

C O M M U N I T Y
CALENDAR

The **COMMUNITY CALENDAR** appears each Monday and Thursday. Contributions to this list of upcoming events are welcome and should be submitted two weeks before the event. Submissions **MUST** be typewritten or legibly printed and include the name and phone number of a contact person. Send items to P&D Calendar, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, or email to news@yankton.net.

MONDAY

Line Dancing, 9:30 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Quilting, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Cardio Exercise, 11 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Daily Reprieve, noon, open meeting non-smoking, 1019 W 9th St.
Interchange, noon, open meeting, Minerva's Bar and Grill, 605-660-8849.
Cribbage, 1 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Pinochle, 1 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Whist, 1 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
River City Harmony Sweet Adelines, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 11th and Cedar, 605-661-7162
Divorce Care, 7 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church
Divorce Care For Kids, 7 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church
Daily Reprieve, 7 p.m., closed meeting non-smoking, 1019 W 9th St.

THIRD MONDAY

Yankton Golf Advisory Board Meeting, noon, Fox Run Golf Course, 600 W. 27th Street, 605-668-5205
Friends Of The Yankton Community Library, 5:15 p.m., Yankton Library, 515 Walnut
Yankton Lions Club, 6 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. meeting, JoDeans, 605-665-4694.
Yankton American Legion Auxiliary, 7:30 p.m., VFW Building, 209 Cedar Street

FOURTH MONDAY

NARFE Chapter 1053, 10 a.m. at The Center, located at 900 Whiting Drive.

TUESDAY

Table Tennis, 8:30 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Yankton Community Forum, 8:30 a.m. coffee, 9 a.m. meeting at Hillcrest, 605-664-5832
Ladies Pool, 10 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Weight Watchers, 10:30 a.m., 413 W. 15th Street. Weigh in 1/2 hour before.
Yankton Alanon, noon, non-smoking session, 1019 W 9th Street
Nurse, 12:30-3:30 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Open Cards, 12:45 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Bingo, 7-9 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Open Billiards, 7-9 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Yankton Alcoholics Anonymous STEP Sessions, 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., 1019 W. 9th St.
Vermillion Unity Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., closed session, Trinity Lutheran Church at 816 E Clark St. Vermillion.
Vermillion Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., non-smoking closed session, 16 1/2 Court St. Vermillion

THIRD TUESDAY

Yankton Area Banquet, 6 p.m., United Church of Christ, Fifth and Walnut

WEDNESDAY

Line Dancing, 9:30 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Quilting, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Nurse, 10 a.m.-noon, The Center, 605-665-4685
Cardio Exercise, 11 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Daily Reprieve, noon, non-smoking open session, 1019 W. 9th St.
Whist, 1 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Yankton Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., non-smoking session, 1019 W. 9th St.
Springfield Footprints, 7:30 p.m., non-smoking open session, Catholic church, Springfield

THIRD WEDNESDAY

Partnership Bridge, 1 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685

THURSDAY

Table Tennis, 8:30 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Ladies Pool, 10 a.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Yankton Sertoma, noon, Pizza Ranch, 605-661-7159
Daily Reprieve, noon, non-smoking open meeting, 1019 W 9th street.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Toastmasters, noon, Benedictine Center; open session 605-665-6776
Pinochle, 12:45 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Dominos, 1 p.m., The Center, 605-665-4685
Weight Watchers, 4 p.m., 413 W. 15th Street. Weigh in 1/2 hour before.
Weight Watchers, 5:30 p.m., 413 W. 15th Street. Weigh in 1/2 hour before.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS #SD 45), Weigh-in 5:30-6:30 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30. RTEC building, 1200 W. 21st St. For more information call 605-665-3738 or 667-9274.
Yankton Area Banquet, 6 p.m., United Church of Christ, Fifth and Walnut
Celebrate Recovery, 7 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, Youth Room #4, 2407 Broadway, Yankton, 605-665-5594
Freeman Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., non-smoking closed meeting, City Hall, 3rd and Poplar, Freeman.
Yankton Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30 p.m., open session, 1019 W 9th St.
Yankton Alanon, 8:30 p.m., 1019 W 9th Street

THIRD THURSDAY

HSC Friendship Club, 5 p.m., April, Wiebelhaus Recreation, Crofton, Neb., 605-665-5956.
Catholic Daughters (Court Willard 967), 7:30 p.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church/Community Gathering Space, Yankton. (January through June)

MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of April 16-20. Menus are subject to change without notice. All meals are served with milk. YHS Combo Line meals are served with choice of milk or shake.

Yankton Elementary Schools

Monday — Quesidilla
 Tuesday — Chicken Littles
 Wednesday — Corndog
 Thursday — Tavern
 Friday — Sack lunch

Yankton Middle School

Monday — Steak sandwich
 Tuesday — Nachos
 Wednesday — Power Slice Pizza
 Thursday — Beef sticks
 Friday — Popcorn Chicken

Yankton High School 'A' Line

Monday — Philly Cheese Sandwich
 Tuesday — Burrito
 Wednesday — Popcorn Chicken
 Thursday — Beef Sticks
 Friday — Lasagna

Yankton High School Combo Line

Monday — French Bread Pizza
 Tuesday — Chicken Burger
 Wednesday — Bacon Cheese Burger
 Thursday — Tavern
 Friday — Chicken Fajita

Yankton High School Salad Bar

Monday — w/Chef Toppings
 Tuesday — w/Casserole

Wednesday — Baked Potato Bar
 Thursday — w/Soup
 Friday — w/Sandwich

Sacred Heart Schools

Monday — Taco in a Bag
 Tuesday — French Toast Sticks
 Wednesday — Hot Dog
 Thursday — Chicken Leg
 Friday — Chicken Noodle Soup

The Center — Yankton

Monday — Tater Tot Hot Dish
 Tuesday — Swiss Steak
 Wednesday — Swedish Meatballs
 Thursday — Pork Chop/Mushroom
 Friday — Beer-Batter Fish

Tabor Senior Citizens Center

Monday — No meal
 Tuesday — Ham
 Wednesday — Pork Cutlet
 Thursday — Chicken
 Friday — No meal

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

Neb. Turns to More Traditional Child Welfare System

LINCOLN, Neb. — Three years after Nebraska turned its child welfare cases over to nonprofit agencies, top state officials admit that the privatization effort has wasted millions of dollars and failed to significantly reduce the number of children taken from their homes.

The Nebraska Legislature passed child welfare measures this year as lawmakers acknowledge the privatization efforts has been a debacle that failed because of a lack of funding, no clear goals, and little oversight that allowed costs to soar for reasons that still aren't fully known.

The newly approved legislation marks a return to government system in all but two Omaha-area counties. The state also will hire more social workers to reduce caseloads and create a new child welfare watchdog.

Child welfare advocates and some lawmakers said Nebraska's experience offers a lesson to other states that think replacing government workers with private, nonprofit groups will result in better services to children at a cheaper cost. They said the failure in Nebraska shows that privatized case management only works when painstakingly planned and monitored to ensure the contractors are prepared to handle cases — and even then, the results are mixed and the cost can be high.

"There is no free lunch," said Charlotte McCollough, a Washington, D.C.-based consultant for Nebraska and other states that have overhauled their child welfare systems. "You get what you pay for. If you're asking for better performance, higher quality, and better outcomes for kids than what you have today — you don't get that with no extra money."

Lawmakers privatized Nebraska's system in 2009 after a series of high-profile child-welfare cases, including the 2003 death of "Little Diana," a 2-year-old Grand Island girl who was beaten to death by her father. Attention again focused on the state's child welfare system in 2007, when a 19-year-old who had aged out of the system killed eight people and wounded four others at an Omaha department store before killing himself.

Frustrated by more children entering the system and an agency they viewed as bureaucratic, agency officials under Republican Gov. Dave Heineman pushed for a privatized system.

Heineman argued that private nonprofit groups would be more adept at placing children

in permanent homes and could more efficiently meet their needs. While the organizations would help the majority of children, the state Division of Child and Family Services could focus on emergency needs, such as investigating and preventing child abuse.

Because the original plan did not seek additional state money, the department moved toward privatization without legislative approval. Agency officials finally asked lawmakers in 2010 to request cash from a state Medicaid fund to keep the operation afloat.

"The executive branch and the Department of Health and Human Services set out on this adventure by themselves," Omaha Sen. Bob Krist said. "They went from 2009 until mid-2010 before they had to show their hand."

Looking back, legislators said much of the problem appears due to the nonprofits assigned to oversee children. Although some of the groups have operated for years, many worked on a shoestring and struggled to meet the sudden demands of big caseloads and what officials now acknowledge was inadequate funding.

For example, when the Sioux City, Iowa-based Boys and Girls Home signed up to oversee 489 cases in November 2009, the organization had no credit line, inadequate liquid assets and a cash balance of only \$171,000. Bills to its subcontractors in northern, central and western Nebraska were left unpaid when the state withdrew its contract in 2010, reducing the number of foster homes, group homes and therapy providers who could provide services in the state.

Among them was Pathfinder Support Services, a Fremont-based provider that coaches parents on how to care for children and works with at-risk families to help them stay together. The organization was left with \$108,588 in unpaid claims for its services, and group president Brian Essen said he had to close several offices to keep the operation afloat.

"If we didn't have another private source that was backing us, we would not be in business right now," Essen said. "Absolutely, we would have gone bankrupt. To say it was damaging is an understatement."

Scott McCown, executive director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a Texas-based think tank that follows child welfare issues, said private providers seeking state contracts often "over-promise what they can do, over-sell their expertise, and under-deliver."

McCown said state officials are all too eager to believe their promises.

"The truth is, it's hard, expensive work," McCown said. "These systems are under-funded, and you're not going to solve those fundamental problems through privatization."

Whereas officials speculated that a private system in Nebraska would reduce the number of children under state care by up to 70 percent, the numbers dropped only 4 percent. And rather than reduce costs, expenses rose by 27 percent from 2009 to 2011 — \$30 million more than expected.

McCollough, the Washington consultant, said the state contracts she examined set expectations too high without a guarantee of sufficient money. Too much of the state's money went into out-of-home services instead of preventative care, such as parental training, she said.

Even if the changes had been better planned, McCollough said it takes years before a privatized system produces savings as caseloads decline. Until then, she said, costs often increase.

"You may not save a lot of money," she said. "But you're going to get better results for those kids."

Mark Testa, a child welfare expert who helped enact a privatized child welfare system in Illinois, said the state has been successful in part because it sought and received a federal waiver that allowed more freedom in using federal money. The waiver allowed, for example, Illinois to spend the money on drug recovery programs, parental counseling and other in-home services that the federal government would not normally cover, said Testa, now a professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The number in out-of-home care in Illinois fell from 51,000 in 1997 to 15,000 last year, according to state data. The rate fell to 1.6 children per 1,000, down from 9 per 1,000 before the state enacted its reforms.

Recently approved legislation directs the state to seek such a waiver.

Lawmakers said returning case management to the state would help keep more children and families together, and make the process more accountable.

The lessons learned in Nebraska "will be for naught if we don't build a reform framework for child welfare and set a pathway," said Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, who heads the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee. "We can dwell on the past, but our job is to plan for the future."

S.D. Officials Say N.D. Oilfield Workers Moving South

their money on housing."

Other workers are renting property, said Robyn Bailey, co-owner of a business that helps people find rentals. She said she has talked with four people who were relocating from North Dakota to Spearfish in the last two months.

"That's not a big number, but before it wasn't any at all," she said.

Spearfish is about 300 miles from Williston, N.D., which is considered the hub of oil country.

Joe Neeb, Spearfish's city administrator, tells the *Rapid City Journal* that he has seen the impact oil workers have had on real estate.

"We have some families that are basically setting up their homes in Spearfish and they'll basically commute up there for the week and come back for the weekend," Neeb said.

Kevin Campbell, executive director of the Spearfish Chamber of Commerce, said some workers will spend two

weeks on the job in North Dakota and then two weeks off in South Dakota.

The workers spend money in the town and add to the tax base, Campbell said. Despite a down winter tourism season, he said sales tax revenue stayed on par. He believes oil workers added to that stability.

"We had no snow this year, so something had to drive it to be sitting where we were," Campbell said.

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KYNT
AM 1450
MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY
Monday, April 16
7:40 am Y. County Commission
(Garry Moore, Geo. Johnson)
8:15 am Geo-Caching
(Shirley Dangler)
8:45 am Celebrate Women
(Elizabeth Hagen)
Tuesday, April 17
7:40 am Riverrat Marathon
(Bruce Schild, Carol Hohenhaner)
8:15 am Hy-Vee Dietician
(Rachel Pinos)
8:45 am Dakota Terr. Museum
(Crystal Nelson)

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE THEATRE Presents
NATIONAL Players
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Shakespeare's
Taming of the Shrew
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J. Steinbeck's
Of Mice and Men
Tuesday, April 17th
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