

ACA Enrollment Numbers Vary For Area States

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nearly 10,000 Nebraskans have applied for health care coverage through the new federal marketplace, but only 338 had signed up for a plan as of early November, according to federal data released Wednesday.

The state-by-state enrollment numbers were published little more than a month after the launch of the federal government's problem-filled website, HealthCare.gov. Technical problems with the site kept many people from finishing their applications.

Nebraska is one of 36 states that relied on the federal website, after Gov. Dave Heineman rejected a state-run marketplace as too expensive and inflexible. Among those states, fewer than 27,000 people managed to enroll.

More than 79,000 people signed up successfully in the 15 marketplaces run by states and the District of Columbia. But the total first-month enrollment nationwide was still only one-fifth of what federal officials had expected.

Two groups in the state — Community Action of Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska — have received federal grants to hire and train insurance "navigators" who will work to draw people into the marketplace and walk them through the process. People also could sign up through the website, hospitals, private insurance agents, or federally funded health care clinics, or use the website on their own.

As of Friday, about 500 people who went to Community Action of Nebraska had reached the point where they could view the health plans, said Roger Furrer, the group's executive director. Furrer said he expected more sign-ups as the computer errors were fixed.

"We're relieved, above all else, that things are starting to move," Furrer said. "We just need to get beyond the 'I told you so,' attitude, and get to, 'Let's make this work for people.'"

In a statement, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said enrollment is expected to

grow over the next five months, similar to the pattern that Massachusetts saw during its health care overhaul.

SOUTH DAKOTA

PIERRE (AP) — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that 58 South Dakota residents have successfully signed up for a health insurance plan through a federally run online marketplace during its first month in operation.

The federal report issued Wednesday shows that South Dakota has the third fewest sign-ups so far in the nation, behind Alaska and North Dakota.

Many people across the nation tried to sign up when the HealthCare.gov website became active Oct. 1, but the site has been beset with problems.

The federal report says the insurance exchange had 1,491 completed applications from South Dakota through Nov. 2. Those applications sought coverage for 3,081 people.

South Dakota is using the federal website because state officials chose not to create a state-run marketplace.

IOWA

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — New data from the Obama administration shows that just 136 Iowa residents have successfully enrolled in health insurance plans using the troubled federal website.

Information released Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says that in Iowa, about 5,500 insurance applications have been completed on the website, for insurance to cover nearly 11,000 people. But only 136 were able to fully complete the process and sign up for private insurance.

The applications were made on the website between Oct. 1 and Nov. 2.

From those applications, about 2,100 individuals have been deemed eligible for financial assistance to pay for insurance and 4,500 will be eligible for low-income health programs like Medicaid.

An estimated 300,000 Iowa residents lack health insurance.

Ranchers Rankled By Joan Jett Pick For S. Dakota Float

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press



PIERRE — Some South Dakota farmers and ranchers are upset by the selection of singer-guitarist Joan Jett, a vegetarian and animal rights advocate, to perform on the state's float in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts are scheduled to appear at the annual event in New York City, riding on the float that promotes South Dakota tourism and the Mount Rushmore National Memorial located in the Black Hills.

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association President Cory Eich, who farms and ranches near Canova in eastern South Dakota, said Wednesday he thinks it was a mistake to select Jett because she is a supporter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which promotes a vegetarian diet and criticizes livestock production practices. Her stands don't mesh with South Dakota, a state where the cattle industry makes up a huge part of the economy, he said. *The Rapid City Journal* first reported some South Dakota residents were upset with the pick.

"To me, it seems like a huge blunder," Eich said. "I guess I couldn't disapprove more. I don't understand what they were thinking."

South Dakota Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen said many people have mistakenly assumed state officials selected Jett to appear on the float. None of the artists the state proposed were available or willing to appear in the parade, so Macy's selected Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, he said.

"It's not because of any ill will Macy's is trying to create or anything," Hagen said. "They were just trying to do what they thought would be a great artist for us."

Hagen said state officials are sensitive to the concerns of the livestock industry, particularly since tens of thousands of cattle and other livestock were killed in the massive rain and snow storm that hit western South Dakota

in early October.

Larry Gabriel, a former state lawmaker and state agriculture secretary who ranches near Quinn in western South Dakota, said Jett is entitled to her beliefs, but he hopes she doesn't use her appearance on South Dakota's float to promote her vegetarian beliefs or PETA.

Kristen Foster, a spokeswoman for Jett, said that Jett has played in South Dakota countless times and is a fan of the state. Jett just accepted a gracious offer to appear on South Dakota's float, she said.

Dan Mathews, senior vice president of PETA, said the livestock industry is being defensive because it is the South Dakota industry most destructive to the environment, human health and animals.

"We're surprised that ranchers want to draw attention to themselves by being crybabies over the appearance of a vegetarian icon such as Joan Jett on the state's float," Mathews said in an email.

Eich, of the Cattlemen's Association, said PETA wants to destroy animal agriculture and added that farmers and ranchers treat their animals well.

"You don't mistreat your livelihood," Eich said.

Hagen said the state paid \$175,000 to support the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and have a float in the event, and \$5,000 of that goes to pay expenses for the artist on the float.

Hagen earlier had said Jett is a rock 'n' roll legend who appeals to a generation of visitors that South Dakota wants to attract.

He noted that more than 3 million people are expected to watch the parade on the streets of New York, with more than 50 million watching the event on television nationwide.

"It's never been about the artist for us in terms of who's on that float. It's about the fact that Mount Rushmore and South Dakota can be seen and heard by tens of millions of people," the tourism secretary said.

Neil Diamond appeared on South Dakota's float in 2011, and Don McLean, singer of "American Pie," appeared last year.

Sioux Tribe To Discuss Black Hills Negotiations

PINE RIDGE (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council next week plans to discuss whether to reopen negotiations with the federal government over compensation for the taking of the Black Hills in the 1800s.

Tribal President Bryan Brewer and Mario Gonzalez, an attorney representing the tribe, say any negotiations or acceptance of any offer would have to involve all nine tribes involved in the decades-long dispute.

An 1868 treaty set aside the Black Hills of western South Dakota and other land for the Sioux, but Congress passed a law in 1877 seizing the land after gold was discovered. The federal government in 1980 reached a \$102 million settlement with nine tribes, who refused to accept the money — now believed to be

valued at about \$1.4 billion after accumulating interest for 33 years — without the return of unoccupied federally owned land in the region.

When President Barack Obama took office in 2009, his administration offered to restart negotiations. The tribes ignored the invitation, but some members of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council say it's time to consider it seriously, the *Rapid City Journal* reported.

The discussion item was placed on next week's council agenda after Councilman Paul Little introduced it earlier this month at a meeting of the tribe's economic and business development committee. The item was passed and forwarded to the full council. Little declined to comment about the resolution.

Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome

Learn about how
•Diabetes
•Obesity
•Weight Loss
•Diet & Exercise
affect your heart health



Jeffrey Johnson, MD
Lewis & Clark Family Medicine

Thursday, November 21 • Noon to 1:00pm
Minerva's, 1607 E. Hwy. 50, Yankton, SD

LEWIS & CLARK
Specialty Hospital



Join us for a light lunch provided by Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital RSVP to Jill Sprakel 664-5300 by November 18th.

Lewis & Clark Medical Plaza,
Fox Run Pkwy., Yankton
lewisandclarkfamilymedicine.com

Serta
WE MAKE THE WORLD'S BEST MATTRESS.™
Twin Mattress only \$79
Full Mattress only \$124
Queen Mattress only \$149

FREE 4 ALL MATTRESS event
Our Guaranteed Lowest Price, Plus up to \$398 in FREE Giveaways



BUY ANY MATTRESS SET \$499-\$698 FREE Local Delivery & Setup \$49 FREE Disposal of Old Bed..... \$20 FREE 12 Month 0% Financing..... \$64 FREE Ultra Plush Pillows..... \$60 \$193 TOTAL VALUE FREE	BUY ANY MATTRESS SET \$699-\$1498 FREE Local Delivery & Setup \$49 FREE Disposal of Old Bed..... \$20 FREE 12 Month 0% Financing..... \$80 FREE Ultra Plush Pillows..... \$60 FREE Mattress Protector..... \$69 \$278 TOTAL VALUE FREE	BUY ANY MATTRESS SET \$1499 & UP FREE Local Delivery & Setup \$49 FREE Disposal of Old Bed..... \$20 FREE 12 Month 0% Financing..... \$100 FREE Ultra Plush Pillows..... \$60 FREE Mattress Protector..... \$69 FREE \$100 Hatch Gift Card \$100 (to use on other merchandise) \$398 TOTAL VALUE FREE
--	--	--

hatch
FURNITURE & FLOORING
"Your Home's Best Friend"

Mon-Fri 10-6 • Sat 10-5 • Closed Sunday
Evenings by appointment
109 East 3rd, Yankton, SD
605-665-4416 • 800-798-4663

Visit our Flexsteel Gallery
Flexsteel
America's Seating Specialist

Business AD-vantage
Where You Find Business & Professional EXPERTS!
A NEW BREED OF YELLOW PAGES

APPLIANCE SALES/SERVICE Larry's APPLIANCE 920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461 LG Amana MAYTAG	BANKING Services Center Federal Credit Union 609 W. 21st, Yankton, SD First Dakota National Bank 225 Cedar St., 665-7432 2105 Broadway, 665-4999	CLEANING Steamway CLEANING & RESTORATION •Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning •Duct Cleaning •Fire/Smoke/Water Restoration •Mold Testing & Remediation 665-5700 1-800-529-2450	ELECTRICAL Johnson Electric, LLP Commercial • Residential • Trenching 605-665-5686 L&S Electric Harry Lane, Contractor 665-6612 • 661-1040 Brightway Electric, LLC Serving SD & NE - Licensed & Insured 760-3505 • 661-9594	FUNERAL & CREMATION Wintz & Ray FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. Yankton • 605-665-3644 Garden of Memories Cemetery Wintz FUNERAL HOME Hartington, Coleridge & Crofton 402-254-6547 wintzrayfuneralhome.com Trusted For Generations	HEATING & COOLING Larry's HEATING & COOLING 920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461 Carrier Turn to the Experts Advertise Here! Call 665-7811	MEDICAL CLINIC Lewis and Clark Family Medicine 2525 Fox Run Parkway, Ste. 200 Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100 PETS Canine Grooming Center, L.L.C. 718 Douglas, Yankton, 665-8885 Advertise Here! Call The Advertising Dept. For More Info 665-7811!
--	---	---	---	---	--	--

ARCH SUPPORT
Boston Shoes To Boots
312 West 3rd, Yankton, SD
605-665-9092

AUTO BODY
Justras Body Shop
2806 Fox Run Parkway
Yankton, 665-3929
Riverside Auto Body
www.riversideautobody-gonegreen.com
402-667-3285

BUILDING MATERIALS
ProBuild
301 E. 3rd St., Yankton, SD
605-665-7423

DECORATING
Yankton Paint & Decorating
406 Broadway • 665-5032
"Since 1964"
•Carpet • Vinyl • Wood
• Ceramic & Laminate Flooring
•Window & Wall Treatments
Benjamin Moore and Pratt & Lambert Paint

FAMILY MEMORIALS
Yankton Monument Co.
325 Douglas, Yankton
605-664-0980
Advertise Here!
Call 665-7811

CLEANING
FloorTec
Professional Cleaning & Restoration
605-665-4839