

Conservative SD Republicans Cool On Rounds

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Some conservative South Dakota Republicans are reluctant to support former Gov. Mike Rounds' bid for the U.S. Senate because he refuses to pledge never to raise taxes. State Rep. Manny Steele of Sioux Falls says a lot of people are also discouraged by Rounds' record as governor. Mike Mueller, president of a Rapid City-based tea party group, also says Rounds seems to like building government and spending money. Rounds says he does not plan to vote to raise taxes if he's elected to the Senate, but he has never promised to avoid raising taxes because circumstances can change. He says state government's reserves grew while he was governor. Rounds is the only announced Republican candidate for the seat now held by Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, who is not seeking re-election.

Man Arrested After Brown Co. Vehicle Pursuit

COLUMBIA (AP) — Authorities say a man has been arrested after he led law officers on a chase in northeastern South Dakota. Tom Schmitt, chief deputy for the Brown County Sheriff's Office, says the man was reported to be driving through people's yards about 2 a.m. Saturday. Schmitt tells the Aberdeen American News that the man refused to stop his vehicle when deputies arrived. Schmitt says the man left his vehicle after deputies cornered him near Columbia, and he was arrested after a brief chase on foot. The deputy says charges are pending against the man.

Another Fatal Shooting Investigated In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police are investigating a fatal shooting at an apartment complex in central Omaha. Omaha police were called to the apartments near 83rd Street and Underwood Avenue on Saturday afternoon. The officers found a wounded man lying in front of the building with a gunshot wound. The man died later at Alegent-Creighton Medical Center. Police did not immediately identify the man.

Man Arrested After SF Robbery Attempt

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls police have arrested a man after what officials described as an attempted robbery at convenience store. The *Argus Leader* reports that Martine Luiz Moreno was taken to jail on his 21st birthday on charges of first-degree robbery, four counts of aggravated assault and interference with emergency communications. Police Sgt. Aaron Nyberg says officers found Moreno inside the store with a handgun. He says Moreno refused to comply with officers' commands to drop the weapon and surrender, but was eventually taken into custody.

Giago Stepping Back From Newspaper Duties

RAPID CITY (AP) — A longtime Native American journalist is stepping back from day-to-day management at Native Sun News. The Rapid City Journal reports that Tim Giago will remain owner but is taking a step back. Giago says he's been writing a weekly column for 33 years to teach, provoke and other encourage Native Americans to pursue a career in journalism. On Friday, 20 well-wishers in Rapid City honored Giago as Mayor Sam Kookier declared Friday "Tim Giago Day." Prairie Edge general manager Dan Tribby says Giago's work was often provocative but always important. Giago founded the Lakota Times in 1981. The paper was re-named Indian Country Today in 1992, and it grew under his leadership into the country's largest independent Native American newspaper. Giago sold Indian Country Today in 1998.

Nebraska

Study Prompts Delay In Tax Bills

BY ALISSA SKELTON  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Sen. Annette Dubas feels strongly about the need for her bill that would exempt agriculture machinery repairs and replacements from sales taxes, but she was surprised when the Legislature's Revenue Committee agreed. The Fullerton lawmaker's bill, aimed at helping several parts dealers stay in business, was one of 20 to be voted out of the Revenue Committee this year. Many others have been put on hold because of another proposal, calling for lawmakers to study Nebraska's tax system. "I was surprised my bill advanced because there was an understanding that the Revenue Committee wouldn't be advancing any bills because of the study," Dubas said. Backers of most other tax bills haven't been so lucky. For the most part, Revenue Committee members have held to their word not to advance bills that deal with changing tax policies, including sales taxes, until they conduct a comprehensive study. The panel has held more than 60 such bills. Most notably, several hotly debated proposals on whether Social Security benefits and military retirement payments should be exempt from tax-

ation are stuck in the committee. Sen. Paul Schumacher, a Revenue Committee member from Columbus, said some lawmakers feel their bills have gone into a graveyard. Schumacher is the man behind the study, introducing a bill that would create a task force to study the state's tax system with a goal of finding ways to make it more equitable. Lawmakers latched onto the study after Gov. Dave Heineman withdrew his proposals to overhaul the Nebraska tax system. Many senators, including Dubas, introduced tax changing proposals during Revenue Committee hearings this year and would end their pitches by asking the committee to consider studying their specific bill in the tax study. Schumacher said the study would be wide-ranging but wouldn't consider every idea because sifting through so many proposals would prevent lawmakers from producing needed recommendations by the end of the year as called for in his measure. Revenue Committee Chairman Sen. Galen Hadley of Kearney said the tax panel will broadly review property, income and sales taxes rather than looking at specific bills. Schumacher said he'd throw occupational taxes into the mix, too. Lawmakers advanced the tax study bill through its first round of approval. The language

of the bill is being cleaned up by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha before the Legislature votes on the bill a second time. Lawmakers don't know how much the study will cost, but they plan to hire at least two consultants. A previous tax study conducted over two years on the late 1980s cost about \$350,000, while another year-long study starting in 2007 cost almost \$50,000. There is not start date for the latest study. Schumacher said the big question is whether a quality study could be done by the end of the year. "If we get close to the end of the year and the cake isn't baked, I would not be in favor of taking it out of the oven," he said. Despite support for the study, some senators haven't been happy about having their proposals put on hold. However, Hadley noted, "As long as we haven't killed them, they will sit in committee and can be heard next year." Still, on Friday, Chambers filed a rare motion to pull his proposal to repeal a new sales tax law for cities out of the Revenue Committee. He supports the tax study, but said his bill should be on the floor now because lawmakers shouldn't have allowed cities the option to increase their local sales taxes by as much as half-cent per dollar.

3 Killed, 5 Hurt In I-94 Crash In Minneapolis Sunday

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Three people were killed and five injured in a highway crash that shut down portions of Interstate 94 in Minneapolis for hours on Sunday, the Minnesota State Patrol said. State Patrol Lt. Eric Roeske said the three-vehicle crash happened shortly after 1 p.m. Sunday on northbound Interstate 94 at 49th Avenue. Roeske said all of the victims were in a minivan that overturned. He said several occupants of the van were thrown from the vehicle. He did not elaborate on the ages of the victims or their relationships to each other. He said authorities were still trying to establish the victims' identities and notify family members. Roeske said the five injured people were all expected to survive. The occupants of the other two vehicles were not injured, he said. He said authorities planned to issue more information Monday. The northbound lanes of the interstate were closed Sunday afternoon while a crash reconstruction team investigated, Roeske said. Although the probe is not complete, he said investigators do not be-

lieve alcohol or drugs played a role. Roeske said authorities believe the minivan driver was wearing a seat belt, but those who were thrown from the vehicle by the impact likely were not wearing their seat belts or, if they were,

did not have them fastened properly. "But we are still establishing those facts," he said. WCCO Radio host Steve Thompson was heading to work on Sunday when he came across the accident, before emergency

responders had arrived. He described the horrific scene on air. "A couple of people who had been ejected from the vehicle were still alive, but at least three were dead," Thompson said. He said he grabbed a tarp out of the back of his truck and covered up a woman who was deceased.

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