

**Yankton Library Closed For Holiday**

The Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut, will be closed today (Wednesday) in observance of Veteran's Day. The library will reopen Thursday, Nov. 12, at 9 a.m.

**USD Fraternity Hosts Fundraiser**

VERMILLION — For the 19th consecutive year, the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (PIKE) at the University of South Dakota, will host the Thursday Night Live philanthropy event on Nov. 12. All funds raised will benefit local, courageous children battling cancer.

At 7 p.m., the stage will be set and lights will rise in Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall. Admission prior to the event can be purchased at the Muenster University.

"Thursday Night Live" replicates the popular television show Saturday Night Live. The performance is open to all students, faculty and community.

Cure Kid's Cancer is PIKE's exclusive charity partner. Funds raised benefit local children battling cancer at Sanford Children's Hospital. Cure Kids Cancer is dedicated to finding life-saving treatments for pediatric cancer by raising funds and awareness for local children's cancer centers.

The USD PIKES have committed more than \$25,000 to Cure Kids Cancer.

**Bon Homme Farmers Union To Meet**

TABOR — The Bon Homme Farmers Union will meet this Thursday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. at the BY Electric Meeting Room in Tabor.

Discussion on Bon Homme wind development, Platte Napa railroad line, truck bypass proposals, Burlington Northern Railroad safety and state convention will top the agenda.

**Webster School Concert Slated Thursday**

The students of Yankton's Webster Elementary School in grades 1-5 will be performing their annual concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre.

As a kickoff to American Education Week, the students will be singing songs to salute the schools support staff and thank them for all they do for Webster school. Among those honored will be the secretary, custodians, counselors, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, librarian, bus driver, nurse and principal.

The concert is free and the public is invited to attend.

**Animal Shelter To Host Gala Saturday**

Heartland Humane Society will host its annual Wine & Whiskers gala Nov. 14 from 6-9:30 p.m. at Minerva's/Kelly Inn in Yankton.

The event will include wine tasting, a three-course plated meal, a large silent and live auction, merchandise and raffles including a chance to win \$750.

Tickets are currently on sale and can be reserved by calling 605-664-4244 or online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net. Seating is reserved to 300.

"Community support is vital to our success and Wine & Whiskers is one example of Heartland asking donors to come together and celebrate responsible animal care in our communities," said Heartland's director, Kerry Hacecky.

Returning events for the evening include the handmade mittens, dessert dash and paw draw. Hacecky said guests will notice new raffles, merchandise, and schedule for the evening events. New items will include a chance to win one live auction package, a formal meal and a new line of merchandise.

Top auction items at the gala include NASCAR and Walt Disney World tickets, artwork by Oscar Howe and Scott Luken, and several social packages including bourbon tasting and a Chilean meal.

To learn more about Wine and Whiskers, go online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net/events or search "Wine and Whiskers" on Facebook.

**OBITUARIES**

**Frances Herrboldt**

Frances Elsie (Tiede) Herrboldt, 84, of Menno passed away Monday, Nov. 9, 2015, at the Salem Mennonite Home in Freeman.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at Salem Reformed Church, Menno, with the Rev. Michael Hecht officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno with a 7 p.m. Prayer service and video tribute. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

**Robert 'Bob' Johansen**

Robert "Bob" Johansen, 81, of Yankton passed away on Monday, Nov. 9, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton surrounded by his family.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with the Rev. Dani Jo Ninke officiating and military rites by the

Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791 Honor Guard, Yankton and the SDARNG Honor Guard, Sioux Falls. Burial of his cremated remains will take place at Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis at a later date.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory with a 7 p.m. prayer service and video tribute. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

**Velma Weaverstad**

Velma L. Weaverstad, 100, of Yankton passed away Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton. Arrangements are pending under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

**Stevens**

From Page 1

the party part of politics, but I've always felt that its more accurate to describe people on how they're voting," he added. "Each party has had people that are more conservative or liberal."

The position has also made Stevens hyperaware of his political actions.

"It's different to have opinions with your friends. It's a bigger deal when you have to push a button and people are keeping track of how you're voting," he noted.

"The state flag pledge says, 'I pledge and support the flag of South Dakota, land of sunshine and variety,'" he added. "I didn't know how significant that pledge was until I put things in perspective. It describes the demographics of the state legislature and the land of infinite variety."

Stevens had learned more about the state's inner workings in his four years as a representative.

"We're the 17th largest state size-wise, and the 46th largest state population. That's a huge factor in determining the type of legislature and how people vote," he said. "We've got a big difference of opinion in people's ideas of what is important to them."

According to Stevens, the process of determining the fate of a bill depends largely on how it affects its location in the state.

"When I try to calculate how things are going to go, I ask myself, 'Is this an East or West River deal?' 'A metropolitan or rural deal?' A Sioux Falls or Rapid City deal?' That makes a difference," he said.

Stevens has also become aware of some of the less-than-ideal facts about the state.

"In South Dakota politics

and legislature, it's all about money," he said. "Education is always an issue and how we allocate the money. We're not like North Dakota where they suddenly have all this oil and don't know what to do with the money. Our revenue is very tight all the time."

"In the four years I've been there, we've discussed the death penalty, Common Core, and gun and abortion legislation," he continued. "Then there are issues that come up maybe once in a lifetime."

"My first year, we had a Senate bill about whether or not to have guns in schools for teachers. It's an example of a bill that got lots of attention, but how many school districts were in on it? None."

Stevens discussed two forthcoming issues that he believes will draw a lot of attention.

"In every session I'm in, it seems that there will be one big bill that dominates what we're going to do," he said. "This year, I believe there will be two of them."

Those two bills will involve the Blue Ribbon Task Force and Medicaid expansion.

"I was on the Yankton school board for 21 years, and there was a big difference when I left from when I began," he claimed.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force wants to get teachers a \$48,000 average pay-goal and also wants to put caps on fund balances because schools are building up balances and not spending money in a correct way, said Stevens.

"One of the things that really concerns me is that Yankton gets certain funds because of things that are peculiar to the area," he said. "We get some utility taxes, money from the truck weigh station, money from schools and public land and bank franchise taxes. For Yankton, that's over a million dollars. The proposals

for the task force is to take that away and put it into the general fund and spread with statewide. That would not be good for Yankton."

By Stevens' admission, Medicaid is a difficult issue to understand.

"I don't pretend to be a Medicaid expansion expert. Anyone who tells you they are are lying," he said. "There's so much information and so many numbers floating around. It's a machine with a lot of moving parts, and it will clearly be dealt with this year."

Stevens explained that Medicaid is for low-income families and people with disabilities. Right now, South Dakota has about 118,000 citizens receiving Medicaid. Sixty-eight percent of them are children and 32 percent of them are adults.

"The percentage at the heart of this is the 35 percent that are Native American. If we were to expand Medicaid, it's going to add approximately 48,000 people."

From there, things become more complicated.

"South Dakota spent about \$772 million, and \$311 million of it was for state money and the rest was federal," said Stevens. "Having the sharing process between the federal government, about 48-52 percent was based on state income. The total amount spent on Native Americans was about \$70 million."

"The issue has always been how we are going to pay our share of it, which would be \$30-\$35 million plus another \$2 million for administrative costs," he continued. "That's a concern because we're talking about \$30-\$40 million more than what we've already got."

"Based upon the federal government paying for more services for Native Americans through the Indian Health Services (IHS), eligible people have to be part of a tribal membership or be of Native American de-

scent. People can be eligible for both IHS and Medicaid coverage."

A conflict arises: when an IHS-eligible person is also Medicaid eligible and gets medical services through an IHS facility, the government pays 100 percent. However, if they don't go to an IHS facility and they're Medicaid eligible, the federal government pays 52 percent and the state pays 48 percent. The main issue becomes how to get the federal government to pay for IHS services.

"Why don't IHS-eligible people always go to an IHS facility? Because some services aren't available there, and because of where the facilities are located," he said.

He pointed out that Sioux Falls, the state's largest city, doesn't have an IHS facility.

"To expand Medicaid and get this \$30-33 million in additional funds plus administrative costs, what they're trying to do is have the federal government pick up more of these costs to provide more services," said Stevens.

There is a possibility of improvement.

"The IHS recently signaled an openness to start paying for its healthcare for people who need it. Instead of this 48-52 percent split, picking this up even if they're not at an IHS deal, will save the state government money and savings can be used for Medicaid expansion. That's the key," Stevens explained.

Key parties would need to agree, he said.

"It's a very complicated proposal and takes a lot of people to agree on it," he said. "If it were to work, it would be a big deal in many ways, and would be a big boost to Native American coverage."

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

**Chamber**

From Page 1

things that are going to lend to growth."

Nelson said one of the strong points on the year has been the city's sales tax numbers, which have well exceeded where they were at this point last year.

"I'm happy to report I think we have a good report card on sales tax," she said. "We've been trending up for the year — 5.8 percent over where we were in 2014 with the first and second penny, and combined (with board bed and booze tax) at 6.07 percent."

She added that workforce is an issue, but not just in Yankton.

"This is, I would say, one of the subject areas where we're challenged, but I think it's a subject area where the whole state is challenged," she said. "We've done really well partnering with other

people in our community other people in our community — RTEC, Mount Marty, YAPG's workforce development coordinator — all working together to identify solutions."

Nelson said one of the keys to being able to move forward has been a willingness to do things that haven't been done in the past.

"I really wanted to bring the message today that if we want to have things that we don't currently have in Yankton, we have to do things that we've never done before," she said. "This city commission is very progressive and I'm very grateful to them for their trust and wanting to move things forward and being creative, innovative and doing things in a different way so we can have things that we've never had. I think you're seeing that now in some of the projects that we're bringing forward."

Nelson also touched on efforts to revitalize downtown, establishing dates for

strategic planning and efforts to improve service with Fox Run Golf Course.

Yankton School District Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle also spoke on the state of education and noted one major surprise.

"We projected our enrollment at 2,660 and we actually based our budget on 2,684 students — and we could do that because you can take the two preceding years and average them," he said. "The good news is that our enrollment was 2,706 on Friday, Sept. 25, which is the day that we're required to take enrollment by the state. The other good news to that is if your enrollment is higher than what your two year average is, you can capture that immediately, so we are able to use the 2,706 which is a nice increase over what we'd projected our budget on."

Kindle said he hopes this year's numbers weren't a fluke.

"Hopefully it's not just a hiccup," he said. "We hope that it's a trend that's starting that our enrollment will

continue to go up and not the other way because we were on an eight to 10 year trend of losing enrollment — that included for the next couple of years. This was a bit of a surprise, but it was a good surprise."

And with affordable housing options currently under construction in Yankton with the option for even more in the near future, Kindle is optimistic enrollment could trend upwards in the future.

"I think the trend will continue if we have housing that's affordable for folks in town and that our employment opportunities continue to go up," he said. "If there are jobs and places to live for people that are affordable, who wouldn't want to live in Yankton?"

Kindle also touched on the Blue Ribbon Task Force on education funding, the teacher shortage and plans to make agriculture classes available in the district.

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