

South Dakota Could See Extra Revenue In This Budget Year

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

MITCHELL — The state of South Dakota's coffers may end up with slightly more revenue for the current budget year than lawmakers anticipated during the legislative session if recent tax collection levels continue.

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisors met Wednesday to discuss the state and national economy. Jim Terwilliger, the state economist, said sales tax collections jumped in April and year-to-date sales tax growth is slightly above the "pretty lousy" 1.6 percent increase lawmakers anticipated during the session when they revised the state budget for the full fiscal year ending in June.

Lawmakers adopted a conservative revenue estimate for sales tax growth during the budget year, and sales taxes account for roughly 60 percent of general state revenue. The cautious overall estimate from lawmakers, who anticipated about \$7 million less revenue for the current budget year than projected in December, largely came from a slowdown in the state's agricultural economy.

Sales tax collected on farm equipment alone is estimated to have dropped roughly \$10 million between 2013 and 2014, and farm income has sunk from record levels.

"Much of the prosperity we saw in the last two or three years, a lot of it was anchored to (agriculture) and

the spinoff of all the other industries," Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jason Dilges said. "Right now I think some of the softening that we're seeing from the state side is probably linked to that."

Sales tax collections surged in April, and the 2.1 percent year-to-date sales tax growth is slightly above the 1.6 percent growth lawmakers anticipated for the full budget year, according to a report to the Council of Economic Advisors. Terwilliger said it would likely mean more money for the state if most state taxes continue performing like they have over the last two months.

But lackluster growth before the end of the fiscal year could drag those gains back down.

Neb. Governor Declares Emergency To Battle Bird Flu

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts declared an emergency to make sure state agencies have what they need to battle bird flu in the state.

Earlier this week, agriculture officials confirmed the contagious disease's presence in a flock of 1.7 million chickens in Dixon County, Nebraska. Ricketts issued his declaration Wednesday.

Several state agencies are working to quarantine the farm where the disease was found and carry out the destruction of the infected birds.

Man Who Tried To Shoot Up Nebraska Classroom To Be Released

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judge has ordered a state psychiatric hospital to release an ailing man who in 1992 tried to shoot up a University of Nebraska classroom of science students.

Retired Judge Paul Merritt Jr. ruled that Arthur McElroy, 66, has become too feeble to present a danger to anyone. Merritt ordered McElroy to be released no sooner than June 1 from the Lincoln Regional Center. The Lincoln Journal Star reported Wednesday that

McElroy is expected to go to a local nursing home.

Prosecution and defense attorneys didn't immediately return calls from The Associated Press.

McElroy, who has been diagnosed with delusional disorder or possibly paranoid schizophrenia, also has been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and gallstones. Officials have said he undergoes dialysis four times a week, and has needed oxygen in the past.

Dr. Klaus Hartman, who testified at McElroy's annual

review hearing in March, said McElroy has been using a wheelchair for more than a year. Hartman also said McElroy lacks the strength to hurt anyone.

McElroy was prosecuted for attempted second-degree murder after he tried to fire a .30-caliber, semi-automatic military carbine into a science class of about 20 students on Oct. 12, 1992. The gun jammed in the attempt. A judge ruled later that McElroy was insane and not responsible for his actions.

OBITUARIES

Gregg Stocking

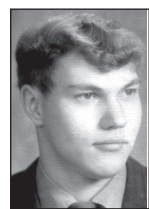
Gregg Stocking, age 60 of Yankton passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 8, 2015 at his home.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 15, 2015 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, SD with Rev. Woodrow Weidner officiating. Burial will be in the Crofton Cemetery, Crofton, NE.

Visitations will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, May 14, 2014 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service.

Online condolences may be sent at www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com.

Pallbearers will be Paul Brandt, Matthew Luikens, Brandon Moul, Jason Beaudette, Bruce Pieper and David Walters. Honorary pallbearers will be Addison



Stocking

was born August 11, 1954 in Osmond, NE to Lowell and Charlotte (Gregg) Stocking. He grew up on the family farm west of Crofton. Gregg went to West Blyville Country School from kindergarten to eighth grade and then to Crofton High School until graduation in 1972. He worked at Gurney Seed and Nursery upon graduation and then went to work at Wholesale Supply Company in Yankton as of July 12, 1974. He worked as a delivery man and salesman where he accumulated 40 plus years

of service until his death. He also worked part time at Freedom and Shop EZ. He was a dedicated, honest and loyal employee. He met and married Joan Cameron on June 16, 1979. To this union, two sons were born, Robert and Christopher. Gregg enjoyed watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the Detroit Lions football games. He was a football fanatic and would have played professional football if he would have had a choice. He also enjoyed history and assembling model airplanes. He collected old coins and bills and loved spending time with his grandchildren. He was a generous man and was always there with a helping hand. He will be greatly missed and remembered by everyone whose life he touched.

Gregg is survived by his sons, Robert (Blair Wana)

Stocking of Bismarck, ND and Christopher D. Stocking of Omaha, NE; six grandchildren; close friend, Joan Stocking of Yankton, SD; brothers, Warren (Gail) Stocking of Yankton, SD and Gary (Jeannine) Stocking of Sheldon, WA; sisters: Barb (Robert) Brandt of Crofton, NE, Beth (Clifford) Luikens of Yankton, SD and Brenda Stocking of Lincoln, NE and many nieces and nephews.

Gregg was preceded in death by his parents, Lowell and Charlotte Stocking, maternal grandparents, Jack and Helen Gregg and paternal grandparents, Clifford and Gladys Stocking.

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PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Kenneth Schick

Kenneth John Schick, 72, of Vermillion, South Dakota, passed away on Friday, May 8, 2015, at Avera Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

A Celebration of Kenneth's Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2015, at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion with Rev. Elmer "Sandy" Aakre officiating.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Burial of ashes will take place at the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota at a later date.

Kenneth was born on January 2, 1943 in Leola, South Dakota to John and Martha (Oster) Schick.

He married the love of his life, Mary Carter, on November 24, 1988 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on April 29, 1960 and successfully completed his GED while he was serving his country. He was an honorable discharged on May 2, 1966.

He loved being with his grandchildren and family. He loved watching game shows and westerns. He loved his two dogs, Fred and Maggie.

He is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Mary of Vermillion; his sons, Jason



Schick

Tacoma, WA; his daughters, Kyleann Schick of Seattle, WA, Shelly Hubeek of Burns, OR, Sherry Schick of Yakima, Wa, and Erin Carter of Vermillion, SD; several grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He also is survived by his four sisters and two brothers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Martha (Oster) Schick.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Mary Schick, 1036 Katherine Street, Vermillion, SD 57069.

The Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion has been entrusted with the services.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

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James Shepherd

James Michael Shepherd, 74, of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and formerly of Yankton, passed away Monday, May

11, 2015 in Florida.

Cremation has taken place and services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

Dennis Braunesreither

Dennis Lee Braunesreither, 61, of Rapid City Dakota died on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at the Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Funeral Services are pending at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton.

Richard 'Dick' Branaugh

Richard "Dick" H. Branaugh, 76, of Mission Hill died Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with the Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation is from 5-8 p.m. Monday, May 18, at the

Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a rosary at 7 p.m. and a vigil service at 7:30 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the Mass on Tuesday at the church.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Elsie Vollbrecht

Funeral services for Elsie M. Vollbrecht, age 94 of Norfolk, Nebraska, will be held Monday, May 18, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk with Pastor

Leon Rosenthal officiating. Graveside services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Pleasantview Cemetery in Winslow, Nebraska.

Visitation will be Sunday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Brockhaus-Howser-Fillmer Funeral Home in Norfolk.

She died Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation and Care Center in Norfolk.



Vollbrecht

Neb. Licenses Bill For Faces Filibuster

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A bipartisan effort to allow Nebraska driver's licenses for deferred-action youths won't pass without a fight.

Opponents mounted a filibuster Wednesday against a bill that would authorize licenses for immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children, but allowed to stay under an Obama administration directive.

Most lawmakers support the proposal, as do prominent ranching and business groups and conservatives such as Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert. Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha, the lead sponsor, says the legislation would help those youth contribute to the economy.

A handful of senators argued that their constituents oppose the measure, and called it unfair to those who immigrated legally.

Nebraska is the only state that still denies licenses to deferred-action youths. A vote is expected Thursday.

Judge Sides With SF In Contract Dispute

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A federal judge has ruled in favor of Sioux Falls officials in a lawsuit challenging the city's process to award a contract for a local ambulance service.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has dismissed the antitrust suit filed by provider Med-Star Paramedic Ambulance. The company unsuccessfully bid to become the city's new ambulance service provider.

Sioux Falls council members in November granted a contract for the service to Texas-based provider Paramedics Plus. Med-Star's federal lawsuit claimed unfair competition.

Lange dismissed the antitrust lawsuit with prejudice, meaning the same case can't be brought before the court again.

Lange's ruling follows a circuit judge's decision to dismiss another lawsuit filed by Med-Star against the city.

Med-Star representatives couldn't immediately be reached.

Man Convicted In Omaha Hate Crime

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 36-year-old man convicted of a hate crime in connection with an assault on a Marine in downtown Omaha didn't show up to his sentencing hearing.

An arrest warrant was issued Wednesday after Missouri-native Gregory Duncan didn't appear for his scheduled sentencing on a third-degree assault conviction. He was charged with punching Ryan Langenegger in the face after using derogatory names regarding the sexual orientation of Langenegger's friends.

Duncan's attorney says his client hadn't informed him that he wouldn't show up to his sentencing.

Jurors found Duncan guilty in February. During his trial, Duncan's attorney accused his client's friends of making the derogatory slurs. But prosecutors argued that Duncan had no other reason to punch Langenegger, who they say was peacefully defending his friends.

Developers To Transform Postal Annex

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Developers want to transform an old mail terminal in downtown Omaha into the headquarters of a construction company and space for startup businesses.

Owner and president Jon Crane of Boyd Jones Construction and co-developer Matt Dougherty hatched the \$25 million plan for the building that's expected to undergo renovations starting this summer, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported.

An entire floor would be reserved for up to 90 startup firms and a restaurant, while high ceilings would allow for an extra floor level to be built, making a total of five stories and 99,000 square feet. Indoor parking would be on a lower level and a rooftop is planned.

"It's just unique," Crane said. "The views are so cool. New and affordable housing is nearby. I love that the rails are right there, and that you can grab an Amtrak train and go coast to coast."

Developers seek a subsidy of more than \$2 million in city tax-increment financing to help repurpose the structure, which to be called the Rail and Commerce Building.

State and federal historic tax credits totaling around \$4 million also will help remodel the building that has been used like a storage warehouse for objects, including a plane, a boat and antiques. The historic tax credits ensure the preservation of the building's original features, such as mail chutes, terrazzo flooring and the lobby vault door.

Crane said he's thrilled for the opportunity to honor the past while adding to the revival of the area.

Decision On Oil Wastewater Challenged

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) — Landowners whose property is adjacent to a planned oil production wastewater site in the Nebraska Panhandle have filed a court challenge to the site's approval.

The petition for review was filed last week by Jane Grove and Hughson Flying A Ranch Inc. against the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and Terex Energy Corp., of Broomfield, Colorado. Last month the commission approved Terex's request to use a well north of Mitchell to dispose of salty groundwater and chemical-laden fracking wastewater that result from oil and gas production.

The *Scottsbluff Star-Herald* reports that the petition says the commission didn't have jurisdiction because the well was intended to dispose of wastewater produced in Colorado and Wyoming and that there were no plans initially to dispose of wastewater produced in Nebraska.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Earl G. Johnson
10:30 AM, Thursday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Yankton

Richard "Dick" H. Branaugh
10:30 AM, Tuesday
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Yankton

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Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 25th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town - 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 20
Tuesday, May 26 newspaper - 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 20
Wednesday, May 27 newspaper - 5 p.m., Thursday, May 21
Thursday, May 28 newspaper - 5 p.m., Friday, May 22

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May 25, 2015

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