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Argus Leader

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Ohio race could decide Senate balance

Former senator aiming to return to Congress

Haley BeMiller
 State Bureau
 Columbus Dispatch
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Sherrod Brown toured a Guernsey County farm on a recent spring afternoon, taking in the cows and rolling hills

that surrounded him. This wasn't another day of retired life for Brown, the 73-year-old former U.S. senator from Ohio. It was part of his comeback plan.

Brown is running for U.S. Senate in November against Sen. Jon Husted, a contest that could decide whether Republicans maintain their slim Senate majority or Democrats take control. The stakes are familiar. Less than two years ago, Brown lost to Sen. Bernie Moreno in

a bitter, expensive and nationally watched Senate race.

A lot has changed since then. Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Husted, 58, to the Senate after JD Vance became vice president. Republicans in Congress passed a law to cut taxes, Medicaid and food assistance. The cost of gas and other goods soared because of tariffs and the war with Iran.

Husted and Brown now face the same challenge: convincing Ohio voters

they're better off without the other guy.

"This could be the hardest-fought race in the country," said David Niven, a political scientist at the University of Cincinnati who worked for former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland.

Who is Jon Husted?

Husted didn't expect to be running

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Neon Storm Chasers captured this image from an evening storm on May 31, south of Hartford. PROVIDED BY NEON STORM CHASERS

DEMI MOON MEMORIAL

Principal remembered as dedicated school leader

Morgan Matzen
 Sioux Falls Argus Leader
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Families of students at Memorial Middle School were notified at 5:01 p.m. Sunday, May 31, that the school principal, Demi Moon, died that day after a "courageous battle with cancer."

Moon had previously served as the director of middle school curriculum and director of federal programs for the district before becoming principal at Memorial.

She was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia last year, and the school had designed T-shirts to wear to raise awareness for leukemia and support Moon's battle with cancer.

Memorial assistant principal Josh Siegfried wrote in an email to families that he shared the news with "deep sadness," and asked that they keep Moon's family and the school community in their thoughts during a difficult time.

Siegfried said Moon was a dedicated leader at the school, and a valued administrator in the Sioux Falls School District.

"She was known for always putting students first and for leading with determination, resilience, and compassion," Siegfried said. "When I think of those qualities, I picture Dr. Moon's smile and her unwavering commitment to the students, staff, and families she served. She has been, and will continue to be, a role model for our school community. Dr. Moon's impact on Memorial Middle School is immeasurable, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

Losing someone who meant so much to the school community can bring many emotions, Siegfried wrote. He offered additional support by encouraging others to reach out to school staff, finding comfort in talking with family, friends or other supportive adults, or using community resources like finding counseling agencies through the Helpline Center.

There are 1,133 students enrolled at Memorial, according to the school's website.

Want to share a memory or story about Principal Moon? Contact Argus Leader Education Reporter Morgan Matzen at MMatzen@argusleader.com.



Moon

'Highly active summer'

Sioux Falls should expect more severe weather

Angela George
 Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

Emergency management service officials in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties confirmed no significant damage after the final weekend in May yielded a second round of severe weather around the Sioux Falls area.

On Sunday evening, May 31, residents of Minnehaha and Lincoln counties took cover for multiple thunderstorm warnings that upgraded to tornado warnings after confirmed sightings and rotation, predominantly south of Sioux Falls, beginning around 7 p.m. and continuing for several hours.

Here's a closer look at what happened.

In and around Lincoln County

Lincoln County Emergency Management Services representative Harold Timmerman said a tornado "may have" touched down near the Mt. Hope Dairy farm north of Beresford, causing minor damage to a building there. There was no tree damage in the area, he said, and no injuries reported.

Landowner Stacey Andernacht, east of Lennox, said a tornado was spotted 3 miles west of their farm property – "the closest a tornado has come to us in 25 years" – but no damage was reported.

There was potential property damage at the Tri-Cross Dairy farm near Viborg, Andernacht said.

In and around Minnehaha County

Although officials with Minnehaha County confirmed a tornado touchdown near the intersection of 266th and 459th streets, south of Humboldt, there was no reported crop or property damage.

Peter Rogers, the warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service office in Sioux Falls, confirmed a touchdown west of the Wall Lake area but said his team will work with public officials this week to complete a full property assessment.

"If you haven't made preparedness activities, you need to do that now. Make sure you have several ways to receive warning information."

Peter Rogers
 Warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service office in Sioux Falls

What kind of weather did we get?

The evening storm produced heavy downpours, large hail and brief straight-line winds. The temperature dropped about 10 degrees starting at 7 p.m.,

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