

9-1-1 Surcharges Fall Short Of Forecast

BY BOB MERCER
 State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Special surcharges that telephone users pay in South Dakota to help support 9-1-1 emergency reporting services didn't generate in the last year the money that was forecast.

The monthly \$1.25 per phone line and the new 2 percent surcharge on pre-paid wireless minutes purchased at retail outlets together produced about \$2.9 million, rather than the expected \$4.1 million.

Some of the administrative one-time costs weren't included in the calculations. Another reason seems to be the end of the recession, according to Ted Ruffedt Jr. of Rapid City. He is chairman of the State 9-1-1 Coordination Board and prepared the forecasts.

People seemed to purchase more

pre-paid wireless minutes when times were tougher, Ruffedt said Tuesday in testimony to the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee.

He told lawmakers he expects the wireless surcharge revenue to be flat or drop further as the economy improves. Wireless accounted for approximately \$300,000 of the \$1.2 million miss.

Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, asked Ruffedt if there had any been any difficulties in collecting from retailers. Brown was prime sponsor of the 2012 legislation that added the wireless surcharge and raised the line surcharge from 75 cents to \$1.25.

"I'm not aware of any specific problems with that," Ruffedt replied.

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh is state 911 coordinator for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety. She said the six-year estimate of revenue has been

updated at \$20 million from the original \$24 million.

Much of the revenue from the wireless surcharge and the additional 50 cents per line will be used for the Next Gen 911 project. It will provide for pinpoint mapping of emergency calls and create a single backbone connecting all public-safety answering points known as PSAPs.

In response to a reporter's question, Rechtenbaugh said it's too early to know whether an adjustment of the surcharges would be necessary in light of the revenue under-performance. The \$1.25 is scheduled to change to \$1 per line on July 1, 2018.

"If and when the time comes to address that issue, it would be at the discretion of the Legislature or the governor," she said.

Labor Department Wants More Data On Workers

BY BOB MERCER
 State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A few years from now, employers in South Dakota might have to provide more data about their employees to the state Unemployment Insurance Division.

Current state rules require the employee's name, Social Security number and amount of income on the quarterly report.

State Department of Labor and Regulation leaders want to add the work-site location, hours worked, hourly wage and the occupation code and title.

Deputy secretary Marcia Hultman outlined the project Tuesday to members of the state's Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council.

She said preparations are under way to seek a cost estimate for converting



Roberts

the state's computer-based record-keeping system. The project is in discussion by a team of state government officials.

"Right now what we're doing is very exploratory," Hultman said.

Secretary Pam Roberts, who retires next month, said there wouldn't be legislation introduced "until probably 2015."

Roberts acknowledged there will be costs to businesses in making the conversion and she doesn't want it perceived as a government mandate.

"It's a big change," Roberts said.

Hultman and Roberts said the department receives requests for data that currently isn't available. Two laws

passed by the Legislature this year regarding state licensing boards and technical-institute graduates are examples of the demand for more information about South Dakota's workforce.

South Dakota Retailers Association executive director Shawn Lyons said he'd like to be involved in the planning process. He serves on the advisory council.

"I would hate to see it any more onerous," Lyons said.

Another council member, Carol Hinderaker of Watertown, said she knows from her experience as a human resources manager how complex payroll can be for a private business.

She said overtime and paid time-off will complicate the income reporting.

"It'll be a challenge — a challenge worth the results," Hinderaker said.

Shop

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variety that we have."

In addition to clothing, the shop also features items such as tables, chairs, love seats, lamps, blankets, books, pictures, toys, appliances and stuffed animals.

Pavlik said that furniture has been the most popular product, especially when parents needed to furnish their children's apartments and dorm rooms when it was time for them to return to school.

"Anything we've gotten in, it's gone right out," she said.

Even with the abundant sales, the store is receiving so many donations that space has become an issue, Pavlik said. To help make room for newer items, others are constantly pulled from the

shelves and donated to places such as the Orphan Grain Train and the Salvation Army, she said.

"Anything usable or sellable we sell, and if we can't sell it, we recycle it," Pavlik said.

About 15 people volunteer at the store, with a six-member committee deciding where to send the proceeds. Likely recipients will include schools, 4-H clubs, city projects, the town's swimming pool and other local benefits and fundraisers.

"We fulfill a lot of needs here. We donate everything, except for our operating expenses, back to the community," Pavlik said. "We just gave \$500 to the Verdigre Fire Department and a \$500 check to the rescue unit, and that's after only being open for two months."

In addition to providing funds and shopping variety to

the community, Pavlik said another benefit of the new store is the activity it has added to a spot that has been dormant for quite some time. She said that both Verdigre residents and visitors from out of town have brought more energy to the downtown area.

"This space we have has been empty for about 10 years," she said. "It's nice to have some life in it."

Pavlik said she first got the idea for the thrift store long ago from her friend, Fr. James Kramper, a pastor at St. Peter de Alcantara Parish in Ewing, Neb. Kramper has inspired two similar stores in Nebraska.

"He always said that every small town should have a thrift store," Pavlik said. "We pondered it for several years, but finally got connected with the right people to make it happen."

The three co-founders began looking for the right place to house the store last year when Gompert came across a "for sale" sign at the vacant building.

After some renovations, all that was needed was a name, which was born out of a brainstorming session among volunteers, Pavlik said.

"We thought carousel was a perfect fit," she said. "Because that's what we're here for — to make things go round and round so people can use them."

The three then opened the store's doors, and it's been a big hit ever since, Pavlik said.

"It's pretty amazing," she said. "It's been hard to comprehend it even as I sit there and watch it happen."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Neb. Nuclear Plant Closer To Restarting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Regulators say the idle Fort Calhoun nuclear plant is making good progress toward restarting for the first time in more than two years, but some significant issues remain unresolved.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission plans to provide an update on Fort Calhoun at a public meeting Tuesday night. The nuclear plant sits across from Iowa on the Missouri River about 20 miles north of Omaha.

Fort Calhoun initially shut down for routine maintenance, but significant flooding in 2011, a small fire and a series of safety violations forced it to remain closed.

The NRC says Fort Calhoun has resolved about 70 percent of the items that must be dealt with before the plant will be allowed to restart. And about 25 percent of the items are being reviewed.

Neb. Man Nabbed After Crime Spree

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a 31-year-old Nebraska man spent three days robbing homes, stealing cars and causing havoc before they found him hiding in an Iowa cornfield.

Michael A. Beard's odyssey began Thursday in Lincoln, where he lives, and ended with his arrest Saturday in a field just across the state border in Iowa, Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner said.

Authorities said Beard's crime spree took him through at least five counties, and they hadn't determined yet which jurisdiction would get him first, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported. Online court records didn't indicate whether Beard had been charged yet or whether he had an attorney.

Beard's crime spree began early Thursday when he stole a car in Lincoln, authorities said. The vehicle was found hours later inside a burning garage that caused an estimated \$20,000 in damages.

The car's owner told police that Beard may have been involved in the incident, and authorities quickly made him a suspect.

Authorities spent the next few days playing catch-up as they tracked reports of burglarized homes and stolen cars that were linked to Beard. In one case, one stolen van was found abandoned with an empty Bud Light can inside. Stolen jewelry and property was valued at more than \$40,000.

Beard was spotted Friday afternoon near Modale, Iowa, a small western town by the Nebraska state line. Witnesses told police that Beard was trying to steal another car.

The car's owner and others confronted Beard, who ran into a cornfield. Law enforcement caught him early Saturday and arrested him.

Wagner credited citizens' involvement in helping to catch Beard.

Vilsack Backs S.D. In DM&E Issue

PIERRE (AP) — The U.S. Agriculture Secretary is backing the state of South Dakota in its effort to make sure the old Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad keeps operating west of Tracy, Minn.

Secretary Thomas Vilsack sent a letter to the Surface Transportation Board urging the panel to support the state's petition regarding the Canadian Pacific Railway and the former DM&E.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard filed a petition in August with the STB to determine if the CP lived up to the representations it made while seeking to acquire the DM&E.

Daugaard met with Vilsack Sept. 12 to discuss the potential loss of the only east-to-west rail in South Dakota and the impact it would have on agriculture.

Vilsack told the STB that a full accounting of CP's promised investment is reasonable.

S.D. Student Arrested In Gun Incident

RAPID CITY (AP) — A teenager is in custody for allegedly bringing a BB gun that resembled a handgun onto school property in Rapid City.

Police say Rapid City High School was put on lockdown about midday Monday when the 18-year-old male was seen with the gun in the school's parking lot.

Officers tracked him down a few minutes later and arrested him on misdemeanor charges of possessing a weapon on school grounds and disturbing a school. They say he had the gun tucked in his waistband.

Authorities say the teen is a student at Central High School, and they're still investigating why he was at Rapid City High.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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ROCKET SCIENTISTS!

Rockets Big and Small

Whether it's a small model rocket or a giant rocket to Mars, the science behind how rockets work is the same.

A rocket needs a **propellant** — fuel to push it up into the air. NASA rockets use fuels such as liquid hydrogen. But to launch a soda bottle rocket, air pressure does the trick!

Standards Link: Physical Science: Students know when force is applied to an object, it will speed up or change direction.

Photo courtesy of Waverne Elementary School, Spornon, Calif.

How to Make a Bottle Rocket

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

A clean, empty 2 liter soda bottle

A cork or stopper that fits the bottle

A bicycle pump

A bucket

1. Use the toothpick to make a small hole in the cork, just large enough for the inflation needle to fit through.
2. Fill about 1/3 of the bottle with water. Insert the cork firmly into the mouth of the bottle.
3. Insert the inflation needle through the cork. Place bottle in bucket facing away from you.
4. Start pumping air rapidly into the bottle. Countdown to lift off has begun!
5. The air wants to escape from the bottle and it pushes the water against the stopper. The rocket will take off when the stopper can no longer withstand the pressure in the bottle.

Standards Link: Science Inquiry: Conduct simple experiments.

Scientist's Journal

QUESTION: Does adding more water affect the rocket?

HYPOTHESIS: Your thoughtful guess about what you think might happen.

OBSERVATION: Describe what happened when you added more water to your bottle rocket.

CONCLUSION: Was your hypothesis correct?

Standards Link: Science Inquiry: Conduct simple experiments.

Extra! Extra!

Onomatopoeia

Words like *buzz* and *boom* sound like the noise they describe. These words are **onomatopoeias**. Can you find others in today's newspaper?

Standards Link: Phonemic Awareness: Distinguish initial sounds in words.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

To safely land this rocket on the planet's surface, find the correct path. The correct path is the one that increases by **three** each step of the way.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Solve problems with addition.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

DEFINITION	PLASTIC
PRESSURE	ROCKETS
BOTTLE	BUCKET
LAUNCH	GIANT
FUELS	SMALL
MODEL	HIGH
MARS	SODA
PUMP	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing: Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

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Rocket Words

Search through the newspaper and circle words that start with the letter "r," like rocket. Then sort the words into columns by the number of syllables.

Standards Link: Spelling: Students identify syllables correctly.

Write On!

Storm Water Journey

Send your story to:
 Press & Dakotan
 C/o Noelle Schlechter
 319 Walnut Street
 Yankton, SD 57078
 605-665-7811, ext 112

Where do you think storm water goes when it disappears down a drain?

Deadline: October 20 **Published:** Week of Nov. 17
 Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Ticket To Space

Tell about your adventures riding into space on a rocket.

Arriona travelled into space headed for the International Space Station. She is trying to give us an estimate of how big around the planet of Pluto is. You might be wondering how she got on the ISS. We launched her up in a rocket.

Arriona, 5th grade

What a life! I'm a 10-year-old girl and I get to travel in a rocket. The only thing that is disgusting is the food—Yuck! I got here because my parents volunteered to help out. It is a little dry outside and there's barely any water. That's bad for me because I love water. But where I used to live was way less exciting than where I am now!

Gabriela, 5th grade

I'm thousands of miles away from the Earth. In space you have to be tethered to the spaceship so you don't float off. I'm here to see if there are any life forms on Mars. Life in space isn't very exciting. There are no kitchens. There is no gravity in space so you can jump super high.

John, 5th grade

After an exciting launch, I'm flying in a rocket in space. We can see Earth, Jupiter, Mars, stars, and then a fleet of unrecognizable ships and suspicious-looking debris field. We didn't think much about it until something scrapped the bottom of the rocket and we saw a flash in the distance!

Elizabeth, 5th grade