

S.D. Sees \$70M In Unexpected Revenue

BY CARSON WALKER
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Changes in unclaimed property law and moves by two big banks in South Dakota have filled the state's coffers with about \$70 million of unexpected revenue.

It includes account balances and other items of value that businesses, governments and other institutions must turn over to the state where they reside when the owner can't be found. For example, savings and checking accounts, life insurance policies, overpayments or rebates and gift cards.

The state expected about \$53 million but took in almost \$122 million.

There were two main reasons for the largesse.

South Dakota legislators changed the law so unclaimed property now must be sent to the state after three years of account inactivity, instead of the previous five years. That meant getting some accounts two years earlier than they would have.

Meanwhile, Wells Fargo consolidated

and moved its accounts and those from its acquisition of Wachovia into South Dakota. And Citibank moved its retail home office to the state. Its credit card operation started the banking boom when it moved here in 1980.

The state treasurer's office is charged with trying to find the owners of unclaimed property, but when it can't, the money accumulates in the state's general fund. Because many of the account holders are from other states and countries, it's more difficult to find those owners, so much of it will stay in South Dakota, said Rich Sattgast, state treasurer.

"They have people that live in other countries that trust American banks," he said.

The state's chief financial officer, Jason Dilges, said the original estimate of \$53.4 million in ongoing and one-time unclaimed property already has been spent, which leaves roughly \$70 million for the governor and lawmakers to divvy up when the legislative session starts in January.

He and Tony Venhuizen, spokesman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard, declined to say

what the governor plans to propose for the unexpected income in his Dec. 3 budget speech. Last year, Daugaard outlined four preferable uses for such one-time revenue.

"We should eliminate a liability, build or improve an asset, secure an asset, or endow a program for the future," he said. "We owe it to South Dakota to use the revenues we have available to improve the structural soundness of our state for future generations."

To eliminate some of the debate about what to do with unclaimed property, the Legislature earlier this year passed a law to dedicate a certain portion toward economic development. In the budget year that starts in July, 25 percent will go into the newly created Building South Dakota Fund and in 2016, 50 percent of unclaimed property received will go toward it.

The \$70 million won't be subject to that because it came in this year.

The South Dakota Housing Development Authority, state Department of Education and Governor's Office of Economic Development will accept applications for grants and loans and award the money.

Man Arrested For DUI At Fatal Accident

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Authorities say a Rapid City man was arrested for drunken driving at the scene of a fatal crash in Sioux Falls.

The *Argus Leader* reports that 27-year-old Josh Cuny was arrested on scene about 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Authorities say additional charges are pending.

Police say Cuny's vehicle was traveling eastbound and turned left and collided with a westbound vehicle.

Authorities say a 31-year-old male passenger in Cuny's vehicle was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital where he died. His name has not been released. Another passenger also was taken to the hospital with undisclosed injuries.

Authorities say the driver and a passenger of the second vehicle were taken to the hospital with nonlife-threatening injuries.

S.D. Woman Injured In Crash With Train

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A rural Brandon woman has non-life-threatening injuries after the car she was driving collided with a train near Corson.

The *Argus Leader* reports that 58-year-old Patty Stettmichs told authorities she couldn't stop before the collision on Saturday morning and accelerated to try to avoid the accident.

Stettmichs was transported by ambulance to a Sioux Falls.

The train operators were unaware of the accident and continued on to where it was located in Hills, Minn. The investigation revealed that the accident occurred around 10:15 a.m. Authorities say the train was not damaged.

Neb. Lawmaker To Introduce School Guns Bill

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers are likely to revisit the idea of allowing teachers to carry guns in school next year, but the proposal will again face strong opposition.

State Sen. Mark Christensen of Imperial said he plans to introduce legislation that could allow teachers to bring concealed weapons into classrooms when lawmakers convene in January. A similar bill died in committee two years ago, but Christensen said he's preparing a new version with additional requirements before teachers or school administrators could qualify.

"I absolutely don't want

every teacher to have one. Nobody does," Christensen said. "But if you have a gunman coming into a school, I don't want kids shot up and killed until the police arrive, which could be four or five minutes. It could be 10 minutes. Ten minutes could mean a lot of dead kids."

Christensen introduced the previous measure in January 2011, after a student gunman shot and killed a vice principal at Millard South High School in Omaha and injured the principal, before turning the gun on himself. The proposal died in committee, and faced opposition from education and law-enforcement groups.

With a few exceptions, Nebraska prohibits guns on all school grounds, in school

vehicles and at school-sponsored activities. Christensen said the new bill would include additional training requirements and mandatory local approval before a teacher could bring a gun to school.

Teachers would first have to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon and would then undergo further training, possibly in a simulated school setting. They also would have to secure approval from the local school board, which would make its decision in a closed session so teachers with guns couldn't be identified.

Christensen said many constituents in his southern Nebraska district called for legislation again after the December 2012 shooting at

Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut.

"I had way more requests for it last session than I'd ever had before," he said. "It was unbelievable. People were mad. They don't want their kids hurt."

The measure will likely face opposition from school groups. The Nebraska State Education Association maintains a zero-tolerance policy for weapons and other dangerous devices in schools, said Nancy Fulton, the group's president.

"The NSEA believes that children and educational employees should be guaranteed a safe, secure learning environment and working conditions," said Fulton, a 34-year classroom teacher.

MNRR

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A water trail, Yager explained, is a water route that can be used for both recreation and travel.

This designation applies to 147 miles of the river between the spillways at Ft. Randall Dam to the channeled river in Sioux City.

Yager said the year-long process to apply for the designation was competitive and difficult at times.

"The application was quite rigorous," she said. "It was an 18-plus page application where you had to document how you were meeting certain standards. We had to provide educational opportunities to visitors and show how you were giving back to the community. All of this put together — along with letters of support from federal, state and local officials — went into the application process."

This was the first time an application had been filed on behalf of the Missouri National Recreation River, which was first designated a national park in 1978 and expanded in 1991.

Yager said a committee of local and state entities helped in the application process. One such entity was the Missouri River Institute (MRI).

MRI director Tim Cowman said one contribution the committee has made is helping expand the educational opportunities for visitors.

"One of those activities has been establishing trail-head signs at 27 different public access points," Cowman said. "Each sign tells a story about the natural resources and cultural history of that particular segment of the river."

The committee is also looking at how to improve

access to the river.

"We're looking at various public access points and how to make them more friendly for canoeists and kayakers," Cowman said.

In addition to the NPS and MRI, the committee also involves South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; Missouri River Futures; the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; the Izaak Walton League of America; the Sierra Club; and the cities of Yankton and Vermillion.

Cowman said this designation is an indicator of how important the Missouri River is as a water trail.

"It's an indication that the water trail is something significant," he said. "It has significant value and unique value in that they chose it to be in the national system."

Additionally, two other trails were added this year: Red Rock Water Trail in Iowa and Island Loop Route Water Trail in Michigan.

For more information on the Missouri National Recreation River Water Trail, visit <http://mri.usd.edu/water-trail/>.

For more information on the National Water Trail System, visit <http://www.nps.gov/water-trails/>

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsen-PandD. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/

Iran

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kept from even close allies, such as negotiating partners at the nuclear talks, until two months ago, according to details obtained by The Associated Press and later confirmed by senior administration officials. The pace of the back-channel contacts picked up after Rouhani officially took office in August, promising a "new era" in relations with the West.

"Today, that diplomacy opened up a new path toward a world that is more secure — a future in which we can verify that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and that it cannot build a nuclear weapon," President Barack Obama said in a week-end White House address. Obama referred to publicly known contacts between his administration and Iran and did not specifically confirm the clandestine talks. Senior administration officials, though, told the AP that at least five such meetings were held with Iran since March. Four of those took place after Rouhani's inauguration and produced significant chunks of the eventual agreement.

But even the extensive groundwork couldn't clear away all the obstacles to a deal during make-or-break moments in Geneva. The snags were the same that have been at the heart of the impasse since public negotiations resumed 18 months ago: Whether to permit Iran to keep its ability to enrich

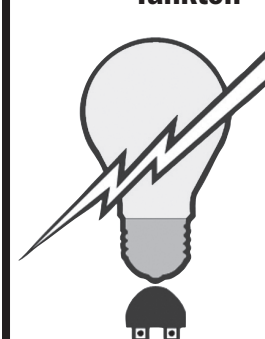
uranium, the central process in making nuclear fuel for energy-producing reactors and, at higher levels, weapons-grade material.

Iran insisted that trying to block its enrichment was a dead end. For Iran's leaders, self-sufficiency over the full scope of its nuclear efforts — from uranium mines to the centrifuges used in enrichment — is a source of national pride and a pillar of its self-proclaimed status as a technological beacon for the Islamic world.

In the end, Iran agreed to cap its enrichment level to a maximum of 5 percent, which is well below the 90 percent threshold needed for a warhead. Iran also pledged to "neutralize" its stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium — the highest level acknowledged by Tehran — by either diluting its strength or converting it to fuel for its research reactors, which produced isotopes for medical treatments and other civilian uses.

"For the first time in nearly a decade, we have halted the progress of the Iranian nuclear program, and key parts of the program will be rolled back," Obama said, stressing that any sanctions relief is reversible should Iran fail to comply with the deal.

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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:
Junell Jean Johnston
who passed away on **November 27, 2012**
Richard Clarence Anderson
who passed away on **November 28, 2012**
Wednesday Barry
who passed away on **November 30, 2012**
Joseph J. Nedved
who passed away on **November 29, 2001**
This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.
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OBITUARIES

Richard Clark

Richard Clark, 67, of Yankton died Friday, Nov. 22, 2013, at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Lund and the Rev. Dani Jo Ninke officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories with military graveside rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post # 791 Honor Guard, Yankton and the SDARNG Honor Guard, Sioux Falls.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a 7 p.m. prayer service and video tribute. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Elvin Motacek

Funeral services for Elvin Motacek, 88, of Verdel, Neb., are pending at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Niobrara, Neb. Elvin died Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013, at the Avera Creighton Hospital in Creighton, Neb.

THOUGHTS For Your Family



Directors: Steve, Jerry, Jim & Paul Wintz

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Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Inc.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

Those who report having undergone near-death experiences tell about having a sense of being dead, feeling their "soul" leave their bodies, traveling toward a bright light, and entering another reality where love and bliss are all-embracing. Not only do surveys show that about three percent of the U.S. population report having near-death experiences, but the experiences are reported across all cultures and time, even back to ancient Greece. While some use the widespread anecdotal reports to provide evidence that there is, indeed, life after death, science explains it as a matter of unusual brain activity. One thing is certain, though; that is, we all are invested in explaining the biggest mystery that life has to offer—death.

Regardless of your beliefs, the caring staff at WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME is here to assist you when you lose a loved one. We are available for you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (605) 665-3644. We will honor your requests. You are invited to tour our facility, conveniently located at 2901 Douglas Ave., or visit us at www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com. No detail is too large or too small for us to handle. We will exceed your expectations.

"Men fear death, as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other."
Francis Bacon

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