

Severed Leg Found In Nebraska Reservoir

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Authorities searching for a North Platte man missing for over a week say a severed leg has been found in a reservoir about 20 miles west of North Platte.

KNOP-TV reports that the Lincoln County sheriff's office says the limb was found in Sutherland Reservoir on Thursday. An anthropologist determined the leg had been severed by a boat propeller.

DNA testing will determine if it belongs to 61-year-old Larry Sack. He was reported missing on Sept. 3 when he failed to show up at a family gathering. His pickup truck and fishing gear were found the next day near a canal that flows to the reservoir.

Authorities say Sack has diabetes and hadn't been feeling well prior to his disappearance.

Former S.D. Gov. Might Run For U.S. Senate

DAKOTA DUNES (AP) — Former Republican South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds is forming a committee to explore a run for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Tim Johnson.

The seat is up for election in November 2014. Rounds said if he does decide to run, he will not make an announcement until after the November elections.

Rounds served two terms as governor, from 2003 to 2009. He has talked openly about a possible Senate run since early this year because of his concerns about the country's debt and health care reform and "a federal government that doesn't understand that profit is not a dirty word."

"As a businessman, I firmly believe something has to change in this country, or we're going to be in real trouble," Rounds told the Argus Leader newspaper Thursday.

His decision to form an exploratory committee was first reported by KCCR radio in Pierre. The move will allow Rounds to raise and spend up to \$5,000 to explore a Senate run. He said he will file paperwork in the next 30 days.

Johnson has represented South Dakota in Congress since 1986. He has not yet announced whether he will seek a fourth Senate term.

Bob Burns, a retired political science professor at South Dakota State University, said Rounds would be a strong GOP candidate.

"I would guess his closest competition would probably be Rep. (Kristi) Noem, assuming that she wins in November," he said. "I can't think of anyone who would give him a hard run for the nomination other than Rep. Noem."

Noem is being challenged this fall by Democrat Matt Varilek, Johnson's former economic development director.

Animal Health Officials Warn Of Fatal Algae

WAUBAY (AP) — Animal health officials are warning ranchers about the potential of fatal algae in the Bitter Lake area of northeast South Dakota.

The *Aberdeen American News* reports that cattle belonging to at least one rancher in the area have died from the blue-green algae.

Cattle producers in the area are being asked to provide their livestock with fresh, clean water to drink.

Bitter Lake is located south of Waubay in Day County.

Sustainability Conference Held Friday In S.D.

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A daylong sustainability conference got under way in Sioux Falls on Friday.

The Plain Green Conference was started in 2008 by South Dakota State University and Koch Hazard Architects to raise awareness about the issue of sustainability.

Organizers of this year's conference say they expect nearly 300 people to attend the event focusing on design, energy and lifestyles.

University Of Mary Announces \$40M Plan

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — University of Mary's president has announced a \$40 million growth campaign for the private Catholic school in Bismarck.

Father James Shea says the Bismarck school can no longer hold back on its need to expand the main campus. The university this year had about 850 students living on campus, which is about 100 more students than the previous record set two years ago.

Shea says the influx of people and businesses to the Bismarck-Mandan area has increased demand for new and established programs for graduates.

The fundraising campaign includes plans for more on-campus housing, increasing the university's endowment, renovation and enhancements to athletic facilities, expansion of Mary's premier health care programs and a new student campus center.

The school announced the campaign on Friday.

Man Sues University Over Handicapped Parking

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man is suing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln over what he says is the university's practice of closing down handicapped parking stalls on campus during Nebraska home football games.

Richard Norton Jr. alleges in the lawsuit filed Thursday that he was not allowed to park in a handicapped stall outside of the University of Nebraska State Museum last year during a home football game. Norton says he was told the handicapped spots were being held for university donors.

Norton, who suffers from a physical disability, says he was forced to park several blocks away, and the walk caused him extreme pain in his legs and feet for which he had to seek medical treatment.

Norton's lawsuit says the university's policy violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Nebraska Man Sentenced To Jail For Child Abuse

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska man at the center of a sexual abuse case in which his victim had been threatened with jail time for refusing to testify has been sentenced to 270 days in jail.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that 63-year-old Glen Riensche was sentenced Thursday in Lancaster County District Court after pleading no contest to misdemeanor child abuse. He had been accused of fondling a 7-year-old girl when he was in his 40s, but prosecutors dropped felony charges in exchange for his plea.

Teen In Crash Faces Charges In Adult Court

ABERDEEN (AP) — An Aberdeen teenager accused of crashing into a school in January and injuring a passenger in his vehicle is facing charges in adult court.

Andrew Randall is now 18 years old but was 17 at the time of the January crash. He faces eight charges including drunken driving and vehicular battery, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The *American News* reports that Randall made a brief appearance in court on Thursday but did not enter any pleas.

The crash on Jan. 17 caused an estimated \$30,000 in damage to the Simmons Elementary School library. Both Randall and the passenger suffered serious injuries.

Panel Narrows Focus On Open Govt. Ideas

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A task force seeking ways to make South Dakota government more open has narrowed its focus to a list of proposals ranging from giving citizens access to crime suspects' mug shots to making sure board and commission meetings are public.

The panel has not agreed on any proposals but has asked for some to be put into writing as possible changes to state law, so task force members can see details, chairman Tony Venhuizen said Friday.

Members will meet Oct. 10 to decide which proposals to recommend to Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Attorney General Marty Jackley, who appointed the task force to propose changes in laws dealing with open meetings and the availability of documents.

The task force includes representatives of news organizations, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and officials from cities, counties and school districts.

Venhuizen, the governor's communications director, said the diverse group is seeking consensus on ways to make government more open.

"We have a group here that represents a wide variety of interests and opinions. I've been impressed so far with the way the group has come together and worked together," Venhuizen said.

Dave Bordewyk, general manager of the South Dakota Newspaper Association, said the 33-member panel has engaged in vigorous debate but is working well.

"I think it just demonstrates these issues touch a lot of people. You've got to make sure you're involving everyone in terms of trying to figure out what can work and what can't," said Bordewyk, a task force member.

One of the issues that the group is studying is whether police should make their logs and mug shots of arrested crime suspects available to the public.

Panel members also are reviewing whether to release recordings or transcripts of 911 calls and videos taken by cameras mounted in police cars in some cases. Venhuizen said the group will look at how other states determine which recordings are appropriate to release. Members also will examine laws in other states to see how certain police reports are handled, he said.

Some of the proposals seek to make sure state and local boards and commissions follow South Dakota's open meetings law, which requires them to give notice of a meeting and its agenda at least 24 hours before the meeting. These meetings can be closed to the public if the discussions are about personnel issues, student performance, litigation or contracts, employee contract negotiations, pricing strategies by publicly owned businesses and certain economic development

matters.

One proposal would require boards and commissions to record closed meetings, with the recordings kept sealed unless someone complains a meeting was improperly closed. A judge or some other official would listen to the recording of the meeting in question to determine if the panel acted properly.

The task force also is studying whether text messages or emails among board members should be made public if the communication amounts to a meeting.

Representatives of townships want the law clarified to determine when township supervisors are holding a meeting. Supervisors in many rural townships are responsible for fixing roads and bridges, and some wonder if gathering to do that work is considered an official meeting.

Another proposal would require agencies to disclose what information they have and the format in which it is stored, so news organizations and citizens know what's available for them to request.

Venhuizen said the task force does not appear to be interested in making emails between state officials or employees public. Many of those emails would be confidential under other state laws because they deal with personnel issues or proprietary business information, so it would take a lot of time and money to screen the emails before releasing them, he said.

UNMC Officials Defend Center Fundraising

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — University of Nebraska officials maintained Friday that they would rely solely on private fundraising and state aid to build a \$110 million cancer research tower in Omaha, in response to concerns raised by Gov. Dave Heineman.

But Nebraska Medical Center Chancellor Harold Maurer said the broader \$370 million project — which includes a cancer hospital and clinics — would also use \$40 million in tax revenue from Omaha and Douglas County.

"It was public and private all along," Maurer told the university's Board of Regents during a scheduled update on the project. "It was never totally private. The (local) elected officials themselves feel that they would like to chip in on the project. This is an enormous project in terms of the economic development for the city, the region and the state."

Heineman said Thursday that he was never told the project would include local government funding. The Republican governor said he signed a \$50 million state funding bill for the research tower with the understanding that no local tax dollars would be used. The law required university officials to first raise \$60 million for the research tower — one piece of the larger project — before they received the \$50 million in state money.

On Friday, Heineman reiterated that university officials left him with the impression that the entire project, and not just the research tower, would be paid with state and private money. He pointed to comments by University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken in public testimony that cast the entire project as a partnership of state and private money.

"The leadership of the University of Nebraska is on the verge of losing my trust and confidence in them," Heineman said. "I've al-

ways had a good relationship with them. I've always trusted them. But this is the first time where they've said one thing, and they're doing something else."

His remarks came as the Omaha City Council considers a new cigarette tax that would gen-

erate \$35 million for the project, by imposing a 7 percent tax on a retailer's gross sales — roughly 35 cents on a \$5 pack of cigarettes. Earlier this week, the Douglas County Board of Supervisors committed \$5 million to the project over a 10-year period.

Heineman said he still sup-

ports the Omaha-based project, but added that the move toward local tax funding would make him more skeptical about future university requests for state aid. Heineman's final term as governor expires in 2014.

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Kids, stop in to see Homer on Tuesday!

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Visit Home Federal this week during our Open House. Our big kick-off is Tuesday, September 18:

- Enter to win an Apple iPad†
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- Save \$250 on first mortgage closing costs*
- Get \$50 off consumer loan origination fees*
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