# the midwest

#### SD Judge Sentences McVay To Death

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A judge in Sioux Falls has formally sentenced a man to death for killing a woman as part of a plot to assassinate President Barack Obama.

Judge Peter Lieberman on Tuesday sentenced 44-year-old James McVay. A 12-member jury earlier had voted unanimously for a death sentence.

McVay would have been sentenced to life in prison without parole if the jury's decision had not been unanimous.

McVay pleaded guilty but mentally ill to murder in the 2011 stabbing of 75-year-old Maybelle Schein (SHYN). McVay said he killed Schein and stole her car as part of his plan to drive to Washington and kill the president. He was later arrested in Wisconsin.

Schein's family declined to speak during the hearing. McVay's sentence will be automatically reviewed by the state Supreme Court.

#### **Domina Wins Neb. Dem. Senate Primary**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha attorney Dave Domina has won Nebraska's Democratic primary election for U.S. Sen-

Domina easily defeated Larry Marvin of Fremont in Tuesday's primary race. He will face the winner of the Republican primary in a contest to replace Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns, who is not seeking a second term.

The GOP enters the race as a strong favorite in conser-

Domina is best known for his opposition to construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Marvin is a part-time assistant foreman at a Fremont meatpacking plant who had raised no money and not actively campaigned.

#### At Least 11 Tornadoes Confirmed In Neb.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — At least 11 tornadoes have been confirmed in the storms that carved their way across eastern Nebraska on Sunday.

The National Weather Service released a preliminary report on the tornadoes Tuesday, but more may be added to the total after the rest of the damage is examined.

The weather service says the tornado that did extensive damage in Beaver Crossing generated winds up to 140 mph and was rated EF-3 on the enhanced fujita scale. The strongest possible rating is EF-5 for storms with winds over

Two other tornadoes that touched down near Sutton and near Exeter were also rated EF-3, but they produced peak

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency estimates the storms caused at least \$20 million in damage.

#### SD Planting Ahead Of Average Pace

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota farmers are ahead of the average pace in getting their corn and soybean crops in the ground, despite prolonged cool and wet conditions.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 52 percent of South Dakota's corn crop is planted, compared to 43 percent on average. About 14 percent of soybeans are in the ground, compared to 9 percent on average.

Planting of small grains crops remains behind the average pace, however. The report says about half of the state's barley crop and three-fourths of the oats and spring wheat

Calving in the state is about 89 percent complete.

#### **Police Arrest Student In Explosives Case**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities in Lincoln have arrested an 18-year-old high school student after homemade explosives were found in his car at school.

Lincoln police say George Carl Chen was taken into custody Monday. He faces felony charges of unlawful possession of explosive materials and possession of a destructive device. Court records do not list an attorney.

Police say they discovered on May 7 more than 160 rifle rounds and 26 homemade firecrackers in Chen's car at Lincoln East High School. Another 50 rounds were found in his

The Lincoln Journal Star reports Chen told investigators he uses the rounds for target practice. He said the fireworks were from Fourth of July celebrations. Officer Katie Flood says there's no evidence that Chen meant to harm anyone at the school.

## **Nebraska Congressmen Win Primaries**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Two members of Nebraska's all-Republican U.S. House delegation coasted to primary wins Tuesday, and the state's senior congressman appeared on track to fend off a challenge as well.

In the Lincoln area's 1st District, Rep. Jeff Fortenberry handily defeated a challenge from two other Republicans – Dennis Parker and Jessica Turek – who have unsuccessfully run for the seat before and again garnered only a handful of votes. The winner will face Democrat Dennis Crawford in Novem-

In the vast, rural 3rd District, Rep. Adrian Smith bested challenger Tom Brewer. Smith will face Democrat Mark Sullivan in the general election.

Rep. Lee Terry, who was first elected in 1998 in the Omaha area's 2nd District, was running strong late in the evening against a former supporter, Dan Frei, who has tried to argue the congressman isn't enough of a fiscal conservative.

Frei helped lead an anti-incumbent faction that took control of the Douglas County GOP in 2012. He said he has opposed Terry since the Republican incumbent voted for President George W. Bush's \$700 billion bank bailout in 2008, which many conservatives saw as a betrayal of the Republican Party's traditional stance of less federal government

Frei's biggest hurdle was a lack of money. He had raised less than \$45,000 by the end of April, compared to nearly \$1.5 million raised by Terry that the incumbent has used to buy plenty of television ad space.

The winner will face Democrat Brad Ashford, a state lawmaker from Omaha, in the general election. Ashford defeated fellow Democrat and Omaha landscaper Mark Aupperle in the primary, who raised no money and had done little campaigning. The winner of two Libertarian candidates, Andy Shambaugh and Steven Laird, also will ad-

In the 3rd District, Brewer, who served 36 years in Nebraska Army National Guard, had some name recognition, particularly among military service members and veterans. But he raised only about \$120,000, including almost \$50,000 he lent his campaign. That was dwarfed by the \$645,000 Smith

## Nebraska Sees Tight GOP Governor Race

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Wealthy Omaha investor Pete Ricketts and Attorney General Jon Bruning were locked in a tight race on Tuesday night to be the Republican nominee to replace

. Gov. Dave Heineman. Ricketts, a former executive of online brokerage TD Ameritrade, held a lead over Bruning of less than a thousand votes with nearly half of returns counted in the sixman field.

The winner will emerge as a heavy favorite in the November general election. The path for both candidates has turned rocky in recent weeks, with Bruning and former TD Ameritrade executive Ricketts sparring over their experience and accusing each other of running negative campaigns.

Both are seeking the governor's office after previous unsuccessful bids for U.S. Senate — Ricketts in the

2006 general election, and Bruning in the 2012 primary. Ricketts, whose previous Senate run was the most expensive in Nebraska history, has raised less money this time around but still led the field with \$3.7 million as of last month.

Bruning joined the race in February shortly after he was treated for colon cancer. He initially said he would seek re-election as attorney general, but has since run a competitive race, raising \$2.1 million in campaign funds.

Republicans said once the nominee is chosen, the party will unite and work to extend its 15-year hold on the governor's office.

We'll have had a hardfought primary, but once it's over, it'll be time to focus on winning the general," said Bud Synhorst, executive director of the Nebraska Republican Party.

Despite minor differences over roads funding, prison reform and prenatal care for people in the United States illegally, the six GOP candidates march together on most issues. In addition to Bruning and Ricketts, the field includes state Sens. Beau McCoy of Omaha and Tom Carlson of Holdrege, Omaha tax attorney Bryan Slone and State Auditor Mike Foley of Lincoln.

The GOP winner will face Democrat Chuck Hassebrook, a former University of Nebraska regent who led the Center for Rural Affairs. While the Republican race has drawn the most attention, Hassebrook has spent the last several months building a campaign network, fundraising and presenting himself to voters as a

champion of rural Nebraska. "For a Democrat, an open seat is clearly easier to win than a challenged race

against an incumbent," said Paul Landow, a University of Nebraska at Omaha political science professor. "Â win is always possible. But it's a long, uphill climb."

The latest turn in the GOP race came last week, when Heineman endorsed Bruning in the primary. Heineman, the state's longest-serving governor and a popular Republican figure, said Bruning has the experience needed for the job. He also said he believed Bruning would focus on economic development and edu-

Ricketts has won endorsements from former Nebraska Govs. Charles Thone and Kay Orr, as well as from national political figures embraced by the tea party. The list includes former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

### **Ranchers Relief Fund Announces Final Distribution**

RAPID CITY (AP) - A relief fund for western South Dakota ranchers who lost tens of thousands of farm animals in an early October blizzard is set to disburse the last of \$5.4 million in dona-

More than \$4 million already has been doled out from the Rancher Relief Fund, to more than 600 ranchers, according to South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Executive Director Silvia Chris-

"The last million dollars will be distributed here in the last weeks of May," she told

The Associated Press. "Our intention is the fund will close on June 1.

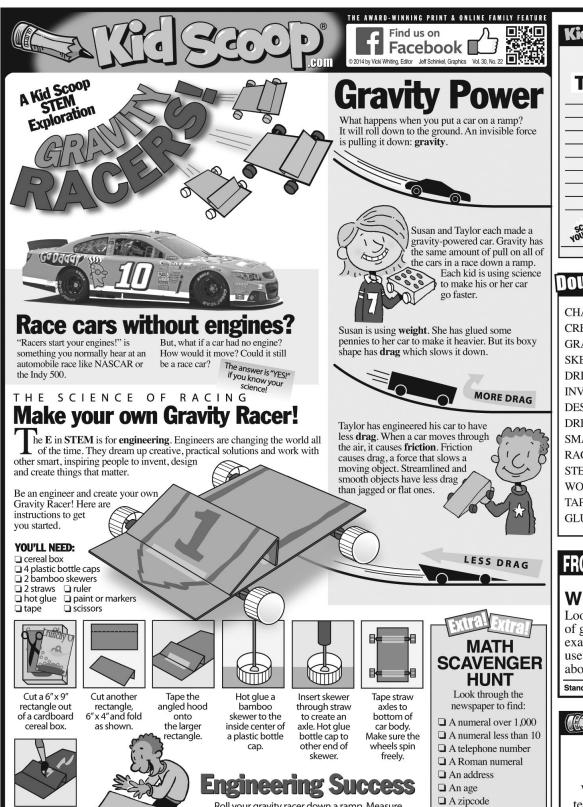
The fund was established by the Stockgrowers Association, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Sheepgrowers Association in the wake of the Oct. 4-5 storm that dumped up to 4 feet of snow in western South Dakota, killing an estimated 43,000 cattle, sheep, horses and bison.

Livestock losses in southwestern North Dakota were estimated at more than 1,000. A separate industry-led relief fund raised \$163,000 for affected ranchers in that state and distributed the money in March, along with about \$40,000 that was given to South Dakota ranchers.

"(The blizzard) took its toll on western South Dakota and neighboring states," South Dakota Cattlemen's Association President Cory Eich said in a statement. "However, we are pleased to be able to provide timely assistance and, in conjunction with livestock disaster programs available through the farm bill, we are hopeful this

effort will make a difference in supporting these family businesses and the rural

A federal aid program for disaster-stricken ranchers that was authorized by the new federal farm bill signed into law in February started taking applications in mid-April. In the first couple of weeks, the Livestock Indemnity Program paid out nearly \$300,000 to more than 300 South Dakota ranchers, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data. Signup continues through next January.



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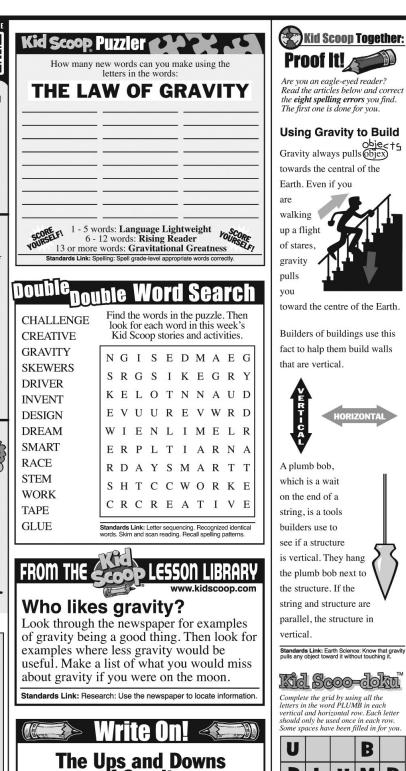
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