

## Tornado-Destroyed Church To Be Rebuilt

DELMONT (AP) — Members of the tornado-destroyed Zion Lutheran Church in Delmont are beginning the rebuilding process.

The century-old church was among 84 structures in and around Delmont damaged or destroyed by the May 10 tornado that also injured nine people.

A seven-person church building committee plans to meet with architects this week on designs for a new structure, KELO-TV reported.

Donations have been pouring in from all over the country, with the most recent count at about \$65,000, according to Pastor Brian Bucklew.

"It's a reminder that we're not alone," he said. "Christians from all kinds of denominations have given to our church, and even some non-Christians, you know, and it's so encouraging to see that love and support."

Church members in May removed the cornerstone of the destroyed building, with hopes of incorporating it into the new church. The cornerstone is being stored at Jim Kaufman's farm.

"We've so far been working together as a family, and I think it'll come together as a family," Kaufman said. "We'll all worship as a family again."

Between 100 and 125 people worshipped at the Delmont church each Sunday. Zion Lutheran members have been attending services at Emmaus Lutheran Church in nearby Tripp, where Bucklew also preaches.

## Teacher Accused Of Recording Women

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Public school officials in Sioux Falls say a high school teacher accused of using a camera on his shoe to secretly record women has resigned.

Sioux Falls Superintendent Brian Maher says he received a letter of resignation from Dallas Wilkinson on Friday. The Roosevelt High School social studies teacher was arrested on Friday and is facing four misdemeanor counts of taking pictures without consent.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says police began investigating Wilkinson after receiving a call from an employee of a local grocery store. Clemens says the employee told police the man was seen standing close to women and sticking his foot out to photograph between women's legs with a shoe camera.

Wilkinson posted bail on Friday. An attorney for the man is not listed.

## Soldier's Grave Has New Headstone

CALLAWAY, Neb. (AP) — The grave of a Civil War soldier has a new headstone thanks to the efforts of a local organization in central Nebraska.

Before the headstone was installed, the only memorial at Henry Barnacassel's grave was an old silver marker with slide-in letters falling off and an incorrect emblem of his service, *The Grand Island Independent* reported.

Vice commander Tim Hiatt of the Sons of the American Legion in Callaway said that the group simply set out to do the right thing by getting a headstone for Barnacassel. The project led the organization on an unexpected journey, bringing members and Barnacassel's family together to honor the soldier more than 90 years after he died.

"Just to see how much they appreciated it, I think made the project so much for me," Hiatt said. "We were just thinking we were doing the right thing getting a headstone for a veteran."

The group's efforts started after Kari Chesley, who helps care for the Waldheim Cemetery with her family, made contact with the organization. She said she knew the grave needed attention, but she didn't know of any family members in the area.

She asked the organization if they knew of anyone looking for a project, and Hiatt stepped up.

Hiatt said learning information Barnacassel was a worthwhile experience. The organization learned that Barnacassel's given name was Francis, but that he went by Henry, and that he was born in May 1846 in North Carolina. Barnacassel had fought for the Confederate army, enlisting in June 1864.

Hiatt said the headstone cost a few hundred dollars, and that he thinks "every veteran deserves a headstone no matter what."

## Company Building 55-Turbine Wind Farm

POLLOCK (AP) — A New York-based company that specializes in large-scale renewable energy projects says it's building a 55-turbine wind farm in north central South Dakota.

Consolidated Edison Development says it has already begun working on its new farm in Pollock. Officials say they the farm is located on property owned by a group of local farmers.

The company says the farm will soon provide enough electricity to power approximately 25,000 homes for a year. It's expected to generate approximately 400,000 megawatt-hours annually and is scheduled to be operational by the end of the year.

The company recently finalized an agreement with Campbell County Wind Farm Holdings to build and operate the wind power project.

## Airport Traffic On Pace To Increase

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Officials at the Lincoln Airport say passenger traffic is on pace to increase for the third consecutive year.

Airport officials announced Monday that passenger numbers on commercial airlines were up 15 percent through the first six months of 2015.

One reason for the increase is the addition of daily flights to Atlanta in September 2014. Delta Airlines agreed to offer the flights for one year, but airport Executive Director David Haring says the strong performance could encourage the airline to continue its service.

## Receipts Beat Projections In Fiscal Year

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska state government collected more tax revenue than projected in the fiscal year that ended on June 30.

The Department of Revenue said in a news release Monday that net receipts for the fiscal year totaled about \$4.3 billion, which was 2 percent higher than the state's certified forecast. The state had been projected to receive a little more than \$4.2 billion in tax revenue.

Net sales-and-use and individual income taxes were slightly lower than projected for the year, while net miscellaneous taxes were about 2 percent above the state forecast. Net corporate income taxes were nearly 32 percent above the state's projections.

The comparisons were based on the forecast made by the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board in February 2014.

## Judge Appointed For Judicial Circuit

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has appointed a new full-time magistrate judge for the Third Judicial Circuit.

Dawn Elshere has been the Codington County state's attorney since 2007. Before that she was a deputy state's attorney in both Codington and Brown counties. She also previously had a private law practice.

Elshere holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a law degree from the University of South Dakota. She lives in Watertown with her husband and their two children.

# State Puts \$21.5 Million Into Budget Reserve Fund

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Monday that state government finished its 2015 fiscal year on June 30 with a surplus of \$21.5 million.

The money came from a combination of state agencies spending \$11.5 million less than they were budgeted and state revenues coming in \$10 million above forecast.

State law requires the surplus to be put into the state's budget reserve fund, which now has \$126.7 million.

Daugaard in a statement said South Dakota was in "an enviable position"

starting the new fiscal year July 1.

The inside numbers show a mixed situation.

Sales tax revenues grew just 1.6 percent in fiscal 2015, a rate less than half of the normal average. They comprise 61 percent of state government's general fund.

Two other sources showed solid increases. Contractor excise tax revenue climbed 10.6 percent and insurance tax revenue rose 6.5 percent.

Bank-franchise tax revenue continued its volatile pattern of recent years, dropping 20.4 percent.

Most of the savings on the spending side came in two agencies.

The Department of Social Services

returned \$5.1 million from its Medicaid budget because usage was lower than predicted.

The Department of Education sent \$5 million back from the K-12 school-funding formula because school enrollments were lower than budgeted and local school districts raised more from property taxes than expected.

The budget reserve fund is one of two sources of rainy-day money for state government. The other is the property-tax reduction fund, which has a balance of \$44 million.

Together the two reserve accounts total \$170.7 million. That represents about 12 percent of state government's general-fund spending during the 2015 fiscal year.

## Philippines-Based Church Starts Services In Town It Bought

SCENIC (AP) — A Philippines-based church that bought up the small South Dakota town of Scenic four years ago has started holding services there.

Services are held in the Scenic Community Hall on Thursdays and Sundays, minister Jose Ventilacion told the

*Rapid City Journal*. The church thought it best to start by "reaching out to people and build from there," he said.

Iglesia ni Cristo, which translates from Tagalog to English as "Church of Christ," effectively bought the town from a longtime resident for about \$700,000 in 2011. The church didn't divulge its

plans, and that created some unease in the area.

The church wants to build a house of worship, but needs to build its membership first, said Ventilacion, who arrived in South Dakota in April.

Attendance is steadily rising, he said, with about 10 to 15 members from Sturgis, Dead-

wood, Scenic and Rapid City.

"We've extended invitations to anyone who might be interested, and we've extended invitations to some of our Native American friends who were living on the nearby reservation," Ventilacion said. "Anyone who wants to learn about us is welcome."



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