

Stabbing Murder Suspect Awaits Trial

ABERDEEN (AP) — More details are being released in the fatal stabbing of an Aberdeen woman. *The American News* reports that testimony about 26-year-old Jessica Goebel's autopsy was released Tuesday during a hearing for her former boyfriend accused in her death. Authorities say Goebel was stabbed 26 times. She died five days after being stabbed in January. Thirty-four-year-old John Hemminger is charged with premeditated murder. He has pleaded not guilty. His trial is set to start May 9. At Tuesday's hearing, Judge Scott Myren denied a motion asking for a dismissal of Hemminger's grand jury indictment. Prosecutors have said that they would not seek the death penalty should Hemminger be convicted because Goebel's family does not favor the death penalty.

Man Gets Prison For Child Pornography

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man in Nebraska has been sentenced in federal court to six years in prison for receiving child pornography. U.S. Attorney Deborah R. Gilg says in a press release issued Tuesday that 54-year-old James A. Wiehe was sentenced in federal court in Omaha. He was given five years of supervised release following his expected release from prison. Authorities in eastern Nebraska began investigating Wiehe in late 2014. A search of his home in March led to an examination of his computer. Authorities say he used file wiping software to delete child pornography.

22K Enroll For Health Care Law Coverage

SIoux FALLS (AP) — More than 22,350 people in South Dakota have signed up for 2016 coverage through health insurance markets under the federal health care law. Health and Human Services officials say they are among 8.2 million people in the United States to do so since the start of the Nov. 1 open enrollment period. The numbers reflect only the 38 states using the Health-Care.gov website and call center. Coverage starts Jan. 1 under plans selected by Dec. 17 or for people who were automatically reenrolled. Open enrollment ends Jan. 31, 2016. People who remain uninsured after that risk rising fines.

Man Convicted Of Manslaughter In NE

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (AP) — A February sentencing hearing has been scheduled for a Nebraska City man who's been convicted of manslaughter. Twenty-year-old Sebastian Hall pleaded guilty Tuesday in Otoe County District Court after prosecutors lowered the charge from second-degree murder. Hall also pleaded guilty to a weapons charge. Sentencing is set for Feb. 16. Prosecutors say Hall killed 21-year-old Jacob Adams on July 19. Prosecutors say Adams was fighting with Hall and another man when Adams was stabbed in the chest and throat.

SD State Parks To Host First Day Hikes

PIERRE (AP) — Parks officials are once again inviting South Dakotans to kick off the new year with an invigorating hike at a state park. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says 11 state parks will offer free guided hikes Jan. 1. The guided hikes will range from journeys shorter than one mile to longer, more intense workouts. The annual First Day Hike program is a national effort encouraging everyone to celebrate the new year with a guided outdoor exploration. Last year, more than 41,000 people covered over 79,000 miles on 997 hikes across the country. Parks offering hikes include Newton Hills State Park near Canton, Custer State Park and Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Participants are encouraged to share their adventures on social media with the hashtag FirstDayHikes.

No Murder Charges Filed In Man's Death

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — No charges will be filed in an accidental shooting that killed a northwest Omaha man early Saturday. *The Omaha World-Herald* reports that 24-year-old Tyler Andersen and a friend had been drinking and were playing a game called "trust" with a handgun they thought was unloaded. Andersen put the gun in his mouth. He told his friend that he trusted him and to pull the trigger. Andersen was killed instantly when the gun was fired. Authorities have determined the shooting was an accident. Andersen grew up in Omaha and served in the U.S. Army for two years, including a year-long deployment in Afghanistan.

STI Auto Program Earns Accreditation

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls technical school's automotive training program has received national accreditation for the Master Automotive Technology credential. Southeast Tech received the accreditation from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. To achieve the recognition, the school's automotive training program underwent a rigorous evaluation process on nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities and equipment. NATEF Chair Donald Seyfer says that the program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders. He says it gives added assurance that Southeast Tech's graduates will be employable entry-level technicians. The school's enrollment exceeds 3,000.

Authorities Drop Count Against Inmate

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (AP) — Iowa authorities have dropped one of the child sex abuse counts that had been filed against a man already serving time in Nebraska for a similar crime. Court records say the count was dismissed Tuesday in Pottawattamie County District Court. Twenty-nine-year-old Rocky Ontiveros still faces another count. He's pleaded not guilty. Iowa court documents say Ontiveros sexually abused two minors from Nov. 1, 2013, to Sept. 19, 2014. *The Daily Nonpareil* reports that prosecutor Dan Salvo-McGinn filed the motion to dismiss one of the counts because the child involved remains in therapy and is in no position to testify. In August Ontiveros was sentenced to 30 to 40 years in a Nebraska prison. He'd pleaded guilty to sexual assault of a minor in Douglas County.

Dept. Labor Office Moving To New Space

VERMILLION (AP) — The Department of Labor and Regulation's office in Vermillion is shifting into a new location that's within walking distance of the University of South Dakota. The department said Tuesday that the office will be closed on Jan. 4 for the move. It will re-open at the new location on Jan. 5. Located in the strip mall that contains the Vermillion alternative school, the new address is 904 E. Cherry St. The agency offers services for job seekers. They include resume and cover letter help and mock interviews, among other services.

Norfolk Southern Again Rejects Canadian Pacific's Buyout Bid

BY JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Norfolk Southern still isn't interested in Canadian Pacific's sweetened offer of roughly \$31 billion to buy the railroad. Norfolk Southern's board unanimously rejected the latest offer Wednesday, calling the bid "grossly inadequate" and unlikely to pass muster with regulators. Norfolk Southern said if Canadian Pacific is serious about the offer, it should ask regulators for preliminary approval of the deal's proposed structure. Canadian Pacific rejected that request last week, saying that it was unnecessary. "You continue to publicly declare that we are not 'engaging' or 'meeting' with you. There is no basis to meet until you both make a compelling offer and address the regulatory issues," Norfolk Southern's board said in a written response. Canadian Pacific said in a state-

ment that it was disappointed with the rejection and that Norfolk Southern won't negotiate, so it will evaluate its strategic alternatives. Canadian Pacific said Norfolk Southern's board isn't acting in the best interests of that railroad's shareholders. Industry analysts expect Canadian Pacific's takeover offer to morph into a proxy fight ahead of Norfolk Southern's annual meeting, which is usually held in May. Canadian Pacific has already reached out to shareholders of Norfolk Southern. Canadian Pacific's CEO Hunter Harrison has said this deal would create a more efficient railroad that would link major ports, and should produce roughly \$1.8 billion in cost savings annually. Most of those savings, however, would be realized at Norfolk Southern. While Canadian Pacific insists the deal would be approved, Norfolk Southern points out that no major railroad mergers have been completed since federal regulators imposed tougher

restrictions in 2001. Mergers and acquisitions are being attempted this year at an unprecedented pace. The total combined value of all pending mergers in 2015 is \$1.86 trillion, more than double the amount last year, according to Dealogic. Canadian Pacific has estimated that its cash and stock offer could be worth as much as roughly \$40 billion to \$45 billion. But much of that is based on the projected value of stock in a new company that would own both railroads. The latest offer also includes a payment that would vary based on the stock price of the new company and could add as much as \$3.4 billion if shares of the combined company were worth \$150 in October 2017. But if the shares are worth more than \$175, the payment would be reduced to zero. Norfolk Southern has estimated that the cash and stock Canadian Pacific is offering was worth roughly \$27.4 billion based on current share prices. The variable payment could make the offer worth nearly \$31 billion.

A Frugal Dane, Governor Finds Cash To Pay Down SD Debts

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Spending excess cash to pay down debts, and in turn setting free smaller streams of revenue for years to come, is a technique Gov. Dennis Daugaard likes to use. Call it the anti-gimmick of state government budgeting: Reduce long-term obligations, and redirect to other purposes the money that had been going for annual payments. This brand of smart thrift could play a significant role in the budget that Daugaard recently proposed for the coming year. He wants the Legislature to agree with his plan to transfer about \$47 million of cash from various accounts — including \$27.4 million from the state's budget reserve, a move that should please those legislators who for years argued the reserve should be used more frequently — and also cut about \$12.6 million from the existing budget.

Then he would spend \$55.7 million on one-time purposes and make about \$4.5 million of increases in other parts of the ongoing budget. Legislators who are members of the two committees that oversee state government's budget and spending had long complained about millions of dollars squirreled away in dozens of accounts throughout state government. The state Department of Legislative Audit even prepares a report annually — this year it contains 325 pages — that provides lawmakers a summary of the cash, revenue and spending for those accounts. The Legislature still wants more authority over budgeting. But timing is a challenge. The governor's Bureau of Finance and Management spends roughly six months putting together the recommendations each year, while the legislators have approximately 35 to 40 half-days to build from those recommendations the appropriations bill that becomes law. Much of the plan from Daugaard this year involves putting money into education. He would use \$42.3 million of cash to pay off some of the bonds for the state universities and public technical institutes. In turn there would be enough money freed from the bond payments to buy-down tuition for resident on-cam-

pus students at those same six universities and four tech schools. Other chunks of cash would be used to increase by \$2.1 million the endowment for needs-based scholarships for state university students — earnings from the endowment's investments pay for the scholarships — and to provide \$2.2 million for three pilot schools at the K-12 level to try new approaches for American Indian students. From where would this cash come? "We're raking every cash source we have," said Jason Dilges, the governor's commissioner for finance and management. Here's a summary of those sources. * Budget reserve — The governor's plan calls for taking \$27.4 million from this source. Money that is unobligated at the end of state government's fiscal year on June 30 can be shifted to the budget reserve. The leftover money is often called a surplus. The budget reserve held \$105.2 million at the end of fiscal year 2015 on June 30. There also was \$21.5 million of surplus from fiscal year 2015 that was to be transferred to the budget reserve after fiscal year 2016 began July 1, 2015. The governor wants to take \$27.4 million from the budget reserve in fiscal year 2016. This would reduce the budget reserve's ending balance to \$99.3 million on June 30, 2016. Much more money could be kept in the budget reserve. State law limits the amount in the budget reserve to 10 percent of the general-fund appropriations for the previous year. For fiscal 2016, that upper limit for the budget reserve would be \$137.2 million. Instead, after the transfer out, the remaining amount will be approximately \$38 million below that threshold. * South Dakota Risk Pool — The governor wants to transfer \$3,375,000 from this source. The risk pool was created in 2003 to provide health insurance that could be purchased by people who otherwise couldn't get insurance. Insurance carriers paid into the fund an assessment of 25 cents per covered person in their plans. The federal Affordable Care Act now makes the pool unnecessary. The risk pool will be removed from state

law Jan. 1, 2017. As of June 30, 2015, the risk pool contained slightly more than \$3.3 million. The fiscal year 2015 revenue was \$1,385,761 and the payouts totaled \$1,933,480. * Petroleum release compensation fund — The plan calls for taking \$3.5 million from this source. Fuels shipped into South Dakota are charged a special fee of 2 cents per gallon, in addition to any other state taxes on them. The petroleum release compensation fund receives 10.65 percent of the revenue from the 2-cent fee. In the fiscal year 2015 that ended June 30, the fund received \$1,890,413 and paid out \$1,147,037. The pooled cash as of June 30 was \$4,749,291. The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources operates this fund for removal of abandoned fuel tanks and for responding to unintended spills, leaks, dis-

charges and other releases. * Department of Corrections — The plan calls for taking nearly \$5 million of cash from an assortment of sources. * Current budget cuts — The plan calls for reducing spending within the fiscal year 2016 budget in various places by a total of \$12.6 million in general funds. This would be partially offset by \$4.5 million of increased spending within the 2016 budget in various places. State government's employee health insurance program is over-funded by \$8.2 million and the money can't be saved because the practice isn't allowed for federal funds. Utility expenses are expected to come in more than \$1 below prior estimate and state government's share of aid to K-12 schools can be reduced by \$3.1 million because enrollments didn't rise as much as expected and local property taxes came in higher than expected.

Tree Tradition



PHOTO: ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ
A tree and plaque featuring the woman who started the Christmas tree tradition at the State Capitol in Pierre is in the rotunda. Dorothy "Dottie" Howe died earlier this year in Pierre at age 86. The tradition was started in 1981 with the approval of then Gov. Bill Janklow. Gov. George Mickelson wrote the tribute to Howe that was displayed this year when he was in office.



CFC is excited to announce our expansion at our
Irene Agronomy Facility

In Spring of 2016, we will have a newly completed Chemical Shed & Seed Warehouse & additional Fertilizer Load Out Capacity which will allow us to offer additional services and products including Asgrow/Dekalb, Croplan, Prairie Brand & Syngenta Corn and Soybean Seed, Seed Treatments, Seed Delivery, Bulk and Boxed Chemical including Helena, Monsanto, Syngenta & Winfield products as well as a full line of Generic Products. Also new to our Irene location, will be a fully-staffed office all year round.

Bulk Soybean Numbers Available Include:	Seed Corn Numbers Available Include:
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*Croplan 2450	*DKC53-58VT2P
*Croplan 2674	*DKC54-40VT2P

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