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NOAH'S HOPE ANIMAL RESCUE

DUSTIN THE DOG COMPLETES AMAZING RECOVERY



JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Dustin, a boxer/mastiff mix, plays at Prairie Park in Sioux City with Rita Lott, who is fostering him with her husband, Robert. Nearly dead from starvation, he was surrendered to Noah's Hope Animal Rescue in February and has had a nearly miraculous recovery.

Animal has been in foster care since February

SIOUX CITY — Watching a young dog named Dustin run, swim and bark at a Sioux City park, one would never imagine that six months ago he was hours, maybe only minutes, away from dying.

Starved down to a skeleton, unable to even lift his head, Dustin's condition was grave when Brenda Iwen rushed him from Sioux City to Dakota Dunes Animal Hospital.

"I didn't think he was even going to make it over to the Dunes," Iwen, co-founder of Noah's Hope Animal Rescue, said, calling it the worst rescue case she's ever seen in which the animal was still alive. All other dogs she's seen in that

condition were already dead.

Covered in dried urine, the boxer-mastiff mix had shrunk to 28 pounds, less than half of what's considered his normal weight. A relative of the dog's owner turned him over to Iwen on Feb. 18, and Iwen said she learned the dog had been kept in a kennel in an apartment, given water, but no food.

"I could not believe my eyes. He was just a skeleton laying there limp," Iwen said, remembering the moment she first saw Dustin.

His body temperature was so low, his treating veterinarian, Dr. Katie Bensen, couldn't measure it. She couldn't draw blood, the dog was so dehydrated.

But Dustin survived that night, and six days later was placed with Robert and Rita Lott, a foster couple who could accommodate the de-

manding feeding and treatment schedule Dustin needed. Now, this bundle of energy is fully recovered, showing no signs of the neglect he suffered through.

"He was normal in every way except extremely emaciated," Robert Lott said of Dustin's condition when he and Rita took him into their home. "He just turned into a real dog real quick."

The Lotts initially maintained a daily schedule of administering 13 doses of medication or supplements and several small meals to help Dustin's body adjust to receiving nourishment. Soon, Dustin was bounding back, recovering the puppy personality that starvation had sapped from him.

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PROVIDED BY NOAH'S HOPE ANIMAL RESCUE

Dustin, a boxer-mastiff mix, weighed only 28 pounds and was near death when Brenda Iwen, co-founder of Noah's Hope Animal Rescue received him and rushed him to a Dakota Dunes veterinary clinic. His former owner later pleaded guilty to animal neglect and was sentenced to jail and probation.

Republican candidates flock to Iowa State Fair's opening day

Pence drew the biggest crowd on Thursday, and reiterated his criticisms of former President Trump

CALEB MCCULLOUGH
JOURNAL DES MOINES BUREAU

DES MOINES — For the next 10 days, the Iowa State Fairgrounds will be the center of the battle for the Republican nomination for president.

The fair is virtually mandatory for anyone running for president as a Republican, a chance to meet voters from across the state, sample various foods on sticks, and exhibit the retail politicking vital to winning support in the first-in-the-nation caucus state.

Four candidates visited the fair on Thursday, and a dozen more, including Democrats and a Libertarian, are expected throughout the fair.

Former Vice President Mike Pence drew the largest crowd on Thursday at the Des Moines Register Political Soapbox, where he implored several dozen people that it was time to "restore a threshold of civility in public life."

"I know we need new leadership in the White House, but I also believe we need new leadership in the Republican Party," he said. "I believe we need leadership that will stay grounded on the timeless conservative principles that have always made this country great."

Pence did not mention his former running mate and frontrunner of the primary during his prepared remarks, but when asked a question from the audience he levied criticisms at former President Donald Trump.

Pence said he had no authority to reject or overturn states' electoral votes on Jan. 6, withstanding a pressure campaign from Trump and his lawyers who asked Pence to disqualify votes from states they claimed, without evidence, were rife with fraud.

"There's almost no idea more un-American than the notion that any one person can pick the American President," he said. "The American Presidency belongs to the American people and the American people alone."

Among other investigations and indictments into alleged illegal conduct, Trump was indicted Aug. 1 over his efforts to overturn the 2020 election. According to that indictment, Trump told Pence, "You're too honest" after Pence said he had no constitutional authority to reject the votes.

Pence, who recently cleared the 40,000-donor threshold to appear in the debate on Aug 23, said he is looking forward to making his case on the debate stage. Trump has not confirmed whether he will attend the debate, but Pence said he has no qualms about going head-to-head with his former boss.

"I've debated Donald Trump a thousand times, just never with the cameras on," he told reporters. "I know the former president, I know everybody on that stage, and I'm looking forward to having a vigorous debate."

Trump will visit the fair on Saturday, the same day as his highest-polling primary opponent, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Trump is the dominant frontrunner in the primary, pulling in support from more than 50% of Republicans nationally and 40-50% in Iowa, according to recent polls.

Larry Elder participates in "Fair-Side Chat"

At JR's Southwest Pork Ranch, California talk show host Larry Elder kicked off Gov. Kim Reynolds' "Fair-Side Chats," a series of discussions she will be holding throughout the fair with most presidential candidates.

Elder said he's running to bring up three issues he thinks are not talked about enough in the Republican party: What he calls the "epidemic of fatherlessness" in the U.S., claims that the U.S. is systemically racist, and the

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Dustin

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In the meantime, charges were filed against his former owner, Stephanie Pace, of Sioux City. She pleaded guilty to an aggravated misdemeanor charge of animal neglect, and on July 31 was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 60 of them suspended. She'll be required to serve 15 of those remaining 30 days in jail and may spend 30 days on electronic monitoring to satisfy the other 15 days. She also was placed on two years' probation and was ordered to pay nearly \$4,000 in restitution to Noah's Hope.

In many cases, neglected and abused dogs are found dumped somewhere, Iwen said, but this was a rare case in which animal rescue workers knew the owner's identity. Iwen said animal rescue and law enforcement authorities are committed to prosecuting animal abuse and neglect when possible.

"I just want people to know here in Woodbury County we are not going to mess around with abuse and neglect. People are going to get charged," she said. "If you don't want your dog or you don't have the patience for your dog, then turn it over. For something like this to happen, there's no excuse for it."

Dustin now weighs in at a healthy 53 pounds. He won't turn 2 until November, and his adolescent behavior was on full display on a recent afternoon at Prairie Park, one of the Lotts' favorite places to take him. He loves to



JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Dustin, a boxer/mastiff mix, plays at Prairie Park in Sioux City. Near death from starvation in February, he's now fully recovered, weighs a healthy 53 pounds and is up for adoption.

swim in the pond there, finds the geese fascinating and has room to run and bark.

Robert Lott said Dustin has overcome many of the fears of

unfamiliar objects he had when he and Rita took him in. He obeys commands and picks up training quickly.

"He's got a 100% clean bill of

health," Lott said.

Neutered, fully vaccinated and house trained, Dustin's been up for adoption since early May, but a permanent home still eludes

him.

Dustin's recovery has been amazing, and he's ready to show a new owner what an amazing pet he could be.

GOP

From A1

achievement rate in schools in American cities.

"We've incentivize women to marry the government and incentivize men to abandon their financial and moral responsibility," he said. "And that is not to denigrate the jobs of single moms and sometimes parents, other extended family members have done to raise these kids, but it makes it a lot harder. And our side does not talk enough about it."

He said he would pardon former Trump on his first day in office, and called the myriad investigations the former president is facing "outrageous."

Elder generally polls below 1% in Iowa and nationally, and he has not met the polling requirements or donor levels to be on the campaign stage.

The chat also gave Reynolds the opportunity to flex her recent conservative accomplishments in the state, like cutting taxes and implementing a sprawling private school choice program.

She contrasted that with the policies of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whom Elder waged an unsuccessful recall election against in 2021.

"Our national profile is rising, people are paying attention to what's happening in the state of Iowa," Reynolds said.

Doug Burgum stresses energy production

After flipping burgers and chops at the Iowa Pork Tent, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum brought his focus on energy, economy and national security to the Soapbox stage.

Burgum played up his experi-



JOURNAL DES MOINES BUREAU

Republican presidential candidate former Vice President Mike Pence speaks at The Des Moines Register Political Soapbox at the Iowa State Fair on Thursday.

ence as a tech executive, saying the president is the "CEO of America" and equating taxpayers to consumers.

"There shouldn't be anybody that's the president of the United States that has not worked in the private sector," he said. "If you haven't created jobs, if you haven't made payroll, then I don't know how you're going to get the economy going unless you have that experience."

In the 1980s, Burgum invested in and later became president of Great Plains Software, a tax software company. The company was sold to Microsoft for \$1.1 billion in 2001, and Burgum stayed on with Microsoft until 2007.

He emphasized his pitch to

boost U.S. energy production by cutting regulations and increasing oil and gas drilling. Burgum said energy production is tied to national security, making the U.S. less reliant on foreign nations for energy.

"We're going to sell energy to our friends and allies; stop buying it from our adversaries and enemies," he said.

Burgum has been a major proponent of carbon capture technologies, including a proposed pipeline from Summit Carbon Solutions that would deposit carbon extracted from ethanol plants in Iowa to a reservoir in the state.

A North Dakota regulator rejected the company's application for that pipeline last week,

but Burgum told reporters on Thursday he is confident it will still be built.

Burgum has qualified for the debate and has registered 1-3% support in recent Iowa polls.

Perry Johnson visits livestock barns

While he wasn't scheduled for any stage events until Friday, Perry Johnson, a businessman from Michigan, was at the fair Friday morning touring livestock barns with US Rep. Zach Nunn.

Johnson said he wanted to take the opportunity to talk to Iowans, even if they're not Republicans, to build up his low levels of support.

Johnson has cleared the donor requirement to make the debate stage but has yet to register enough support in polls, generally polling below 1% in Iowa and nationally.

"You still have an opportunity to talk to people, try to get them engaged so that they can participate in the caucus," Johnson said about visiting the fair. "And that is how you get ahead in Iowa. Commercials in Iowa, everybody runs commercials. I run commercials. They know who you are, but you don't really win their vote by running a commercial in Iowa."

Democrats slam candidates

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, joined Iowa Democratic Party Chair Rita Hart on Thursday to critique the Republican candidates who would be at the fair over the next several days.

Walz said Biden and Democrats have worked to improve lives and lower costs for Americans, while Republicans are debating "culture war" topics and restricting personal freedoms.

"In Minnesota we're not interested in banning books," he said. "We're interested in banning hunger from our schools. It's why we're providing meals for every single child. That's what's coming out of the administration. We've got an opportunity to continue to move this country forward."

CORRECTION

The first name of the new South Sioux City School Superintendent Dr. Rony Ortega was misspelled in a story on page A3 of Thursday's Sioux City Journal.

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