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(605)660-2147 Lewis 8 Proposal

ing rising health care costs and declining federal financial help, the bonus program cannot be funded without a likely increase in state taxes, he said.

"Maybe you want to be that tax collector, but I don't." Bolin said.

Daugaard has said South Dakota students score above the national average on achievement tests, but those scores have not improved much even as state spending on schools has increased substantially in the

past four decades. om Brunner, R-Nis



From Page 1

the day before we get married (on Valentine's Day)," George Smith said, glowing with pride and anticipation.

The new great-grandchild would indeed make an ideal wedding gift. The delivery of a baby would be one of the few things keeping family members away from today's ceremony.

"All of my children think (our marriage is) wonderful. No one has objected at all, Joann Pieper said. "If the weather holds up, they will all be at our wedding, and that will be wonderful.'

Such family support and encouragement are very important for any couple, but particularly for an older couple with grown children, Lichter said.

"Usually, the families are very supportive because they want their mom or dad to be happy," the priest said. "I rarely see a time when the families are upset."

Lichter senses joy from Smith and Pieper, who spoke with excitement about the wedding when they saw him last weekend.

"They seem so happy and very blessed to be able to get together," the priest said.

LOVE AT ANY AGE

Pieper and Smith are lifelong Yankton residents and knew each other while growing up.

"Joann and my cousin were good friends as little girls, so I knew her from that time." Smith said.

The couple suspect they crossed paths over the years without thinking about it. She worked at Penney's for 31 years before retiring 18 years ago. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years — as the post office supervisor for 15 years - before retiring in 1986.

Now, they are reuniting as husband and wife.

As they sat in the Sacred Heart parish hall for this interview, Pieper and Smith recounted their love story which began as a date for Smith's birthday celebration Jan. 11, 2011.

Actually, their story began even earlier. Both widowed, Pieper and Smith regularly ate lunch at The Center for senior citizens. As fate would have it, they sat at the same table each day.

I wasn't looking for anyone (in my life)," he said. "But after we sat next to each other for three or four months, I could tell she was someone special. She had a beautiful smile and a twinkle in her eye."

Then cupid stepped in, with a nudge from other seniors at The Center.

"It was my birthday, and the ladies at the (lunch) table said Joann and I should get together that night for supper," Smith said. "I was kind of surprised, but it sounded like a good idea to me. I asked her out on the spot, and we went to Yesterday's Cafe for supper.'

Despite knowing each other for months through The Center, the first

From Page 1

date that evening went a bit rocky, Pieper said.

'We were both uncomfortable and very nervous at supper, but we have been together every night since then," she explained.

They take it one day at a time and have found something special in each other.

"For me, it's a deep friendship. I found him as someone that I could be close to and who cares about me," Pieper explained.

"I'm the same way. I was looking for someone who cared," Smith said, nodding his head in agreement.

But that didn't mean the couple were in total agreement on whether to tie the knot — at least, at first.

Last October, Smith was dropping Pieper off at her house after they had gone out together. Summoning up his courage, he popped the question — and was turned down.

"George was driving his pickup, pulled up in my driveway and asked me (to marry him). I didn't say 'yes' right away," Pieper said. "I cared for him, but he asked me too soon for me to consider it. I wanted a little time to think it over. It was a combination of our age and our children. We wanted to be sure it was right."

Smith wasn't discouraged, and he didn't wait long to try again. He proposed again two days later, in Pieper's living room, and this time she accepted. She was nervous, and she left me

hanging for a couple of days," he said with a twinkle in his eye. "I was shy, but we were determined

that we were going to do it," Pieper added.

Smith and Pieper definitely wanted to get married rather than continue dating or live together, and they were committed to a church wedding.

Pieper is a lifelong Catholic. Smith was baptized Catholic, attending Sacred Heart School for eight years. He joined his first wife's denomination but decided he would return to the Catholic church with his upcoming marriage.

"Both of them said it was important that they share the same faith," Lichter said.

The marriage preparations for the couple have been pretty simple, the pastor said. "They have experienced things that can't be taught," he said.

The wedding preparations contained one humorous moment.

"When Father Mark met with us, it got to the point where he said, 'You two know more about marriage than I do!'" Smith said with a laugh.

Lichter agreed, adding that the couple have studied and prayed for their marriage. The priest believes they are well prepared for their new life.

"I learned a lot from them about marriage, far more than I could possibly teach them," Lichter said. "Obviously, they have the experience and both had good marriages. It's a blessing to learn a lot from them.'

SHARING THE JOY

The couple received an unexpected

CROSSWORD **By THOMAS JOSEPH** ACROSS 41 Hinds' **1** Company mates head 5 Prison units



public announcement about their wedding plans.

Father Mark said he wanted to take us out for coffee. We thought he meant across the hall from his office," Pieper said. "Instead, he took George and I to Fryn' Pan (restaurant) and bought us breakfast. Father Mark was telling others that we were getting married. His voice carried so much that he announced it to the entire restaurant."

Lichter sheepishly said he only intended to treat them to a meal at the conclusion of their wedding preparations.

"But when people in the restaurant heard about it, they started yelling, 'That's wonderful!'" he said. "People were very elated when they heard about this couple getting married.

Pieper and Smith enjoy talking to others about walking down the aisle during their golden vears.

"When we went to the Register of Deeds office to get our marriage license, George asked if we got the senior citizens' discount," Pieper said with a smile.

In all seriousness, the person waiting on them thought they might be one of the oldest couples seeking a marriage license, at least in recent years, from the Yankton County office.

Smith lives in the Webster Arms apartment building, which is convenient for his wedding day. "My home, the church, the reception and the dinner are all within about three blocks of each other," he said.

And like most married couples, Pieper and Smith are taking a honeymoon. No quiet get-aways for them they're headed for the bright lights of Las Vegas. The couple have visited the city before with their first spouses.

After their wedding, the couple will live in Pieper's house.

They do plan to keep some things the same, such as eating lunch and spending time at The Center where it all began for them. They have receiving good-natured ribbing about their wedding from friends at The Center and other places.

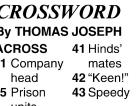
As a married couple, Pieper and Smith look forward to companionship and shared interests. She plans to teach him card games, particularly pinochle. And he plans to continue, as he puts it, "teasing her unmercifully."

Smith and Pieper don't find their situation that unusual, noting that more couples find love later in life. However, they note the odds are heavily in the men's favor.

People are living longer, and the wife is usually younger than the husband when they get married," Pieper said. "Therefore, you have a lot more widows than widowers."

As for themselves, the couple now look forward to their new life, appropriately starting on Valentine's Day, Pieper said.

"We are hoping for good health, and we want to share the rest of our lives together," she said. "It's great that we've both had happy marriages. Now, we're lucky two times."



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land, said lawmakers have made substantial changes to the bill and it should be sent to the Senate for more

changes. Daugaard has proposed giving annual \$5,000

bonuses to the top 20 percent of each school district's teachers, based on a new evaluation system and student performance. The revised plan allows school

districts to follow the governor's original plan, create their own teacher reward plans or not take part at all. The governor originally proposed annual bonuses of \$3.500 for math and science

teachers in middle schools and high schools, but the House has changed that to give new math and science teachers \$8,000 annual bonuses for their first five years of teaching. Supporters say that will ease a shortage of math and science teachers by giving

them \$40,000 to help pay off their student loans. All bonuses would be in addition to regular salaries paid to teachers. The bonuses for math and science teachers would start in

the fall of 2013 and would eventually cost up to \$5 million a year. The bonuses for the top 20 percent of teachers would start in the fall of 2014 and cost about \$10 million a year.

The governor's bill also would eliminate tenure protections in July for new teachers who do not already have tenure. Teachers who already have tenure would keep it. Daugaard has said new teachers won't need the protection because they will be evaluated under a new system being developed by the state Education Department.

Currently, any South Dakota teacher who has worked more than three years in a district has tenure and can be fired only for poor performance, gross immorality or other misconduct.

nande will also serve on the governing body.

Last year, Gov. Dennis Daugaard received approval from the Legislature to sell off surplus state property. That included approximately 36 acres of ground on the southeast corner of the HSC campus at the intersection of Highway 81 and Highway 50 that is largely green space and soccer fields.

three-year terms; and Jason Winterringer and Bruce Cull for two-

year terms. City commissioners Craig Sommer and Nancy We-

In January, the state's Constitutional Board of Appraisal adopted the professional appraisal of the two tracts of land, one of which is 34.56 acres and the other 1.43 acres. They were each valued at \$1.25 per square foot, meaning the appraisal of the larger tract is \$1,881,641.25, while the price tag of the smaller one is \$77,736.25.

The Yankton Youth Soccer Association (YSA) currently leases a portion of the property for the seven fields in its Lewis and Clark Complex. It has done so for approximately 15 years.

When the announcement was made last year that the property **20** P would be put up for auction, YSA members became concerned about the future of their fields.

Since the city has been given first right of refusal on the ground, 21 M it can assure the future of the complex. 22 Throws in

That is a reason Jason Winterringer, president of YSA, expressed support for the idea Monday.

The city can also gain control over the future development of a corner that will be across from a new Menards and whatever businesses occupy the outlots.

'The more I look at it, sometimes what happens in the evolution of a municipality is you come to that point where it looks like something very negative is at hand," Russell said. "(You look at) how can we use that for something that can be very positive, not only in the immediate sense, but long term into the future with a potential (BID) funding mechanism to allow us to continue that reinvestment in our community and for these specific (youth sports) activities.

The situation gives the BID idea momentum, something city officials have not been able to muster in the past. The City Commission had a discussion in 2008 about how useful a BID could be for funding projects such as Memorial Park Pool improvements or the development of the Meridian Bridge as a recreational trail. However, a BID was never brought forward for consideration based on 37 Rhyme those ideas.

Commissioner Paul Lowrie said the purchase of the property will be advantageous.

"Part of the reason this is at the table right now is because it sets the stage for so many opportunities to make sure that the soccer fields (won't disappear)," he said. "If (the HSC property) isn't the place, there is an entity, the city, that has the vested interest in making that all work together (to make sure they do have a place)."

The move would also give the city control over the entrance to the historic HSC campus, Lowrie noted. The state has agreed not to demolish the buildings there for the time being.

Mike Dellinger, speaking as the president of Yankton Area Progressive Growth, said his board expressed support for the purchase of the property during a Monday meeting.

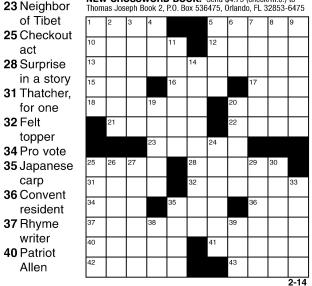
"I would ask that we look at it from the front end and say it's going to be a limited use for soccer, and we'll have an opportunity to move soccer sooner rather than later," he added. "There is a better and higher use for the community for this commercial corridor, which will generate a tremendous amount of tax revenue opportunity that you'll be able to do great things with." With the formation of the BID board, Russell said April will be

the soonest the process of creating a district could be completed. At that point, if the board gives approval to its revenue funding the purchase of the HSC property, the city could officially commit to that transaction with the state.

Russell said a very rough estimate, based on 60 percent occupancy of all the hotel rooms in the city, showed that the BID would generate approximately \$150,000 annually.

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ER NWTZ BWQG VK GVDR.
WX, NRH VI HXWTGJ.
- ZVLXQZJ JZRNDTHH Votendaria Courtequeter WIT UAS TRUTH N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WIT HAS TRUTH IN IT; WISECRACKING IS SIMPLY CALISTHENICS WITH WORDS. — DOROTHY PARKER