






ELECTION

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‘Oz And Roizen’ Medical Column Debuts Today • PAGES 5 AND 7



South Dakota's Kendall Kritenbrink celebrates after killing game point in the first set of the Coyotes' home volleyball match with North Dakota State on Sunday at "The Den" in the DakotaDome in Vermillion. USD swept the Bison in the Coyotes' home finale, helping USD stay alive in Summit League playoff race. For more information see page 8.

Increased Interest In MNRR Website Seen

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Thanks to a multi-faceted approach to increase its exposure to the public, the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) has seen a dramatic increase of visitors to its website this year.

The park's website, www.nps.gov/mnrr, has had more than 69,000 visits in 2012, an increase in 143 percent compared to the 28,500 visits it received all of last year, according to the park's staff.

Chris Wilkinson, chief of interpretation and education for the MNRR, attributed most of the increase to the park's recently revamped website.

"We overhauled it and put all kinds of new content on it," he said.

Among the improvements are a redesigned home page, more than 50 pages of new content and the addition of multimedia podcasts. The latest updates include video footage from a helicopter

"(The Missouri National Recreational River website is) the number one place where people come to find out the information they need to come visit the park."

CHRIS WILKINSON

flyover of the entire park corridor done last month, which can be viewed at www.nps.gov/mnrr/photosmultimedia/mnrr-from-the-air.htm.

Wilkinson said the park chose to overhaul the website because as the main contact point with the public, it plays a vital role for the organization.

"It's the number one place where people come to find out the information they need to come visit the park," he said.

In addition to modifications to the website, the MNRR also has placed a greater emphasis on social media, Wilkinson said, which he believes has also helped drive the increase in website visitors.

The park's Facebook page features daily posts about breaking news along the MNRR corridor, including removal of invasive species, drought conditions and future flow levels from both Gavins Point and Fort Randall dams. The park also has a Twitter account and a site on YouTube, which features nine different podcasts on a variety of subjects, such as the free-flowing stretches of the Wild and Scenic River, the history of Spirit Mound and the reclamation of the Missouri River seed bank following the 2011 flood. Videos can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/crwygh4>.

"People are looking for interactive

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Early Voting Setting New Records

High Turnout Seen In Nebraska Races

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Even before the polls open Tuesday, election records have already been set in Knox and Cedar counties of northeast Nebraska.

Meanwhile, voting remains brisk but at a somewhat slower pace in southeast South Dakota counties with little on the ballot.

Knox County Clerk Joann Fischer noted her county had already set a new mark as of late Friday afternoon.

"We surpassed the record for early voting. We had 693 (ballots) so far," she said. "We have 5,739 registered voters, so more than 10 percent of our total number of voters have already cast their ballots."

Fischer credits a number of races driving the voter interest. Local races have driven the numbers as much as those at the top of the ticket, she said.

In addition, Verdigre, Neb., voters will decide whether to increase their town's sale tax by a half-percent, to 1.5 percent. The measure needs a simple majority for passage.

"By the end of the voting (on Election Day), I do think we will have record numbers," she said.

Meanwhile, Cedar County Clerk Dave Dowling could see nearly one-half of his county's registered voters cast their ballots before election day.

His office has issued 715 early ballots, up from 670 early ballots during the last presidential election four years ago.

In addition, 1,791 Cedar County residents have received ballots under the all-mail voting instituted this year. Under the system, the voters in



selected precincts are mailed their ballots that can either be returned by mail or in person. Polling places and election workers aren't used in the all-mail precincts.

"We have seven all-mail

precincts and eight polling places," Dowling said. "We added another all-mail precinct in the Aten area just south of Yankton. That precinct has 483 registered voters, and we added it to the ones we had at the primary election in May."

The Nebraska secretary of state encouraged all-mail balloting where voting sites were not centrally located, Dowling said. For example, Aten residents formerly needed to travel about seven miles to Menominee, Neb.

"By next Tuesday, I expect to get 60 percent turnout from that (Aten) precinct, which had 6.7 percent turnout four years ago," he said.

"With the all-mail voting, we had a favorable outcome. The persons who came to the counter to drop off their ballots said they liked it. We have already got back as many all-mail ballots as we did for the primary election."

Early voting has become increasingly popular, Dowling said.

"We would be close to 900 early ballots if we didn't have the all-mail ballots. We are setting records in early voting," he said.

"The secretary of state has forecast a 71 percent statewide turnout on Tuesday. Cedar County averages 71 percent

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Neb. Crash Lawsuit Invokes Fetal Death Law For First Time

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Nebraska law that extends legal protections to fetuses at any stage of development is being invoked for the first time in a wrongful-death lawsuit filed by the parents of a family killed in a fiery September car wreck, according to lawyers involved in the case.

The federal lawsuit on behalf of a Maryland couple, their two children and unborn son is the first civil claim to cite the 2003 Nebraska state law, and the latest in a series of court battles in Utah, Alabama and other states. Though still in district court, similar laws have led to appeals-court battles in other states and could bring the debate into Nebraska.

"I think it allows for the expansion of victims' rights in these cases," said James Chalat, a Denver attorney who is representing the family. "There's no case law about it in Nebraska that I've seen."

Numerous people involved with passing the Nebraska law — abortion opponents, religious

groups, attorneys and the bill's original sponsor — said they were unaware of it being used in court before. A spokeswoman for the Nebraska Attorney General's office said agency lawyers did not know of any civil cases, although prosecutors have used a criminal version of the law to charge motorists who contributed to fatal accidents.

"I don't know if there's any precedent for it, but it seemed to me at the time I got the bill enacted that inevitably there would be such a case," said Nebraska State Auditor Mike Foley, a former Republican lawmaker who introduced the measure.

Last year, a divided Utah Supreme Court ruled that an unborn child qualifies as a minor child, thus allowing wrongful death lawsuits for those who die before birth. In February, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled in a medical malpractice suit that a case could proceed even if the fetus at issue couldn't have been viable outside the womb.

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GET OUT THE VOTE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Democratic U.S. House candidate Matt Varilek gestures to some members of his family who were in attendance Sunday at a rally held at the G.A.R. Hall in Yankton. Varilek, a native of the Yankton-Tabor area and a Yankton High School graduate, was joined by Public Utilities Commission candidate Matt McGovern at the "get out the vote" event, which also included several local Democratic candidates. The general election is Tuesday.

Decision 2012

Rivals Stress Differences And Bipartisanship Hopes

BY DAVID ESPINO AND JULIE PACE
Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Two days from judgment by the voters, President Barack Obama raced through four far-flung battleground states on Sunday while Mitt Romney ventured into traditionally Democratic Pennsylvania, seeking a breakthrough in a close race he mused aloud he might lose.

Appearing before some of the largest crowds of the campaign, the two rivals stressed their differences on the economy, health care and more while professing an eagerness to work across party lines and end gridlock in Washington.

"You have the power," Obama, the most powerful political leader in the world, told thousands of cheering supporters in New Hampshire, his first appearance of a day not scheduled to end until after midnight in the East.

Later, in Cleveland, boos from Romney's partisans turned to appreciative laughter when the

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