

Heineman Says Nebraska Will Wait For Health Care Ruling

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska will not enact a health care exchange mandated by the federal health care overhaul until officials know for sure whether the measure is constitutional, Gov. Dave Heineman said Monday.

Heineman told reporters that the state is planning and designing a program in case the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of President Barack Obama's health care law.

But the Republican governor said it doesn't make sense to build a formal proposal before the court decides. He said he doubted most states could meet the federal deadlines because of lingering confusion about what they will need to enact to comply with the law.

"Once they rule, then we'll know what we need to do," Heineman said in a conference call. "But don't know" right now.

Weather

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even gusts up to 30 mph. And with the low relative humidity, it's going to create conditions that are going to be an extreme fire weather danger."

Connie Strunk, agronomy educator for the Turner County Extension, said such conditions call for extra care of farming equipment.

"Make sure things with the machine are in good working order," she said. "If belts are older or something isn't quite working right, it has the potential for overheating. It doesn't take much to start that spark or get a fire started."

Debris can also be a problem, Strunk said.

"With it being dry and with all the dust and the wind, there's more potential for debris not to

push its way out," she said. "Make sure the equipment is cleaned out and that things aren't getting lodged or worked into the machine further."

Strunk said it is also important to be prepared in case a fire does break out.

"I don't think enough farmers have (fire extinguishers) on hand, and that's something we encourage," she said. "And make sure to have a cell phone so if you are unable to put the fire out, you can call for help."

While farmers need to take precautions, area residents are also advised to be careful, Nickles said.

"We want everyone to use some caution, especially if they're doing any controlled burns," he said. "We'd just assume people don't do any until we get some rain."

That rain could come as early as this weekend, according to Jansen.

"It looks like maybe Saturday and Sunday it could be cooling

Man Crashes 1923 Ford Model T, Dies

HUDSON (AP) — A South Dakota man died when the 1923 Ford Model T he was driving rolled in a cornfield.

The Highway Patrol says 59-year-old Monroe Harders of Alcester lost control of the vehicle near Hudson on Sunday afternoon, and it rolled in the ditch and came to rest in the field.

Harders was thrown from the vehicle and died at the scene.

off into the upper 60s and lower 70s, and with that, there will be a chance for some showers and thunderstorms," he said. "Hopefully we'll get enough rain to alleviate the dangerous fire weather conditions."

Once conditions become safer, Nickles said those doing controlled burns are reminded to follow Yankton County Ordinance 17, which specifies allowed times and procedures for burning.

"You are required to call in controlled burns," he said. "Also, your burn barrels are required to be in good condition and to have a screen on them so sparks can't get out. The only thing you're not required to call in is a recreational campfire."

Controlled burns should be reported to the dispatch center by calling (605) 668-5210.

For questions about Ordinance 17, contact the Yankton Fire Department at (605) 668-5228.

the main pool," he said. "That way, if people get too hot during the day, they can get into the shade. Outside of the facility, we added a concrete pad by the concession stand so people aren't dragging in mud. With all the foot traffic in that area, the grass wouldn't grow. We hope it's more user-friendly now. Finally, some landscaping was done in front of the entry way."

The Memorial Park Pool opened Memorial Day weekend and closed in mid-August.

Larson believes sales have been helped by the fact that summer passes are now good for both municipal pools.

"That way, if they're not members of the Summit Center and they buy this pool pass, they can get into either facility," he said.

"Then what we do to give it a little bit more value is open it up so that they can start coming into the Summit pool May 1 until the end of August."

The pool also tallied its highest revenue during the five years on record in 2011 with \$43,827, up almost \$10,000 compared to 2010.

That doesn't include a small profit made from operating the concession stand at the pool. Ability Building Services (ABS) had been leasing the concessions business and paying a fee to the city. ABS did not want the lease this year, so the city operated the stand itself.

"We wanted to at least break even," Larson said. "We did that and even made a little profit. It's never going to bring in a lot of money, but it might bring in \$2,000-\$3,000."

After purchasing some necessary equipment like a freezer and a register, as well as paying wages for the stand's operation, the city made just more than \$1,000 in profit this year.

Larson also hopes improvements to the pool facility have contributed to its success.

"We've added the shade umbrellas in the wading pool area and

Partners

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tential employer for the graduates of the program.

"RTEC has always been about partnerships," Svatos said. "This place was built on partnerships and continues to thrive on those partnerships. The more exposure and real-world experience exposure for our students, we are that much better off. You are giving the students a feel for what is out there. You are putting the employer and the student together."

While the first installation was a learning experience for Haas and his team — a team from Lennox, the manufacturer of the solar system did the install — he felt getting the hands-on lesson was a win for the program.

"There were a lot of questions being asked," he said. "How do you check if the panels are working? How do you check how much power is being put in the system? How do you align the system? We were able to show the students the correct answers."

It is fun to work with RTEC and I think it is a big deal. Not everyone ends up being a doctor or a dentist. I think it is pretty important that we don't forget that not everyone wants to do that. We need the hands-on guys as well. I think it is great to help if you can."

With the installation, the students were able to watch the system be tied into the existing home's electrical system. They also learned about proper alignment and proper use of the system, Haas explained.

"This is the newest thing in the industry," he said. "They have a system where we install solar panels in the roof of the home and they help to power the air-conditioning and heat systems. When the outdoor unit isn't running, the power created will feed right through the system to help power the home's electrical needs. I was excited to see something new and to share it with the students in the program."

Darcy said the students in the class are getting as much information in their nine-month course work as is presented in several

two-year programs.

Haas agreed, adding that a potential employee that comes in with an application in hand and has already seen the systems and has proven that he/she can work with the systems is a great potential employee.

He went on to say that even in his time in the industry, things have changed significantly.

"It used to be a heater, not even a furnace, and to see where all of this has gone since I have been around the industry is very exciting," Haas said. "Now, to be able to run air conditioners and heaters with solar power, to have a major brand behind it, really does help us. It is interesting to see how we can show people how much cheaper it is to heat their homes in the future. I think solar systems are only going to get more popular."

Olsen agreed. "We are always the first to have new stuff like this in the area," he said. "We are always looking for good people. We like to hire people locally, so if the guys at RTEC can help us get the students trained for us, that is always great for us here and in the community."

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Pool

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close only one day during the summer for weather or other factors. During each of the previous four years, it had to close at least five days. In 2009, it was closed for 14 days.

Larson said that, after speaking with operators of other aquatic facilities and listening to user feedback, a decision was made to change the operating hours of the pool this year. Previously, the pool would be open from 1-4:45 p.m. and then close for swim team practice and lap swimming before re-opening for general use from 6-8:30 p.m. This year, it opened at 12:30 p.m. and closed at 8 p.m.

Larson said many kids would be dropped off at the park during the noon hour, so the change allowed them to get into the pool facility rather than waiting in the park unsupervised until 1 p.m. Also, many families enjoyed coming to the pool directly from work, he said, rather than having to wait until 6 p.m.

The uptick in attendance was accompanied by an increase in pool passes sold.

"Those went hand in hand this year," Larson said.

A total of 458 passes were sold, up 25 percent from the 366 passes sold in 2010.

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