

Neb. Voters Approve Wage Rise

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Voters have approved a measure raising Nebraska's minimum wage to \$9 an hour by 2016. The measure won Tuesday despite opposition from most Republican officials and business leaders, who argued it would hurt companies and force them to cut jobs. Supporters countered that the increase from the current minimum wage of \$7.25 was needed because Nebraska workers who earn that much are struggling. They contended the increased wage could make a significant difference to workers while causing little harm to businesses. The Legislature had declined to increase the minimum wage, so advocates collected signatures from nearly 135,000 people to put it on the ballot. Nebraska's minimum wage was last increased in 2009.

Soybean Harvest 95 Percent Complete

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A federal report says Nebraska's soybean harvest was 95 percent complete by the end of last week. The U.S. Department of Agriculture report says the corn harvest still trailed the average by Sunday's date. The USDA says 60 percent of the corn had been harvested, compared with 69 percent last year and the average of 71 percent by the date. The state's sorghum harvest was 71 percent complete, compared with the average of 67 percent by the date. The report says 96 percent of the winter wheat had emerged, compared with 93 percent for the five-year average.

Exit Poll: Conservative Men Voted Rounds

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Exit poll results indicate Mike Rounds pulled out a win in the South Dakota race for Senate with support from men, older voters and those who identified as conservative. Preliminary results of the exit poll conducted for The Associated Press and television networks found that those who felt the government is doing too many things that should be left to businesses and individuals also supported the former Republican governor. Democratic opponent Rick Weiland ran strong among those who identified as liberal or Democrats. Independent Larry Pressler, who spent 18 years in Congress as a Republican, could not draw enough votes from Rounds to affect the outcome. The survey of 848 voters was conducted for AP and television networks by Edison Research.

Skull Piece Not From Missing Woman

LYONS, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a piece of human skull found two years ago in northeast Nebraska is not from the body of a woman missing since 1995. Burt County Attorney Dan Smith on Monday told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that DNA analysis showed the fragment didn't belong to the body of Wanda Krumwiede. Krumwiede, of Lyons, disappeared shortly after filing for divorce to end her 25-year marriage to Wilhelm Krumwiede. Wilhelm Krumwiede was charged with her murder but was twice acquitted. He died in 2003 at the age of 66. Authorities say the fragment was uncovered in early November 2012 by a contractor digging on land near Lyons.

Hunter Found Dead Near Roscoe

ROSCOE (AP) — Authorities say a Roscoe hunter found dead in Edmunds County died of natural causes. Sheriff Lenny Braun tells the *American News* that the body of 65-year-old Michael Broschart was pulled from a slough south of Roscoe on Sunday afternoon. Braun says Broschart didn't return from a hunting expedition Friday night, prompting a weekend search. County Coroner Jesse Knittel says Broschart died of a heart attack. Braun says authorities believe Broschart was stricken when he went into the slough to retrieve game.

3 In Custody After Huron Armed Robbery

HURON (AP) — Police investigating the armed robbery of a Huron store arrested three people. Authorities say two people held up the clerks at the Corner Pantry store early Monday, taking more than \$1,400 in cash. Police later stopped a vehicle and say the two passengers matched the description of the robbers. Officers say they also found the money, a BB gun and a mask in the vehicle. The passengers and driver were arrested on robbery and aggravated assault charges. The suspects all are in their 20s.

SD Dentists Offer Cash For Candy

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A group of dentists in South Dakota is offering trick-or-treaters cash for their candy. The *Argus Leader* reports the Sioux Falls clinics have given children \$1 per pound of Halloween candy. The candy will be shipped to American troops overseas as part of Operation Gratitude care packages. A clinic has already collected more than 145 pounds of candy through the Halloween Candy Buyback program. Elisabeth Olsen with Sensational Smiles says children don't need to eat all those sweets and dentists would like them to spread the candy around.

7-Year-Old Calls 911 To Help Mom

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — A Kansas man was arrested by officers responding to a 911 call from a 7-year-old southeast Nebraska boy who said his mom was being punched. The incident occurred shortly after 8 p.m. Saturday in Beatrice. The boy told officers he'd seen his mom's boyfriend punch her several times. The boy and four others his age or younger were in the home at the time. Officers arrested 31-year-old Steven Kling, of Marysville, Kansas. He told them he did not strike the woman. Kling's bail was set at \$10,000 on Monday in Gage County Court. His next hearing is scheduled for Nov. 17. Online court records don't list the name of his attorney.

Woman Pleads Not Guilty To Murder

BOX ELDER (AP) — A Box Elder woman accused of killing a man has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and an alternate count of first-degree manslaughter. Twenty-three-year-old Kelly Croyle is accused of shooting 49-year-old Dickey Mashek in the head on Sept. 9 at his home. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that she entered her pleas on Tuesday. Authorities allege that Croyle told them she shot Mashek during an argument, and that she confessed to deliberately pulling the trigger.

Gov. Daugaard Re-Elected As South Dakota Governor

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard won re-election Tuesday, beating out state Democratic Rep. Susan Wismer. Daugaard had largely been considered a shoo-in to win a second term as Wismer, a six-year state legislator who campaigned on the idea that state government needed a diversity of opinions, struggled to gain name recognition with voters. A poll released a week before the election by the *Argus Leader* showed that 36 percent of likely voters did not recognize her name. Daugaard campaigned lightly, making the occasional campaign stop and public debate, but mostly depended on

his record of limited government that he established during his first term in office. Under Daugaard, the state balanced its budget in 2011 and saw surpluses each following year. It reformed how it treats nonviolent drug offenders and brought its unemployment rate to second-lowest in the nation behind only North Dakota. The governor pledged to cut government spending in all areas by 10 percent when he entered office and, in most cases, succeeded. Wismer had campaigned on the idea that South Dakota government needed a "competition of ideas." She said Republicans have controlled state govern-

ment for too long, which she believes has led to corruption and a lack of funding for key areas, such as teacher's salaries, nursing homes and transportation infrastructure. South Dakota voters haven't elected a Democratic governor since sending Dick Kneip to Pierre in 1974 and they've elected only four in South Dakota's 125-year history. Wismer was the first woman to run for governor with a major party in South Dakota, but she largely downplayed that significance, choosing to focus instead on her blueprint for the state.

Republican Ricketts Elected Nebraska Governor

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Republican Pete Ricketts, a multimillionaire former executive at TD Ameritrade, has been elected governor of Nebraska. Voters on Tuesday chose Ricketts, of Omaha, over Democrat Chuck Hassebrook, who for decades headed a center in Lyons that advo-

cated for family farms and rural communities. Ricketts will replace Republican Dave Heineman, who served nine years as governor but is being forced out by term limits. In the campaign, Ricketts said his priority as governor would be to cut taxes. He also argued that benefits should not be given to immi-

grants in the country illegally and supported career and vocational training to expand manufacturing jobs. Ricketts is a former executive at TD Ameritrade, an online brokerage founded by his father. His family owns the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

Cleanup Wrapping Up At Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

KYLE (AP) — Seventy-two years after the military began using the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for target practice, the federal government is nearly finished cleaning up a dangerous section of the mess left behind. The Army Corps of Engineers will host a public meeting Wednesday night at the Lakota Prairie Ranch Resort, near Kyle, to present a proposed next step for the cleanup of three former target practice areas within the long-defunct Pine Ridge Gunnery Range, the *Rapid City Journal*

reported. The federal government created the range in 1942, seizing a 534-square-mile area of the reservation and displacing 125 families. During World War II, warplanes on practice runs pummeled the range with shells and bombs. Over the next few decades, the Air Force and National Guard used the range. Most of the land has since been returned to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Thousands of pounds of unexploded ordnance and debris has been removed as part

of a project that's been ongoing since the 1990s. Removal efforts have been focused on areas where there is a "significant consolidation of munitions," including three targets that consist of about 3 square miles, according to Kirk Engelbart, project manager for the corps. Since 2006, the corps has collected about 17 tons of non-explosive material from those target areas, including shell casings, and more than 500 items such as bombs and cartridges that could blow up.

Noem Re-Elected To US House

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Republican Rep. Kristi Noem breezed to a third term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House on Tuesday by soundly defeating Democratic challenger Corinna Robinson. Noem's victory was anticipated as Robinson, a retired Army veteran, struggled to build name recognition and a strong fundraising base. Noem, who was first elected in 2010, took a low-key approach to campaigning, airing few television ads and only in the race's final weeks. Noem has focused on issues such as agriculture and human trafficking during her time in Washington. She said

her priorities for her newly earned term will include working on two trade agreements being negotiated with nations in the Asian-Pacific region and with the European Union that could increase the state's agricultural exports. "In South Dakota, we have over 20,000 jobs that rely on agriculture," Noem recently told The Associated Press. "If we were able to expand our exports, South Dakota's economy would go crazy." Noem's campaign ads focused on her work in Congress, including one about her efforts to assist South Dakota ranchers after an October 2013 blizzard that killed off and dispersed thousands of cattle. Although Noem coasted to victory, not all voters believed

she deserves another term. Research scientist Mary Kinkel, who said she sees herself as a moderate, said she voted for Robinson because she believes Noem "does nothing" in Congress. "She didn't do anything during the blizzard last year," said the 41-year-old Sioux Falls resident. "I think she's an obstructionist." Robinson's campaign promises included working on increasing teacher salaries and promoting equal pay for equal work. But she struggled to reach voters as her fundraising efforts did not allow her to air TV ads. Noem raised more than \$350,000 between July 1 and Sept. 30, while Robinson's supporters contributed nearly \$30,000 during the same period.

Some Nebraskan's Find Uses For Leftover Pumpkins

BY EMILY HEMPHILL
Beatrice Daily Sun

BEATRICE, Neb. — The leftovers. The extras. The unwanted ones. What happens to the unpicked pumpkins once the happy haunting of Halloween has finished? Most end up at the curb, waiting for the garbage man to take them away to an eternal grave in a landfill. But some serve a new purpose beyond decoration. Lynette Jurgens of the Korner Pumpkin Patch east of Beatrice said she continues to sell a few pumpkins and gourds after Halloween. "We usually wait because some people might want them for Thanksgiving," she told the *Beatrice Daily Sun*. After that, the leftovers get loaded up and trucked off to another farm. "Luckily the last couple of years, I have a gentleman who comes and feeds them to his goats and sheep," she

said. The pumpkins act as a natural deworming agent for the livestock. Terry Brauch, manager of Earl May Garden Center in Beatrice, said the store's method of disposal varies from year to year. The store sells a few pumpkins after Halloween, but the rest are either given to local goat farmers or tossed out. "We load up a truck and take them to the landfill," he said. Both Earl May and the Korner Pumpkin Patch source their produce from local places. "Everything comes from Nebraska growers," Brauch said. "We have one that most of what he does is for Earl Mays in Nebraska. We have some local people by Beatrice that we buy from every year." Jurgens said all the gourds and pumpkins for sale at the pumpkin patch come from

family farms in the area. One of the best ways to dispose of pumpkins after the holidays, she said, is to let them naturally decompose. "The cows love to eat them, but the people in town

aren't going to have access to that. If they have a compost pile, they can compost them," she said. "Some people might get lucky and end up with a volunteer pumpkin plant."

3rd District Voters Re-Elect Republican Smith

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Republican Adrian Smith had no trouble winning election to a fifth term representing Nebraska's sprawling 3rd Congressional District. Voters Tuesday favored Smith over Democrat Mark Sullivan, a feedlot owner and former member of the Nebraska Air National Guard. It was the second time the two had faced each other for a chance to represent the district, which includes about three-fourths of Nebraska. In 2012, Smith won easily. In his campaign, Smith argued for repealing the Affordable Care Act, cutting the federal debt and reducing regulations. Sullivan contended Smith shared the blame for Washington dysfunction, saying the country needed people committed to working together and solving problems.

SD Harvests Still Lag Behind

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota farmers working to finish up the late-season harvest have been helped by dry conditions over the past week. The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 48 percent of the sunflowers, 61 percent of the corn and 80 percent of the sorghum is now in the bin. The sorghum harvest is equal to the average pace, but the sunflower and corn harvests both lag behind. About 85 percent of South Dakota's winter wheat crop has emerged, ahead of the average pace. About 71 percent of the crop is rated good to excellent. Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 60 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are rated 78 percent adequate to surplus.


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