have 13 grandchildren.

To help them celebrate, greetings may be sent to 44327 296th St, Irene, SD 57037.

They will celebrate their anniversary with a family vacation this summer.

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