



PHOTOS WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 1st
1:00pm-4:00pm
LilyCrest 211 W. 3rd
Goodie bags for the kids!

YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN



Crofton Girls Hold Off LCC In Hoops Action • 7



MCT ILLUSTRATION



DAKOTA TERRITORIAL MUSEUM
A worker from Stonebrook Roofing is shown installing clay tiles on top of the Mead Building in Yankton earlier this week. The roofing project is part of the ongoing effort by the Yankton County Historical Society to renovate the historic building.

Renovations To Mead On Schedule

BY ANDREW ATWAL
andrew.atwal@yankton.net

Restorations of the Mead Building remain on track, according to Dakota Territorial Museum Director Crystal Nelson.

She said the next step for the renovation is the windows, which will start with the windows that have been purchased by donors. Construction crews will also begin laying tile in the building.

"We started the roof restoration back in July and it looks like we will be done with that part of the renovations by about Christmas," Nelson said. "Laying the tile in the building is just a small part of the project as a whole."

The Mead Building was completed in 1909 and is located on the south side of the Human Services Center campus just north of Yankton. It is named after, and built by Dr. Leonard Mead and serves as a monument to his attitude towards the positive treatment of mentally ill people. After a review of the property, the

MEAD | PAGE 3

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 1
24 shopping days to Christmas

A Widening Divide

PART ONE: Report Shows The Income Divide In South Dakota Growing Faster Than Almost All States

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

South Dakota is being pulled apart. That is the finding of a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute called "Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends."

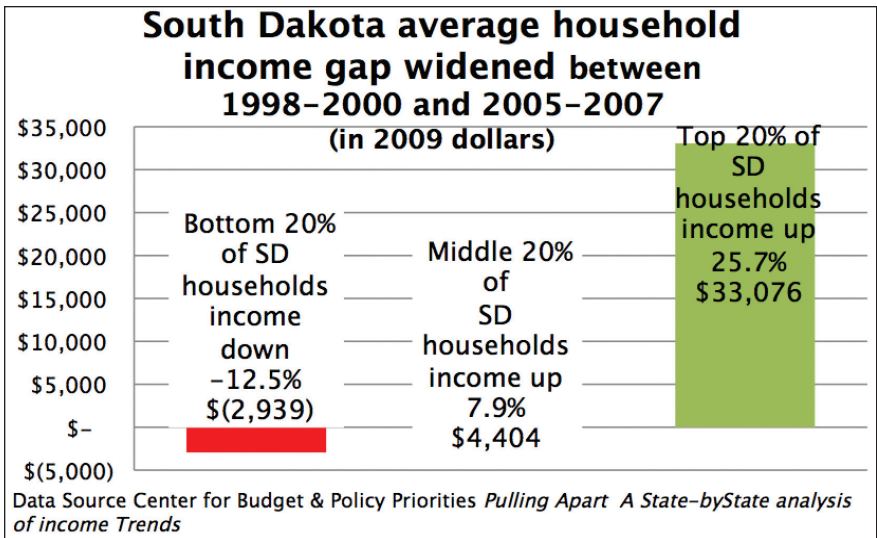
The pulling apart of the title refers to the growing annual income gap between top-earning households and everyone else.

By the mid-2000s, the data in the study shows the divide in South Dakota was growing faster than in any other state but Mississippi. South Dakota ranks 38th in overall income inequality. North Dakota ranked 31st. The most unequal state was New Mexico, where the incomes of the top fifth of households was 9.9 times greater than the average income of the bottom fifth of households.

The authors of the report — Elizabeth McNichol, Douglas Hall, David Cooper and Vincent Palacios — contend that growing income inequality should be a concern to all Americans.

"It is a basic American belief that hard work should pay off — that individuals who contribute to the nation's economic growth should reap the benefits of that growth," they write. "Over the past three decades, however, the benefits of economic growth have been skewed in favor of the wealthiest members of society."

Between the late 1990s to the mid-



"Wages at the bottom and middle of the wage scale have been stagnant or have declined over much of the last three decades. The wages of the very highest-paid employees, however, have grown significantly."

"PULLING APART: STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS OF INCOME TRENDS"

2000s, the drop in income among the bottom 20 percent of South Dakota's households averaged 12.5 percent. The middle 20 percent of households saw their income rise by 7.9 percent, and the top 20 percent of incomes jumped 25.7 percent.

Developments in recent years have accelerated a much longer trend in South Dakota.

Between the late 1970s to the mid-2000s, the income of the bottom 20 per-

cent of households has risen 24.3. Meanwhile, the middle 20 percent saw an increase of 48.6 percent and the top 20 percent's income jumped by 91.7 percent.

By the mid-2000s, the poorest 20 percent of households had an average income of \$22,000, while the richest 5 percent of households average an in-

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PART TWO: What Are The Divide's Impacts?

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Does it matter that income inequality is increasing in South Dakota?

A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute found that, between the late 1990s to the mid-2000s, the drop in income among the bottom 20 percent of South Dakota's households averaged 12.5 percent. The middle 20 percent of households saw their income rise by 7.9 percent, and the top 20 percent of incomes jumped 25.7 percent.

Joy Smolnisky, director of the South Dakota Budget and Policy Project, said the question of whether income inequality matters is something that South Dakotans must decide.

The South Dakota Budget and Policy Project is a nonpartisan organization that promotes responsible and equitable fiscal policies through research and education.

"Whether you are working as a doctor, executive or laborer, the idea is that work should pay off," she said. "What we saw in South Dakota during that last economic cycle was that most of the increase in benefits went to the richest households. The bottom 20 percent of households actually lost purchasing power. Those were households with very low incomes and very minimal, if any, discretionary income."

Smolnisky pointed to the new index issued in November by the U.S. Census Bureau that showed 11 percent of South Dakota's residents live in poverty when accounting for the cost of living in this part of the country.

"If we don't think we want 88,000 people in a household without adequate income, we

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'Lost Boy' Thanks Avon Students

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

AVON — At 8 years of age, David Jal was snatched from his Sudanese home in the middle of the night. Just a young boy, he was forced to fight in the African nation's civil war.

Jal's father paid 20 cows for his freedom two years later, but Jal became separated from his family by the war. He and other Lost Boys of Sudan embarked on a nine-year odyssey, wandering more than 1,000 miles and living in refugee camps before settling in the United States.

Jal, who now lives in Sioux Falls, vowed to return someday to Sudan. He sought to build a school in his homeland, offering opportunities known to few Sudanese youth.

As a fundraiser for the school, Jal co-authored a book with Laura Jacobs entitled "David's Journey," the story of his life. Jacobs is married to an Avon native, Ben Jacobs.

On Friday, Jal visited the Avon students to thank them for the nearly \$800 they raised for the Khor

Wakow school. The project seeks to raise \$150,000 to \$175,000 to build the Christian school in South Sudan, which recently won its independence.

"You raised dollars for kids you don't even know. That same dedication, you need here at school," Jal told the Avon students. "I am here to say thank you, thank you, thank you. God bless you."

The nearly \$800 comes to the equivalent of approximately 6,000 Sudanese pounds, Jal said.

"It's a lot of money, a lot of money," he said. "Your name (as the Avon school) will be put on a section of our new (Sudanese) school. I will make sure that people see it. The work you did (raising money for the school) — your work meant something."

The greatest expense isn't necessarily the materials themselves — it's the transporting of those materials, Jal said.

"How do you take the materials to the village, when there are no roads?" he asked.

He commended not only the students but the en-

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Avon second grader Gracie Small shakes hands with David Jal, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan who is raising funds for a school in his African homeland. Jal visited the Avon school Friday to offer thanks for the students' \$729 donation to the Sudan school.