



HE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A COWBOY C1



AERIAL ASSAULT
Governors take flight to 4-0 start B1

Native American Telecom's lawyer pleads guilty

By **BOB MERCER**
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

An Avon lawyer pleaded guilty Thursday to a violation of South Dakota's campaign-finance laws. Scott Swier, 41, was ordered to return \$6,500 of the money that he received from Free Conferencing Corp. in his role as treasurer for the South Dakota Telecommunications political action committee. Swier was accused of failing to file or amend a statement of organization for a political action committee, a Class 2 misdemeanor. He entered the plea in Hughes County before Magistrate

Judge Leo Disburg, who suspended the \$54 fine and \$66 of court costs provided that Swier returns the money. Swier formerly was a lawyer for the South Dakota attorney general's office. His last day there was Oct. 15, 2009. He is now in private practice. Swier's violation came to light this year as the result of an investigation of campaign finances involving Swier and a client, Native American Telecom, which was connected directly to Free Conferencing Corp. The Long Beach, Calif.-based company was the only donor in 2012 to South Dakota Telecommunications PAC, for

which Swier was chairman and treasurer. The company sent \$16,500 to the Swier-run PAC. That was \$6,500 more than the \$10,000 limit for a PAC to receive from any one source under South Dakota law. The Swier-operated PAC then made \$8,250 in donations during the first half of 2012 to 18 candidates for election to the Legislature. Those contributions included \$1,000 apiece to then-Senate Republican leader Russ Olson of Wentworth; Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, who is the Senate president pro tem; and Sen. Dan Lederman, R-Dakota Dunes, who recently

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was chosen by his caucus as the Senate Republican assistant leader. Swier reported those financial matters on a June 20, 2012, report filed with the secretary of state. On Oct. 23, 2012, he filed a statement of organization for the PAC. Normally this is the first step and should have been done months earlier when the money was accepted from Free Conferencing. Swier also filed on Oct. 23, 2012, a pre-general election

See **AVON**, A11

NEW TOOLS IN THE KIT

South Dakotans can help support and test new Alzheimer's strategies

By **LANCE NIXON**
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South Dakotans can help provide the two things needed to change the trajectory of Alzheimer's disease – money for medical research, and people to participate in clinical trials. Jane Aspaas, state executive director for the South Dakota chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, said those are the pressing needs in the fight against Alzheimer's. "We are very excited about the research being done right here in South Dakota," Aspaas said. In addition to university research, Aspaas said, some Alzheimer's research is being done through the Avera Research Institute in Sioux Falls, which is signing up patients for a new clinical trial. Principal investigator Dr. William Fuller explained that people who have Alzheimer's disease have accumulations of amyloid proteins in the brain. "The enzymes in the brain cannot remove the amyloid protein because of

Alzheimer's disease: The emerging health crisis
Last in a four-part series



Assistant professor of pharmacy Hemachand Tummala, standing, is shown in his lab at South Dakota State University with doctoral student Sunny Kumar. Tummala's research includes investigations into whether curcumin, the active component of an Indian curry spice called turmeric, can be used to battle Alzheimer's disease. (Courtesy of SDSU)

See **ALZHEIMER'S**, A12



A backhoe, operated by Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill, tears into the front doors of the old airport terminal Thursday to begin the building's demolition. (David Rookhuyzen/Capital Journal)

Mayor kicks off demolition of old airport terminal

By **DAVID ROOKHUYZEN**
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Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill didn't get to cause the type of destruction she wanted, but at least she got to break a little glass. Gill, flanked by city officials and workers from Morris Inc., officially kicked off the demolition of the old terminal for the Pierre Regional Airport on Thursday by ramming in its doors with the business end of a backhoe. The terminal, constructed in 1958, was used until the new terminal was finished last September. Part of the requirements for a Federal Aviation Administration grant to build the new terminal was that the old building had to be demolished. Planning for the project began almost immediately after the new terminal was completed, with a firm hired in

See **AIRPORT**, A12

Health law online sign-up delayed for small firms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Administration officials are quietly telling key interest groups to expect initial glitches signing up online for coverage under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. Two sources tell The Associated Press that small businesses will not be able to enroll online starting Oct. 1 when new health insurance markets go live. Instead, one of the sources, a person who was briefed on the situation, said business owners will

initially have to mail or fax their information so that they can enroll. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because an official announcement hasn't yet been made. Separately, the administration told Hispanic groups that the Spanish-language version of its healthcare.gov website will not be ready to handle enrollments for a few weeks. An estimated 10 million Latinos are eligible for coverage.

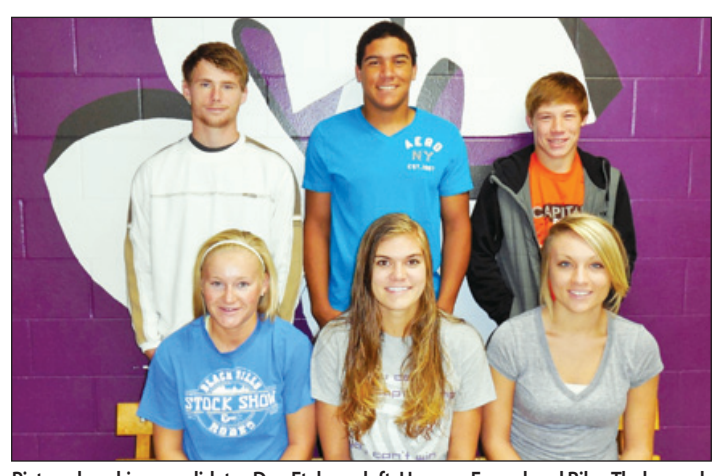
For more coverage, see today's Opinion page

Bufs celebrate homecoming next week

By **ALLISON JARRELL**
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This year's theme for Stanley County's homecoming week is "Stanley County Bufs Make Big Moves." The 2013 parade theme is board games. Homecoming week begins

See **BUFFS**, A11



Pictured are king candidates Dan Etzkorn, left, Herman Fennel and Riley Thelen and queen candidates Bailey Tibbs, left, Hailey Norman and Jenny Ganske. (Courtesy photo)



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