

\$27M Spent On Neb. Lobbying In last 2 years

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Special interest groups spent nearly \$27.4 million over a two-year period trying to influence government officials in Nebraska, according to a report released Tuesday.

The political watchdog group Common Cause reported that \$13.2 million was spent last year, a decline from the \$14.2 million in 2011. The report covered two years because some bills introduced in 2011 were carried over into the following year.

The spending included money for entertainment, gifts and event tickets on both local and state issues, but the vast majority was spent on lobbyists who were hired to try to influence members of the Nebraska Legislature.

The largest lobbying expenses over the two-year period were generated by Canadian pipeline developer TransCanada, which spent \$698,000. The Association of Nebraska Ethanol Producers logged the second-highest expenses, at \$496,000, and the League of Nebraska Municipalities came in third with \$492,000.

Common Cause spokesman Jack Gould said Nebraska state law makes it difficult to track spending on golf outings, holiday gifts, luncheons and other items for individual senators. Lobbyists are restricted to gifts of \$50 per month, per senator, but senators only have to report gives valued over \$100.

The report also showed that 16 Nebraska school districts spent roughly \$389,600 last year, compared to \$457,500 the previous year. Gould argued that the spending on lobbyists could instead be used to hire additional teachers.

S.D. Parks Could See Record Camping

RAPID CITY (AP) — South Dakota could see a record amount of camping in parks and recreation areas this year, Parks Director Doug Hofer said.

A prolonged winter set back visitation but the trend appears to be turning with the weather. Nearly all of the 4,190 campsites at state parks and recreation areas were filled over the Memorial Day weekend, the *Rapid City Journal* reported.

"Some years April can be pretty good for us. That was the case last year, when we had outstanding weather and people got out early," Hofer said. "This year we got snowstorm after snowstorm in April. But things are really taking off now."

Camping reservations for the months ahead are encouraging, according to Hofer.

"The summer reservations are tracking very close to and maybe slightly ahead of last year's record for camping units," he said.

South Dakota parks and recreation areas recorded 270,000 camping units in 2012. A camping unit is one campsite filled for one night.

Hofer said dealing with difficult weather is part of life in South Dakota — for park visitors and managers. The open-house weekend at state parks and recreation areas May 17-19 was "a mixed bag" of weather conditions, he said.

"We're used to that kind of mix in the weather," he said. "The wind blew pretty hard in the eastern part of the state and there was some rain. But we had a lot of activities that were well-attended."

Teenager Rescued From Rushing S.D. Creek

CANTON (AP) — A 17-year-old boy had to be rescued when he fell into a rushing creek after heavy rains in southeastern South Dakota.

John Lems tells KELO-TV that he was at his Canton home when two teenagers approached him late Monday afternoon and said they needed a rope to save their friend. Lems says the boy had fallen into Beaver Creek and was holding on to a tree branch to avoid being swept away by the current.

Lems says he called authorities and kept the boy calm until emergency officials could rescue him.

Canton Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Lease says the boy was in the water for about 30 minutes before being brought to safety.

The boy was not identified.

Neb. Lawmakers Override Some Budget Vetoes

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Lawmakers on Tuesday overrode Gov. Dave Heineman's budget vetoes for county court pay raises, expanded dental services and a new University of Nebraska nursing college building in Lincoln.

They also reinstated about \$2 million in yearly aid for mass transit funding and \$200,000 in general-fund spending on court-appointed advocates who represent foster children.

But they failed to overcome the Republican governor's veto of money for a railroad inspector, a position that has gone unfilled for years. Nor could they rally support to restore \$30,000 for membership dues to a multistate railroad compact. An attempt to place \$200,000 back in the budget for an Omaha golf tournament never made it to a vote.

Heineman announced Saturday that he had trimmed \$44.6 million from the state's two-year, \$7.8 billion budget. His cuts included \$7.8 million in state general fund spending, \$11.2 million in transfers from various cash funds and \$25.6 million in spending with federal dollars.

The override motions were chosen Tuesday by members of the Legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee, said Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, the panel's chairman.

"There is significant agreement between the Appropriations Committee, the Legislature and the governor in regards to the overall state budget," Mello said.

Mello said committee members voted to file override motions on a little more than half of the governor's line-item vetoes — about one-third of the total funding that Heineman deleted from the budget.

"I think it is a reasonable package," said Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha, an Appropriations Committee member. "I think it is right that the Legislature should have the final say here on these spending items."

Heineman's vetoes targeted funding for Nebraska's Court-Appointed Special Advocate program, money to expand dental services at the state's six community health centers, and 1 percent raises for county court employees beyond that of other state workers.

Heineman also vetoed \$2 million in yearly mass transit aid, saying the funding was con-

centrated in Omaha and Lincoln when it should focus on road construction statewide. Nordquist said lawmakers approved \$41 million in roads funding beyond what the governor had proposed. Nordquist said the transit money is first used to meet the needs of elderly residents in rural areas, and the rest is split between Lincoln and Omaha. The overall money available for transit services has declined since its high point in 2007, Nordquist said.

Lawmakers overrode the governor's veto of nearly \$3 million to construct a new University of Nebraska nursing college building in Lincoln. The funding came from savings that were realized from another building project, the Veterinary Diagnostic Center, and Heineman argued that the money should first go back into the state's general fund.

Lawmakers failed to override the governor's veto of funding for a state railroad inspector. Supporters argued that the inspector would help ensure train safety throughout Nebraska. Opponents said the position was redundant, because the federal government already inspects the tracks and the industry has a strong financial interest in maintaining the tracks.

Top N.D. Prosecutors Warn Of Telephone Lottery Scams In The Dakotas

BY DAVE KOLPACK

Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — North Dakota's top state and federal prosecutors shared the podium for the first time Tuesday because they don't believe people in the region are getting the message about telephone lottery scams that have bilked residents out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon said reports of scammers making calls to Dakotas-area residents have shot up in the last few months, most of them targeting elderly residents. One call went to Stenehjem's car phone and another to Purdon's office.

"This is the first time the attorney general and I have held a joint press conference. I hope that underscores the seriousness of this issue," said Purdon, who has been North Dakota's U.S. attorney for about three years.

Stenehjem, the state's longtime attorney general, said: "It has reached epidemic levels."

Callers are told in a typical scenario that they have won an international lottery with a cash prize of

\$2.5 million and a new Mercedes, but those prizes cannot be delivered until certain fees or taxes have been paid. In some cases callers have been threatening and abusive, telling victims that U.S. marshals would be knocking down their doors if they didn't pay.

Stenehjem said he was not offered money or a car, but was surprised that the caller persisted even when told he was talking to the attorney general.

"Nobody knows that number, not even me," Stenehjem said.

The prosecutors say scammers are technologically savvy, using auto-dialers that can place hundreds of calls per day and Internet-based mapping programs that can pinpoint a resident's exact location. Victims are instructed on the use of prepaid cards and online payment options that give the thieves instant access to cash.

Once the card numbers are given out, the money is gone and cannot be recovered.

"If you are asked to send money before you can receive your prize, it is always a scam," Stenehjem said. "It doesn't matter what reason the caller gives, it is always a scam, every single time."

Oglala Sioux Tribe To Open Own Grocery Store

BY KRISTI EATON

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The Oglala Sioux Tribe will open up a new grocery store on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation within days of the forced closure of the reservation's sole grocery store, the president of the tribe announced Tuesday.

In an open letter to tribal members, Oglala Sioux tribal president Bryan Brewer said the tribe will open its own grocery store within 48 hours of the closing of Sioux Nation Shopping Center and that no tribal members will lose their jobs because of the change.

The tribal council unanimously voted in May to stop leasing the building and the land to Hi-Way 20, the owner of Sioux Nation, effective Aug. 4. Brewer said the decision was necessary because of health violations.

"The Tribe made this decision after conducting an extensive investigation, which revealed that Hi-Way 20 has committed serious and repeated violations of the lease and operated the grocery store in a manner that is contrary to the public health and welfare of the

Tribe, its members, and other residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation," Brewer wrote in the letter.

He said the new store would be clean, safe and sanitary and offer fresh, reasonably priced items. In addition, he said no tribal members will lose their jobs and current employees will be given the opportunity to work full-time with benefits and have opportunities for advancement.

A tribal spokeswoman did not immediately return a phone call and email seeking additional details on the store and its creation for residents of the reservation, which spans much of southeastern South Dakota.

Terry Pechota, a Rapid City-based lawyer for Hi-Way 20, denied any health violations at Sioux Nation.

"We're still hopeful we can meet with the tribe and come to some resolution," he said, adding that legal action may be necessary otherwise.

This is not the first time the tribe has butted heads with the owners. Sioux Nation was closed down for about a week a year ago over complaints about outdated meat.


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THE INDY 500

The Indianapolis 500-Mile Race takes place every year on Memorial Day weekend. Cars race around an oval track that is 2.5 miles long for 200 laps. 33 cars start the race. Indy cars have an open cockpit and are specially built for the race. They can reach speeds over 225 mph!

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is the world's largest spectator sport facility, with more than 250,000 permanent seats. If laid end-to-end, the seats would stretch for 99.5 miles!

Look closely: Can you find the two identical Indy cars?



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find the differences in common objects.

Traditionally, at the end of the race, the winner swigs from a bottle to celebrate victory. This started in 1933 after Louis Meyer requested a particular beverage after winning. Use the code to find out what Indy winners drink.

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Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

RACE TRACK GAME

Cut out a car for each player.

Take turns flipping a coin.

Heads moves your car forward one space.

Tails moves your car forward two spaces.

First one to reach the last space wins!

Who will win the most in 10 races?

	FLAT TIRE! Lose a turn.	TURBO BOOST! Move ahead one space.			
		OIL SPILL! Lose a turn.	TURBO BOOST! Move ahead one space.		
	TURBO BOOST! Move ahead one space.			COLLISION! Lose a turn.	

Extra! Extra!

Race Action

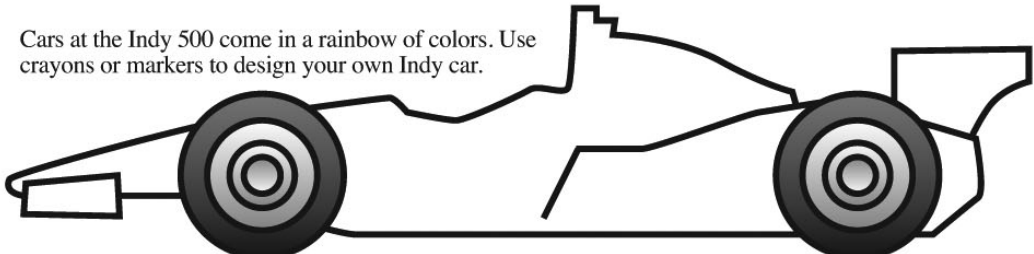
Sports writers use lots of action verbs. Look at the sports pages of today's newspaper or newspaper's website. Find and list ten action verbs.

Standards Link: Writing: Identify verbs in writing.

Who is on the starting line?

Drivers line up on the starting grid in the order of speed rank they reached on the qualifying laps after two days of time trials. The driver that covers the track in the fastest time on the first day of trials wins the **pole position**, which means they start the race at the front of all the other drivers. The 24 fastest drivers from the first day take the starting positions first. The fastest drivers on the second day take the other nine places.

Cars at the Indy 500 come in a rainbow of colors. Use crayons or markers to design your own Indy car.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many compound words can you make using the words below in five minutes or less?

ROAD ARM PET FLAG PIT
CAR RACE LAP WAY TRACK
TOP STOP POLE

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify compound words.

Double Double Word Search

MEMORIAL SPEEDWAY POSITION INDIANA VICTORY TRIALS BOTTLE SPORT BOOST TURBO OVAL LAPS LINE DAYS TIME

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

I	N	Y	O	R	T	C	I	V	S
Y	D	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P
A	T	Y	R	S	S	P	A	L	O
W	U	E	O	L	I	N	E	A	R
D	R	O	M	A	A	C	E	R	T
E	B	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M
E	O	S	D	R	T	V	A	R	E
P	B	N	E	T	D	A	Y	S	S
S	I	B	O	T	T	L	E	T	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Car Shopping

Use the classified ads to compare the cost of new and used cars. Find ads for five new cars. See if you can find ads for the same five cars used. Find the differences between the costs of new cars and the costs of used cars.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Write On!

Fossils

What can you learn from a fossil?

Send your story to:

Press & Dakotan
C/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: June 23 Published: Week of July 21
Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Math At Full Speed

You're the teacher! Write a math word problem and provide the solution.

30 jumping beans were jumping.
A man caught 6 of them.
How many jumping beans are left?
A: 24 jumping beans are left.

Aiden, 2nd grade

Caroline, Alexa and I are collecting rulers. I found 98, Alexa found 1 and Caroline found 1. How many did we find all together?
A: 100 rulers.

Christian, 1st grade

I have 6 pies. Five are fruit pies. One is a custard cream. What is the fraction of pies that are fruit?
A: 5/6

Kaylen, 2nd grade

My chicken lays 10 eggs every morning. How many eggs with there be in 5 days?
A: 50 eggs (10x5)

Katherine, 2nd grade

If you have 25 apples and three of your friends have 50, how many apples are there in all?
A: 175 apples in all.

Jacob, 4th grade

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Jacob, 4th grade

Clear Water, an animal rescue group, is saving three stranded dolphins. One has been rescued and two have not. How many dolphins need to be rescued?
A: 2 dolphins.

Nathan, 1st grade

Tickets to ride the Fred-ericksburg Carriage cost \$12.00. Rayne only has \$10.00. How much more did he need to buy the ticket?
A: \$2.00

Rayne, 2nd grade

Connor had 7 dogs. Anney gave him 3 more dogs. How many dogs does Connor have now? 7 + 3 = 10 dogs.

Connor, 1st grade