

**South Dakota
Statewide
Classifieds**

INDUSTRIAL GARAGE SALE
Starts 7-15-10. 421 Park Ave. Wilmot, SD. Hydraulic cylinders, power packs, air electric hand tools, saddles shop equipment, plus! 50-80% off. 612-246-3200.

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IF YOU USED Type 2 Diabetes Drug Avandia between 1999 present and suffered a stroke heart attack or congestive heart failure you may be entitled to compensation Attorney Charles Johnson, 1-800-535-5727.

REAL ESTATE

10 ACRES FOR SALE in the Black Hills of South Dakota Choice commercial land, 2 houses, 2 wells, 6 out buildings, best location in the Black Hills. Any type of business will work 1000-4000 cars daily between Hill City and Custer on highway 16. Sell contract for deed with large down payment. 80 years young, time to slow down. Vaughn H. Boyd 605-673-5503.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

SEALED BIDS FOR the management of the Custer Fall River Regional Waste Management (CFRWM) landfill will be received by the Board of the Landfill District at Edgemont City Hall, 412 2nd Ave., PO Box A, Edgemont, SD 57735 until 4:30pm on the 28th day of July, 2010. All bids will be publicly opened and read at the CFRWM meeting at 7pm on July 29, 2010, at the Muelles Center in Hot Springs, SD. Bid documents and specific instructions are available at Edgemont City Hall, 412 2nd Ave, Edgemont, SD 57735 or Custer City Hall, 622 Crook St. Custer, SD 57730.

**MIDWEST
DIGEST**

**Boat Loose On Hwy.
81 Causes Death**

MADISON (AP) — Investigators are trying to determine why a boat broke free from the truck pulling it and killed a woman.

The accident happened around 4 p.m. Sunday on U.S. Highway 81 north of Madison. Authorities say the boat detached from the truck pulling it and collided with another pickup truck driving the opposite direction. A woman inside the second truck was killed, and her husband was injured.

The names of the victims and the name of the other driver wasn't immediately released Sunday evening.

**Prepping To Fight
The Smoking Ban**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Supporters of an expanded smoking ban in South Dakota will use donations and volunteers to spread their message about the ballot issue ahead of the November election, an American Cancer Society official said.

Erik Gaikowski of the society's South Dakota chapter anticipates that between 2,000 and 3,000 volunteers will help, but he's not sure how much the campaign will take in or spend.

"It depends on what our opposition does and how other campaigns are going," he said.

The state currently bans smoking in most workplaces and public areas. Lawmakers voted in 2009 to expand the ban to bars, video lottery establishments and casinos in Deadwood, but a coalition of bars and gambling businesses gathered enough signatures to put the law to a statewide vote.

Don Rose, spokesman for the opposition Citizens for Individual Freedom, said liquor license holders statewide will likely spread the word about how the ban could affect their customers. Eventually, advertisements also might be used.

"The money isn't going to be there if the people aren't in the establishment because they're outside smoking," Rose said. "We're one of the biggest lobbying forces around just by everybody talking about it."

**Settlement Reached
In School Lawsuit**

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Lawyers have asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit against the White River School District and a superintendent because both sides have reached a settlement in the case.

A woman who previously attended White River High School alleged in the 2008 lawsuit that the district ignored complaints about a counselor and failed to train its employees about sexual impropriety. She sought unspecified damages.

TAXES

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Dakota projects since 1996, and it plans to begin construction soon on a \$400 million gas-fired power plant near Brookings.

"I think they certainly had a part in the decision-making process. When you look at saving millions of dollars, that's certainly a factor you consider when you develop a project," Hill said.

South Dakota has given more than \$66.2 million in construction tax refunds to 37 businesses from July 1, 1996, through June 20, 2010, according to the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation.

A review of tax records by The Associated Press shows the bulk of those refunds have been made in the past four years — since the state began providing incentives to encourage construction of energy projects in South Dakota. Most have gone to companies building ethanol plants and wind farms.

The state gave \$5 million in construction project tax refunds in fiscal year 2007, nearly \$15 million in fiscal year 2008, about \$18 mil-

lion in fiscal year 2009 and expects to pay about \$12 million in fiscal year 2010, which ended June 30.

The Revenue Department publishes a list of companies and how much each has received in tax refunds overall, but does not specify how much is provided for each project. The law requiring that information be made public refers to the company, not the project, Revenue Secretary Paul Kinsman said.

Tax refund permits issued for projects are public information, but not the companies' applications for refund permits for projects, Kinsman said. "That's tax information that would give specific tax information for the taxpayer, which is protected."

Rounds in 2005 proposed expanded breaks on the sales tax and contractor's excise tax that apply to the cost of construction as a way to attract new power plants to South Dakota. A couple of coal-fired plants were proposed but never built.

The governor said South Dakota at that time was not competitive with other states in reducing the initial costs of building large projects. But as the recession took hold and revenue dropped, South Dakota and other states began to reconsider those tax breaks in the past year or two,

he said. Rounds this year proposed limits on the tax refunds. The Legislature passed a different version, intended to help balance the state budget, after extensive negotiations involving legislative leaders, industry lobbyists and the governor's staff.

For the past few years, the program refunded a portion of the sales tax and contractor's excise tax paid for many kinds of business construction projects costing more than \$10 million. Refund levels varied from 25 percent to 90 percent, with larger projects getting larger percentage refunds. New or expanded agricultural processing projects costing more than \$4.5 million also were eligible for some tax refunds.

The law passed by the Legislature, which took effect July 1, allows rebates of 45 percent of taxes on projects costing \$10 million to \$40 million, and 55 percent for those costing \$40 million to \$500 million. The largest projects would not get any refunds for the portion exceeding \$500 million.

Lawmakers gave wind farms the same tax breaks, but with no upper cost limit. That means all wind farms costing more than \$40 million will get a 55 percent tax refund for even the portion exceeding \$500 million.

The budget passed by the Legislature assumes the changes will bring in an additional \$14 million in tax revenue in the year beginning July 1, but Rounds doubts the revenue gain will be that large.

Hunhoff and other Democratic lawmakers argued that no tax refunds should be given to oil pipelines, such as the one TransCanada Keystone has built across eastern South Dakota and the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline that is planned to be built in western South Dakota.

Hunhoff said the oil pipelines would have been built through South Dakota even without tax incentives, so the state gets little in return for the tax breaks given to TransCanada.

The first TransCanada pipeline qualifies for the previous version of tax refunds, but the law passed this year will cost the company about \$20 million in refunds for the \$920 million XL line in western South Dakota, roughly cutting in half the refund it would have received.

Jeff Rauh, a spokesman for TransCanada, said the refund cut increases the cost of the second pipeline long after the company had developed its business plan. TransCanada used its cost estimates when it sold 80 percent of

the XL pipeline's capacity to companies that want to ship oil in the pipe running from Alberta to Texas refineries on the Gulf coast, he said.

Keystone is committed to running its second pipeline through South Dakota, but the change in tax refunds could cause companies to build future pipelines elsewhere, Rauh said.

Rounds said he supports giving oil pipelines the same refunds as other large projects. He noted that TransCanada had the option of placing two pumping stations on the XL line either in South Dakota or just over the state borders in Montana and Nebraska.

In exchange for a break on construction taxes, TransCanada would pay substantial property taxes to local school districts and counties for many years, the governor said. "You really do have a trade off on it."

Hunhoff said the state needs to study what benefits it gets from the tax refunds and then decide which kind of projects should get the tax breaks.

"I think there's possibly a place for them, but I think we're wasting way too much money on them and probably getting a very poor return in most cases," the Democratic lawmaker said.

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By Jill Cataldo
CTW Features

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A: Many shoppers believe they'll save more money shopping at an "everyday low price" (ELP) store versus a traditional supermarket. ELP stores work hard to market themselves as less-expensive alternatives. They proclaim loudly "We are cheaper!" But are they?
It's true that prices are not too high at an everyday low price store. They're also not too low.
An ELP store prices its products at a middle-of-the-road level. Unlike a traditional supermarket, it does not cycle prices from week to week. You might call a traditional supermarket a "high/low" store. On any day, about half the products at the supermarket will be priced higher than what you might find at the ELP store. But the other half of the products will be priced lower. Savvy coupon shoppers watch price fluctuations at supermarkets, then move in with coupons to get even lower prices.
I rarely shop for groceries in ELP stores. Their prices simply do not dip low enough to beat the prices I can get up at a supermarket. Before writing this column, I visited a supermarket and an everyday low price store for a price check on some national brands. Here's what I found:

- 64-ounce bottle of grape juice: \$3 supermarket / \$3.49 ELP store
- 32-ounce bottle of laundry detergent: \$3.99 supermarket / \$4.97 ELP store
- 14.5-ounce box of honey granola cereal: \$1.49 supermarket / \$2.97 ELP store

The supermarket beat the ELP store, hands down. The cereal is \$3.99 when it's not on sale. But why would I want to buy it when it's not on sale? If I simply wait for the supermarket sale and stock up when it comes, I will save a great deal of money even without using coupons.
There are other factors to consider, too. Many supermarkets use check-out devices, popularized by Catalina Marketing, that print out coupons good for money off your next shopping trip. On my comparison-shopping trip, my supermarket offered a \$1 Catalina for the grape juice. With a \$1 coupon, I paid \$2 and got \$1 back. The cost of the juice to me was just \$1. But at the supercenter, even with my coupon I would have paid \$2.49 — more than twice the price for the same bottle of juice!
There was a similar deal on the detergent. The supermarket offered a \$1.25 Catalina for buying it. With coupon, I paid \$2.99 and got \$1.25 back, making the final price just \$1.74 — again, less than half the price I would have paid at the supercenter.
Back to the cereal. My supermarket offered a \$6 Catalina for buying 5 or more boxes. Without any coupons, 5 boxes would cost me \$7.45 and I'd get \$6 back with the Catalina. Now, \$1.45 for 5 boxes of cereal is already a deal... but with two coupons offering \$1 off for the purchase of 2 boxes, I paid \$5.45 and got \$6 back. The supermarket "paid" me 55 cents to take that cereal home!
As a student in one of my Super-Couponing classes recently said, "You couldn't pay me to shop anywhere other than my favorite supermarket... because they do!"

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Jill Cataldo, a coupon workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her website, www.supercouponing.com. Email your own couponing victories and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.

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