

Appeals Court Dismisses Execution Challenge

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has dismissed a challenge of South Dakota’s execution protocol, clearing the way for Donald Moeller’s execution on Tuesday.

Sioux Falls resident Donna Nichols had tried to stay the execution and intervene in the case, but U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol denied the motion. She appealed but then decided to ask for a dismissal.

Authorities say Moeller kidnapped O’Connell from a Sioux Falls convenience store in 1990, drove her to a secluded area near the Big Sioux River, then raped and killed her. Her naked body was found the next day.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says state law requires the sentence to be carried out as scheduled unless South Dakota’s governor or a court having jurisdiction stays the proceeding.

BHSU Student Found Dead In Residence Hall

SPEARFISH (AP) — Spearfish police say there is no foul play suspected in the death of a Black Hills State University student found dead in his residence hall.

BHSU says the body of Nicholas Bazemore, of Gillette, Wyo., was found in his residence hall Sunday night.

School counselors met with students throughout the evening and will continue to be available to provide counseling for students, faculty and staff.

Lois Flagstad, vice president for Student Life, says BHSU officials are saddened by the death, and administrators’ thoughts and prayers are with Bazemore’s family and friends.

Pine Ridge Man Gets Probation In Drug Case

PINE RIDGE (AP) — A Pine Ridge man has been sentenced to probation for distributing a controlled substance.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson announced Monday that 33-year-old David Mousseau was sentenced to two years of probation for selling 29.5 grams of marijuana to an informant in Pine Ridge in November 2010.

Mousseau pleaded guilty to the charge in June.

The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team investigated the case.

ATV Accident Kills 10-Month-Old Girl

ONAKA (AP) — A 10-month-old girl died in an all-terrain vehicle accident in northeastern South Dakota over the weekend.

The Highway Patrol says Amaya Larson was one of three children on the ATV being driven by 53-year-old Gary Rausch, of Onaka. Authorities say Rausch was turning from a private driveway onto state Highway 20 about 5 p.m. Saturday when he lost control and the ATV rolled onto its side, pinning him and the girl.

She died at a hospital in Faulkton. Rausch also was taken there with what the patrol says were serious but not life-threatening injuries.

The other two children on the ATV were not hurt.

Officials ID Dead Man Found In Missouri River

WINNEBAGO, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a man whose body was found in the Missouri River near Winnebago last week.

The Thurston County sheriff’s office on Monday identified him as 56-year-old David Deaton. The sheriff’s office did not list his hometown. Officials say the cause of death was an accidental drowning and no foul play is suspected.

Deaton’s body was found last Wednesday near Big Bear Park, east of Winnebago.

Sewer Pipeline Project Under Way In Pierre

PIERRE (AP) — Crews in Pierre have begun replacing a 1,942-foot sewer pipeline that was damaged by Missouri River flooding in the summer of 2011.

KCCR radio reports that the city is using reserve money and looking for grants to fund the \$1.1 million project.

Officials hope to get most of the repair effort done yet this year.

No Injuries Reported In Sioux City House Fire

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say the residents weren’t home when a fire broke out at a house in Sioux City.

Fire crews were dispatched to the house around 7:45 p.m. Sunday. Arriving firefighters found flames coming from the front door of the two-store house.

No injuries to firefighters were reported.

The fire cause is being investigated.

Omaha Mayor: End Furloughs For Violent Inmates

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle is asking state officials to keep inmates convicted of violent or gang-related crimes from getting a chance at furlough programs.

The *Omaha World Herald* says the mayor wants the Omaha City Council to make recommendations for a bill when the Legislature convenes in January. Suttle says he’s concerned because of recent high-profile incidents involving furloughed inmates.

Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford says lawmakers have already requested input from the city’s police chief, the Department of Corrections and county attorneys. A corrective action plan is due to lawmakers by Dec. 6.

Ashford says the concerns will be addressed, but he wants to avoid a kneejerk reaction based on individual, high-profile cases. Ashford serves as chairman of the Legislature’s Judiciary Committee, and is also running for mayor.

Decision 2012 | Nebraska

Kerrey Wants One More Debate

Fischer Campaign Says It Will Decline

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — In challenging Republican Deb Fischer to another debate, Democrat Bob Kerrey remained optimistic Monday about his chances to reclaim his old U.S. Senate seat.

The candidates already have had three debates, but Kerrey suggested another one, focused on national security, after Fischer has questioned his willingness to address the issues.

“I think it’s obvious I have been discussing the issues,” Kerrey said.

Kerrey has trailed Fischer throughout the race, but an *Omaha World-Herald* poll published Sunday suggests the former Nebraska governor may be closing the gap. The poll has Kerrey trailing Fischer by 3 percentage points with 7 percent of the voters still undecided. That’s much closer than the 10-point lead Fischer had in the newspaper’s September poll.

Kerrey, refusing to give up hope, has advertised heavily in the state, including a recent series of ads highlighting a land dispute Fischer and her husband had with neighbors.

Kerrey also said he thinks voters appreciate his varied experience in business and government, which he said has helped him gain support.

Fischer’s campaign said its internal polling shows the rancher and state senator from Valentine still holds a sizeable lead, and spokesman Daniel Keylin said Nebraskans seem to be responding to Fischer’s pledge to cut spending and repeal President Barack Obama’s health care reforms.

Fischer declined Kerrey’s debate challenge in favor of maintaining her statewide campaigning schedule, spokesman Daniel Keylin said.

Nebraska GOP Chairman Mark Fahleson attended Kerrey’s news conference in Omaha on Monday, so that he could respond immediately.

Fahleson said there’s no reason for another debate at this point in the race for the seat, which is being vacated by Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson. Fahleson challenged Kerrey to promise to support a list of policies that he says reflect Nebraska values, including opposing any tax increases, budget earmarks and cap-and-trade environmental regulations.



Fischer



Kerrey

The Kerrey campaign dismissed the idea of signing the GOP-suggested pledge.

Fahleson also said Kerrey’s campaign seems to have been more focused on the land dispute than on the challenges facing the country.

“He’s spent the entire campaign talking about this fence issue and not the issues,” Fahleson said.

The news conference and Fahleson’s response both happened in the building where Kerrey’s campaign is headquartered.

“Mark Fahleson’s appearance here today illustrates just how desperate they are,” Kerrey spokesman Chris Triebisch said.

Picking up Nelson’s seat is critical if Republicans want to take control of the Senate; the GOP needs to net four seats to do so. But Republicans may need to offset Democratic pickups in states such as Massachusetts, Maine, Indiana, Nevada and Arizona.

But neither the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee nor the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee has invested in the race in months, a sign of how competitive the committees believe the contest is. They have chosen to invest in the other, more competitive congressional races.

Decision 2012 | South Dakota

Video Blasting ‘Corn Dog’ Candidate Goes Viral

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A South Dakota Republican campaign video depicting a Democratic House candidate jet-setting around the globe to earn environmental degrees and hosting a “raucous” corn dog party has gone viral, and both sides are claiming they benefit from the Web hits.

The YouTube video portrays U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem as a South Dakota farmer who stays in her home state while Democrat Matt Varilek studies abroad and presents environmental papers.

Varilek calls the spot a “rare attack ad that would benefit the attendee,” saying it’s goofy to criticize him for pursuing an education.

“And then to attack me for my love of corn dogs and beer, I feel strongly that the pro-corn dog segment of the electorate is going to come out in force,” Varilek said Monday.

The “Dueling Visions” video supporting Noem had logged more than 109,000 views as of Monday afternoon.

Noem campaign manager Tom Erickson deferred comment to the South Dakota Republican Party, which crafted the piece as homage of sorts to a television ad done by Florida Congressman Alan West.

Tony Post, the South Dakota GOP’s executive director, said the goal was to draw a stark contrast between Noem and Varilek.

“She is South Dakota, and he’s not,” Post said.

The video’s military intelligence briefing style presentation jumps back and forth between Varilek’s travels and Noem staying in South Dakota to farm, raise a family, serve in the state Legislature and earn agriculture awards from the Watertown Jaycees and South Dakota Soybean Association.

The cursor then zooms into Washington, D.C., as the voice-over announcer belts out a Varilek intelligence briefing over a backing track that sounds like something out of a “Mission Impossible” movie.

“2006: Matt Varilek hosts a raucous National Corndog Day party in his swanky D.C. neighborhood, serving more than 1,000 corn dogs, 1,200 beers and a 150-pound ice luge for consuming shots of Jdgermeister.”

Post said phones in the office have been ringing with mostly positive feedback, but officials are also proud of the negative feedback the video has drawn.

“I have told people, hey, if you



Noem



Varilek

don’t like it, go get a 150-pound ice luge and some corn dogs and go join Matt Varilek,” he said. “We’re running with it.”

The ad continues in 2008 with Varilek “back corndogging again” in Sioux Falls, achieving a rare “triple-double.” The feat is defined by National Corndog Day LLC as consuming 10 corn dogs, 10 beverages and 10 servings of 10 tater tots in a little more than nine hours.

Varilek said that was probably an example of overconsumption, but it was all in good fun.

He finds it interesting that the ad implies that pursuing an education outside his home state is a negative.

Varilek said he’s a fourth-generation South Dakota who was able to go to the Scotland’s University of Glasgow because a Yankton-area organization sent

him there on an ambassadorial scholarship to study economic development.

His campaign took the unusual step of forwarding the video link to its entire email list, and supporters have shared it with numerous blogs.

The gossip website Gawker called the video “an excellent ad for her Democratic opponent.”

The GOP video is not the first video to go viral in the battle for South Dakota’s lone U.S. House seat.

In May, Democratic challenger Jeff Barth garnered some unexpected national attention with a primary campaign video that went viral online and aired on CNN. In it, he walks around farmland covered in goofy props talking about his time overseas, his military service and even his experience riding an ostrich.

At one point, Barth picks up a gun and fires — and a rubber chicken falls from the sky, apparently killed.

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Dear Editor,

I am an 83 year old woman who is very worried about our country. I sincerely believe this is the most important presidential election in my lifetime. I am a child of the depression, having grown up in Oklahoma, and still enjoy a meal of cornbread and pinto beans. I was a secretary all my working life.

I have already cast my vote for Mitt Romney because I know he has the leadership ability to get us on the road to recovery. Governor Romney is a problem solver. As the governor of Massachusetts he worked with the state legislature comprised of 87% Democrats and included many fine women in his administration. When the winter Olympics in Salt Lake City was floundering he stepped in, without compensation, to make this event a huge success. He has spent most of his life as a successful businessman and knows what is needed to get people back to work. His goal is to make life better and more prosperous for every citizen.

Folks, this isn't a popularity contest. No doubt, our president is good at small talk and is very comfortable with show biz types, enjoys shooting the breeze with Letterman, Leno, The View ladies, John Stewart. In the recent debate we saw his real personality with its arrogance, sarcasm, and disrespect he showed his dignified opponent. When Gov. Romney reminding him of his apology tour around the world after his election, he responded that was a "big whopper." Just look at the record, he is the one telling a big whopper. As to his decision making, remember he flew to Las Vegas for a fund raiser even with the terrible crisis in Libya.

Our country needs a leader. We have an opportunity to elect a true statesman and true leader in Mitt Romney. Don't be gullible to the falsehoods his opponent tells in his attempt to destroy the character of this fine man. Please do what is best for our nation and vote for Gov. Romney to ensure a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Dixie Griffith
Yankton, South Dakota

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Tuesday, October 30
7:40 am Community Share (Sam Mason, Lori Peterson)
8:20 am Big Red Bookshelf (Pam Kettering, Bev Calvert)

Wednesday, October 31
7:40 am MMC Basketball (Jim Thorson, Tom Schlimgen)
8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)