# Regional

## **Energy Concerns District 33 Candidates**

of The News Staff Coal taxes and energy impact funds are on the minds of candidates running for the North Dakota Legislature in the 33rd District, one of the state's prime energy develop-ment areas. The district covers Mercer and Oliver counties.

The Republican candidates are state Rep. Ronald Gunsch, R-Zap, and Gary Knell. The Democratic candidates are Joe Keller, D-Beu-lah, and Jerry Mattern.

Gunsch, 44, is a Zap-area farmer and rancher. He served as president of the North Dakota Jaycees in 1975 and is currently a director of the Missouri Slope Irrigation District. He is seeking his fifth term. During the 1983 session, he served on the Appropriations Committee.

Gunsch said he is concerned about coal and oil taxation. He said he supports tax incentives for new oil wells and opposes any increase in the state's coal severance or conversion tax. He also favors legislation that would exempt some coal gasifi cation byproducts from taxation. He said a favorable tax climate is necessary to make the cost of develop-ing energy in North Dakota competitive with other states.

Gunsch said he is also concerned

about unemployment. He said about 1,000 construction workers remain at the Great Plains Coal Gasification plant, some 4,000 less than a year ago. The plant is scheduled for completion in December. To inemployment opportunities, the state should encourage the growth of small industries that de-





Knell Mattern

velop goal gasification byproducts,

Gunsch said he is well-qualified to represent the 33rd District because of his experience in the Legislature and his lifelong residency in the

Knell, 34, is a Hazen-area farmer and owner-operator of Knell Truck-

ing in Hazen.
While this is his first bid for legislative office. Knell said his background in business and farming enables him to understand the con cerns of "a large majority" of the voters in the 33rd District.

Knell said he is concerned with improving the state's farm econ

omy. He said he supports the efforts of Agriculture Commissioner Kent to increase the export North Dakota farm products. He also favors increasing the state's re-volving loan fund for beginning farmers and continued research to develop new crop varieties.

Knell also voiced concern about energy development. Noting the loss of local jobs because of the completion of the Great Plains Coal Gasification plant, he said he favors the development of coal gasification by-prodcuts and feels tax exemptions on these products would lure new businesses to the area. He also fa vors tax incentives for wildcat oil wells because of the "slump" in oil

Keller, 50, is a Beulah-area farmer. He served for 11 years as the chairman of the Beulah Farmers Union Elevator and as vice-chair-man of the Oliver County Weed Board in 1983. He was elected to the House in 1982 and served on the Judiciary and Agriculture commit-

Keller said he favors the current formulas used to distribute coal tax revenues to counties in coal devel-opment areas and opposes interim legislation supported by some "Eastern legislators" that would have allowed coal impact funds to be spent on coal development re-"The impact is not over out here," he said, pointing to local roads that need maintenance and school enrollments that continue to

Keller said he also favors "hold-

lamation laws. "It's been alluded to that mining companies may perhaps try to weaken our reclamation laws a little, but research has not proven conclusively that we should relax them," he said.

Keller said he worked hard to represent the 33rd District in the last session. "Now that I have experience, I can do an even better job," he said.

Mattern, 30, is a technician at Minnkota Power Cooperative. He grew up in Minot and graduated from the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton.

Though he has not previously served in public office, Mattern feels he has something unique to offer the growing number of urban voters in Hazen and Beulah. "Being the only non-farmer and a working person, I hope this will improve my

chances of being elected," he said. Mattern said he is concerned about energy issues and opposes any increase in the state's coal severance or conversion taxes. "If we keep increasing the coal taxes, we

won't be as competitive as Wyoming or Montana," he said.

Mattern also opposes any change in the guidelines for distributing coal tax revenues to the state's coal days lower as "Some legisla." development areas. "Some legislators think there is reduced impact because the construction is gone, but the impact is probably more now he said, arguing that local school enrollments have increased, roads need upkeep, and local social service agencies are strained.

### Insurance Hopeful Tells Story During Her Travels

of The News Staff
In the last three months, Diane Alm has logged 10,000 miles in a motorhome campaigning across the state for the insurance commission-

er post. She hopes the political mi-leage will pay off on Election Day. The Republican candidate, who is opposing Democrat Earl Pomeroy of Valley City and independent Jan Gerhart-Shelver of Devils Lake, believes voters rating the challengers on credentials, will mark her name on the ballot Nov. 6.

With 14 years in the insurance business, Alm insists she is the most qualified candidate for the job. "The only experience I haven't had is in reinsurance and ocean-marine (coverage). I've been an agent and company underwriter; that's where you get the best technical training. I've seen (the business) from all sides." With Gerhart-Shelver a late entry

in the race, Alm has concentrated her campaign against Pomeroy, a two-term legislator and lawyer, whom she has debated 13 times. They held their final debate Wednesday in Williston.

The most recent state poll showed Pomeroy ahead of Alm by less than a percentage point, but her cam-paign got a shot in the arm this week with an endorsement from the Grand Forks Herald.

Alm, 41, is the wife of Kent Alm, former head of the state Board of Higher Education and an education consultant to the Olson administra-tion. She is on leave from her job with Dakota Fire Insurance Co. in Bismarck.

She has made office qualifications the theme of her campaign while trying to fend off Pomeroy's effort to cast her as a pro-industry repre-sentative who would pay lip service to consumer interests as a regula-

"He's distorted my positions. Earl has been trying to scare people into voting for him," by drumbeating the issue of consumer fraud, she said.

But, by challenging him on that contention and others, Alm said she has forced Pomeroy to back down and qualify his positions. "I can certainly tell I'm running against a lawyer. He's presenting the evi-dence he wants people to hear, so he can draw his own conclusions. I've got the better argument, because I've got the honest argument," she said

While making consumer advocacy the centerpiece of his campaign, Alm maintains that Pomeroy has set forth "vague" and "ill-defined" programs for the insurance depart-

"We've had 13 debates and he hasn't yet developed a consumer program. He's really weak on the programs. He's even weak on consumer fraud."

The proposals the Democrat has recommended have all been been "reactive," Alm said. And she accuses Pomeroy of stealing some of her ideas on plans for a circuit rider program and installation of a tollfree hotline.

'He's talked about the hotline and

the circuit rider program. I've been talking about those things for six

The two candidates differ on who should pay for the telephone ser-vice. Alm thinks the industry should bear the expense, while Pomeroy believes it should be a department operation.

Despite Pomeroy's assertions, Alm said she regards herself as a strong consumer advocate and has mapped plans that will give consumers a chance to be heard on insurance matters.

She has proposed the formation of an advisory council of insurance professionals and lay people who would meet with her on trends and business practices in the insurance

The council in turn would periodically interact with eight, 12-member regional groups composed of insurance and consumer representatives who would review insurance

Alm is advocating a pre-license course and test for insurance agents, and continuing education re-quirement once they become li-censed. She said Pomeroy is opposed to putting consumers on advisory panels he's proposed, under-cutting his position as a consumer proponent.
While calling for a cooperative ef-

fort between the industry and the department in dealing with insurance fraud and identifying agents who are misrepresenting insurance products, Alm said Pomeroy has failed to develop an enforcement plan. She said she had put together a position paper at the beginning of the campaign that specifically ad-dressed that concern.

Alm said she would implement a "market conduct" study, just being developed for companies, that could also be used to identify agents when complaints are received at the de partment. The information would be fed into a computer and could help rack a pattern of misbehavior by an agency or company. "I think we can do a better job with that. His cooperative effort won't do a thing."

Alm estimates she will spend up to \$60,000 on her campaign. campaign is not all that heavily fishe said. She is running a mix of political advertising, while Pomeroy is relying heavily on tele-vision commercials.

"I made my mind up early on I had to build up name identifica-tion." She did that, she said, with a direct mail campaign that has produced widespread industry support

The political newcomer said that Pomeroy has done an effective job in gaining "press coverage" by holding press conferences across the state, while she has stuck mainly to addressing groups and holding inter-

'I understand where I am. He's had better press coverage. I've had all the hard lines," conceding she's been on the defensive through much of the race.

"It's easy to talk about fraud. It gets all the ink. I've had to sound like the reasonable candidate."

### Farmers Union Supports Ballot Measures

By CARL FLAGSTAD

of The News Staff In its most recent "Union Farmer" publication, the North Dakota Farmers Union supported two constitutional amendments on the November North Dakota ballot and took no stand on two others.

It also presented lengthy answers

to questions asked the opposing candidates for governor, commissioner of agriculture and attorney general
without setting forth its own

The organization said it backed Measure 1 on the ballot, to eliminate the office of state treasurer and also Measure 2, which has to do with amending provisions that guide the legislative process. It did not, however, express any view on Measure 3, guaranteeing the right of North Dakotans to keep and bear arms or Measure 4 which would nullify legislative action putting the three junior colleges at Devils Lake, Williston and Bismarck under control of the state Board of Higher

Concerning the treasurer's office, which would be rubbed out as of Jan. 1, 1989 with duties taken over by other agenies of state govern-ment, the Farmers Union said it was backing passage "to eliminate duplication in state government. adding the organization "further suggests that the current responsibilities of the treasurer's office be transferred mostly to the office of state tax commissioner." In other words, start the elimination as soon

Explaining Measure 2, the "Union Farmer" said it would provide any bill with an effective date if a date was not included in the original wording. New wording to the constitution, if the measure is passed, would allow laws passed by the legislature to become efffective on July 1 or 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature or on a subsequent date if specified by law. It is for the proposal, NDFU said, because the "amendment would modernize the legislative procedures and eliminate some unnecessary language, making the legislature responsible for setting more of its own rules and procedures."

Faced with Measure No. 3, the Farmers Union had little to say,

noting only that it would guarantee the right of North Dakotans to keep and bear arms, that there is no such general statement in the state constitution and the proposal was pushed by the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association and its na tional affiliate, the National Rifle

In a relatively long message NDFU president Stanley M. Moore, made no direct reference to any candidate on the national or state level but made it clear the issue, as far as the FU is concerned, comes down to the bread-and-butter prob lem for farmers - prices received and escalating costs for production.

Too often, the political debates take a curious turn in which almost irrelevant issues make front page headlines, overwhelming fundamental issues such as agriculture price and income programs," he complained.

That Moore and the Farmers Union heirachy clearly support George Sinner, the Democratic didate for governor, however, was pointedly indicated by Moore's statement "it is truly unfortunate

that hypothetical situations, such as what we would do with the two air bases in North Dakota if there were an arms control agreement became the basis of political debate when the reality of any effective arms control at this time is fairly re-

For Moore, "non-productive de-bates" do not sidetrack the major issues such as the precarious conditions in the agricultural economy rooted in the "failures of our cur-rent national food policies, the imbalance of our national monetary and taxation policies and the lack of international agreements on agricultural trade.'

No matter who is elected, he said those issues will remain. The call he gave to the Farmers Union was to "look at who has been elected and how we can best influence the decisions these elected officials must make in dealing with the agricultural and rural crisis that faces us and our society...In short, our destiny is just determined by those whom we elect on Nov. 6, but also, and just as importantly, by what we do after the election."

In an appeal from the district

court of Mercer County, the su-preme court reversed and remand-

ed a case which had been appealed by Jerome Jankowski, Donald Mut-

that they had violated a restrictive

covenant by constructing a metal

building, 40 by 60 feet, for maintain-

ing horses in a rural Beulah subdivi-

zenberger and Francis L.

Supreme Court Affirms Award To Townships

By LEONARD LUND sibility of the county.

Three miles of the road divide Sy-

Acting on an appeal from District Court at Fessenden, the North Dakota Supreme Court has affirmed an award for \$24,353 for four Wells County townships in a suit for damages against the county over road

Wells County commissioners, through States Attorney Vincent A. LaQua of Fessenden and Kelsch, Kelsch, Bennett, Ruff and Austin, Mandan law firm, appealed the award by District Judge William Hodny of Mandan in the South Central Judicial District.

Sykeston, Bilodeau, Johnson and Hawksnest township supervisors argued that graveling nine miles of N.D. 200 south of Sykeston over the

By CARL FLAGSTAD

of The News Staff
In letters to North Dakota's congressional delegation and governor, Gordon Berg of Devils Lake has demanded that something be done

to remedy disputes between farmers and the Fish and Wildlife

Berg, who has been active in wa-

ter and political affairs, sent letters to Senators Quentin Burdick and

Mark Andrews, Rep. Byron Dorgan and Gov. Allen I. Olson, declaring the disputes involve easements

Tarmers signed in good faith years

ago.

The problem, Berg explained, is that through wet and dry cycles

from month to month and year to

year all suffer — including wildlife, farmers and hunters.

Michael Kyle, 36, Minot, is listed

in stable condition with a foot injury in St. Joseph's Hospital following an

industrial accident south of Butte

According to Don Bexell, plant engineer for Souris River Tele-

phone, Kyle was a member of a crew digging trenches and laying

Friday afternoon.

Minot Worker Injured In Industrial Accident

period from 1975-79 was the respon

keston and Bilodeau townships and six miles divide Johnson and

Hawksnest townships.

Johnson and Hawksnest each were billed by the county for \$13,652.13 and Sykeston and Bilodeau for \$6,132.26 each for rebuilding the road on the basis of innocent misrepresentation of law, Judge Hodny determined, that the town ships were responsible for maintain

ing the road.
Hodny ruled that the townships had no contract or agreement to as sume any of the cost of building or maintenance when the county board decided to rebuild the road in 1973

Devils Lake Man Seeking Remedy To Dispute

"During some parts of the year, there is 10 times more water than

wildlife can use and at other times

of the year there is no water for wildlife. The same affects the

farmers and hunters. Any reasonable mind would say there must be a

way found that these two forces can live side by side."

Berg said a drive around Ramsey

County proves his point.
"You can see a fourth of a quarter

section of land that was under water

last spring and that was not seeded

and it is completely dry now; feast

or famine for the wildlife and the

It is an uncontested fact that the

Constitution says a property owner must have the right to improve his or her property, Berg said, but

cable about 2½ miles south of Butte. He said Kyle apparently slipped and his foot came in contact

with the trencher when the ground next to the trencher gave way.

Souris River Telephone provides telephone service to a 100-mile square area surrounding Minot,

Bexell said.

"This erroneous belief," the high court said, "was reinforced by the chairman of the board's assertion, at the meeting held in the spring of 1976, that the road was the town-ships' responsibility and also the board's inaction concerning the townships' request for financial as-sistance in connection with making the road passable."

According to the affirmation by the high court, "it was the sole re-sponsibility of the board of county commissioners to maintain the county road system as designated and selected by them...and to keep the road in a state of repair."

gued the case for the county and Thomas J. Aljets, Carrington attorney, for the townships.

asked "does this not include farm

"Now, farmers are taken to the

courts because they are trying to improve their property and their ability to survive in a tough econ-

omy and some farmers are getting locked up in the state penitentiary

Berg said it also is costing all the

taxpayers which led him to ask the congressional members and the gov-

ernor "why can't there be some fed-

eral legislation or federal policy

change to help to compromise the

Berg thinks there is a way the courts, federal government and

state could combine to work out gui-delines for the Fish and Wildlife

Service and the farmers to help both

sides. "The status quo is not getting

He suggested farmers be allowed

to let the top water run off if they

put in wildlife waterholes 40 by 100 feet in size and 10 feet deep. These,

he said, would hold water through

the summer and therefore be bene

ficial to wildlife and hunters.
"The courts could also use this

approach to settle their disputes, which is a lot better than making

criminals out of our farmers," Berg

the job done,"he said.

difference.

concluded.

and also having to pay a fine."

Timothy J. Austin of Mandan ar-

sion, Country Club Estates. Plaintiffs in the action were Charles C. Allegree, Paul E. Angrick, Max R. Arrington, Douglas Dewitt-Dick, Jeffrey L. Donaldson, Lyndon D. Luoma, Michael J. Mujadin, Eugene E. Peterson, Stan Pia-secki, Virgil P. Sabin, David Salisbury, Robert H. Schaffer, Arsay Sheliga, Kim Simmons and Gary

#### Teacher Who Will Accompany Shuttle Must Be Healthy

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) - The teacher chosen to fly aboard the space shuttle in 1986 will need at least five years of teaching experience, low blood pressure and good hearing, a NASA official says.

Alan Ladwig, director of NASA's Space Flight Participation Program, said applications from interested elementary and secondary teachers will be accepted from Dec 1 to Feb. 1. The winner, chosen from a field of 10 finalists picked on July 1985, will become the first non astronaut in space.

Ladwig, who previewed the reissue the requirements in final form.
He said the winning teacher must

be able to adapt to flight experience and mission activities and be willing to contract with NASA for public lectures for one year following the

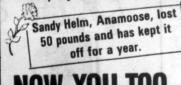
Medical requirements include a blood pressure level less than 160 over 100 and the ability to hear whispered speech at three feet, he

quirements to a group of 40 teachers at a mock shuttle mission at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center on Saturday, said NASA would soon

flight.

### DOUBLE SAVINGS

\$75 Off Your Program \$75 Worth Of Delicious Nutri/System Food Free

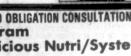


#### NOW, YOU TOO **CAN LOSE UP TO** A POUND A DAY!

Lose up to a pound a day while enjoying delicious, exclusive Nu System Cuisiner—international entrees like Burgundy Sauce and Beef and Chicken Polynesian. Mistake-Proof Weight Loss: No calorie counting, no





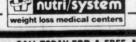


852-3438 MINOT CENTER

SUN WEST PLAZA 900 - 20th Ave. S.W

\$75 worth of free food over three weeks with purchase of N/S program not to exceed \$25 each week. Additional cost will prevail.

### Mistake-Proof Weight Loss: No calorie counting, no weighing or measuring foods, no strenuous exercise, no drugs or injections. Professional Weight Loss counselors give you total support while losing. Behavior Education classes retrain eating habits and our maintenance groups and teaches you how to stay elim maintenance program teaches you how The Nutri/System Guarantee: Follow the Nutri/System program and lose weight quickly, often up to a pound a day. Achieve your goal by the date specified or pay no additional charges for Nutri/System services until you do.



**Food Free** 



