

Choice For New UND Nickname Nears

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The University of North Dakota has set a final runoff vote for a new nickname — Fighting Hawks or Roughriders.

The university said Sunday those two names received the highest number of votes in a runoff election involving the top three nickname options from a preliminary vote. The third option — Nodaks — was eliminated.

But because no name received 50 percent or more of the runoff vote, a final runoff vote will start Thursday at noon Central time. The vote concludes at 11:59 p.m. CT on Nov. 16.

UND has been without a nickname for three years, since the state Board of Higher Education retired the school's "Fighting Sioux" moniker that the NCAA deemed offensive. Potential nicknames North Stars and Sundogs were eliminated in the preliminary vote.

Fire At Grand Island Apartment Kills 1

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — A fire in an 11-story apartment building killed one person and critically injured another, so Grand Island authorities are talking again about the need to retrofit older buildings with sprinkler systems.

The *Grand Island Independent* reports the fire was reported shortly after 1 p.m. Saturday. Most of the residents escaped the building safely after fire alarms went off.

Grand Island Fire Chief Cory Schmidt says the fire started on the ninth floor. A woman fell from a window on the ninth floor and died. Schmidt says another person was critically injured with burns.

The 134-foot-tall building challenged firefighters. The tallest ladder truck on scene had a 95-foot platform.

Schmidt said the building was not equipped with a sprinkler system because it wasn't required when it was built.

Deadline Looms For Turning In Petitions

PIERRE (AP) — The deadline for groups collecting signatures to get a wide spread of issues placed on the ballot in South Dakota for the 2016 election is quickly approaching.

KELO-TV reports that activists must turn in ballot petitions on Monday.

The ballot measures that supporters are working to bring before voters range from a measure to cap interest rates on short-term loans to allowing medical marijuana.

Initiated measure backers must get nearly 14,000 signatures, while constitutional amendments require almost 28,000 to appear on the ballot.

The secretary of state's office must review the petitions before ballot issues appear before voters. The office looks at signatures and petition completeness.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says she hopes her office will finish examining the petitions by the end of the year.

Company Defends Hog Facility Over Odor

MOUNT VERNON (AP) — A farming company is trying to set the record straight about the odor produced by a hog facility it manages in Davison County.

Since it began operating in May 2013, the Jackrabbit Family Farms sow operation that's about 10 miles south of Mount Vernon has farrowed 150,000 hogs annually. And for just as long, neighbors have been complaining about the odor emitted from the four manure pits at the facility.

Pipestone System vice president Dr. Barry Kerkaert said he is frustrated by what he described as continued verbal attacks over the smell of pig manure.

"We just exercised our rights, and we're tired of being harassed," he told *The Daily Republic*. Kerkaert added that Jackrabbit has complied with state environmental standards and manure management regulations and has taken additional steps to reduce the odor.

Kerkaert said the facility bought several filters at a cost of about \$35,000 to put on fans that take air out of buildings. But at a recent Davison County Commission meeting, several neighbors to the facility said the filters didn't do enough to curb the smell.

"We did that out of the goodness of our heart, and now the filters aren't even good enough," Kerkaert said.

John Jones, a farmer who owns a stake in the farm, argues that the smell comes with the territory of living in an agricultural community.

"You might smell a little bit of pig, but is that worth a fuss over to shut down a sow farm?" Jones said.

Betty Moller, who lives two miles north of the facility, said the odor is annoying and "smells like rotten eggs."

Moller said she doesn't expect county commissioners to change their minds, and that she sees the benefit for farmers who have invested in the facility. But she said that because of the odor, she doesn't like to have family and friends over and spend time outside.

Nebraska

Lawmakers See Need For More Prison Oversight

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers who investigated the state prison system last week saw so many problems that they may have to continue direct oversight of the department for years, legislative leaders say.

Members of an oversight committee spent three days looking into financial problems, overcrowding, mental health services and staffing shortages within the Department of Correctional Services.

Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha said solving the problems will likely require funding for various rehabilitation programs and staffing, as well as continued reviews by lawmakers.

Mello, who leaves office in 2017 because of term limits, said the oversight committee may need to become a permanent fixture of the Legislature to ensure that senators' concerns are addressed.

"It's not just about changing the culture of the agency," Mello said. "That's not going to resolve years of neglect in regards to mental health services, programming, treatment of inmates and overcrowding. Consistent oversight is going to be needed, year after year after year."

The hearings came as corrections director Scott Frakes unveiled a new strategic plan to help address overcrowding and ensure that more inmates get treatment. The department will request an estimated \$26.2 million from the Legislature for a net increase of 148 beds at

community corrections centers in Lincoln and Omaha.

Frakes told lawmakers he's working to address the problems with a new leadership team, but he faced criticism for not moving as quickly as some senators wanted. Frakes said he won't know until next year if the department needs even more money to address prison crowding because he needs time to evaluate its needs.

"I don't want to make bad decisions," Frakes said Friday. "I'm doing my very best to make sure we stay on track."

The department has faced repeated problems in recent years, from miscalculated prison sentences to a riot at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution that left two inmates dead. Prison officials were heavily criticized for their handling of Nikko Jenkins, an inmate who killed four people in Omaha in 2013 after he was released despite his pleas for a mental health civil commitment.

The prisons have also faced overcrowding and staffing issues that required more overtime, leading to high rates of burnout. Union officials have complained that the department stopped giving pay increases for longevity several years ago, which eliminated a key tool for retaining workers.

A recent state audit found a variety of financial problem attributed to poor management and oversight, most of which took place before the state's new corrections director was appointed to his job.

Auditors said the department paid

nearly 59,000 hours of unnecessary overtime between July 1, 2013, and Dec. 31, 2014, totaling more than \$1 million. They also faulted the department for overpaying nearly \$370,000 because it lacked procedures to ensure that inmate medical claims from off-site providers were proper.

Sen. Les Seiler of Hastings, the committee chairman, said the hearings demonstrated the need to take "a strong look" at the state's mental health system for prisoners.

Seiler said he also wants more specific details about the department's strategic plan. Lawmakers on the panel criticized the initial plan as too vague, saying it didn't include any way for them to measure the department's success.

Frakes "is battling a long-term problem," Seiler said. "I respect that, but I haven't heard many solutions to the long-term problems."

Sen. Paul Schumacher of Columbus said the Legislature shouldn't micromanage the prison system, but lawmakers need specifics on what problems corrections officials are facing so they know where to spend money.

Lawmakers have taken some steps already to increase oversight. Earlier this year, they created a new state inspector position to serve as a watchdog over the department. The inspector general operates within the state ombudsman's office, which answers to the Legislature rather than the executive branch.

Lawyer: South Dakota Tribe Destroying Marijuana Crop

SIoux FALLS (AP) — An American Indian tribe slated to open the nation's first marijuana resort is destroying its crop and temporarily suspending the project in South Dakota while leaders seek clarification from the federal government, according to the tribe's attorney.

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, which planned to open a lounge selling marijuana on New Year's Eve, was the first tribe in South Dakota to legalize the drug following the U.S. Department of Justice's decision last year to allow tribes to do so on tribal land.

Seth Pearman, the tribe's lawyer, said in a statement Saturday to the *Argus Leader* newspaper that the tribe was destroying its existing crop and temporarily suspending its marijuana cultivation and disturbing facilities. He said tribal leaders were confident that the venture would succeed after seeking clarification on regulations from the Justice Department.

"The tribe will continue to consult with the federal and state government and hopes to be granted parity with states that have legalized marijuana," Pearman said.

Attorney General Marty Jackley told The Associated Press that the tribe's attorney and local law enforcement informed him

Saturday about the decision, which he said was "in the best interest of both tribal and non-tribal members." Jackley acknowledged that he and tribal officials haven't always agreed, but said their discussions about the issue have been good and promised to help the tribe as it moved forward. He said he planned to meet with tribal officials Monday or Tuesday.

Tribal President Anthony Reider didn't immediately return voicemail and text messages from the AP seeking comment Saturday evening. Jonathan Hunt, vice president of Monarch America, a Denver-based marijuana consulting firm hired by the tribe, said a reported fire Saturday was caused by wood and not marijuana, but he declined further comment.

The tribe has said the project could generate up to \$2 million a month in profit. But some state officials have questioned the plan, including Jackley, who has said any changes in tribal laws wouldn't affect nontribal land or anyone who wasn't a tribal member.

The tribe's executive committee voted in June to make the sale and use of marijuana legal on its reservation in Moody County, about 45 miles north of Sioux Falls.

New Missouri River Boat Ramps Planned

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Missouri River boaters will have two new ramps to launch from by next spring in northeast Nebraska.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says one will be built at Ponca State Park, the other at Mulberry Bend Wildlife Management Area.

The project site at Elk Point Bend on the northwest edge of Ponca State Park will be closed to public access.

An existing ramp at Mulberry Bend that was damaged by the 2011 flooding will be replaced by a longer concrete ramp, and new bank stabilization will be installed. A small, temporary launch site will be available at Mulberry Bend during construction, but parking will be limited.

Construction at both sites is expected to be finished by early March.

Brady

From Page 1

Obama's health care law.

As chairman, Brady's portfolio is much wider.

Measures he hopes will get Obama's signature include legislation making dozens of expiring tax breaks permanent, altering taxation of U.S. companies that operate abroad and easing trade barriers with Pacific Rim countries, though Brady said he has taken no final position on that recently negotiated treaty.

Another goal will be longer range — broadly rewriting tax laws with lower rates for individuals and businesses, and fewer loopholes. The issue has gridlocked Washington for decades.

"He's coming to this job at a time of expectations, but the expectations have always been there" for Ways and Means chairmen, said former Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, who led the committee in the 1990s.

Brady calls Ryan coach of the House Republicans and himself "the quarterback of the Ways and Means team." Sports analogies seem fitting for Brady, a star athlete in baseball and other sports while growing up in Rapid City, South Dakota.

As a 12-year-old at football practice one day, Brady's coach tapped his shoulder and guided him to a policeman nearby. That's when he learned his father, Bill, an attorney representing a woman in a divorce trial, had been shot to death in the courtroom by her husband. That left Brady's mother, Nancy, with five children to raise.

The family purchased and ran a campground, and Brady threw himself into various sports.

His high school wrestling coach recalls that Brady, injured and out of shape, spent one night sweating off pounds in the gym when a teammate was hurt and Brady was too heavy to compete in his 132-pound weight class. He lost the necessary weight — Brady says 12 pounds — and wrestled, losing his match but preventing his

team from forfeiting.

"They were tough kids," the now-retired coach, David Ploof, said about Brady, his two brothers and two sisters. "They had to be."

Brady worked his way through the University of South Dakota with odds jobs including maintenance worker and bartender. He took a job at the local Chamber of Commerce, then started working for Chambers of Commerce in Texas.

Brady's parents were active Democrats in South Dakota and an uncle was a Democratic state senator. Brady said he became a Republican while working for the chambers, where he spent time helping businesses.

"You can't help but know how government burdens those job creators," he said. "So that is where the light bulb went off for me."

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