

DANA COLLEGE CLOSER

Dad Finally Gets Tuition Refund

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Months after prepaying his son's tuition at Dana College, a St. Louis man has been able to recover the \$10,290 he paid just before the Nebraska college announced its closing.

But Ron Cresong said Monday that he recovered the money from his bank, not the defunct college in Blair, because he charged the tuition to a credit card.

The 600-student school had operated for 126 years before its \$11 million debt forced it to close in June. Dana College's accrediting

body, the Higher Learning Commission, refused to approve the sale of Dana to a group of private investors who planned to operate the college as a for-profit enterprise.

Cresong paid a portion of his son's tuition on June 7, two months before it was due — and 23 days before Dana officials announced the closure.

The court-appointed receiver overseeing Dana's assets, Mark Wagner of Cordes & Co. of Greenwood Village, Colo., will determine how Dana's assets are distributed. Wagner did not immediately return a message Monday, but has previously said Cresong was the only person who had prepaid tuition

for 2010-11 before Dana's closure.

Part of the problem in Cresong's case was that his prepaid tuition wasn't kept in a separate account, but rather mixed in with other Dana revenue.

But for Cresong, the most frustrating part was not being able to get an answer from Dana officials after the college closed.

Cresong's son, Chase, is a quarterback who was recruited by a number of small colleges to play football. He chose Dana because he was told he'd have a significant opportunity to play as a freshman. Dana awarded him a scholarship covering about one-third of his cost to attend.

MIDWEST DIGEST

Recent Rain Helps S. Dakota Crops Mature

SIJUX FALLS (AP) — Most of South Dakota received rain last week, which helped winter wheat seeding, but hindered other farm activities.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in its weekly crop report that all but one area of the state received measurable precipitation.

About 75 percent of the sorghum crop is in good or excellent condition.

About 68 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition.

Neb. Man Dies After Crash During Chase

OCTAVIA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 23-year-old Fremont man died after his car crashed during a chase by Schuyler police.

The Butler County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that Jose Antonio Sanchez Ramirez was pronounced dead at the scene early Sunday morning.

The crash occurred about 12:05 a.m. at a Nebraska Highway 15 intersection in Octavia, a village about five miles south of Schuyler.

Schuyler Police Chief Lennie Hiltner declined to comment on Monday and referred phone calls to the Butler County Sheriff's Office.

Neb. Grocery Chain Settles Labor Law Case

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha-based grocery store chain has agreed not to violate labor laws as part of a settlement with federal officials.

Documents filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Omaha show that Bag 'N Save Inc. has agreed not to have minors operate dangerous equipment such as balers, compactors and high-lift pallet jacks.

The U.S. Labor Department had filed a complaint against Bag 'N Save that alleged the company had been violating federal labor laws since September 2007.

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Colorado Says Neb. Insurer Pays \$153,000 Fine

DENVER (AP) — Colorado regulators say World Insurance Co. of Omaha, Neb., has paid a \$153,000 fine after it was accused of not providing benefits it promised.

The state Division of Insurance said Monday that, among other things, the company didn't cover procedures it pre-authorized, didn't cover some organs or body systems and classified some activities such as snowmobiling and skiing as high risk and excluded from coverage.

In a written release, World Insurance says most of the violations were technical and procedural and focused on the wording of its forms, not its business practices. The company says it doesn't believe any Colorado policyholders were harmed.

The state says World Insurance paid the fine plus a surcharge of \$7,500 for outreach and education on Sept. 9.

S.F. Officials Split Over Parking Perk

SIJUX FALLS (AP) — The Sioux Falls City Council is split over a new parking perk.

The *Argus Leader* reports that Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether issued an executive order that allows free parking in the city for the mayor and council members while on city business.

Huether says it makes city government more efficient.

Some councilors appreciate the permits, but others don't feel comfortable using them downtown and continue to plug parking meters.

"I just didn't like the image it

portrays — some VIP-type deal," City Councilor Greg Jamison said. Councilor Bob Litz likes the perk.

"Other city people have an office. Other city people even get a car. We at the council have to fumble around for quarters. It was kind of one of those digs," Litz said.

Former Mayor Gary Hanson didn't have a parking permit while in office.

"I paid a lot of parking tickets while I was mayor," he said. He kept his receipts as proof.

Dismissing the tickets can be a

time-consuming process for city employees and city councilors, Huether said.

"Now council members don't have to go through the process asking for the tickets to be dismissed," said Darrin Smith, director of community development and public parking. "It's made this process much more efficient."

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