

Hunhoff

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Dakota. Our state needs a more open and balanced government where policies and ideas are openly debated and vetted. As a leader in the House of Representatives, I have fought to make our legislature more responsive to issues that affect regular folks — especially those South Dakotans who don't have lobbyists in the Capitol hallways. With your support, I'll keep up the fight. I think we're making progress but there's much to be done.

2. With an initiated measure on the 2012 general election ballot that proposes to increase the state general sales and use tax rate from 4 percent to 5 percent to, in part, help fund K-12, there is some uncertainty in regards to the future of education funding. What do you think of current funding levels, and what is the way forward?

The School Funding Formula created in the 1990s served us reasonably well until the governor and his legislative majority chose to ignore state law and not follow the formula. Instead, they cut K-12 schools by \$50 million, creating all sorts of problems. I hope the next legislature will agree that we should return to the formula, and rebuild the school budget. The cuts were unnecessary. The state now has \$150 million in reserves — plus \$800 million in trust funds and millions of other funds. Pierre is hoarding your tax dollars, and forcing school districts to raise property taxes to cover the education cuts. That's bad policy, and it could result in a disastrous property tax revolt like we had in the 1990s.

3. The general election ballot will include Referred Law 14, which would determine whether or not the Large Project Development Fund will be formed to assist with the construction of economic development projects. Is this fund needed? Why or why not?

I've worked with the governor on countless economic development initiatives — including tourism funding, selling state property to build the REDI fund, easing liability for manufacturers, preserving Ellsworth Air Base, funding the Sanford Lab, expanding TIFD districts and many others. But I drew a line at this idea because the governor wants to take \$16 million a year from the general fund (which funds schools and health care) when we just cut our schools \$50 million. Education is the best economic development. Employers tell me they have job openings they can't fill because they can't find qualified workers. There are other concerns about this program, but the funding source is my main objection. Please vote no on Ref. Law 14. It hurts our schools.

4. Do you think South Dakota's economy is heading in the right direction?

Government can't do much to create short-term job growth. Politicians pretend they create jobs by giving money to companies who move from town to town, but that isn't true job creation. However, government can have an impact long term by helping families and communities raise well-educated and healthy children. I give South Dakota government a "D" in that category. We need to be sure that every "at risk" child has access to pre-school. Tech schools and college must be within reach of youth from poor families. A 10 percent high school dropout rate should be considered disgraceful. And a culture of entrepreneurship should be given more than lip service. Too many politicians want to claim quick credit for job growth instead of tackling the hard stuff.

5. Scientists link the increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as last year's flood and this year's drought to the effects of climate change, yet the issue has been largely ignored at the federal and state levels. Should the Legislature take any measures to address the growing impacts of climate change?

Sadly, the legislature did address climate change two years ago with a resolution urging schools to teach astronomy as a weather factor. That gave us a black eye around the country, which was ironic because we've actually accomplished good things. We worked in a bi-partisan way to encourage ethanol and bio-diesel. Our state was an early leader in regulating wind energy so landowners and local communities would benefit. We should wean ourselves from fossil fuels as quickly as possible, both for economic and environmental reasons, through conservation and production of alternative energies. The legislature has been more successful in that regard than some lawmakers might even want to admit.

6. Final thoughts.

South Dakota is blessed with natural resources, a beautiful outdoors and good people. We have a great future, but state government is a weak link. It has not been as progressive and resourceful as our citizenry. Pierre needs to be a better partner with our communities — especially with our schools. Instead, the executive branch has picked fights with the schools. We need lawmakers who will respectfully challenge the executive branch and the Pierre bureaucracy, not only on education and property taxes but also on economic development and a host of other issues. I won't be a rubber stamp legislator. I would truly appreciate your vote this year.

County

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in the country growing up," Freng continued. "So much of what the County Commission does is unseen to most people. We are working hard to maintain services ... We haven't been raising taxes. We try to spend the money wisely. We're very miserly when it comes to the budget."

Careers in journalism and car sales have given Van Osdel experience in working with people. He also grew up on a farm.

In car sales, you learn that the customer is always right, he stated.

"Sometimes they find the vehicle they want, but it will not serve their purpose," Van Osdel said. "I learned that early on. They're upset with you because they have no room in the back seat for the kids in the car they chose. It's my

fault. You have to learn to deal with that and deal with people." "I think with my farm background and the relationships I've developed with people during the 50 years I've worked in Yankton would serve me well," he stated. "People certainly think I'm approachable."

Johnson said being a registered land surveyor and the CADD/GIS Manager at Eisenbraun & Associates, Inc., gives him a unique perspective compared to the other two candidates.

"Roads is one of the primary issues we've discussed here," he stated. "That's what I went to school for. That's what I do on a daily basis. I understand the costs of building and maintaining roads throughout our community. I also understand some of the issues that come up with planning and zoning."

Johnson said he is younger than his opponents and has some newer ideas.

"I do listen to other opinions

and work with people," he added. "On the commission, all of us work together. We understand that we have to."

In the coroner race, Melisa Smith is a Democrat who has been the coroner for one four-year term. She is seeking re-election against Arica Nickles, a Republican who currently serves as a deputy coroner under Smith. Both have been with the coroner's office for nine years.

Nickles was out of town and could not be present at the forum.

Because she has been the coroner for the last four years, Smith said she has taken far more calls that Nickles has as a deputy.

"I feel passionately that, when we respond to a coroner call, it is a team effort," Smith said in response to a question about what sets her apart from Nickles. "Law enforcement don't necessarily walk into a scene and say, 'This is what is going on and we need to take care of this body.' They ask me questions. They want to know

what my opinion is. We work together to determine why the person passed away and what needs to be done."

Smith said that, if elected, she would press for more training for her staff and set more clear policies for investigations.

She also pointed out, to a round of laughter, that political affiliation plays no role in the position.

County Commission candidates were also asked what could be done to offset the lack of federal funding for county roads.

Johnson said there needs to be a focus on roads with higher traffic loads.

"The county is going to need to make them a priority," he stated.

"There are other roads throughout our community that are very lightly traveled. Those roads are also paved. Maybe we don't need to do as much maintenance on those. Maybe they are standing up better for us."

The county needs to work smarter instead of harder, according to Freng.

"We have a certain budget, and it is not going to go up," she said. "We are not going to raise taxes. We are not going to find extra money from the federal government. We're getting a new highway superintendent. I'm hoping that he has some ideas. I hope we can find some modern practices and move forward."

Ultimately, some roads may have to be maintained less, Freng added.

"That is not a popular thought," she said.

Van Osdel observed that farm machinery is much larger than it used to be.

"There is a lot more wear and tear on the roads," he said. "I'm hoping we can hire a miracle worker (as the highway superintendent). We're going to have to do more with less, there is no doubt about it."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)

Out On The Town

**Happy Halloween!**  
**No Chicken Buffet**  
**on Oct. 31st.**  
**We will be back**  
**on Wednesday,**  
**Nov. 7th**  
**Joe's**  
**Substation**  
Rural Lesterville • 605-364-7414

**Rounding 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Bar & Casino**  
304 W. 3rd, Yankton  
**Don't Miss The Hypnotist**  
**Nov. 9th! Buy Your Tickets**  
**Now Before They Sell Out!**  
**Scheduled Entertainment**  
**Music Starts at 9PM**  
**Nov. 2 & 3.....Evan Jones**  
**Nov. 10.....Hypnotist**  
**Nov. 11.....Mike & Jay**  
**Party Room Available BOOK YOUR**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTIES NOW!**

**VFW** Post 791  
209 Cedar  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**Wednesday & Sunday**  
5-7pm Cooks Choice  
**Thursday**  
Karaoke with Papa Ray  
7-11pm  
6-7pm – Domestic Beers  
**\$1.50**  
5-7pm – Hamburger/  
Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**  
**Friday**  
Cod Dinner  
Serving 5:30-8:00  
**Saturday**  
Veryl Hahn  
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00  
**Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm**  
**Sunday at 6:30pm**  
**Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30**  
Chislic Served Last  
Wednesday of Each Month

**NOV. 2, 3, 4**  
**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA**  
**DIGITAL UP AND RUNNING!**  
Fri. 7:30 PM • Sat. 7:30 PM • Sun. 4 PM  
**Students \$2.00 Adults \$5.00**  
**Idle Hour Theatre**  
Tripp, SD

**FOOTBALL FANS!!**  
Come Warm Our Benches on Sundays!  
*The Best Place to Watch Your Team is at...*  
**Ben's**  
**Watch ALL the NFL Games**  
**On Our Big TV's!**  
**Thursday, Nov. 1st**  
• Kansas City @ San Diego  
**Sunday, Nov. 4th**  
Early Games  
• Carolina @ Washington  
• Arizona @ Green Bay  
• Detroit @ Jacksonville  
• Chicago @ Tennessee  
• Denver @ Cincinnati  
• Buffalo @ Houston  
• Miami @ Indianapolis  
Late Games  
• Minnesota @ Seattle  
• Tampa Bay @ Oakland  
• Pittsburgh @ New York Giants  
Night Game  
• Dallas @ Atlanta  
**Monday, Oct. 22nd**  
Philadelphia @ New Orleans  
**Week 9 Games**  
(\*these games shown only on NFL TICKET available at Ben's)  
**222 W. 3rd, Yankton 260-4844**

**Pancake Breakfast**  
**or Biscuits & Gravy**  
**\$6.00 All You Can Eat**  
Children 4-10 \$3.00 • Under 3 free  
**Everyone Welcome!**  
**Sun., Nov. 4th • 8AM-12:30PM**  
**VFW Post 791**  
209 Cedar, Yankton • 665-3562 • Open To Public

**Fall Has Arrived**  
**Fall Specials & Atmosphere**  
**Tis the Season To Plan Your Christms Party!**  
**Book Before Oct. 31st & Receive a 10% Discount!**  
**The Argo**  
Open Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. at 5:30  
1-402-388-2400  
[www.theargohotel.com](http://www.theargohotel.com)  
email: [argo@gcom.net](mailto:argo@gcom.net) CROFTON, NE

**SOUP KITCHEN**  
**Wed., Nov. 7th • 11am-7pm**  
Serving Chili, Turkey Noodle Soup, Taverns and Homemade Pies  
**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
305 W. 25th Street • Yankton

**SACRED HEART PARISH**  
**BAZAAR & DINNER**  
**Sunday, November 4, 2012**  
**11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
Sacred Heart Parish Center  
509 Capital St., Yankton, SD  
*Serving Delicious Turkey Dinner with stuffing, real homemade mashed potatoes & gravy, choice of salads, bun, dessert & beverage*  
**Take Out Meals! Raffle! Games! Book Nook! Bakery Booth & More!**  
**6th grade to Adult \$9, Preschool-5th grade \$5, Children 2 years & younger Free**

**SOUP KITCHEN**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
1009 Jackson St., Yankton, SD  
**Thursday, November 1 • Serving 11am-7pm**  
Menu: Soups, Taverns, Hot Dogs, Pie, Coffee & Milk

**TUESDAY STITCHERS**  
**ANNUAL BAZAAR**  
**Peace Presbyterian Church**  
206 East 31st, Yankton  
**November 3, 2012 • 9AM-2PM**  
**QUILTS, CRAFTS AND BAKED GOODS**  
All proceeds go to fund children's community project.  
**Coming Soon...**

APPEARING IN CONCERT  
**MARK SCHULTZ**  
**Kids Against Hunger**  
YANKTON– Hunger Conference  
**Come and learn how you can make a difference in the lives of children around the corner and around the world.**  
*featuring the music ministry of Mark Schultz*  
**Saturday, November 10 at 7p.m.**  
**Doors open at 6**  
**Yankton High School Theater, 1801 Summit St., Yankton, SD**  
Tickets: \$20 in advance \$25 at the door  
Available in Yankton at the Carpenter's Shop, Clark's Rentals, by phone at 800-965-9324 or at iTickets.com.  
*All proceeds will benefit the ministry of Helping Hands for Haiti, Yankton Sack Pack program, and the Yankton Contact Center. For more information, visit [www.kahyankton.org](http://www.kahyankton.org)*

**YHS BAND & COLORGUARD PRESENTS**  
**CELEBRATION**  
**16TH ANNUAL BAND AID CONCERT**  
Tickets available through YHS Band & Colorguard Students and at the door.  
Adults & Students (K-12) - \$5  
Pre-school and under - Free  
**Friday, Nov. 2, 2012 - 7:00PM - YHS Gym**  
**Special Guests:**  
**YMS BAND & USD SOUND BYTES**  
THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES THAT DONATED PRIZES FOR OUR RAFFLE:  
WASHINGTON PAVILION  
WILD WATER WEST  
BURGER KING  
MCDONALDS  
DAIRY QUEEN  
SUBWAY  
SIOUX FALLS STAMPEDE  
DAKOTA ARCHERY  
JCPENNEY  
APPLIED ENGINEERING  
PIZZA RANCH  
SCHEELS  
SWEET T'S  
SIOUX FALLS STORM  
DOUG & KAREN EKEREN  
LISA'S FASHION  
RITA'S PURSE-O-NALITIES  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK SOUTH DAKOTA  
MINERVA'S  
SUMMIT CENTER  
NFAA  
HOLLY ROWLAND  
MOLLEY MUSIC.COM IN THE MALL  
RAY'S MIDBELL MUSIC  
YESTERDA'S CAFE  
HAYCO FURNITURE  
PIED PIPER  
ROYAL SPORT SHOP  
JJ BENJ'S  
MINNESOTA VIKINGS  
BUBU'S CLEANERS  
SERTOMA BUTTERFLY HOUSE  
AVERA SACRED HEART HOSPITAL  
SLUMBERLAND FURNITURE  
PAYLESS SHOES  
FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK  
COUNTRYSIDE MANUFACTURING  
AVERA WELLNESS CENTER  
BEST WESTERN/KELLY INN  
CHRY'S FRESH MEX  
HUIHOT MONGOLIAN GRILL  
RUBY TUESDAY'S  
FOX RUN GOLF COURSE  
MAURICES  
STEINER'S LOCKER

**★Decorate a Tree**  
**...Help a Family in Need!**  
*Please help us make this holiday season a little brighter for some families in need.*  
**2 Ways You Can Help Out:**  
**1. Sponsor and decorate a artificial christmas tree and coordinating gift box for food donations**  
**2. Vote for your favorite tree by placing one non-perishable food item in the gift box located by that tree**  
Trees will be on display at the Yankton Mall with voting November 12th-December 10th. Trees will be picked up by the families in need and food delivered to our local food pantry Dec. 13th-15th.  
**Tree Registration Due: November 7th**  
*Call the mall office 665-5999 or Rita's Purse-O-Nalities 260-8362*  
**Tree Setup/Decorate Tree: November 10th-11th**  
*Please check in at Rita's Purse-O-Nalities or the Yankton Mall before setting up.*  
**Grand Prize For Best Decorated Tree is an \$100 Yankton Mall Gift Card** Winner will be announced December 12th  
**Brought to you by the Press & Dakotan & the Yankton Mall**  
**Co-sponsored by: Rita's Purse-O-Nalities**