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Crash West Of Mina Leaves 3 Dead

MINA (AP) — Three people are dead following a two-vehicle crash west of Mina that forced the closure of U.S. Highway 12 for more than 2 hours.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the crash hap-pened around 2:45 p.m. Saturday, when a pickup truck traveling west on Highway 12 was struck by a car that was eastbound and crossed the center line.

Authorities say the pickup's driver, 59-year-old Michael Schlosser, and the car's two occupants, 42-year-old Kelly Pierce and 32-year-old Christopher McCoy, were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Aberdeen American News reports Schlosser, of Aberdeen, was an emergency room doctor at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

Authorities say Pierce, of Mellete, was driving the car that struck the pickup. They say Schlosser and McCoy, of Ipswich, were wearing seatbelts.

The Highway Patrol says the crash remains under investigation.

Supporters Of Syrian Refugees To Gather

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Advocates for Syrian refugees are planning a candlelight vigil in to show support for people who are fleeing persecution.

The vigil is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday at Tower Square in downtown Lincoln. Religious leaders from a variety of faiths will speak at the event.

This vigil is sponsored by the group Nebraska Appleseed, the Center For People In Need, Refugee Empowerment Center, the Asian Community and Cultural Center and the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County.

SD Man Charged With Attempted Murder

ROSLYN (AP) - A South Dakota man has been seriously injured after a shooting at a Roslyn home.

KSFY-TV reports that Attorney General Marty Jackley's office said the shooting happened late Friday evening. Updates about the victim's condition and further details about his identity weren't immediately available.

Forty-four-year-old Roslyn resident Jason Lewandowski has been charged with attempted murder and burglary.

He was arrested after leading authorities on a chase through Brown County. He has also been charged with eluding arrest.

It wasn't immediately clear if Lewandowski has an attorney who can comment for him.

SD Man Gets 27 Months For Assault

PIERRE (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to more than two years in prison for assaulting another man on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has sentenced 40-year-old Jeryn Big Eagle to 27 months in federal prison, followed by two years of supervised release. The Eagle Butte man earlier pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

Federal authorities say Big Eagle assaulted the victim in February at the Veterans Center in Eagle Butte. They say Big Eagle struck the victim in the "face, head and body multiple times with a closed fist," and then struck the victim in the forehead with a red Razor scooter.

Big Eagle is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Residents To Benefit From Settlement

PIERRE (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says more than 120 South Dakota residents will get a share of a national settlement against a company that operates forprofit colleges.

Jackley says South Dakota joined with 38 other states in the settlement with Education Management Corporation.

The former students from South Dakota will get a combined \$107,502 in loan forgiveness from the company.

The Pittsburgh-based company runs 110 schools in 32 states and Canada for chefs, artists and others, including Argosy University, The Art Institutes, Brown Mackie College and South University.

The company was accused of misrepresenting job

Nebraska

Senators Concerned \$110M Shortfall Could Grow

BY GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Is it a blip, or the tip of the iceberg?

Nebraska lawmakers are preparing for a tight budget in next year's session, but they won't know until February whether the recent slowdown in state revenue is an anomaly or the beginning of a larger downturn.

The state faces a \$110 million projected revenue shortfall that lawmakers and Gov. Pete Ricketts must resolve, according to estimates released last week by the Legislature's Fiscal Office. Revenue is expected to grow at an average of 3.9 percent per year, slower than the historic 5 percent average.

The budget gap could shrink or widen in February, when the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board meets to update its revenue projections. Last month, the board lowered its estimates amid concerns about the global economy.

"I am worried about whether this is the tip of the iceberg," said Speaker of the Legislature Galen Hadley. "Is it just a blip, or the start of some serious revenue problems?'

If the gap grows, lawmakers could be forced to cut more from the budget or tap the state's rainy-day fund. They also

would have a tougher time passing new tax cuts or boosting state aid for schools, prison reforms and other priorities.

Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, chairman of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee, said he's confident lawmakers will balance the budget in a "thoughtful, pragmatic manner." But he acknowledged that a sharp downturn in revenue could create problems during the short, 60-day legislative session that begins on Jan. 6.

It's tough to say what we may do without seeing what the forecasting board does in February," Mello said. "If the forecast throws us a curveball, it could really change things.

A \$334 million budget shortfall was enough to trigger a special session in 2009, forcing lawmakers and then-Gov. Dave Heineman to come together to balance their books as the state constitution requires. They avoided a tax increase but had to approve a 5 percent across-theboard cut to state agencies.

If the current shortfall holds, senators will still have to find a way to balance revenue and spending while fielding new requests for money. State agencies have asked for more than \$22 million to cover expenses that weren't included in the \$8.7 billion, two-year budget approved earlier this year.

The state's problem-plagued corrections department requested the most by far, seeking \$18.1 million to fight overcrowding, pay for utilities, cover inmate health care costs and repair damage from the May 10 Tecumseh prison riot that wasn't covered by insurance.

A spokesman for Ricketts reiterated the governor's promise to work with lawmakers.

The governor is considering a variety of options to address the budget shortfall and looks forward to working with the Legislature on an approach that best benefits the people of Nebraska," said public relations director Taylor Gage.

Hadley said he considers the state's \$729 million cash reserve the best option to fill the gap without cutting state government services or raising taxes. He noted that the reserve was created as a short-term safety net for economic downturns that reduce state revenue.

Sen. Bill Kintner of Papillion said lawmakers should balance the budget with a combination of money from the cash reserve and spending cuts. If state revenue keeps declining, he said, lawmakers may have to dig into the reserve again. Kintner said he has some ideas for places to cut but declined to elaborate.

'This is a great opportunity to trim government down," said Kintner, an Appropriations Committee member who frequently rails against state spending.

After The Snow, Midwest Gets Deep Freeze

BY RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press

A deep freeze set in across the Midwest on Sunday with low temperatures forecast in the single digits and a few below zero, turning the season's first major snow into ice that made some roads treacherous to travel.

Temperatures plunged behind a cold front that brought snow across much of the region Friday and Saturday. The National Weather Service forecast 20 degrees or lower across six states from North Dakota to Illinois.

The weather service reported temperatures in the single- and low double-digits Sunday in northern Illinois, including Chicago, where residents were digging out of more than 11 inches of snow - the highest November total in 120 years in the city.

More than 130 flights were cancelled Sunday into and out of the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, according to flight-tracking website FlightAware.com.

In Minneapolis, dozens of people huddled around fires to stay warm at an encampment outside a police station

of a black man by officers there last week. Temperatures hit a low of 17 degrees overnight, and light snow was expected to move in by Sunday evening.

of snow at numerous Chicagoland locations.

The first snowfall of the season also brought amounts ranging from a few inches to 20 inches of snow from South Dakota through Michigan earlier in the weekend.

town of Janesville, between 10 and 20 inches of snow had fallen by late Saturday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

Al Frelk walks his dog, Shiba, 10, in Lords Park in Elgin, Ill., on Saturday. Asked about the

snow, Frelk said, "It's beautiful, but can be tough to drive in. Though Shiba has been wait-

ing 9 months for this." The first winter storm of the season dropped more than 10 inches

Southside True Value Hardware manager Matt Krienke said business had been good in the days leading up to the storm in the Janesville, but that it had become "very, very, very, very slick."

drive don't need to be out," he said.

STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Slick driving conditions were reported across the region. In western Michigan, two people were injured in a 15-car pileup late Saturday along Interstate 196 following heavy snow in the area. Local police said one woman was struck by a vehicle after getting out of her vehicle.



placement and graduation rates, using high pressure sales tactics and misleading prospective students about costs.

The company denied wrongdoing, but said it is working to bring more transparency to its recruitment practices.

SD Woman Is Rhodes Scholar

HUMBOLDT (AP) - A South Dakota student who attended college in Minnesota has been named a Rhodes Scholar.

Rachel E. Mullin of Humboldt is among 32 American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars. The scholarship funds post-graduate studies at Oxford University.

Mullin received her undergraduate degree in political science and history from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Mullin is a Truman Scholar and is focused on understanding and combating the causes of genocide and forced migration. She spent a summer in Bosnia-Herzegovina interviewing Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats to support two undergraduate theses on the 1990s genocide in Bosnia.

Mullin is now teaching English in Malaysia. At Oxford she will pursue post-graduate degrees in refugee and forced migration studies, and in global governance and diplomacy.

SD Store Offering Cart For Children

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A grocery store in Sioux Falls has fulfilled the request of a local mother seeking a specialized shopping cart designed for children with disabilities.

Andria Bender recently asked one of the city's Hy-Vee stores to provide Caroline's Carts, which are named after the inventor's daughter and have a large seat where children can sit facing their parents. Bender's 3-year-old daughter can neither walk nor talk due to a genetic abnormality delaying her development.

The same day Bender emailed the store, she got a voicemail message saying they had ordered one of the special-ized carts. She called back right away to thank them. "I said, 'You know, for you it's probably just putting in an order,'" Bender told the *Argus Leader*. "But it means so

much more for myself and the rest of the people that are going to benefit from this."

The store recently began offering the cart to customers, becoming the second Hy-Vee store in Sioux Falls to have one. Another store ordered a Caroline's Cart about a year ago, and store manager of operations Jesse Patrick said Hy-Vee stores have contacted them to find out where they got the cart.

"It has kind of spread just from us getting it," Patrick said.

Bender hopes more stores will add the carts and has reached out to them. Target said it has started to add the carts in several stores, but doesn't have plans to do so in Sioux Falls at the moment.

"Something like Caroline's Cart is just a small step to feeling a little bit more like everyone else," Bender said.

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