

Daugaard urges flood, tornado victims to contact SBA

An open letter to U.S. Postmaster Donahoe

By David Bordewyk

PIERRE – Gov. Dennis Daugaard is urging South Dakotans whose homes or businesses suffered tornado or flood damage to take advantage of low-interest disaster loans available from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Daugaard requested SBA assistance on Friday, July 11. SBA issued a disaster declaration late Monday for South Dakota homes and businesses impacted by storms, flooding and tornadoes during the period June 13-20.

“This is very good news for our citizens and businesses,” the governor said. “The availability of low-interest loans is an important step toward recovery from the flooding and tornadoes. I very much appreciate the quick response from SBA to my request for this disaster declaration.”

The disaster declaration makes SBA low-interest loans available in the primary counties of Jerauld and Lincoln, as well as the neighboring, or contiguous, counties of Buffalo, Hand, Beadle, Sanborn, Aurora, Brule, Minnehaha, Turner, Clay and Union counties.

Residents impacted by the tornadoes or flooding may visit SBA outreach centers in:

Jerauld County: Jerauld County Ag Building, 604 2nd St. NE, Wessington Springs. Opens Wednesday, July 16, at noon and then is in operation Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center closes on Thursday, July 31 at 1 p.m.

Lincoln County: Canton High School, 800 N. Main St., Canton. Opens Wednesday, July 16, at 9 a.m., and then is in operation Wednesdays and Thursdays from

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center closes on Thursday, July 31, at 6 p.m.

Union County: Elk Point City Hall, 106 W. Pleasant St., Elk Point. Opens Monday, July 21 at 9 a.m. and then is in operation Mondays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center closes on Tuesday, July 29, at 4 p.m.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate.

Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets, according to SBA.

While the SBA assistance is available to homeowners and businesses impacted by the storms, teams of teams of state, federal and local representatives are in the preliminary damage assessment stage to determine the impact of the series of storms on public infrastructure.

The teams began a preliminary damage assessment of 12 counties and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation today (Monday). Damages documented during the assessments will be provided to the Governor to support a possible request to FEMA for the Public Assistance Program to provide federal funding for eligible damages to roads, bridges, culverts and other public infrastructure.

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

I do hope this letter arrives at your office in reasonable time.

Sarcasm aside, there was a time when I put a First Class stamp on a letter and mailed it, I had confidence, depending on its destination, it would get there overnight or within two or three days. There was a time when newspaper publishers could expect their latest edition would reach mail subscribers in a reasonable time frame as well.

Today, that confidence doesn't exist.

And your latest plan to close more than 80 mail processing plants around the country – including the Dakota Central facility in Huron – will erase any shreds of remaining confidence.

You have a difficult job. Mail trends have not been kind to your business the past several years, thanks in large part to the Internet and 9-11. First Class mail – still the biggest generator of revenue for you – has dropped more than 35 percent the last dozen years or so.

So how do you clear a path for the survival of the Postal Service in the face of some mighty strong headwinds? Obviously, you need to reduce expenditures and tighten the belt to fit new realities.

But I believe your latest plan goes too far. From the 30,000-foot view at USPS headquarters, your latest plant consolidation plan may look good on the spreadsheet. But looking at it from here on Main Street and the mailbox-dotted gravel roads of South Dakota, it's a clunker.

The newspaper publishers of South Dakota who belong to the

trade association I work for, know it's a clunker as well. They have been fighting desperately now for several years to find ways to get their newspapers delivered to customers in a timely manner. Fighting desperately despite the roadblocks and hurdles put up by your organization.

Closing more mail processing plants will only contribute to the sclerosis of the mail network in this country. Your plan doesn't save the Postal Service; it just makes things worse.

The degradation and decline don't happen all it once, but they happen. Newspaper subscribers become frustrated they can't get their hometown paper delivered to them in a reasonable time, so they stop paying for it when the subscription comes due. Advertisers become frustrated when their promotions and marketing specials can't reach the marketplace soon enough.

But it is not just newspapers. It is all businesses that rely on the mail for delivery of invoices, checks, correspondence and so much more. It's people who live so far from town that they must rely on the mail for delivery of their medical prescriptions. It's the delivery of farm parts and legal documents. The list goes on.

Mail service always has been and remains a vital part of the infrastructure serving rural America. For that matter, our entire country. Good, reliable mail service supports a strong economy and a connected, engaged society.

Let's not degrade and destroy that network. Instead, we should be working to protect and provide for a strong, reliable

mail service that serves all of our country.

If you won't do it (and your latest plant consolidation announcement suggests you won't), then we call on Congress to step in and put a halt to it. Congress should freeze any further plant consolidations and closings until it can agree upon meaningful reform legislation for the Postal Service.

Postal reform legislation has been percolating in Congress for some time now. Congress needs to act.

Congress needs to remove the onerous, overly aggressive provisions that require the Postal Service to greatly accelerate set-asides for postal retirees' health benefits. Doing so would help the Postal Service's balance sheet and remove some of the pressures that lead to policies and actions that have hurt, not helped, your organization.

Postal reform legislation is not a headlines-grabbing, popularity-poll issue that Congress rallies around. Nevertheless, Congress needs to act now, before your organization, Mr. Postmaster General, regresses into a shell of its former self from which it cannot recover.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David Bordewyk, General Manager, South Dakota Newspaper Association

South Dakota Newspaper Association represents the state's weekly and daily newspapers with a total readership of more than 600,000 people.

VERMILLION POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

07/07/14 10:29 – Caller reported a missing license plate. There is no suspect information.

07/07/14 17:40 – Caller reported a possible violation of a court protection order. Investigation revealed no violation had occurred.

07/07/14 18:27 – A caller reported a vehicle being driven by a drunk driver. Officers checked the area of the report but did not find the suspect vehicle.

07/08/14 14:18 – Complainant reported a neighbor of one of their rental properties had dumped garbage into the dumpster paid for by the complainant. Officers spoke to the neighbor, who admitted to dumping a small amount of garbage on one occasion and agreed not to do so in the future.

07/08/14 15:40 – Complainant requested an officer contact a woman in their business and advise them not to trespass on the premises. Officers contacted the woman in question and insured she understood she would be arrested if she returned to the premises.

07/08/14 22:08 – Officers responded to a deer vs. automobile injury accident. Both the driver and passenger were transported to the hospital for treatment. The driver was later charged with DWI and Careless Driving.

07/09/14 16:51 – Caller reported seeing a man apparently hitting someone or something in the back of a car. Officers located the vehicle. There was no sign of criminal activity.

07/10/14 12:18 – An officer stopped a vehicle for speeding. A 9-year-old passenger was not wearing a seat belt and the driver was cited.

07/10/14 15:04 – Officers attempted to locate a person of interest for an agency in another state.

07/10/14 16:50 – Caller reported a tree fell on his truck and trailer. Officers responded and documented the event.

07/11/14 08:01 – Officers found a cell phone and are attempting to locate the owner.

07/11/14 08:36 – Complainant was the driver of a bus between Sioux City and Sioux Falls that had stopped in Vermillion. Complainant wanted a man removed from the bus because he refused to follow the driver's directions. Officers mediated the dispute and driver consented to allow the man to complete his trip if he obeyed instructions, which the man agreed to do rather than being left in Vermillion.

07/11/14 23:30 – Officers responded to a domestic between the caller and her adult brother. Investigation revealed the brother had assaulted the caller and he was arrested for domestic violence assault. He attempted (unsuccessfully) to kick out the window on the patrol car while en

route to the jail.

07/12/14 01:18 – Caller reported she believed an ex-boyfriend was outside her apartment tampering with her vehicle. Officers responded and found the man in question in the area. He had a warrant for his arrest out of Union County and investigation revealed he had been tampering with the caller's vehicle. He was charged and arrested.

07/12/14 01:48 – Officers responded to a man who was making paranoid statements which were clearly not true and veiled threats to harm himself. Officers determined he was a danger to himself and took him into protective custody for a mental evaluation.

07/12/14 16:23 – FRAUD ALERT – Caller reported receiving a call from someone claiming to

be with Microsoft and claiming their personal computer was sending error messages. The caller had a Mac and when she told the Microsoft faker that they hung up. In this fraud the caller will eventually offer to fix the problem for a nominal fee that can be paid by credit card. This is a fraud, beware.

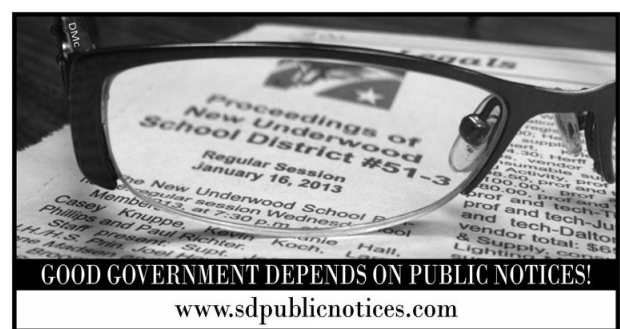
07/12/14 23:21 – Officers assisted the

Yankton Drug Court with doing a curfew check. The subject was late returning to the residences, and the information was forwarded to the Yankton Drug Court.

07/12/14 23:51 – A delivery driver called and complained that a customer had made sexually inappropriate comments while ordering food and when she arrived answered the door with no shirt on and the lower half

of his body behind the door, she believed he was naked. Investigation resulted in locating the man who had ordered the pizza. The man who had answered the door was not present and according to statements had been wearing shorts. The man who ordered the pizza was underage and had been drinking. He was cited.

Total Records: 18



Join us for an AARP Fraud Watch Network Event:

Monday, July 21 – 4:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Express
1200 N. Dakota Street
Vermillion, SD
Refreshments provided.

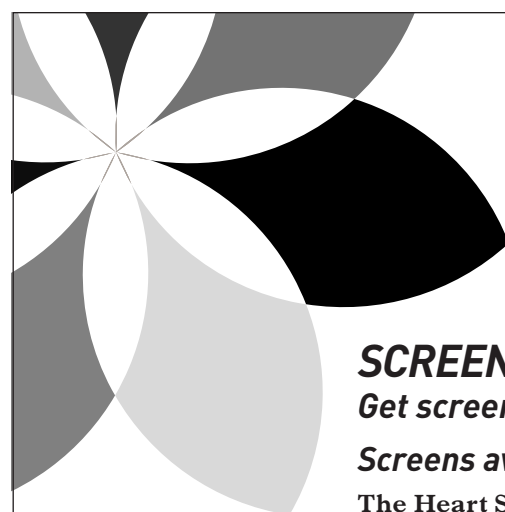
Registration required.

Call **1-877-926-8300** or go online at aarp.org/sd.

aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork



Watchdog Alerts
Tips & Resources
Free for Everyone



SCREENING SAVES LIVES Get screened at Sanford Vermillion

Screens available:

The Heart Screen™: For ages 40-75.

Vascular Screen: For those 40 or older. Type 1 diabetics should be screened at age 30 or older.

Lung Cancer Screen: For ages 50-74, former and current smokers. You must call to pre-qualify for the screen.

Heart of a Champion Screen: Screen evaluates the heart health of children ages 12-17.

July 28, 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
July 29, 8 am. – 5 p.m.

Heart of a Champion Screen available from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on July 28 only

Cost:

Heart Screen™, Vascular Screen and Heart of a Champion: \$50 each

Lung Cancer Screen: \$99 each

Special pricing available for booking multiple screens. Call for details.

Location:

Sanford Vermillion, 20 S. Plum St., Vermillion, SD

For more information call **(888) 996-4673**.

SANFORD
HEALTH