

State Government Questions Mail Switch

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said state government has expressed its concerns to the U.S. Postal Service about the proposed transfer of mail processing from Pierre to Huron.

The Postal Service says the move would save \$480,000 a year. The governor tells KCCR radio there could be an impact on state government, which handles eight million pieces of mail each year.

Daugaard says he understands that like state government, the federal government is trying to be more efficient.

The Postal Service holds a meeting Tuesday evening in Pierre to take public comment on the consolidation.

S.D. Boy Dies After Being Struck By Vehicle

LEAD (AP) — A child is dead after being hit by a vehicle in the northern Black Hills town of Lead.

Police say the boy ran into the street and was struck Sunday evening.

The child's name and age were not immediately released.

Police Chief John Wainman told the Black Hills Pioneer that no charges were being filed against the driver.

S.D. Tourism Industry Eyes Gasoline Prices

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota tourism industry is keeping an eye on gasoline prices as the summer travel season approaches.

Wanda Goodman in the state Department of Tourism tells the *Argus Leader* that the department is optimistic in spite of higher gas prices. She says the cool spring has already been a challenge for the travel industry.

Prices for crude oil fell about 15 percent last week to around \$100 a barrel.

South Dakota AAA spokesman Mark Madeja said gasoline prices should drop to around \$3.60 a gallon if crude remains at the \$100 level.

South Dakota AAA reported an average price in the state of \$3.90 a gallon for regular gasoline on Monday, up 19 cents in the past month and up nearly \$1 from a year ago.

Storm Does Damage At S.D. Campground

CHAMBERLAIN (AP) — Storms that swept through central South Dakota overnight did some damage in the Chamberlain area.

KELO-TV reports that strong winds overturned two campers at the Cedar Shore campground in Oacoma and damaged a home in the area. No one was hurt.

There also were reports of hail, heavy rain and a brief tornado touchdown.

Man Shot By Omaha Officers Now In Jail

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police say a man who was shot by an officer last week is out of the hospital and in jail.

Authorities say Jonathan Martis, who was dressed as a pirate, was shot by officers when he allegedly threatened police with a sword.

Martis was shot Thursday evening. Officers were sent to a home to investigate a disturbance.

Police say Martis was released from the hospital on Sunday and booked into the Douglas County jail on two counts each of attempted assault on an officer and use of a weapon.

The sheriff's office says Monday that Martis is being held on no bond. Officials did not know if he had an attorney, and there is no listing for his case on the state's online court system.

Man Given 41-Month Sentence For Assault

PIERRE (AP) — A Mission man was sentenced Monday to 41 months in federal prison for hitting a woman with a baseball bat.

Thirty-eight-year-old Eric Roubideaux pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon as part of a plea agreement in which two other assault charges were dismissed.

Prosecutors said the woman suffered a broken forearm and head trauma in the attack on the Todd County Indian Reservation last Sept. 30.

NEBRASKA

Campaign Finance Law Change Nixed

BY GRANT SCHULTE
 Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — An effort to require greater disclosure of campaign finance information in Nebraska failed to advance Monday and won't return during this year's legislative session.

The proposal, sponsored by Sen. Bill Avery, of Lincoln, was designed to close a loophole that allows social advocacy groups such as the right-leaning Americans for Prosperity to attack political candidates without disclosing their spending.

The Virginia-based conservative group, which has chapters in Nebraska and 31 other states, targeted Democratic legislative candidates with mailings, newspaper inserts and radio ads during the 2010 campaign.

Avery's measure would have extended the state's current disclosure law to mailings and

various ads that mention a clearly identified candidate, aimed at their would-be constituents, in the 30 days prior to an election. The bill includes exceptions for news organizations, candidate forums, debate on legislation and voter guides.

Americans for Prosperity has argued it doesn't have to disclose its expense or funding sources because the group's mailings are educational and do not expressly advocate a vote for or against candidates.

Avery failed Monday to insert his proposal into a different disclosure bill (LB176), with his motion falling four votes short of the 25 needed. Before the effort died, Omaha Sen. Bob Krist said the Avery's attempt was an end-run around the Legislature's rules.

Spending on attack ads jumped following a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that banned government-imposed limits on corporate spending in political elections. The decision

overturned a key provision of a 2002 law that prevented companies and labor unions from "electioneering communications" 30 days before a presidential primary or 60 days before a general election.

Nebraska Right to Life, an anti-abortion group, sent an e-mail to lawmakers in the middle of last month's debate warning that their lawyers "are interested in contesting any state campaign law" that infringes on their ability to distribute voter guides and educational surveys in church parking lots.

Avery's measure sought to ease those concerns. It would not have required advocacy groups to disclose expenses if they only communicate with members who pay dues or state in writing that they have voluntarily joined. Avery said the amendment would allow groups to claim anyone as a member — all Nebraskans or everyone in a legislative district, for example — to avoid the reporting requirement.

AT&T Official Says Proposed Merger Would Help Rural Areas

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — An AT&T official says the company's proposed merger with T-Mobile USA would improve technology in rural areas of the upper Midwest, but some residents and lawmakers remain skeptical.

AT&T's proposed \$39 billion purchase of T-Mobile has been criticized by some who say it would limit wireless competition, and federal antitrust clearance is not certain. Federal regulators are expected to spend a year or more scrutinizing the deal between two of the four largest wireless carriers.

Regional vice president Beth Canuteson told *The Forum* newspaper that if the deal goes through it would help AT&T expand its high-speed data network in less-populated areas.

"It's where this merger would

be especially impactful," she said of rural states, such as the Dakotas. Canuteson has been traveling to cities including Fargo and Sioux Falls, S.D., to make her pitch.

The broader data reach the communications giant is promising would include near-blanket 4G, or fourth generation, wireless coverage in North Dakota and west central Minnesota, based on AT&T maps, *The Forum* reported. In North Dakota, an AT&T data network would be a counterbalance to Verizon, said Andy Peterson, president and chief executive officer of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce.

"We'd like someone to equal Verizon's size," he said. "It would be nice for businesses to have a choice."

Some believe a merger would

give AT&T and Verizon, the top two carriers, too much of the wireless market.

"A merger between AT&T and T-Mobile would not benefit anyone except for AT&T," Derek Collins, a Grand Forks resident, wrote in comments to the Federal Communications Commission.

Congress is holding hearings on the merger. The first is scheduled for Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee's antitrust panel, which includes Minnesota's Democratic senators, Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken. Both have expressed skepticism about the T-Mobile acquisition. Franken, in a statement, said he fears the merger will be a "raw deal" for customers, driving up rates and reducing choice.

Fremont Ponders \$1.6 Million For Tech Park

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — The Fremont City Council could take action this week on a \$1.6 million land deal for a proposed technology park.

The city signed an option agreement in 2010 to buy the land. The *Fremont Tribune* says the council on Tuesday will con-

sider purchasing about 81 acres to develop the park.

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development in April awarded nearly \$1 million of Community Development Block Grant money for the project, which will create at least 31 full-time jobs.

Total land and infrastructure costs are estimated at \$2.7 million. The city wants to develop a park with power, water, sewer and telecommunications to attract data centers, high-tech industries and companies with intensive power needs.

Omaha Schools Look To Eliminate GED Program

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha public schools may soon be without a GED program.

KETV-TV says the Omaha school board's curriculum committee voted 5-1 on Monday to eliminate it as the district looks for ways to cut costs.

Board members say the public wants the district to focus on its K-12 mission. Cutting the GED program would save the district \$267,000 a year.

The committee's recommendation will go before the school board, which will make a final decision.

The GED program, which stands for General Educational Development tests, is a battery of five tests to measure high school equivalency. Those passing the tests earn a GED diploma or certificate.

YOUR NEWS! The Press & Dakotan



Free Varicose Vein Screening

Varicose veins are not always a cosmetic issue. Varicose veins and heavy, painful legs can now be treated in the doctor's office with the VNUS Closure® procedure.

- Minimally invasive
- Fast and mild recovery
- Covered by most insurance

Monday, May 23rd • 5:00-7:00pm

To attend this FREE varicose vein screening, call now to reserve your time.

605-668-9670



Yankton Surgical Associates, PC



Kynan C. Trail, MD, FACS

409 Summit, Suite 3400, Yankton • www.yanktonsurgical.com • 605-668-9670

Limited Time Offer FREE TRIAL!

Try our e-edition... An exact replica of the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan delivered to your computer!



Why try our e-edition?

- Read** the exact replica of the newspaper.
 - Zoom** in on text & photos!
 - Search** using keywords - 30 day archive!
 - Save** & store editions!
 - Clip** save & e-mail articles - to your children away at school, spouse at work, the possibilities are endless!
 - Use** the audio option to have stories read aloud!
- You are gonna love it!*

For more information about this offer or to subscribe to our e-edition service, go to www.mynewsonthego.com/yankton or scan our QR Code with your smart phone.