

Opt-Out

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than they think they should. (The school board) has had a lot of opportunities to re-examine a chunk of its expense with its self-insurance fund. At this point, they haven't wanted to get into that. You can certainly understand that — it is a wonderful benefit. But you know, things change. It seems to me that is the biggest place where they can try to rectify their financial issues."

For the Yankton school board members the second opt-out defeat in less than 10 months sends them back to the drawing board.

"We are certainly disappointed that this opt-out didn't pass," said board member Chris Specht. "We are going to have to work on the budget. It will be a board decision on what that will entail. At this point, I have no idea what that means — if it means more capital outlay funds or insurance funds, I don't know. ... We have to start over, and everything is fair game."

Murphy said he fully expects the school board to come back with a third opt-out attempt. He suggests the school district look at changing the self-insurance fund and how it is operated as a good place to start searching for savings before they do.

"They are going to have to open up and listen to the people," he said.

However, Lemon said changes that the

school board has made after the first failed opt-out deserve to be acknowledged.

"I think the school did a great job in doing some of the things they tried to do, in broadcasting the meetings and access to their records with the software they have on the Internet," he said. "So, I certainly applaud them. Plus, the new board policy with people being able to speak is a positive thing that we just need to go forward and build on. It isn't like we are out of money. There are plenty of dollars. It is just how we are going to split it up. Hopefully, it results in a good benefit for everyone."

Lemon said it is important that the community move on from this point.

"(This vote) is just a referendum on a decision that the school made in how they want to spend the money. The public just had a little different view," he said. "It's OK, people can differ, obviously. I don't think that (Yankton is getting a reputation as anti-education) is true at all. We still have a good public school system. It just has to change."

Specht said he felt it was important that everyone who supported the opt-out know how much the district appreciated their assistance, specifically community and state leaders.

"I would like to thank Yankton Area Progressive Growth, the Chamber businesses, our state representatives and (Lt. Gov. Matt Michels) for having the courage to support the opt-out because they believed it was the right thing to do," he said. "Now we just have to move forward."

GOP Promotes Plan To Help Small Businesses

BY JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans on Tuesday unveiled a package of largely uncontroversial measures they said will help small businesses raise capital and create jobs while showing that Congress can put aside its partisan differences and act in the country's economic interests.

The White House said it was encouraged by the GOP action, but House Democrats noted that four of the six bills in the package have already passed the House by wide margins and said it fell well short of the comprehensive jobs legislation that is needed.

The six bills would ease federal security regulations to make it easier for small businesses and entrepreneurs to attract investors and go public.

"We're here to make sure we can jumpstart the economy," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said. He said the White House has called for action to help new businesses "and that is exactly what the bill does."

The package, introduced at a news conference where Republican leaders were surrounded by entrepreneurs, comes amid the election-year sparring in which the two parties are trying to convince voters that they have the best approach to job creation.

The House GOP jobs agenda has fo-

cused on passing dozens of bills — all stalled in the Democratic-controlled Senate — focused on developing domestic energy resources and curbing Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agency regulations that Republicans say have stifled jobs growth. President Barack Obama in September outlined a \$447 billion jobs package that included infrastructure projects, the rebuilding of schools, and helping local governments pay teacher and firefighter salaries.

At least for a day, the two sides called a truce: White House spokeswoman Amy Brundage pointed to Obama's September jobs package and said the president was "encouraged to see that there is common ground between his approach and what Congressman Cantor outlined today."

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were to hold a lunch meeting at the White House Wednesday with Democratic and Republican leaders from both the House and Senate. The White House said the meeting would focus on finding common ground legislative priorities that could strengthen the economy and lead to job creation.

Also on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the Senate Banking Committee next week will hold hearings on several proposals to help small businesses. Four of those are companion bills to those included in

the House package. "Red tape, bureaucracy, lack of access to capital make it difficult to create new businesses," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said. "I hope the Democrats and the White House will join us in moving this very important bill."

Four of the bills passed the House last year with more than 400 votes in the 435-member chamber, and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said there was no reason they wouldn't pass overwhelmingly when offered again as a package.

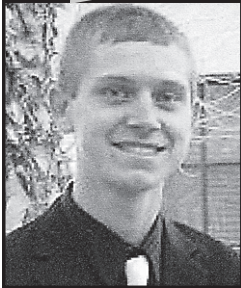
But he added that it was a "pretense" to repackage old bills that already have passed. "This clearly is not the jobs bill that we are looking for, a comprehensive, jobs-producing, jobs-stimulating piece of legislation."

The bills would take such steps as removing a Securities and Exchange Commission ban preventing small businesses from using advertisements to solicit investors; eliminating SEC restrictions that prevent "crowdfunding" so entrepreneurs can raise equity capital from a large pool of small investors; making it easier for small businesses to go public by increasing the threshold under which companies are exempt from SEC registration; and raising the shareholder registration requirement threshold from 500 shareholders to 1,000 shareholders.

A+ Students of the Week



Kelia Barta
Parents: Mindy & Tommy Huether
Grade: 9th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Kelia is a wonderful student, an exceptional athlete and a great personality for the classroom setting. She is hard-working and dedicated. She makes other students feel comfortable while maintaining a strong work ethic.
Favorite Subject: World History
Favorite School Memory(s): Being in class every day with my best friend Addison Bertrand!



Michael Blassl
Parents: Tracey Kelly & Duane Blassl
Grade: 11th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Michael is a truly brilliant student who is willing to challenge all ways of thinking - allowing him to arrive at a deeper level of understanding in his studies. He is a talented vocal musician. He is not satisfied with less than his best!
Favorite Subject: Science & Mathematics. Specifically, Biology, Chemistry and Trigonometry.
Favorite School Memory(s): My first year in All-State Chorus. The group had to leave a day early due to the weather. There was a foot of snow. The 1,000 students inside the arena singing at the same was an experience I will never forget.



Luke Buffington
Parents: Larry & Cheri Buffington
Grade: 12th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Luke is an extremely bright, talented and dedicated leader in the classroom as well as in extra-curricular activities, and in the community as a whole. His character and integrity set him apart as a distinguished role model within our school and community. He participates in a wide variety of activities, and is a standout in oral interpretation especially.
Favorite Subjects: Economics, Psychology/Sociology
Favorite School Memory(s): Being on the team that won the State Track Meet in 2009.



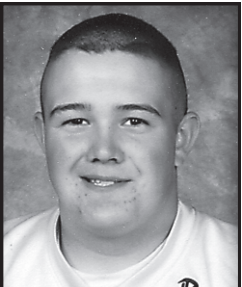
Grace Dangel
Parents: Travis & Bobbi Dangel
Grade: 7th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Grace is a trustworthy, honest, dedicated student. She has high expectations for herself - whether in regards to academics, athletics or behavior. She sets high goals and works hard to obtain them. She also shows leadership in the classroom, in athletics and in Student Council.
Favorite Subjects: Science
Favorite School Memory(s): Any homecoming



Viola Ishmael
Parents: Jerry & Maria Ishmael
Grade: 8th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Viola is a very bright and talented student. She is artistically gifted and excels athletically. She is polite and hard-working.
Favorite Subject: Algebra I and Science
Favorite School Memory(s): Random experiments with Mr. Dibley in science class.



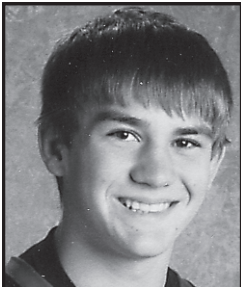
Cameron Jueden
Parents: Roger & Tami Jueden
Grade: 6th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Cameron is very dependable, honest, hard-working, responsible, and is a good friend to others. He enjoys participating in sports.
Favorite Subject: Math & Reading
Favorite School Memory(s): Having fun at homecoming.



Alex Taggart
Parents: Allan & Missy Taggart
Grade: 10th
School: Gayville-Volin High School
Why nominated? Alex is the student who says little, but accomplishes much! He is always on top of his work. He grasps concepts easily and is willing to help out others who struggle in the classroom. He is a hard-working student and athlete.
Favorite Subjects: Biology
Favorite School Memory(s): First high school homecoming.



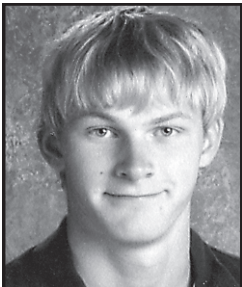
Wade Foner
Parents: Ken & Kathleen Foner
Grade: 12th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll, National Honor Society and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: Accounting & Government
Favorite School Memory(s): Hanging out in the gym after lunch.



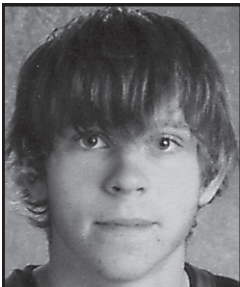
Trenton Guenther
Parents: Galen & Jaime Guenther
Grade: 9th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: Math, Language Arts/English, Science, Choir
Favorite School Memory(s): Every day new memories are made, but if I had to pick one, it would be when were in science class and we went to the Chief Standing Bear Bridge and dropped pumpkins off the bridge. We timed their drop time to figure out how high the bridge is.



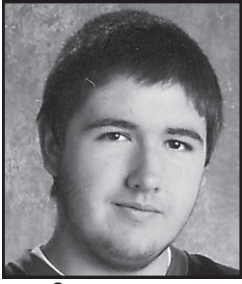
Cathryn Hanzlik
Parents: Dennis & Sharla Hanzlik
Grade: 10th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll and involved in many extra-curricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: World History



Clayton Hanzlik
Parents: Dennis & Sharla Hanzlik
Grade: 12th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll, National Honor Society and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: Accounting, Trig & Physics
Favorite School Memory(s): Making it to State Cross Country with two people right behind me.



Josh Kemp
Parents: Gerald & Dee Kemp
Grade: 12th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll, National Honor Society and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: English & Economics
Favorite School Memory(s): When we had a school-wide dodgeball game at lunch.



Liam Key
Parents: Jeremy & Trini Key
Grade: 9th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: Science, Math & Band
Favorite School Memory(s): Memories are made every day, but my favorite memory is playing my trumpet at the cemetery on Memorial Day for the first time, because I have a lot of family that has served our country today. That's why it holds sentimental value to me.



Shana LaPointe
Parents: Lisa LaPointe
Grade: 10th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: Spanish, English, Science, Yearbook, Computer Class.
Favorite School Memory(s): The many fun conversations we had in homeroom.



Mackenzie Rettig
Parents: Mark & Robyn Rettig
Grade: 11th
School: Niobrara Public
Why nominated? A+ Honor Roll, National Honor Society and involved in many extracurricular activities.
Favorite Subjects: English & Science
Favorite School Memory(s): Getting snowed in with class on field trip.



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