

Governor outlines state budget proposal

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proposed a balanced Fiscal Year 2013 budget that provides more money for education, medical services for the poor and state employees.

Due to the national recession and declining state revenues last year, it was necessary to make significant cuts in funds for schools and Medicaid providers in order to balance the budget without raising taxes or raiding reserve funds. That re-setting of the state budget, along with improved revenues this year, will allow modestly increased spending next year.

"By being frugal, we have successfully achieved a new normal and can more optimistically plan for the future," Gov. Daugaard said. "Belt-tightening is never easy, and I again thank the Legislature for adopting a Fiscal Year 2012 budget that set the stage for a brighter future as the economy improves."

Gov. Daugaard outlined his

new budget proposal today in an address to the South Dakota Legislature. The measure balances the next budget for essential state services without increasing taxes.

"This year, we can consider proposals about new growth and new ideas. Still, even as we have begun to recover, it is crucial that we remain true to maintaining a structurally-balanced budget based on conservative revenue estimates," the Governor said. "If we don't, we risk a return to an era of ongoing expenses exceeding ongoing revenues."

Among highlights of the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget, which begins July 1, 2012, and ends June 30, 2013:

- K-12 education would receive a 2.3 percent ongoing increase, coupled with an extra \$12 million one-time investment

- Medicaid providers would receive a 1.8 percent ongoing increase, coupled with an extra

\$9 million in one-time funds

- All permanent state employees would receive a 5 percent one-time payment this fiscal year and an ongoing 3 percent increase in the next fiscal year

- \$20.2 million in reserve funds would be used to pay for the historic Missouri River flooding this past spring and summer, and the looming threat of devastation by pine beetles in the Black Hills

Gov. Daugaard's FY2013 budget proposal, totaling \$4.047 billion, would use general tax revenues of \$1.243 billion, \$1.770 billion in federal funds, and \$1.033 billion of other state revenue sources.

"My proposed budget heeds the principles I put forth last year: Ongoing revenue pays for ongoing expenses, one-time funds pay for one-time expenses, and reserve funds are used only for emergencies," the Governor said.

Democrats: New budget doesn't heal over-reaction of past of nine months

Democratic leaders said they'll work in the 2012 legislature to develop a long-range plan for school funding.

"The governor's proposed budget sounds OK if your memory only goes back the last nine months," said Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, the House Minority Leader. "But anyone who knows the history of the last decade understands that we've dug a very deep hole for our schools, and the proposed increases don't even begin to fill the needs."

Hunhoff said last year's budget was an extreme over-reaction to the state's funding issues. "It was a Tea Party response to a South Dakota problem that is very different than the rest of the country," he explained. "We haven't had the horrible downturns of most other states. We don't have a housing crisis or bank failures, or even high unemployment today. Last year's budget created more problems than it solved. While the 2013 proposal stops the bleeding -- it doesn't really begin the healing."

Hunhoff said continued under-funding by the

legislature will force school districts to raise property taxes. "Home-owners, farmers and businesses already pay high property taxes, so I don't see that as a viable option," he said. "Another option is a decrease in the quality of education, and hopefully we don't have any advocates for that path."

Sen. Jason Frerichs, the Senate Minority Leader, said Democrats can find common ground with many of the governor's budget proposals -- especially the effort to help state workers. "We have folks doing really tough jobs -- guarding prisoners, driving snow plows -- who haven't had a cost of living increase in three years. This is long overdue, and I'm glad it won't be a partisan fight."

Frerichs said efforts to train teachers and administrators on the Common Core Standards, which are replacing the failed No Child Left Behind efforts, are also important. And he said one-time expenditures to cover flooding costs and the pine beetle infestations are also important.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL



Peyton Larson, Kerri Kwilinski and Nicole Hauck admire one of several brightly decorated Christmas trees at the annual Holiday Festival held from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion. The day featured a variety of vendors, a bake sale, entertainment and a visit from Santa.

(Photo by David Lias)

Hanson is Sanford Vermillion PRIDE Employee of the Month

Jenny Hanson, Health Information Clerk, Sanford Hospital Vermillion was selected as the Sanford Vermillion November 2011 PRIDE Employee of the Month. She has been employed here since August 2010.

The nomination for Hanson included these comments:

"Jenny does a very good job in her role. I am nominating her because of her help in the Emergency Room. She is quick to get patients registered. She helps them with ice packs, water, blankets, etc. She enters orders so cares can be completed quickly. She calls the needed staff (provider, laboratory, radiology) without being asked. When the patients are discharged she gets to the room to clean it before I have a chance. Her assistance really saves time and greatly improves patient care and satisfaction. Thanks Jenny for all of your help!"

"Jenny is truly an asset to Sanford Vermillion Hospital. She demonstrates all the quality attributes we expect from our employees," said



Heidi Waters, RN, case manager presents a certificate to Jenny Hanson, November PRIDE Employee of the Month, Sanford Vermillion.

Jeff Berens, chief nursing officer, Sanford Medical Center Vermillion.

Jenny (Huether) is a native of Volin. She and her husband Mike reside in rural Meckling.

Jenny is a student at the University of South Dakota with the goal of becoming a physical therapist.

Finance officer receives award for excellence in financial reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the city of Vermillion by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual, department, or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the

award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to Michael D. Carlson, finance officer.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC.

This year marks the sixteenth year Carlson has received this certificate of achievement.

Prepare for holidays with flu vaccination

Holiday travel for family gatherings and intense shopping can mean increased influenza activity so now is a good time to get vaccinated, says a state health official.

"We've had just five lab confirmed cases of influenza so far this season but we know virus activity often picks up as people travel for the holidays," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the South Dakota Department of Health. "Getting vaccinated now can help protect you and your loved ones from the flu."

During the 2010-2011 flu season, South Dakota reported 22 influenza-associated deaths, four of whom were children.

While yearly flu vaccination is recommended for everyone, it is particularly important for those at higher risk of complications -- very young children, pregnant women, people over 50 years and people with chronic medical conditions. Health-care workers and household

contacts of high risk populations, especially those with young infants in the household, should also be vaccinated.

People can check with their medical provider, retail pharmacy, or department Community Health Services offices for the vaccine. The vaccine is available free from the state for kids from age 6 months through 18 years. Some schools are offering school-based flu clinics or parents can check with their usual provider. While the vaccine is free, some providers may charge an administration fee.

South Dakotans can also prevent the spread of the flu with these tips:

- Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand gel;
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze;
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Stay home if you're sick.

Hubert Gregoire

Hubert W. "Hube" Gregoire, 72, of Yankton, formerly of Wakonda, died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 at the Sister James Care Center in Yankton from complications of Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Hube was born in Vermillion, to Raul and Blanche (Seney) Gregoire. He attended Lodi Country School and graduated from Wakonda High School in 1957. He attended the University of South Dakota for one year and then enlisted in the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War.

He was united in marriage to Lois Christenson on Aug. 19, 1966, in Vermillion. He spent the majority of his life farming with his brother and best friend Dick. In recent years he became an avid John Deere collector, collecting antique tractors, scale model tractors and building custom John Deere toys. He enjoyed drawing, traveling and spending time with family and friends. He was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, the Wakonda American Legion, the Vermillion Eagles Club and a

Glen Bensen

Glen Nels Bensen, 82, of Chandler Heights, AZ, passed away on Nov. 12, 2011. Glen Nels Bensen was born in Vermillion. A Navy veteran of the Korean War; he retired from Motorola after 20 years. He loved golfing, horses, boating, baseball and family. He was a great and loving man who will be deeply missed.

Survived by his wife, Faye;

longtime Pleasant Valley

Township board member.

Grateful for sharing his life are his wife, Lois, of Yankton; three children, Kim (Rob) Paterick of Cumming, GA, Kristel

(Pat) Kleinschmit of Peoria, AZ and Kary (Becky) Gregoire of Yankton; two brothers, Bob (Judy) Gregoire of Vermillion and Dick (Louise) Gregoire of Wakonda; two granddaughters, Savannah and Alicia; and five grandsons, Blake, Nick, Kyler, Mason and Jake.

Funeral mass was 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion with burial following in the Calvary Cemetery in Vermillion. Visitation was Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. all at the church. hansenfuneralhome.com.

Edmund Hodgen

Gloucester, Massachusetts: Edmund "Ted" Hodgen, 91, died Wednesday evening, Nov. 30, 2011 following an extended illness. He was the husband of Carolyn L. (Parsons) Hodgen.

Born in Greenfield, MA on November 8, 1920 and was the son of the late Robert J. and Anne T. (Welsh) Hodgen. He was a graduate of the Gloucester High School class of 1939 and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture class of 1941.

Following graduation, he was employed by his brother Robert J. Hodgen, Jr., who had established a landscape business on Great Neck, Long Island, NY.

A World War II veteran, Ted enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in July of 1942. He trained in Arkansas and attended radio school at Scott Field, IL. Later transferring to Signal Headquarters 26 Flight Command 6th Air Force, he served as a Radio and Radar operator in the Panama Canal Zone. Ted was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant in January of 1946.

Ted was employed as caretaker of a private estate in Newton, MA for 40 years, from 1946 until his retirement and return to Gloucester in 1986.

He served as Chaplain of the Edward Peterson Post #98, American Legion of Rockport, was a 32nd degree Mason and member of the Tyrian-Ashler-Acacia Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Gloucester and the Aleppo Temple Shrine, Boston, MA.

In addition to his wife of 68 years, he is survived by his daughter, Doris Hodgen of Vermillion; his son, Ted Hodgen, Jr. of Shutesbury, MA; and his companion, Kate Hayden; his granddaughter, Gillian Hodgen, and her husband, Erik Paulsen; and many nieces and nephews. He was also predeceased by seven brothers, Isaac, George, Joseph, Alden, Woodrow, Robert and John Hodgen, and one sister, Anne Jane Hodgen.

His funeral service will be held on Monday, Dec. 12 in the Pike-Grondin Funeral home, 61 middle Street, Gloucester, MA at one p.m. Relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend. There are no visiting hours. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to the Shiners Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114. Interment will be held privately in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

OBITUARIES

www.plaintalk.net

FARMLAND FOR SALE Elk Point, South Dakota

308 total dry land acres, approximately 294 tillable acres located in Township Ninety (90) North, Union County, South Dakota. Property is approximately 15 minutes North of Sioux City, Iowa on I-29 along the Big Sioux River.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REQUEST A BID PACKAGE contact Doug Brown at 402-431-5265 or Dave Wilwerding at 402-498-2224.

Bidding will close December 16, 2011.

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