

Daugaard: Up To Feds If Subsidies Vanish



Daugaard

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says it's up to federal officials to come up with a potential solution for thousands of South Dakotans whose insurance premiums could jump thousands of dollars a year if the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down a key provision of the Affordable Care Act.

Daugaard said recently that he doesn't envision a state fix to preserve financial assistance if the high court decides to scrap premium subsidies for consumers in more than 30 states who get coverage through the federal marketplace.

The lawsuit prompting the decision expected this month argues the way the law is written means subsidies should be limited to people who use state-based marketplaces.

Lisa Carlson of Sanford Health Plan says a court decision removing the subsidies would be "devastating" for South Dakota consumers.

Counterculture Group Coming To SD?

RAPID CITY (AP) — A counterculture group that annually gathers with thousands of its members in a national forest could be headed to the Black Hills this summer, federal officials said Friday in Rapid City.

The annual Rainbow Gathering attracts thousands of peace-loving free spirits each July, and there's a 95 percent chance the Black Hills will be home to the non-violent celebration this year, Black Hills National Forest spokesman Scott Jacobsen told KEVN-TV in Rapid City.

A Washington-based National Incident Management Team from the U.S. Forest Service in was in Rapid City on Friday to meet with about 100 officials from various federal, state and local agencies.

"Today's meeting is about informing people it may happen here, so they aren't surprised," Jacobson told the *Rapid City Journal*.

Last year about 8,000 members flocked to eastern Utah and in 2013 the gathering drew 10,000 to Montana, where officials afterward put together a list of advice for other forest service workers policing the gathering in future years.

Authorities say they're typically peaceful, but there can be trouble occasionally. In Utah, police said there 587 total incidents, including 31 arrests and 136 citations for violations. Two people died in their sleep during the event.

"If they do come, our biggest concerns would be public safety, resource protection and fire prevention," Jacobson said. "Just like the Sturgis rally with a million people coming, there are always a few bad apples that come with it."

2 People Die After Cycle Strikes SUV

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police are investigating a crash that killed a 6-year-old boy and a motorcyclist late Saturday.

Police say the motorcycle was speeding when it crashed into the passenger side of a Ford Escape in northeast Omaha.

The 6-year-old Chance Delaney was riding in the back seat of the SUV, and he died from his injuries.

The 20-year-old motorcyclist, Gage Adam Tyler Dawes, also died.

The Ford's front-seat passenger, 29-year-old Ejay Edmond White Jr., was taken to a hospital with head injuries but he is expected to survive. The SUV's driver, 20-year-old Brooke Bodnar, suffered only minor injuries.

2 Found Dead After Fire In Mobile Home

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have identified the elderly man and woman who died in a weekend house fire.

Lincoln Police said 74-year-old Ervin Martin and 69-year-old Janice Ortiz died Saturday night in the fire.

Initially, firefighters thought they were responding to a medical problem, but they encountered smoke and flames when they opened the door of the home near where Interstates 80 and 180 meet.

Fire investigators determined that a lit cigarette started the fire.

Omaha Woman Wins Miss Nebraska Title

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha woman has been named Miss Nebraska.

Alyssa Howell won the title Saturday night in North Platte. Howell, who went into the pageant as Miss Douglas County, also won a talent award early in the competition with her piano performance.

Howell won a \$10,000 scholarship with the title, and she will represent Nebraska in the national competition.

Miss Crane Festival Allison Tietjen of Chester was named the first runner-up.

OBITUARIES

William 'Bill' Stokes

William E. "Bill" Stokes, 69, of Menno passed away Friday, June 5, 2015, at Sanford Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Memorial services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 11, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, with the Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial of Bill's urn will be in the Menno Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno is in care of the arrangements.

Gertrude Dietsch

Getrude Ann Dietsch, 96, of Omaha, Nebraska, and formerly of Fordyce, Nebraska, died Sunday, June 7, 2015, at the Country House in Omaha.

Funeral services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington, Nebraska.



Grab A Seat

Members of the Mexican archery team haul over a bleacher to the site of the opening ceremonies at the World Archery Youth Championships at the NFAA Easton Archery Center complex in Yankton. More than 50 nations are in Yankton this week for the global tournament. You can follow the action on www.yankton.net or on Twitter by using the hashtag of #WAYC2015. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

South Dakota

Untouched Black Hills Cave Offers Promise

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — The National Park Service is beginning to excavate the mouth of an unexplored cave in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and researchers believe it could help broaden our understanding of how the region's climate has changed over thousands of years.

A park service worker found Persistence Cave in 2004 on the grounds of Wind Cave National Park, in western South Dakota, but the agency kept it quiet, partly to prevent amateur spelunkers from trying to explore well-preserved site.

On Monday, a team of scientists led by East Tennessee State University professor Jim Mead will begin unearthing the entrance of the cave, hauling out bags of sediment and animal bones to be carefully analyzed. They have already found bones dating back nearly 11,000 years and the remains of at least three species that hadn't been found in the region before — the pika, pine marten and platygonus, an extinct relative of the modern-day peccary.

While it's always exciting to find an extinct species that once roamed the region, Mead said it's even more ecologically important to him to discover that an existing animal like the pika once lived there. The rodent-like mammal can still be found in cold, mountainous climates of North America, suggesting the environment of the Black Hills was once quite different, he said.

"What has changed to push it into

"(The cave is) just a warehouse of information," he said. "I'd be surprised if we don't have at least 100,000 bones by the time we're done this summer."

JIM MEAD

Wyoming but not be in the Black Hills?"

The researchers will be studying the newfound fossils alongside those found at the famous Mammoth Site — a well-preserved graveyard of the prehistoric beasts — that was discovered in nearby Hot Springs in the 1970s. They'll use their findings to map how the region's climate has changed — the mammoths are believed to have died approximately 26,000 years ago, while the oldest bones found at the mouth of Persistence Cave only date back about 11,000.

"In reconstructing the past environments of the Black Hills, it's nice to have a number of different points," Mead said. "What we're trying to do, centered through the Mammoth site, is to understand essentially the Ice Age environmental change through time."

Because they want to protect the cave and its contents, the park service won't publicly disclose the exact location of Persistence Cave yet, saying only that the entrance is about one-third of a mile from the known edge of Wind Cave's tunnel system.

The research being conducted by Mead and his team accounts for only

half of Persistence Cave's newfound potential.

Once much of the sediment is removed from the cave's entrance, park service staffers and a team of spelunkers from South Dakota and Colorado will begin to try and explore further. Officials believe it could be very large because of the direction and speed of the wind that blows from its only known entrance.

"Something with this kind of potential and blowing this strong, we haven't found anything like that before (in the park)," said Rod Horrocks, a Wind Cave National Park scientist whose assistant discovered Persistence Cave.

Horrocks believes Persistence could connect to its famous neighbor, Wind Cave, through a passage that's inaccessible by humans or is filled with sediment, which might explain why nobody discovered it while exploring Wind Cave over the last century.

If the caves are connected, the park service could install an environmental gate that would allow cavers to travel between the caves but keep them closed off most of the time to preserve their natural conditions, Horrocks said.

For now, Mead and his team will begin hauling bags and bags of sediment out of the entrance to Persistence — which can currently only accommodate about two people — and sifting through thousands of bones in hopes of stitching together the region's natural history.

"(The cave is) just a warehouse of information," he said. "I'd be surprised if we don't have at least 100,000 bones by the time we're done this summer."

Ex-Coroner Criticizes SD Selection Process

ABERDEEN (AP) — A former Minnehaha County coroner argues that South Dakota's system of electing coroners — used in about half the states in the country — can lead to potential conflicts of interest.

Brad Randall, who retired from his position in 2010, believes the system can lead to funeral directors being elected as coroner — with potentially lucrative consequences. He thinks that coroners should be appointed to avoid such conflicts, but not every South Dakota coroner agrees, the *Aberdeen American News* reported.

"The biggest conflicts of interest exist in the smaller counties where there are more than one, but just a few, funeral directors. It is beneficial for a funeral direc-

tor to be coroner," Randall said, adding that even honest coroners who are funeral directors could end up getting extra business.

Brown County coroner Michael Carlsen, owner of Carlsen Funeral Home and Crematory, said he knows that perception, and that he's extra cautious when asking about funeral arrangements. Carlsen said that blatant opportunism would likely lead to a "serious backlash" from people.

"We put no undue influences on anybody," Carlsen said.

The coroners system

works differently in South Dakota's two most populous counties: In Minnehaha County, the appointed coroner is also called a medical examiner, and Pennington County's sheriff is also its coroner.

Carlsen said that coroners across South Dakota have backgrounds varying from funeral directors to law enforcement to people with medical training.

Minnehaha County medical examiner Kenneth Snell, a forensic pathologist, said there's a benefit for coroners to have medical training because they understand

diseases better and can more easily figure out a cause of death.

The state mandates training for new coroners and continuing education for incumbents.

"I've never heard of a case in South Dakota where a potential death investigation was botched, but I wouldn't be surprised by it," Snell said. "I think there is a concern there with lay coroners and their understanding of the causes of sudden death."

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DEALING WITH DEATH AWAY FROM HOME

The shock of having a loved one die unexpectedly is only compounded by having death occur away from home. Suddenly, not only does a surviving family member have to confront the emotions that accompany the death of a family member, but there is also the seemingly insurmountable logistical task of bringing the body back home. In these cases, it's best to leave matters in the hands of the local funeral director. Not only do we have experience in addressing all the details associated with transferring the body, but we are also part of a capable network that ensures an expeditious execution of all related matters. When death occurs away from home, the first call should be to the funeral home.

Should you have a loved one who dies when they are away, contact WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME immediately. We will make all appropriate arrangements to bring your loved one home as soon as possible. We are here for you when you need us, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (605) 665-3645. Our facility is conveniently located at 2901 Douglas Ave. Learn more about us at www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

"Where there is sorrow there is holy ground."
Oscar Wilde

email: wintzray@iw.net
website: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Helmuth Fischer

Funeral services for Helmuth F. Fischer, 85, of Scotland, South Dakota will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland. Burial will follow in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland. A prayer service will follow at 7:00 p.m. later that evening at the church.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Goglin Funeral Home of Scotland. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

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Honoring Their Memory

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them
Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Alvin Zimmerman
who passed away
June 11, 2014

Dennis Quinlivan
who passed away
June 13, 2014

Anna Hauger
who passed away
June 14, 2014

Linus Hauger
who passed away
June 12, 2005

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