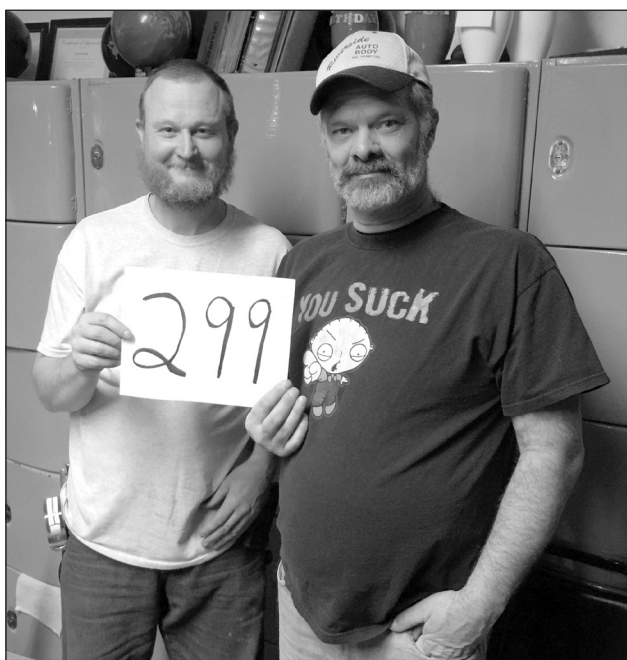


Men's Commercial 299 Games



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Mike Johnson and Steve Honeywell each bowled a 299 game last week in the Men's Commercial bowling league. It is rare for two people to bowl 299 in same week from a four lane center.

U12 Yankton Renegades



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The U12 Yankton Renegades went 3-0 in pool play 12-1, 15-3, 15-3 and beat Tea Typhoons II in the Championship 9-3 in the 2015 Augie Futsal Tournament in Sioux Falls Dec. 19-20. Pictured are, front from left: Ethan Yasat, Lance Donner, Aston Christ, Jacob Kirchner & Milo Johnson; middle row: Brody Mathrole, Robert Schafer, Zach Loest, Zach Fedde and Zach Hebda; back row: Coach Deniz Yasat, not pictured Coach Randy Kirchner.

Mount Marty Named 'Best Bang For The Buck' Third Year In A Row

According to a recently released ranking by *Washington Monthly*, Mount Marty College was listed as a "Best Bang for the Buck" baccalaureate college for the third year in a row.

Mount Marty College was one of only two South Dakota institutions listed in the Midwest Colleges category.

The "Best Bang for the Buck" listing is based on the economic value students receive per dollar spent on their education. Ranking is based on the "net" price (not the sticker price), graduation rates and the earning potential of graduates in comparison to their student loan debt.

With 99 percent of Mount Marty College students receiving financial aid, the "net" price of a Mount Marty education is considerably less than the sticker price.

In addition, Mount Marty College was also ranked in the top half of the top 344 Baccalaureate colleges nationwide. More than 1,500 U.S. Baccalaureate colleges

were ranked based on social mobility (serving low-income students), research (providing scholarships) and service (encouraging students to give back). The numerous financial aid resources, scholarships and service opportunities that are available at Mount Marty College attributed to this ranking.

Mount Marty College President Marcus Long believes these two rankings show the value of a Mount Marty College education.

"For many years, Mount Marty College has worked to make higher education affordable and attainable," he said. "These rankings show that we are providing a quality education with great outcomes as well."

To learn more about these rankings from *Washington Monthly*, visit http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/rankings-2015/baccalaureate-colleges-rank-all.php.

SCHOLASTICS

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University announced the following students will receive scholarships this academic year. They are:

- Samuel Bisgard, Yankton, Jerome J. Lohr Scholarship, Aramark Scholarship;
- Matthew Fitzgerald, Yankton, Bauder Scholarship;
- Evan Greenaway, Yankton, Van Buskirk Family Scholarship, Paul J. Freeburg Scholarship;
- Broc Mauch, Yankton, Yellow and Blue Scholarship;
- Aesley McNeill, Yankton, Seely Family Scholarship;
- Haley Mines, Yankton, Anne and Doug Hajek Scholarship;
- Whitney Specht, Yankton, Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship;
- Charles Stephenson, Yankton, Lucille Hedrick Dory Scholarship; and
- McKayla Thieman, Yankton, Mark Eric Petersen Scholarship.

Bisgard is a freshman electrical engineering major. He is the son of Curtis and Betty Bisgard. In high school, he participated in football, basketball, track, symphonic band, marching band and the National Honor Society.

Fitzgerald is a freshman engineering major and is the son of Jim and Sheila Fitzgerald. In high school, he participated in the National Honor Society, football, basketball and track

and field.

A freshman civil engineering major, Greenaway is the son of Dave and Kathy Greenaway. He was involved in football, basketball, the National Honor Society and student council.

Mauch is a freshman studying animal science/pre-veterinary medicine. He is the son of Mark and Jan Mauch. In high school, he was active in the National Honor Society, theater, National History Day and the Science Olympiad.

McNeill, daughter of Jill Kohl, is a freshman animal science major. In high school, she was active in track and field, the National Honor Society, drama and pioneer club.

A freshman nursing student, Mines is the daughter of Scott and Rhonda Mines. She was involved in the National Honor Society, volleyball, MVP defense and Role of Excellence. She was the homecoming queen and Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete.

Specht, a junior pharmacy major, is the daughter of Chris and Steph Specht.

Stephenson, a freshman economics student, is the son of Rob and Lori Stephenson. He was active in football, hockey, track and field and the National Honor Society.

Thieman is the daughter of John and Lynn Thieman. She is a pharmacy student.

BBB Tips Can Help You Avoid Gift Return Hassles

OMAHA, Neb. — Nobody enjoys taking items back and doing so, at times, after the holidays can be especially burdensome. Better Business Bureau (BBB) serving Nebraska, South Dakota, The Kansas Plains and Southwest Iowa has tips to reduce gift return distress.

"Returning holiday gifts may not be your favorite activity, but knowing store policies and planning ahead can reduce the stress," said Jim Hegarty, BBB President and CEO. "You'll help yourself and gift recipients if you find out how a store handles returns before you buy. It's always better to ask about the policy than to assume you know."

Remember: Stores aren't legally required to accept items for refund, exchange, or credit unless goods were defective or misrepresented. Some stores provide refunds, while others only issue store credits. A few stores consider all sales to be final. Seasonal stores may have limited hours after the holidays, making it awkward to return unwanted items.

Additionally, while mer-

chants are required to accept returns in only certain situations, some states have laws governing the disclosure of refund and return policies. State refund and return laws for the states in this BBB's region include:

- Nebraska: There's no right to cancel contracts or purchase agreements. Whether you can receive a refund is dependent on the retailer's return and refund policies.

- South Dakota: There's no right to cancel contracts or purchase agreements. Whether you can receive a refund is dependent on the retailer's return and refund policies.

BBB tips can help shoppers avoid post-holiday frustration:

- Ask the store about its return policy. Can a customer obtain a refund, a store credit, or exchange unwanted merchandise? How long is the period when returns are allowed? Some stores have extended return periods for gifts, while others limit returns to a week or less after the item is purchased.
- Ask for a gift receipt

and enclose it with the gift. Don't remove electronics or similar products from their boxes before wrapping. The original packaging may be required for a return. In some cases, such as DVDs or music CDs, the package must remain sealed.

- Don't assume that regular return policies apply to sale or clearance items. Some merchants consider the sale of such items to be final, so ask before buying. If you are the gift recipient, do not assume you have the right to return or exchange an unwanted gift. Like the shopper, you are bound by the merchant's return policy. Health regulations, which can prohibit the return of hats and intimate apparel, also may apply.

- Ask about restocking fees. Some merchants charge a restocking or "open box" fee for returns of electronic products or large-ticket items. A restocking fee can be as high as 25 percent of the purchase price.

- Look for a posted return policy when shopping online. If returns are permitted, ask what procedures

and time frames need to be followed. Find out whether shipping fees are charged for returning items and whether shipping costs or restocking fees are deducted from the price of returned items.

—Save your receipt.

Keep items in their original packaging and leave tags on clothing. If you remove the price or black it out on the tag, try to leave the item number or bar code visible as it will make it easier for a store to process the return.

—Time your returns to avoid hassles. Return lines can be lengthy the day after Christmas, but don't wait too long to return items. Pick a time when the store is unlikely to be crowded, and be polite when talking to customer service clerks. If you are a regular customer or have a store credit account, mention that as you discuss return options. Merchants are usually willing to accommodate loyal customers.

Consumers can learn how to protect themselves or find BBB Business Reviews and BBB Charity Reviews by calling 800-649-6814 or by going online to www.bbbinc.org.

Earl Named Vice President Of Sales And Marketing For KPI-JCI And Astec Mobile Screens

KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens has promoted Ron Earl to vice president of sales and marketing.

In his new position, Earl will be responsible for leading the KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens sales and marketing departments to achieve their growth objectives for both equipment and parts sales.

KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens is a premier worldwide manufacturer for the aggregate, construction and recycling industries.

"We are very pleased to promote Ron Earl to vice president of sales and marketing after many successful years



Earl

serving the company in both sales and marketing roles," said Jeff Elliott, group vice president of Astec Aggregate Mining Group. "Through Ron's leadership, he has led his team to significant sales growth and created a stronger distribution network. We

are confident in his ability to achieve our growth objectives with increased market penetration, continued product innovation and developing a stronger dealer network."

Earl has been an employee of the company for over sixteen years. From 2008 to 2015, he held the position of sales director for KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens, and vice president of sales and marketing of Astec Mobile Screens from 2000 to 2008. He began his career with the company as a salesman in 1999. He has a Master of Business Administration degree in marketing, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in financial management.

Ron Earl can be reached by e-mailing him at ronearl@kpijci.com. For more information about KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens, visit www.kpijci.com.

Internal Revenue Service Reminds Taxpayers To Plan Ahead If You Need A Tax Transcript

WASHINGTON — The IRS reminds taxpayers that the quickest way to get a copy of their tax transcript is to order it online using the Get Transcript application on IRS.gov. By planning ahead, they should receive their transcript in the mail within five to 10 days from the time the IRS receives the request online.

The IRS continues to work to bring the viewable/printable functionality of the application back online in the near future with enhanced identity protection security features. In the meantime, taxpayers can still request a mailed transcript by going online to Get Transcript.

Though taxpayers should always keep a copy of their tax return for their records, some may need the information from filed tax returns for many reasons. This includes college financial aid applicants or taxpayers who have applied for a loan to buy a home or start a business.

If a taxpayer is returning to college this January and applying for financial aid, they should check with their finan-

cial aid department at school to see if they will need a copy of their transcript before they start classes. Frequently, students get all the tax return information they need on the FAFSA application via the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

Similarly, if a taxpayer plans to apply for a loan, they should ask their financial institution if a transcript will be necessary so they can plan ahead and have it at the appropriate time.

The fastest way to get a transcript is through the Get Transcript tool on IRS.gov. Although the IRS temporarily stopped the online viewing and printing of transcripts, Get Transcript still allows taxpayers to order their transcript online and receive it by mail. Taxpayers simply click the "Get a Transcript by Mail" button to order the paper copy of their transcript and have it sent to their address of record.

Among the options available:

- To order a transcript online and have it delivered by mail, go to IRS.gov and use the

Get Transcript tool.

- To order by phone, call 800-908-9946 and follow the prompts.

- To request an individual tax return transcript by mail or fax, complete Form 4506T-EZ, Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript. Businesses and individuals who need a tax account transcript should use Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

The IRS will mail the transcript to the address of record entered on the prior year's tax return. The mailed transcript is an official document. It does not need to be a "certified" copy as is the case with some other documents. If a taxpayer has moved since they last filed a tax return with the IRS, they need to first submit a Form 8822, the Change of Address form, to ensure that the transcript is mailed to the correct address. Allowing time for the Form 8822 is another reason for taxpayers to plan ahead for their transcript needs.

If a taxpayer is applying for financial aid, they are encouraged to use the IRS Data

Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA website to easily import their tax return information to their financial aid application. The temporary shutdown of the Get Transcript tool does not affect the Data Retrieval Tool. Taxpayers may also click on the FAFSA help page for more information.

If they are applying for a mortgage, most mortgage companies only require a tax return transcript for income verification purposes. Most of these companies participate in our IVES (Income Verification Express Service) program and can request (with the taxpayer's consent) to have a transcript sent directly to the financial institution. If a taxpayer needs to order a transcript, they should follow the process described above and have it mailed to the address the IRS has on file for them.

Remember, ordering a transcript online is the quickest option. For more information, read the IRS How Do I Get My Transcript? Fact Sheet.

South Dakota PSIA Annual Report Released

PIERRE — The Public Safety Improvement Act Oversight Council has released its annual report to update the public on progress made under Gov. Dennis Daugaard's criminal justice reforms.

"We are already seeing positive results of the Public Safety Improvement Act which was passed less than three years ago. The prison population is now below initial projections; we saved millions of dollars this year by not having to build a new women's prison; parolees have earned over 700,000 days of parole credit; and we have increased the state's drug

court capacity by five times," said Gov. Daugaard. "While this report demonstrates a comprehensive review of the policy's results, every number in this annual report represents a mother, father, son or daughter that has benefited from the criminal justice reforms."

The Public Safety Improvement Act, which was sponsored by 70 legislators, passed in the 2013 Legislative Session. The Oversight Council is responsible for monitoring the implementation and outcome measures of the law.

Highlights from the report include:

- The parole success rate increased from 37 percent of offenders in Fiscal Year 12 to 65 percent in Fiscal Year 15.
- The overall prison population declined and exceeded the projected impact of the PSIA.
- The female prison population decreased nearly 16 percent since passage.
- The reliance on county jail bed days from direct county jail felony sentences decreased 27 percent.

Read the report here: <http://psia.sd.gov/annualreport.aspx>.

MEETINGS

YANKTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Yankton Community Forum met the first three Tuesdays in December.

Dr. Wayne Kindle, Yankton School District superintendent, welcomed members to the district administrative offices with rolls and coffee and an informative tour of the facilities on Dec. 1.

On Dec. 8, Dave Gellerman introduced Kenny Tomek, nutritionist at Hy-Vee, at the Yankton Elks Lodge, Forum's new meeting place. Tomek

promoted healthy food choices, offering examples of good and bad. Boller Printing was acknowledged and thanked for printing yearly booklets, as was member Dores Allan for continuing each week to provide brief inspiring and spiritual words.

On Dec. 15, Ken Huether introduced Kevin Watt from First Dakota National Bank, who alerted members to prevalent occurrences of fraud, scams and identity theft. Meetings will resume in 2016 on Tuesday mornings: Jan. 5, 12 and 19 at 9:30 at the Yank-

ton Elks Lodge. Guests are always welcome to attend and join this vibrant senior group.

KEYSTONE CHAPTER #33

Keystone Chapter #33, OES, met Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Masonic Temple, Yankton. Chris Bryan, Worthy Matron, presided. She reported on her attendance at the chapter installation meeting in Sioux Falls on Dec. 22. She also gave the annual report of Keystone Chapter.

Janelle Kribell was appointed Grand Representative

of Texas in South Dakota.

Secretary Carol Frey read Christmas greetings to the chapter from the Worthy Grand Matron and Patron.

After the meeting, members enjoyed pot luck Christmas party refreshments.

The next regular meeting will be at the Masonic Temple in Yankton, on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, starting at 7:30. Chris Bryan and Corinn Harnisch will be hostesses for the fellowship hour after the meeting.