

Number Of Nebraska State Wards Down

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services says the number of state wards has fallen more than 25 percent since 2012.

Department officials say the state had 4,498 wards as of Monday. In March 2012, Nebraska had 6,121 state wards in its protection.

Thomas Pristow, the state's director of Children and Family Services, says a new evidence-based safety assessment tool used by case managers has allowed more children to remain at home when they can do so safely.

Pristow says some juvenile offenders have moved to probation as a result of a state law that passed last year. The law shifts the supervision of juvenile offenders in a community from DHHS agencies to the state's probation office. The law also places an emphasis on diversion programs.

US Senate Candidate Can't Be On Ballot

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A Black Hawk resident trying to win the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Tim Johnson can't be on the general election ballot.

Secretary of State Jason Gant on Tuesday said independent candidate Clayton Walker won't be on the ballot after his nominating petitions were successfully challenged.

Walker can appeal the decision in circuit court.

Gant in a letter sent to Walker said the challenge left the candidate 1,410 signatures short of the 3,171 required for his petition to remain filed.

Brookings resident Mary Perpich contested the petitions. She's the Brookings County Democratic Party chairwoman.

Walker's petitions were challenged on the grounds that they included unregistered voters, had discrepancies in the counties and addresses listed for the signers and showed information difficult to verify because of their "poor quality."

SD Producers Deal With Rainfall, Frost

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Farmers trying to seed crops and ranchers trying to move cattle in South Dakota had to deal not only with rainfall over the past week but also frost in some areas.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that the cool conditions have slowed rangeland growth and delayed the movement of cattle to summer pastures.

About one-third of the state's soybean crop and three-fourths of the corn crop is planted, both ahead of the average pace. Spring wheat seeding still lags a bit behind the average, at 83 percent done. Sunflower seeding is just getting underway.

Part Of Guard Killing Suit Dismissed

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a portion of a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the widow of a South Dakota State Penitentiary guard slain by inmates three years ago.

News outlets report that U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol dismissed a claim in the lawsuit filed against the South Dakota Department of Corrections but remanded other claims to a state court.

Lynette Johnson alleges that lackadaisical behavior by state prison officials enabled Rodney Berget and Eric Robert to kill her husband during a failed escape attempt in 2011.

The Department of Corrections has argued that the suit fails to show that Ronald Johnson's safety was disregarded.

KELO-TV reports Piersol in his opinion wrote that the lawsuit's wrongful death claim and emotional distress claim can be pursued in state court.

Corn Palace Construction Bid Awarded

MITCHELL (AP) — A nearly \$4 million construction bid has been awarded for the first phase of the renovation of the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

The *Daily Republic* reports that Mitchell City Council members have agreed to make some changes to the original project to keep it within budget.

Council members scratched out a decorative tile planned for the base of the building, a felt wall finish on the upper floor of the lobby and seven small wind turbines on the south facade of the building.

But new all-glass doors for the main entrance pegged at more than \$10,000 were added to the project.

The contract was given to Mueller Lumber.

The two-phase renovation project is expected to cost about \$7.2 million.

Democratic SD Governor Candidates Show Differences At Brookings Forum

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

BROOKINGS — The two candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for governor took opposite sides Tuesday on the death penalty, uranium mining, education funding and rural mass transit.

State Rep. Susan Wismer of Britton and Joe Lowe of Piedmont answered questions before an audience of about 30 Brookings County Democrats at the city library.

It was one of the few joint appearances by Wismer and Lowe in their low-key campaigns leading to the June 3 primary election that will decide the party's nominee.

The two will meet on South Dakota Public Television in a one-hour debate May 29.

Neither Wismer nor Lowe was willing Tuesday night to commit to choosing the other person to be the party's candidate for lieutenant governor.

"I'm not going to speculate on that," Wismer said. "That's not a good thing to do."

"It's too early," Lowe said. "I don't

think either of one of us is ready to say yea or nay."

They didn't take any jabs at each other during the 80-minute forum. But they didn't mask their differences.

On the death penalty, Wismer said she is opposed to it but hasn't been in the position of a victim. "I am in favor of repeal of the death penalty," she said.

Lowe would keep it.

"I've seen a lot of death," he said, referring to his time as a California mayor and more than 30 years as a professional firefighter, including the past 12 in South Dakota. "I would definitely support the death penalty."

On the proposed Powertech uranium mining operation in southwestern South Dakota, Lowe said he opposes it for a variety of safety and environmental reasons.

Wismer said she doesn't know enough specifically about Powertech to take an absolute stand against the project, which awaits federal and state permits.

"As a family we are very much pro-nuclear power. I just think how much cleaner it is than coal power," she said.

Lowe said he supports a 1 percent sales tax on tourist items for four months of the year as a way to increase education

funding. He said he would put the issue to a public vote.

Wismer said South Dakota went through the debate two years ago over a 1 percent sales tax that would have been split between K-12 schools and Medicaid services. It was defeated.

Wismer said the major organizations such as the farm groups, chamber of commerce and retailers need to be convinced to support more funding before it will have a chance politically.

Asked about mass transit for rural areas including western South Dakota, Lowe endorsed the idea. Wismer said there is mass transit for older people and people with disabilities in many communities.

"It really is a question of viability,"

Wismer said. "Passenger train service was dropped because it wasn't viable."

The winner of the Democratic primary will face the winner of the Republican primary between Gov. Dennis Daugaard and former state Rep. Lora Hubbel of Sioux Falls.

Independent Mike Myers of Centerville also will be on the November general ballot.

Data: Nearly Half Of SD Voters Are Republican

BY NORA HERTEL

Associated Press

PIERRE — Nearly half of registered voters in South Dakota identify as Republicans, according to new state data, showing why Democrats could face a difficult task this year holding onto the U.S. Senate seat to be vacated by retiring Democrat Tim Johnson.

Forty-six percent of registered voters said they were Republicans, 34 percent Democrats and 16 percent Independents. Libertarian, Constitution and Americans Elect party members make up the remainder.

A crowded field of five Republicans is vying for the party nomination for U.S. Senator, led by former Gov. Mike Rounds. South Dakota's Sen-

ate seat is the mostly likely in the nation to switch from Democrat to Republican in the November election, several national analysts have said.

Some 511,000 people have registered to vote in South Dakota, similar to figures from the June 2012 primary, state figures show. Republican registration was flat, Democrats fell two percentage points and Independents fell one percentage point. Totals of registered Democrats have been trending down in the state as current totals are 4 points less than 2006 general election figures.

The Democrats hold majorities in 17 counties including the northeast corner of the state and southwest on the Pine Ridge reservation. There are pockets of Democrats along the southeast and north-

west banks of the Missouri river as well. The other 49 counties in the state are dominated by Republicans.

Chairman of the South Dakota Republican Party Craig Lawrence was happy to see the Republicans eke out a majority over Democrats in Brown County, home of Aberdeen.

"That's a seismic event," Lawrence said. "They had a definite county effort and it paid off for them."

Both Lawrence and Zach Crago, executive director for the South Dakota Democratic Party, said their parties plan to wait until after the primary to focus on registering more voters. Registration closed Monday for the primary election on June 3.

Secretary of State Jason

Gant's office is promoting a free mobile app that provides personalized voting information.

It's available for Apple and Android devices and can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website.

Users can see where they vote, what's on their ballot and other voter registration and election information.

Registered voters can cast their ballots early with absentee voting by mail or at county courthouses. Officials have sent out about 4,700 ballots and received about 3,400 back. Absentee voting ends June 2, the day before the election.

Registered voters must bring photo identification to the polls or sign a personal identification affidavit.

Convict In Torture-Murder Case Wins Commutation

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man who participated in a gruesome, cult-related murder in 1985 was granted a rare commutation Tuesday that will end his lifetime parole sentence later this year.

The Nebraska Board of Pardons voted unanimously to grant Timothy Haverkamp's request to stop his parole supervision. Haverkamp was released from his prison in 2009 after serving 23 years of a 10-

years-to-life sentence.

The state Pardons Board — made up of the governor, secretary of state and attorney general — rarely commutes sentences in murder cases. But board members noted that Haverkamp has met all of his parole requirements, held a regular job, and built a support base that includes friends and family.

Haverkamp said he asked for an end to his lifetime parole so that he might one day leave Nebraska, possibly

to live closer to his aging parents in Kansas. Haverkamp said his current situation requires him to file paperwork before leaving the state, which could create delays if a parent were to grow sick or die.

"For right now, it's not really going to affect anything," he said. "I'm still going to keep the same job, live the same place, and do the same things I've been doing. But yes, eventually, I want to move to a different state —

move somewhere where I have family."

Haverkamp, 52, was convicted of second-degree murder for his role in the torture and murder of James Thimm, a fellow cult member, at a farm compound near Rulo in southeast Nebraska. He pleaded guilty and later testified against cult leader Michael Ryan, who remains on death row. Haverkamp was also a key witness against Ryan's son, Dennis Ryan.



MEMORIAL DAY

What do you think of when you think of Memorial Day?

Today, many people spend the three-day weekend enjoying barbecues, movies and trips to local beaches and parks.

However, Memorial Day was started to honor soldiers who died fighting for their country.

Standards Link: History: Know that Americans celebrate Memorial Day to commemorate all who have died in wars in which the U.S. fought



How many differences can you find between these two backyard scenes?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects

How It All Began

Memorial Day was originally a day to honor America's Civil War dead by decorating their graves.

To find out what Memorial Day was originally called, write the letter of the alphabet that comes before each letter in the code.

E F D P S B U J P O E B Z

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Memorial Day Timeline

Complete each math problem to reveal the years these significant events in the history of Memorial Day took place.

1432
+ 434

After the Civil War, people in several American towns started a tradition of setting aside one day a year to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

Standards Link: Historical Understanding: Know how to interpret data presented in timelines

1347
+ 521

Following General James Garfield's speech at Arlington National Cemetery, thousands of participants decorated the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

1173
+ 746

After World War I, Decoration Day observances were expanded to honor those who had died in all American wars.

Standards Link: Visual Art: Know how subject matter, symbols and ideas are used to communicate meaning.



"Uncle Sam" is a character cartoonists often use to symbolize the United States. Can you draw the other half of his face?

Annual Tradition

Every year, Memorial Day is observed at Arlington National Cemetery with the president or vice-president laying a wreath at the:

T M B F T H
N K N W N
S L D R

Replace the missing vowels to reveal this honored location.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Star Power

How many stars can you find on this page in two minutes? Now have a friend try. Who found more?

1143
+ 823

Waterloo, N.Y., was designated as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. For 100 years, the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Standards Link: Visual Art: Know how subject matter, symbols and ideas are used to communicate meaning.

Design a Memorial Day Flag!

Use pictures and words cut from the newspaper to design your own Memorial Day flag. Display your flag in your classroom or in a window at home.

Standards Link: Visual Art: Know how subject matter, symbols and ideas are used to communicate meaning.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The flag designed to honor Prisoners of War and soldiers Missing in Action includes a motto. Circle every other letter to discover what it is.



Y Q O V U B A G R P E H N J O N T H
F G O M R F G D O J T K T B E P N F
Y _ _ _ _ _

Double Double Word Search

MEMORIAL
BACKYARD
FLAGS
WINDOW
SOLDIERS
CEMETERY
NATIONAL
HISTORY
WREATH
SCENES
EVENT
WORLD
TOWN
DAY
SAM

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

Y R E T E M E C M S
W O D N I W M E L R
E R M R W O M S A E
E R E O A O I E N I
F V R A R Y V N O D
N L E I T L K E I L
D W A N D H A C T O
A L O G T M A S A S
Y R O T S I H Y N B

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Spelling Practice

Find the letters that spell one of your spelling words in today's newspaper. Circle each letter and connect the letters in the order in which the word is spelled. Repeat with each spelling word three or more times.

Standards Link: Grammar: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly

Write On!

No free speech?

Many have died protecting the freedoms we enjoy today. What would happen if we lost our freedom of speech? Write about what might happen.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words.

Kid Scoop Together: Proof It

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the 10 errors in this article.

Military Mascots

The first mascot given to the United States Marine Corps in 1922, was a bulldog by the name of Private Jiggs. He quickly rows in the ranks to become a Sergeant Major. Bulldogs have appeared as mascots for several units since then. The kerrent mascot of the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC, is the 14th. He is named "Chesty" after a famous Marine Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller Jr. Chesty goes out on parade each week.

At West Point, N.Y., the official mascots of the U.S. Army are "Ranger 111" and "Stryker" — two mules. Steve Townes, a formur Army officer with the 75th Ranger Regiment donated the mules with the condition that one would be called "Ranget." Townes was once a mule ryder at West Point.

A Russian wolfhound named "Kolchak XV1," is the official mascot of the 27th Infantry Regiment in Huwain. This unit served in Siberia during the Russian Civil War in 1918. They won the respect of the Bolsheviks who gave them the name "Wolfhounds," which is now the simbol of the regiment.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words.