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Two Nuclear **Commanders** Fired, Another

Disciplined WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force on Monday fired two more nuclear commanders and disciplined a third, fresh evidence of leadership lapses in a nuclear missile corps that has suffered a rash of recent setbacks, including the firing last year of

its top commander. The most senior officer to be relieved of command was Col. Carl Jones, the No. 2 commander of the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, in charge of 150 of the Air Force's 450 Minuteman 3 nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles. He was dismissed "for a loss of trust and confidence in his leadership abilities," and has been reassigned as a special assistant to the wing commander.

The actions Monday were confirmed to The Associated Press in response to an AP inquiry about an internal Air Force investigation of two commanders at the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, which also is responsible for 150 Minuteman 3 missiles.

It is highly unusual for disciplinary action to be taken against commanders at two of the Air Force's three nuclear missile bases on the same day. Officials said the timing was a coincidence.

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From Page 2

ing to make their voices heard, Wismer said.

"People have their frustrations with Washington, D.C., but they can't just stop with voting on the top races," she said. "People shouldn't forget how important these state races are. (Voters) also need to think about the governor's race and the Legislature."

The role of state government can be overlooked with the focus on federal offices and control of the White House and Congress, Wismer

"The decisions made in Pierre affect the health of our communities and our institutions such as our schools, hospitals and nursing homes," she said.

Money wields a major influence in political races, and candidates without major campaign war chests are at a

disadvantage, Wismer said. Many legislative races are already decided as the contest has only one candidate, Blake said.

The one-party rule in many parts of the state has made it more difficult to attract candidates of the minority party, Blake said. In particular, the Republican dominance of the governor's office and the Legislature has made it particularly difficult to attract Democratic candidates, she said.

"Gerrymandering makes it very difficult for candidates to step up," she said. "It takes courage and money for people to stand up for their ideas. Right now, there isn't a balance in state government.

However, Blake said she remains optimistic at finding future leaders.

"I am constantly amazed at the quality of new Democratic women running for office," she said.

Wismer and Blake both entered the Legislature in 2009. They said women bring a different perspective to office, particularly issues related to families. Women also bring a different set of problem-solving skills.

Wismer and Blake believe leaders need to make the hard choices, especially when the popular view may not be what is best for the state or community.

"People also need to stay away from voting (for candidates) based on single issues," Wismer added.

Wismer and Blake said they appreciated sharing the Sioux Falls rally last Sunday with U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) and his wife, Barbara. Sen. Johnson isn't running for another term, and he has made stops in Yankton and

Vermillion as part of his farewell "thank you" tour after 36 years in public office.

As they prepare for Election Day, Wismer and Blake encourage South Dakotans to make their voices heard at the ballot box. When it comes to voter

turnout, don't waste your opportunity to vote," Wismer said. "We have generations who have served our country for our right to vote.

The stakes are too high not to take an interest in the governor's race and other items on the ballot, Blake said.

"I feel very positive about my state," she said. "I want it to excel, and I want its children to excel. There's so much potential. Let's take it and tap into it together."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Whiskers

From Page 1

"This event is happening because of the combination of so many supporters and businesses getting involved, Hacecky said. "We start talking about Wine and Whiskers in May, and by July we are actually working. It just really has taken off.

The Heartland Humane Society will also be introducing new surprise raffle games to the event, including a paw draw, a whisky wagon raffle and a wine draw that offer prizes up to \$500.

Bill Chase and other musical guests will provide entertainment for the evening.

'He has about three or four artists joining him on and off

the stage," Hacecky said. "While people are out eating, tasting and socializing, there will have some background music. We will start and end the night with him.'

Schmidt said that Chase is excited to bring some of the newer artists to introduce them to the crowd.

'They will be playing a little bit of everything," she said. "I'm really looking forward to the music this year.

All proceeds from the event will fund operating costs for vet care and animal expenses. Sandy Hoffner, board mem-

ber and a key organizer of the event said this fund-raiser is crucial for Heartland Humane Society at this time. Working with the shelter

is real challenging right now because of the new building and remodeling that is being done," she said. "But it is also a very exciting time to be involved with a project like this because you know that the work is changing the face forever of that shelter. It's fun to be a part of it.'

Right now almost all the dogs from Heartland are in foster care. Hoffner said that she hope that the shelter can keep some dogs in-house

someday. "Right now, we have wonderful volunteers doing foster care," she said. "That works right now, and that is the best we can do, but that makes it difficult for us to get together to set up forever homes for these animals."

Hoffner said that setting up appointments can be challenging and that if the dogs where on-site, it would be a lot easier to get the animals a real home.

This is just the time of

year where Heartland is asking the community and our supporters to come forward and make a donation in any way you can," Hacecky said. "We just really appreciate your support at this time of the

Major sponsors for the event are JMMWH law office. Hillcrest Manor Apartments, All Plains American, Diane and Tom Zak and South Dakota Magazine.

To view a full list of the auction items, buy tickets or learn more go to www.heartlandhumanesociety.net/event/. Tickets may be purchased online, at the HHS shelter or by calling 605-664-4244.

Follow Jordynne on Twitter at twitter.com/hartjordynne. Discuss this story at yank-

Noem

From Page 3

the legislative branch's ac-

complishments.
"There's been some challenges, and if you turn on the nightly news, sometimes all you see is the dysfunction and can't really see the forest from the trees," she said. "That's what you do in campaigns — you talk about what's wrong, but you also like to tell them some of the things you were able to get

She added the negative tone of the election has bothered her.

"It's frustrating because sometimes in campaigns, you see personal attacks," she said. "You see things that are discussed that are off the issue. In South Dakota, we're

just such normal, everyday folks that you just wish you could talk about the challenges that our country faces.

Noem said it's also concerning to see so much out-ofstate money entering the state, but it was expected given the nature of this election.

They don't have the same requirements candidates have," she said. "But, I think when we knew we were going to have a U.S. Senate seat open this cycle, that the potential for that kind of dollars to flow into the state was there. It's a little hard to weave through and get to the bottom of what really is important for our state, and that's what we've tried to focus on in our campaign.'

Noem said campaign finance isn't quite as high on the public's list of concerns, however.

"There's some conversations on (campaign finance reform)," she said. "But when I visit people across South Dakota, they're more concerned about national security issues. They talk to me about ISIL, Ebola; they're still worried that we don't balance our federal budget, about how everything stops at the Senate. Those are all priorities that they talk to me about every day, so we've got to make sure that we're doing the things that are at the top of their priority list and not necessarily at the top of mine.'

While polls running up to election day showed favorably for Republicans, Noem said ultimately the races come down to the voters.

"I'm one of those people that will certainly be excited when (Tuesday) is over," she said. "There's so many different dynamics that can come

into these kinds of races and it really depends on who cares enough to go show up and vote tomorrow. The polls may look very good when you call them and ask them how they're going to vote, but are they passionate enough to get in their car and drive down to their voting location and actually put the action behind it? A lot of the different parties and organizations have different ways of getting their voters to the polls. It's important that we all do our job to make sure that we do have the kind of turnout that means we had an election that we can be proud of.'

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/. Discuss this story at www.vankton.net/

Senate

From Page 1

Rounds has hit Washington in general, promising to bring South Dakota values to the Senate. He closed Thursday's rally with Romney saying, "America is not broken,

Washington D.C. is.' Rounds has been targeted for his management of the state-administered, federally run EB-5 visa program. It allowed wealthy foreigners to obtain visas to live in the United States in exchange for significant investments in rural South Dakota job projects. Part of his message as the campaign closes has been to defend himself and to dismiss his opponents for focusing on the

issue.
"You haven't heard a vision from them," he said in Wednesday's final debate. "What you've heard is them trash me.

RICK WEILAND

Weiland has drawn attention from good government advocates for his almost singular focus on campaign spending and reducing the influence of money in politics. As he finishes up his Senate campaign, he has continued to focus on that theme. His closing ads have focused on cutting money from politics and protecting social safety net programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Like Rounds, he has also invoked his South Dakota heritage and pledged to bring prairie values to Washington.

His closing message has been somewhat muddled, though, by his fights with national Democrats. Senate Democrats' campaign arm initially announced it would invest as much as \$1 million in the race, largely on ads attacking Rounds. Weiland

spent a crucial campaign day during the race's final full week criticizing the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, saying their ads had hurt his campaign and were actually designed to boost Pressler, the independent. The DSCC also dramatically scaled back the amount of advertising time it planned to purchase as polls showed Rounds ahead in the race. Weiland has launched a petition drive to replace Reid as Democratic leader in the Senate, further fueling the di-

LARRY PRESSLER

With little money and even less campaign staff, Pressler has spent the campaign's closing days touting newspaper endorsements and defending himself during public appearances. He used the platform of Wednesday's debate to protest ads that have targeted him in recent days, saying, "Don't believe what you're seeing on TV." On Saturday, The Sioux Falls Argus Leader and retired KELO-TV legend Steve Hemmingsen backed Pressler in the race, and on Sunday he got a boost from the Rapid City Journal's endorsement.

Pressler's overarching message has been about tone as much as any particular political issue. Pressler said he would like the Senate to be a friendlier place with more bipartisan work. He has told stories about his time in the chamber, where he served as Republican from 1979 to 1997, and talked about the importance of getting back to working across the aisle.

But Pressler has also been pointed in his criticism of Rounds. During the campaign's final debate, he pressed Rounds for more information about the EB-5 program.

GORDON HOWIE

The last days of Howie's longshot campaign have

been spent lobbing rhetorical shots at Rounds and touting his support from conservative groups. Like Weiland and Pressler, Howie has seized on the EB-5 program and called Rounds untrustworthy. He has said there are still more questions to be answered about the visa program.

Howie's final appeal has been about ideological purity. He has said he is the true conservative in the race and targeted wavering Rounds voters. In a recent video appeal on his campaign web site, Howie says he's the only candidate who will represent conservative, traditional values.

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