

MIDWEST DIGEST

Vice Pres. Headed To Omaha For Fundraiser

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden will visit Omaha this month to help raise money for Democrat Tom White, who is seeking to unseat Republican Rep. Lee Terry in Nebraska's 2nd House District.

White campaign spokesman Ian Russell confirmed Friday that Biden will be at the Field Club of Omaha on Sept. 30.

Russell says White, a state legislator from Omaha, looks forward to talking to Biden "about creating jobs and reducing the deficit."

Dave Boomer, campaign spokesman for Terry, said Biden's visit "verifies what we've been saying all along: that Tom White is another vote for the Obama agenda that will saddle the country with trillions and trillions of debt."

By the end of June, Terry had raised more than \$1.3 million for his re-election bid, while White had raised more than \$675,000.

SD Army Nat'l Guard Soldiers Return Home

MADISON AP) — Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 21st Engineer Company returned home Friday after a year of duty in Afghanistan.

The 113 soldiers arrived in Wisconsin on Monday and reported to Fort McCoy for demobilization. On Friday, they returned to South Dakota, where homecoming ceremonies were set up in Madison and De Smet.

Capt. Heath Abraham tells KJAM that it's an incredible feeling to be home.

The soldiers conducted combat engineer missions in Afghanistan, such as clearing roadside bombs.

SD SDN Communications To Build Bunker

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls-based SDN Communications plans to build a concrete bunker to safeguard its telecommunications network.

Television station KELO reports that SDN wants to break ground this fall on the \$10 million bunker northwest of Sioux Falls. It would be put into use if SDN's main office in Sioux Falls sustains too much damage to keep the network operating, such as in a storm situation.

Plans for the bunker include 16-inch-thick walls.

Ex-Youth Leader: No Contest In Sex Case

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former youth group director in Lincoln has pleaded no contest to three counts of sexual assault of a child.

Joseph Ballard agreed to a plea deal Friday in Lancaster County District Court. The 42-year-old's sentencing is set for Oct. 26.

Three teenagers have accused Ballard of touching them inappropriately in 2008. The former director of Project Youth has also been accused of molesting at least one boy over a five-year period.

Ballard coached soccer until his arrest in February, and police have said it was common for him to host sleepovers.

Ballard had been scheduled to stand trial in November.

SD Group Rescues 36 Dogs Dumped In Neb.

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota rescue group has taken in 36 ailing dogs that were abandoned across the border in Nebraska. Rosey Quinn of Sioux Falls-based Second Chance Rescue says a southeast Nebraska woman hauled the dogs in a horse trailer to her ex-husband's home in Dixon County, in the northeast corner of the state, and dumped them there on Sept. 7.

Quinn says her staff immediately took in 21 dogs — those in the worst condition — and went back to Dixon County on Friday for the rest. Most of the dogs were emaciated and losing their hair.

The dogs were of at least seven breeds, and Quinn says she believes the former couple had been breeders.

The Dixon County sheriff's office is investigating.

Hughes County Sheriff Seizes Another Horse

PIERRE (AP) — Hughes County authorities have seized a horse that Sheriff Mike Leidholt says appeared emaciated.

KCCR says the horse was found Thursday afternoon roaming in a residential area just east of Pierre. Leidholt says there was feed and water nearby, but a veterinarian who inspected the horse said it was in poor condition. The owner, Randy Anderson, was out of town.

Anderson's attorney, Mark Moreno, said in court Friday that his client agreed the horse needed emergency care but denied it was mistreated. Rather, Moreno said, Anderson contends the horse had a medical condition that led to its condition and he was considering euthanizing it.

Last month, the sheriff's office seized four malnourished horses owned by another man, who was in jail at the time.

5 Neb. Water Bodies Under Algae Alerts

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska officials are warning people to be careful about the water in five lakes because high levels of toxic blue-green algae have been found.

The state Department of Health and Human Services issued health alerts Friday for Merritt Reservoir in Cherry County and Kirkman's Cove near Humboldt.

Existing alerts were extended for Swan Creek Lake 5A near Tobias, Willow Creek Lake near Pierce and Red Willow Reservoir near McCook.

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Work To Begin On

St. Francis School

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Friday said his department is starting work on its 4,000th stimulus project, a \$7.2 million improvement project at the St. Francis Indian School in south central South Dakota.

Salazar says the federal stimulus program has provided an opportunity to meet long-standing infrastructure needs in Indian Country. The St. Francis Indian School is getting a new gymnasium and kitchen.

The school serves more than 550 students in grades 7-12 for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

KYNT Yankton's Home Team!

AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS 7:40 AM MONDAY-FRIDAY

Monday 9/20

7:40 Mark Johnson, County Commissioner

8:15 Julie Dykstra, Habitat for Humanity

Tuesday 9/21

7:40 Andy Hennickson, Mt. Marty Theatre

8:15 Chuck Lambert, L&C Theatre

Neb. Agencies Submit Budget Requests For 2011-13

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — State agencies have submitted their budget requests for the two-year budget cycle that begins next year as Nebraska lawmakers face a projected shortfall of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The scope of the requests will not be known until sometime next week, after analysts have had a chance to study thousands of pages submitted by more than 70 agencies, state budget analyst Lynn Heaton said Friday.

But state leaders have made clear that they're looking for cuts.

The latest projections from the Nebraska Department of Revenue show the state facing a possible two-year budget shortfall of \$757 million.

Gov. Dave Heineman and state lawmakers will sift through the agencies' requests as they prepare to craft a penny-pinching budget that must, under state law, be approved during next year's legislative session.

If re-elected in November, Heineman will submit his budget proposal to lawmakers in January. His Democratic challenger, Mike Meister, would have until February to submit a budget proposal if he wins the election.

"This is the beginning of the budget process," Heineman spokeswoman Jen Rae Hein said. "These are merely proposals that will be evaluated over the coming months. The governor will present a balanced budget without raising taxes in early January."

Legislative committees are in the process of identifying possible cuts totaling 10 percent of state general-fund appropriations for all agencies under their purview. Special attention will be paid to K-12 education and Medicaid, because both received large amounts of federal stimulus dollars for the current budget cycle that required changes in state law. So, for funding to be reduced for each because stimulus money not be available, laws will have to be changed.

Overall, replacing stimulus money is the largest projected increase in the next two-year budget,

accounting for more than 40 percent of the total increase.

Historically, those agencies claiming the biggest pieces of the state budget pie have been the massive Department of Health and Human Services and education agencies, such as the Department of Education and the University of Nebraska.

Just how their budgets will shape up remains to be seen. The University of Nebraska budget request alone is more than 2,600 pages.

Overall, the university — which oversees campuses in Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney, as well as its medical school at Omaha — is seeking an increase of at least \$25.5 million over the next two years. And that's assuming an across-the-board pay freeze. If the university's union-covered faculty were to negotiate a 2.5 percent pay raise over the next two years, university officials estimate the institution would need an increase of \$54 million in state funds over the next two years.

Because the university faculty's bargaining unit hasn't even begun the process of negotiating salaries for the next two years, the budget request submitted this week "is really a moving target," said university spokeswoman Sharon Stephan.

"We've got a lot more work to do in the months ahead. But we want the governor and Legislature to maintain education as a priority," Stephan said.

Officials with the Department of Education did not return calls Friday seeking clarification on that department's 580-page budget request, but a segment listed under "analysis" in its initial pages indicated that it would seek an additional \$7.2 million in state funds for 2012 — a more than 40 percent increase from the current year.

The state's K-12 public education system prospered in the current budget cycle with \$234 million in federal stimulus money — but that money dries up after 2011.

The Department of Health and Human Services is seeking an increase in aid funding from the state of nearly \$102 million — about a 10 percent jump — over the next two years. However, the agency is seeking more than \$18 million less in operating funds from the state over the next two years, a drop of more than 7 percent.

Heidepriem Pushes For Special Session On SD Budget

BY WAYNE ORTMAN
Associated Press Writer

SIoux FALLS — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Scott Heidepriem called Friday for a special legislative session to focus on slashing spending in preparation for next year's anticipated state deficit.

Republican Gov. Mike Rounds and Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who is Heidepriem's opponent in the November election, dismissed the need for a special session.

Heidepriem, the minority leader in the state Senate, said lawmakers could complete their work in a day and focus on a 2 to 3 percent cut in government.

He wants to eliminate state jobs that are funded but not filled and cancel \$10.5 million in tax breaks that otherwise would go to the TransCanada Keystone XL oil pipeline planned across western South Dakota. Those issues are prominent in this year's campaign by Heidepriem and the Democratic Party.

Heidepriem urged Rounds to convene a special session after the governor said he's asked state agencies to consider requesting budgets that spend 10 percent less money next year than they are authorized to spend this year.

"Now that the governor has joined us in recognizing the crisis that we face in South Dakota, let's deal with it," Heidepriem said at a news conference. "Instead of putting it under the rug for another four, five or six months let's take care of it now."

Flying High, Sarah Palin's Next Stops: Iowa, TV

BY MIKE GLOVER
Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Forget Disneyland. Sarah Palin's going to Iowa.

The former Alaska governor and 2008 GOP vice presidential nominee is on a roll: Her political endorsements have helped propel a number of upstart Republican contenders to victory in recent primaries, including a double win Tuesday in Delaware and New Hampshire. Her cable TV show makes its debut in November. And now she's off to the state that's made and broken more than its share of presidential campaigns.

Palin will be the big draw at Friday's Reagan Dinner in Des Moines, the Iowa Republican Party's biggest fundraiser. The question that will be on everyone's mind is whether she'll run for president in 2012.

Iowa, home to the nation's leadoff presidential caucuses, can be tough terrain for celebrity candidates. Those who try to ride their fame to victory in Iowa without organizing a grass-roots campaign often find themselves on the outs.

Remember John Glenn? The former astronaut and senator drew huge crowds and intense attention here when he sought the Democratic nomination in 1984 — and got just 4 percent of the vote.

"They were coming out to see John Glenn the astronaut, not

John Glenn the Democrat running for president," said veteran Republican strategist Eric Woolson.

If she runs, Palin would start with strong appeal among the social and religious conservatives who play a crucial role in Iowa's Republican politics. But that appeal wouldn't necessarily last if it's not backed up by a strong effort to reach out to caucus voters, said Steve Scheffler, head of the Iowa Christian Alliance.

"The track to success in Iowa is slogging around all of the small towns in bad weather and sleeping in downscale motels because that's the best in town," said Rich Galen, a GOP strategist based in Washington. "That certainly doesn't seem to fit the Palin theory of how she should conduct her life."

A Palin candidacy also would test Iowa's glass ceiling. Just ask Hillary Rodham Clinton, who came in third in the 2008 caucuses, how tough the state can be for a woman. Iowa is one of two states — Mississippi is the other — that's never sent a woman to Congress or elected a woman governor.

Palin is far from alone in taking early steps to court Iowa activists. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has made multiple trips to the state. Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty has put a staff member in Iowa and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, New Jersey Gov. Chris

Christie and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania all have visits in the works.

Palin has been coy about her presidential intentions and masterful at keeping her name in the news since she abruptly resigned as Alaska's governor in 2009. She's mixed political fundraisers and candidates' campaign events with speeches in which she commands fees as high as \$100,000.

Her memoir, "Going Rogue," was a best-seller. Her new book, "America by Heart: Reflections on Family, Faith and Flag," will be published in December.

Her favorable ratings have been slipping all year, in recent weeks dropping below 40 percent for the first time, in the latest Associated Press-Gfk poll. Forty percent now have a very unfavorable rating of Palin. But

among Republicans, about two-thirds give her positive marks and one-third view her very favorably.

Fresh off two big wins by candidates who got her blessings in Tuesday's primaries, Palin this week called for the Republican "political machine" to put aside differences within the party and home in on Democrats, whom she said have a "weakened leftist party."

Palin, whose Twitter and Facebook pages are required reading in political circles, also took some jabs at the media for all the interest in her wardrobe and gestures rather than her record.

"According to the media," she said, "I was plucked from obscurity while staring at Russia from my house."

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7-8:45pm	Go Figure
9-11 pm	Quazy

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Dr. Kudera is originally from Dell Rapids, SD and completed his undergraduate degree at The University of South Dakota where he was a student-athlete. He is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine-University of South Dakota. Dr. Kudera completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency training at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and is board eligible.

Dr. Kudera will provide care for a multitude of musculoskeletal conditions including joint replacement of the knee, hip, and shoulder, treatment of athletic injuries, adult and pediatric fracture care, rotator cuff repair, and treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome.

Please join with us in welcoming Dr. Kudera, his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Jackson, to Yankton.

Dr. Kudera began seeing patients at Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. August 23, 2010. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-1722.

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