

# Updated Area Nebraska Election Results Released

From P&D Staff Reports

The Cedar and Knox county clerks in northeast Nebraska have released updated results from Tuesday's election.

Both counties will see a new commissioner take office, and a number of local races were also decided in the general election.

## CEDAR COUNTY

In the District 2 county commission race, Republican Jerry Wiese defeated write-in candidate Craig Bartels 887-778 for the four-year term. No Democrats filed for the race.

District 2 covers the Laurel, Neb., area in southern Cedar County. Wiese advanced to the general election by defeating incumbent Marlen Kraemer in the GOP primary.

The commission race was the only contest at the county level.

The following are results for the town races.

• **FORDYCE:** Daniel Thoen and Thomas Pinkelman each collected 55 votes to win the two four-year terms on the village board.

• **HARTINGTON:** In City Council races, Tim Burbach received 240 votes to win the four-year term from the North Ward. Deb Addison defeated Joe Hish 253-134 for the four-year term in the South Ward.

Bud Becker and Darrell Kathol won the two six-year terms on the airport authority with 577 and 495 votes, respectively.

• **LAUREL:** In the City Council race, Mark Patefield received 449 votes to win the four-year term as mayor. Logan Garber won the four-year term in the East Ward with 183 votes, while Jerry Wiemers defeated Vernel Gade 176-72 for the one four-year term from the West Ward.

• **RANDOLPH:** In the city race, Chad Winkelbauer and Brad Bargstadt received a respective 369 and 349 votes to win the two four-year seats as at-large city council members.

• **ST. HELENA:** Victor Paltz won a four-year term on the town

board of trustees with 38 votes.

• **WYNOT:** Charles T. Jones, Ron Rolfe and John Eskins Jr. won four-year terms on the village board with a respective 75, 66 and 53 votes.

## KNOX COUNTY

The only county-level contest came in the District 6 Board of Supervisors race, where Democratic challenger Danny Schlote defeated Republican incumbent Steven Banks 319-278. The seat represents the Wausa, Neb., area.

Running unopposed for two other supervisor seats were Republicans Rayder Swanson in District 2 and Jim Sokol Jr. in District 4.

District 2 serves the Niobrara, Neb., area, while District 4 serves the Center, Neb., area.

The following are local races.

• **BAZILE MILLS:** Richard Stubben and Lawrence Vortherms won the two seats with 17 and 16 votes, respectively.

• **BLOOMFIELD:** In the City Council race for two seats, Steven Barney and Roger Palu claimed seats with a respective 355 and 98 votes. Palu was a declared write-in candidate.

The two seats on the airport authority went to Scott Ober with 384 and Steven Barney with 235. The third candidate, Joe Kauth, had 212.

• **CENTER:** Winning the two seats on the Center board of trustees were Susan Wiebelhaus with 36 and Tricia Smith with 26. The race had two write-in votes.

• **CREIGHTON:** In the city council race, Robert Jensen and Finn (Drew) Nelson won the two seats with a respective 444 and 148 votes. Vicki Belgium finished third with 71 votes.

Nelson and Belgium were declared write-in candidates. Another 21 votes went to various write-in candidates.

Winning the two open seats on the airport authority were Robert Borgmann and Milan Jensen with a respective 425 and 358 votes. Another five votes

went to write-in candidates.

• **CROFTON:** In the City Council race, Chad Reifenrath and Tom Allen won the seats with a respective 271 and 261 votes. A third candidate, Jason Wavrunek, finished with 96.

• **NIORRARA:** Winning the three seats on the village board were Susan Bolling 111, Sheila Keeler 109 and Stanley Dryak 104.

• **SANTEE:** For the school board, the winners were Sidney Tuttle with 49 and Tammy Sandoval and Cindy Whipple, both with 37.

For the village board of trustees, the three seats were won by Susan L. Kitto with 56 votes, Donald R. LaPointe Sr. with 38 and Kimberly Red Wing with 31.

Larry Thomas/Denney Jr., a declared write-in candidate, finished with 20. The remaining 108 votes went to a number of write-in candidates.

• **VERDEL:** Jim Johnston and Edward Kee won the two seats on the board of trustees with a respective 20 and 13 votes. The other three votes went to write-in candidates.

• **VERDIGRE:** Residents voted 158-101 to raise the city sales tax by a half-cent, to 1.5 percent.

Winning the three open seats for the village board of trustees were Joan Vakoc with 202, Deolores Ruzicka with 200 and Timothy Joe Bartling, a declared write-in candidate, with 79.

Johnny Goldfuss, a declared write-in candidate received 18 votes. The remainder of the 520 votes went to a number of write-in candidates.

• **WAUSA:** Winning two four-year terms on the village board of trustees were Ron Nelson and Patrick Clausen with a respective 264 and 256 votes. The race had two write-in votes.

• **WINNETOON:** Winning the two four-year terms on the village board of trustees were Steve Harley and Linda Kallhoff with a respective 28 and 26 votes. The race had eight write-in votes.

# S. Dakota Motor Vehicle Registration Self-Service Terminal Sites Selected

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles, has awarded six new site locations in South Dakota to place motor vehicle registration self-service terminals (SST).

The 24-hour SST is a fully automated vehicle registration renewal station and dispenses license plate renewal tags on the spot.

The six new site locations are: The Rushmore Mall in Rapid City, Kessler's in Aberdeen, County Fair Food Store in Mitchell, and at the Hy-Vee Food Stores in Watertown, Brookings, and Yankton.

There are four self-service terminals currently operating in South Dakota. The SSTs are available in Sioux Falls at the Get-N-Go, located on Arrowhead

Parkway and Dawley Farms, and the Hy-Vee Food Store, located on 49th & Louise; in Rapid City at the Public Safety Building on Kansas City Street; and at the Department of Revenue, Pierre Office at 445 East Capitol Avenue.

"We are excited for the opportunity to install self-service terminals in other areas of South Dakota," said Division of Motor Vehicles Director Deb Hillmer. "The terminals already operating have been well received. I believe the additional locations will experience the same success."

"The real convenience is that vehicle owners from any county can use the terminal with the proper identification," continued Hillmer.

A vehicle owner can navigate through the easy touch screen (voice assistance available) with

a valid South Dakota driver's license; South Dakota identification card; or if a company, the information provided on its renewal notice. Once the payment has been submitted and the transaction is complete, the license renewal tags and vehicle registration are dispensed directly from the machine.

The SST allows vehicle owners to register up to 90 days prior and 30 days after the expiration of their current license tags. A \$2 convenience fee per vehicle is assessed. Acceptable forms of payment include electronic check, credit cards (MasterCard or Discover only), or ATM/debit cards supported by Pulse, Star, NYCE and Accel.

The machines are expected to be installed and operational in early 2013.

# Cedar

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Cedar County, he said.

"We had \$27 million valuation (for the project) in 2011, because the pipeline wasn't up and running," he said. "But in 2012, the valuation went up to \$99 million, or 100 percent."

The state, not the counties, determines the pipeline's assessed value, Hoelsing said. The valuation and taxes won't remain steady each year, he said.

"This will be our highest year. We drop off every year from here on. The majority of the valuation is personal property, and it depreciates," he said. "All personal property is depreciated over a period of 5-20 years. Most commercial property is depreciated over seven years, but we do have some 10-year periods."

Local governments receiving the additional funds have to realize it's a relatively short-term influx of cash, Hoelsing said.

"If you have a seven-year life (for depreciation), you see most of your revenue in the first two or three years. That's especially true in the case of something like the pipeline," he said.

"In Nebraska, they like to get these first three or four years of tax dollars, but it's not something that will be there for a long period of time. It's basically a windfall tax because, comparatively, it's pretty short lived."

The TransCanada pipeline exits South Dakota at Yankton County, then crosses the Missouri River and enters Nebraska. The pipeline runs the north-south length of Cedar County until exiting into Wayne County, Neb.

"Cedar County gets more (tax revenue from the pipeline) than any other county in the state," Hoelsing said. "We get the biggest chunk of revenue because the line goes totally through our county. For some of the other counties, the pipeline only goes

partially through them."

In addition, Cedar County gains more valuation from a booster station located within its borders, he said.

TransCanada has paid landowners for permanent easements and doesn't own the land itself, Hoelsing said.

"I never did hear exactly what the landowners were receiving for compensation," he said. "But the landowners never complained. They said they were treated well, and (TransCanada) was really great to work with."

Not all local entities receive payments because of the pipeline, Hoelsing said.

"Cedar County gets a portion of the pipeline revenue, and we lowered our levy because of it," he said. "But not all of the schools get money. If the pipeline isn't running through your school district, you're not getting any of those funds. This will help the Crofton, Hartington and Randolph school districts."

Superintendent Randy Anderson serves both the Hartington and Crofton schools, and both of those districts are benefiting from the pipeline, he said.

"The pipeline has been a great benefit to the (Hartington) school district in the fact that it has brought in over \$14 million in valuation to the district," he said.

However, the pipeline isn't the only financial boon in recent years for the Hartington district, Anderson said. Soaring land values mean a stronger tax base, he said.

"The district itself has increased in value each year of the last several years," he said. "Currently, the valuation of the Hartington school district is approximately \$527 million."

However, school officials aren't going on a spending spree because of the additional funds, Anderson said.

"The Hartington Public School Board of Education has worked very hard to keep the tax levy at a very low rate while at the same time progressing with a three-phase renovation of the existing school facility," he said.

The pipeline has grabbed headlines, but soaring farmland values have created the greatest boost to the Cedar County tax base, Hoelsing said.

"Our ag land generates the bulk of the taxes. We went up 20 percent in valuation last year, which is still bigger than the pipeline," he said. "It all adds up to make the tax rate go down."

In Cedar County, land has gone up 15 to 25 percent annually for the last five years, Hoelsing said. Dry land has jumped \$2,000 an acre — to prices cracking the \$7,000 mark — in a year's time, with more of the same expected in 2013, he added.

"It's not some buyer who is speculating," he said. "It's our own people, local producers, who are buying this land."

Hoelsing has seen dramatic rises in valuation, even before the pipeline's arrival. When he arrived in the assessor's office in 1995, Cedar County had a valuation of \$424.5 million. Ten years later, in 2005, the valuation had doubled to about \$800 million. Just seven years later, in 2012, the valuation has hit \$1.6 billion.

At one time, Hoelsing thought the \$1 billion mark symbolized a huge achievement, but Cedar County blew past that threshold.

"You go from \$612 million in 2002, and 10 years later, your valuation is \$1.6 billion, that kind of shows you how things are going," he said. "We went up almost \$300 million in one year, from 2011 to 2012."

Farm prices in recent years have produced a good rate of return, making land a valuable commodity, whether for a pipeline or agriculture, Hoelsing said.

"As far as land, they're not making any more of it," he said. "If someone wants to buy land, this may be the time to do it. Land that comes up for sale this year might not come up for sale again in their lifetimes."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

# Voting

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provisional ballot and kept separate. If there was an issue with a close race, then those ballots would be separate.

Provisional ballots were not included in Tuesday night's election results. Jones said that, between the ballots cast after 7 p.m. and those that were provisional for another reason, there were less than 50 provisional ballots — not enough to change the results of any race.

Jones said Wednesday she was awaiting word of whether the provisional ballots cast after 7 p.m. would be included in the final tally of the election.

The final, unofficial vote totals in Yankton County/District 18 were as follows:

• **DISTRICT 18 SENATE:** Jean Hunhoff (R) 6,283, 65.09 percent;

David Allen 3,370, 34.91 percent.

• **DISTRICT 18 HOUSE:** Bernie Hunhoff (D) 5,569, 31.48 percent; Mike Stevens (R) 4,628, 26.16 percent; Tom Stotz (R) 3,902, 22.08 percent; Charlie Gross (D) 3,590, 20.30 percent.

• **YANKTON COUNTY COMMISSION:** Donna Freng (I) 5,365, 36.62 percent; Mark Johnson (R) 5,083, 34.69 percent; James Van Osdel 4,204, 28.69 percent.

• **YANKTON COUNTY CORONER:** Arica Nickles (R) 4,974, 56.03 percent; Melisa Smith (D) 3,903, 43.97 percent.

The final, unofficial Yankton County/District 18 results from the national and statewide races:

• **President:** Obama & Biden — 4,208  
Goode & Clymer — 54  
Romney & Ryan — 5,463  
Johnson & Gray — 199

• **United States Representative**  
Matt Varilek — 5,036  
Kristi Noem — 4,841

• **Public Utilities Commis-**

sioner/6 year

Matt McGovern — 4,258  
Kristie Fliegen — 4,634  
Russell Clarke — 527

• **Public Utilities Commis-**

sioner/4 year

Nemec — 2,934  
Chris Nelson — 6,203

• **Justice Glen A Severson**

Yes — 6,379  
No — 1,872

• **Constitutional Amendment**

M Yes — 2,706  
No — 6,210

• **Constitutional Amendment N**

Yes — 3,639  
No — 5,802

• **Constitutional Amendment**

O Yes — 4,989  
No — 4,112

• **Constitutional Amendment P**

Yes — 5,797  
No — 3,446

• **Initiated Measure 15**

Yes — 4,277  
No — 5,345

• **Referred Law 14**

Yes — 3,501  
No — 5,588

• **Referred Law 16**

Yes — 2,561  
No — 7,085

# Banks

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"We think that both those communities will be beneficial to us, and we'll be beneficial to them," he said. "It's a win-win."

Ness said he believes the two towns will benefit from First Dakota's service as one of the nation's leading ag lenders, as well as its commercial and business lending.

"Our history is active community involvement, and we see the same thing taking place in Beresford and Elk Point," he said. "We're there for keeps."

Bank 360 president and CEO Mark Southwick said his bank's board is excited about the selection of First Dakota as a merging partner.

"They support the communities they serve, and I think they're going to the same for us here in their new communities of Beresford and Elk Point, especially in the agricultural community," Southwick said. "I think the communities that we're in right now in Beresford and Elk Point can use another strong ag lender, and with First Dakota being the second largest in the country in ag, I think it'll be very beneficial to our communities."

Ness said First Dakota expects to add personnel to both the Beresford and Elk Point locations to help expand the ag lending services in those areas. Employees at the Bank 360 branch in Yankton will be absorbed into the local First Dakota staff, he added.

"It's very good news that we won't be losing any jobs, and in fact, we'll be adding most likely at least two more jobs," Southwick said.

Bank 360 was founded in Beresford in 1955 as First Federal Savings and Loan. It opened its Yankton branch in 1975 and its Elk Point branch in 2001. After its formation, the bank became First Federal Bank and changed its name to Bank 360 in 2008.

First Dakota was formed in 1872 and was the first fully chartered bank in the Dakota Territory. It currently has a network of 14 full service and five loan production offices with more than \$825 million in assets.

The merger agreement is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close next month or in January 2013.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d\_bartos

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# OBITUARIES

## Robert 'Bob' Block

Robert Glen (Bob) Block age 77, died Sunday Oct. 28th and was preceded in death by his father, Glen Block, mother Hilda Block, brother Richard Block and sister Shirley Huber.

He is survived by 6 children, Michael Block, Tricia Bromley, Jason Block, Randy Block, Debbie Block and Corey Block (Shannon Slate), his wife, Marlene Block, 7 grandchildren, Lacey Bromley,

## Lawrence Marbach

The Rev. Lawrence J. Marbach, 86, of Yankton died Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are pending with Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

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**Thank You**

The family of **Leonard Layne** would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all who sent cards, flowers, plants, memorials, food, prayers, and words of comfort at the time of Leonard's death on October 16, 2012.

Thank you to Father Pearson of Christ Episcopal Church for officiating and his comforting support and prayers; for the beautiful music by Linda Kronaizl and Norm Wright; to the Episcopal Church Women for the planning and serving of the luncheon following the funeral and for the other members of the congregation who provided their assistance; to Wintz & Ray Funeral Home for all of their professional guidance; to the Veterans Administration Hospital Community Living Center staff for their care of Leonard while a resident there; and a special thank you to our aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and co-workers who rallied together to help and comfort us during this time.

God bless you all,  
**Clinton and Raelene Layne**  
**Leslie Genimatas**  
**Leo S. Layne**