

Daugaard: Storm Assessments Slated

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says damage assessments will begin next week for counties and tribal land impacted from an early October storm that dumped 4 feet or more of snow in some areas.

Daugaard says the assessment by state, local and federal officials will begin on Oct. 28. The assessment will cover 15 storm-impacted counties and Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe reservations.

The governor uses the results of the assessments to determine whether a request for a presidential disaster declaration is warranted.

The storm knocked out power to about 30,000 people, closed roads and killed tens of thousands of cattle.

Man Found Dead Inside Car In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police are looking for suspects after an Omaha man was found dead inside a parked car.

Omaha police say officers responded to a report of a man down around 9:40 p.m. Friday and found the man inside a car parked outside of an apartment complex in southeast Omaha.

Police have not said how the man died, but firefighters told the *Omaha World-Herald* that the man had been shot to death.

Police have not released the identity of the man, but say they are investigating his death as a homicide.

Police are asking anyone with information about the shooting or victim to contact Crime Stoppers at 402-444-7867 or at www.omahacrimestoppers.net. Police may also be contacted by texting "OPD" to 274637 or by using the mobile app "Tip Submit."

Omaha Crash Kills 1, Injures Another

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police have identified the two men involved in a fiery crash that killed one and critically injured the other man.

Police Sgt. Doug Klein says the crash happened around 2:45 a.m. Sunday at the 24th Street exit on I-80.

An eastbound 2000 Buick Century tried to exit the Interstate at 24th Street, but the car sped across 24th Street and struck a traffic barrier.

The car came to rest on its side and caught fire. The first officer to arrive extinguished the fire.

The passenger, 26-year-old Joshua Pacheco, died at the scene, and the driver, 22-year-old Matthew Flesman, was hospitalized in critical condition. Both men are from Omaha.

Investigators say speed and alcohol likely contributed to the crash.

Police: Man Ordered Dog To Attack Boy

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln police say a 41-year-old man ordered his dog to attack a 9-year-old boy, so the boy wouldn't be able to defend his mom against the man's assault.

Lincoln Police Capt. Don Scheinost said Cedric Fowler was arrested after the incident on Saturday night.

Police say Fowler was arguing with a woman when he kicked her and caused her to fall down a flight of stairs.

When the woman's son tried to intervene, police say Fowler's dog bit the boy on the hand.

Then the boy ran to neighbors and called police.

Fowler was being held in jail Sunday facing several charges.

SF Eyes Ban On Guns On City Property

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Sioux Falls City Council may ask the South Dakota Legislature for help in prohibiting people from bringing guns onto city property.

Sioux Falls banned guns on city property for 15 years under an executive order by former Mayor Gary Hanson. Mayor Mike Huether overturned that order last year after the city attorney found the ban conflicted with state law.

South Dakota law now bans guns from the state Capitol building and county courthouses, but that law does not mention city offices.

The *Argus Leader* reports that the city council is now drawing up a list of priority issues that might be presented in the 2014 state legislative session. One measure being considered would give cities authority to ban guns and other weapons from city office buildings.

Health Care Reform

Navigators Assist Native Americans

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Insurance enrollment helpers are encouraging Native Americans to sign up for coverage under the nation's new health care law, saying it will help them better access X-rays, mammograms, prescription drugs and trips to specialists not covered under Indian Health Service.

American Indians are exempt from the Affordable Care Act's requirement that people carry insurance, but the law opens up resources that for years have been limited through IHS, said Jerilyn Church, executive director of the South Dakota-based Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board.

"There's a huge gap in access to services, so being enrolled in the marketplace is going to make a big difference in terms of accessibility to health care," Church said.

The Indian Health Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides free health care to enrolled members of tribes, their descendants and some others as part of the government's treaty obligations to Indian

tribes dating back nearly a century.

Critics long have complained of insufficient financial support that has led to constant turnover among doctors and nurses, understaffed hospitals, sparse specialty care and long waits to see a doctor.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board received \$264,000 in South Dakota and \$186,000 in North Dakota to assist with Native American signups on the states' reservations and urban areas.

The new law health care law will especially benefit people who seek treatment at urban Indian health clinics, which collectively are funded by just 1 percent of the IHS budget, said Ashley Tuomi, executive director of the American Indian Health and Family Services clinic in Detroit.

"Our resources are extremely limited, even more so than the tribes," Tuomi said. "What we have within our walls is what we can offer for free."

The clinic has seen a lot of patient interest in the health care marketplace, but "navigators" helping with signups have had to cancel many appointments because of continued issues with the federal

healthcare.gov website, Tuomi said.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has received about \$38,000 in federal grant funds to encourage signups for tribal members scattered in 12 counties in Nebraska, two in Iowa and one in South Dakota.

The tribe's IHS-contracted clinic in Omaha, Neb., has a medical doctor and two nurse practitioners, but the X-rays, specialists and prescriptions that are outsourced are not covered, said Jan Henderson, the tribe's navigator project director. "And if they don't have insurance, they have to pay for it themselves," she said.

Tribes across the country get some federal money for referrals, but the small pools run out quickly, Henderson said.

She views the new health care law as a great step for Native Americans, but the greatest challenge is educating tribal members who are weary from decades of promises of improved health care.

"Education is very important in this right now to get people to be open to actually hearing about it," Henderson said. "We hear a lot of people who say they don't need this, they don't want this."

Ladies

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found in Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Rapid City and other South Dakota communities. A league has also been started in Ainsworth, Neb.

Oliver said he is proud to coordinate the leagues in several communities, as well as the state tournament.

"The state tournament was a fantastic event. All of the women enjoyed themselves," he said.

One fact Oliver drills into people is that Pink Ladies started in Yankton.

"People always want to know where and how it started. It started here," he said. "What's amazing is, there were 89 teams at last week's tournament. That would be the first state pink dart tournament in the nation."

With growing publicity about the Pink Ladies concept, Cunningham said she expects more leagues will pop up in South Dakota and other states.

"I think it will spread throughout the nation," she stated.

Oliver likes that each league distributes the funds they raise to people within their own communities.

"All the money the Yankton Pink Ladies raise, they donate right back to the people in Yankton fighting cancer," he said. "It doesn't go to research or another organization; it goes right back to Yankton."

For more information on the Yankton Pink Ladies, contact Cunningham at (605) 665-4207.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

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