



Cloudy With Cold Winds

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American
Profile



Chat With The P&D
Sports Staff From
3:30-4:30 p.m.
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Five Schools To Discuss Merger Tonight

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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WAUSA, Neb. — Would a five-school merger help or harm its students and those communities?

For more than a year, five northeast Nebraska school districts have drawn statewide attention in tackling that question. The Bloomfield, Wausa, Creighton, Osmond and Plainview schools have discussed a possible merger or other cooperative effort.

Patrons from the five districts can learn information and ask questions when their boards meet jointly at 7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) in the Wausa gym. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting. Creighton superintendent Jeff Jensen would like to see an overflow crowd.

"We need the public to feel informed," he said. "It's important that we get as many people as possible."

The merged district would carry a valuation of more than \$2.2 billion, Jensen said. In the process, the new district would be comparable to the Grand Island and Kearney districts.

"We would have the fifth most wealth in terms of land valuation," he added. "We would be wealthier than districts like Norfolk, Blair and Waverly."

At tonight's meeting, Wausa/Bloomfield superintendent Robert Marks will welcome the audience. Marcia Herring of the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) will serve as the moderator for the evening. Each board will call

MERGER | PAGE 11

A Change In The Air

Commissioners Look At Challenges County Government May Face

BY ROB NIELSEN
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When the Yankton County Commission starts a new year in January, it'll still be five-members strong, still meet every other week at the County Government Center and will still preside over issues around Yankton County.

But its makeup will be drastically changed as Raymon Epp, Debra Bodenstedt, Don Kettering and Todd Woods will take over for outgoing commissioners Garry Moore, John Harper, Bruce Jensen and Allen Sinclair.

But one commissioner, Donna Freng, will be



Freng

returning on a mostly new board — a prospect the eight-year commissioner sees as a new challenge.

"I'm a little nervous about being the so-called 'knowledgeable one,'" she said. "It makes me a little nervous — not because of who's there and what agendas they may or may not have to fulfill; I hope we can work together — it's just kind of scary because four rookies on a team is hard. We're just going to have a really big learning curve about county government."

Freng said while there are challenges for any

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Making A Pledge



Area veteran Gary Heier (right) leads the Pledge of Allegiance during Tuesday's Veterans Day program in the Gayville-Volin school gymnasium at Gayville. The students in grades 3-6, seen in the background, sang the national anthem.

Gayville-Volin Alumnus Teaches Students A Lesson In Freedom

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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GAYVILLE — As he delivered his Veterans Day message, SSG Jeff Heier was hit with a powerful realization.

Few, if any, of the Gayville-Volin elementary students were born when the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks occurred. Most of the high school students weren't yet in school.

"Even the older students probably only know the later parts of our time in Iraq and Afghanistan,"

Heier told the *Press & Dakotan*.

That fact made Heier even more intent on teaching another generation an important lesson: the need to fight for freedoms unknown in many parts of the world.

Heier, a Gayville-Volin graduate, has served combat missions in Iraq and Kuwait with Bravo Battery of the 1/147th Field Artillery in Yankton. He still holds vivid memories of the images surrounding the 9/11 attacks.

"On 9/11, I was in high school. I was driving to school when a plane had crashed into one tower

(of the World Trade Center)," he said. "I didn't think too much of it because planes crash every day. But after I reached school, a second plane hit the other tower. We ended up having a half-day of school, and everyone just sat in the cafeteria and watched the news on TV."

The United States has since lived in a whole new world with no turning back, Heier said.

Heier spoke Tuesday at the

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Bollen: EB-5 'Scandal' Result Of Media, Politics

BY KEVIN BURBACH
AND REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

PIERRE — The former administrator of the federal EB-5 investment-for-green-card program in South Dakota is defending it and accusing the media and political figures of drumming up an unwarranted scandal.

In his written answers to questions from the state Government Operations and Audit Committee, Joop Bollen also acknowledged that he had been interviewed by federal investigators about the program. His responses, which became public Monday night ahead of the committee's Thursday meeting, are the first time he has made extensive public statements about EB-5; he's refused to testify in person before lawmakers and for months has declined to comment to the media.

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen and former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary Richard Benda. The program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in exchange for green cards. But for more than a year, South Dakota's EB-5 program has been investigated by state and federal authorities.

Benda committed suicide last year as state officials prepared felony theft charges against him in connection with the financial misconduct, which left the state short of more than \$500,000.

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JORDYNNE HART/ P&D
Jim Carlson, psychiatric social worker at the South Dakota Human Services Center in Yankton, received the SDHSPA Social Worker of the Year Award in September.

Carlson Receives SDHSPA Social Worker Of The Year Award

BY JORDYNNE HART
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In thousands of ways, social workers help people help themselves. Social workers develop a working relationship with children, young people and their families. They make a difference in peoples lives.

Making a difference is all Jim Carlson, psychiatric social worker at the South Dakota Human Services Center in Yankton, has ever wanted to do.

Because of the difference he has made to so many, he was presented the South Dakota Healthcare Social Work Association Social Worker of the Year award at the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organization's annual Joint Awards Luncheon in September in Rapid City.

The award is given to someone who is an ad-

vocate for patients and their families. It also recognizes someone who influences change related to health care and other social justice issues.

"I consider it a great honor to have been nominated for the award and a great honor to have received it," Carlson said.

He said that he has always been drawn to help people since he was young.

"My mother was a nurse, so there was some inclination to get into a helping profession of some sort," Carlson said. "At first I was a seminary dropout. I didn't really know what social work really was."

It wasn't until a friend got Carlson a job on the Rosebud Reservation in child protection that he became interested in social work.

"I told my friend that I was going to try it out

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Attention Press & Dakotan Readers!
To ensure you get the most comprehensive and complete coverage of your Yankton Bucks championship game the Press & Dakotan will printed and distributed later than usual. You can expect to receive your paper late Saturday morning. We apologize for the inconvenience.

GO BUCKS!

