

1790	Lawn - Garden
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Craftsman 33 inch, 357cc dual stage snowblower with EZ steer, heated hand grips, electric start, used less than 8 hours. \$1,450 firm.	
Both for \$2,700 firm. Call (605)661-0321.	

1810	Tools
Large hydraulic press, also large arbor press manual, large metal turning complete lathe. (605)660-4620.	

1815	Miscellaneous
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1870	Ag Equipment
Bobcat 773 turbo 839hrs., heated cab, 66" bucket with teeth attachment. 48" forks with counter balance weights, backhoe with 12" & 24" buckets, rear stabilizers, posthole digger, 7' snowblade, chains & spare tire, \$32,500. 14' Aluma v-nosed cargo trailer \$2,950. Refrigerator, stove, dish-washer, freezer, microwave \$850/all. Rockwood pop-up camper \$750. (402)518-0170.	

Carter: Middle Class Today Resembles Past's Poor

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Monday that the income gap in the United States has increased to the point where members of the middle class resemble the Americans who lived in poverty when he occupied the White House.

Carter offered his assessment of the nation's economic challenges Monday at a Habitat for Humanity construction site in Oakland — the first of five cities he and wife Rosalynn plan to visit this week to

commemorate their three-decade alliance with the international nonprofit that promotes and builds affordable housing.

The recent economic downturn revealed that families living in even comparatively well-off, but expensive regions like the San Francisco Bay Area are economically insecure, he said.

"Even in one of the wealthiest parts of the world there is a great deal of foreclosures and now a great deal of people who are fortunate to own their

own houses owe more on them than the houses are worth in the present market, and that's all changed in the last eight years," Carter said during an exclusive interview with The Associated Press.

Taking a break from framing windows at a new 12-unit town house development in a section of East Oakland where Habitat already has built or repaired 115 homes, the 89-year-old former Democratic president said the federal government is investing

less in affordable housing at a time of greater need.

"The disparity between rich people and poor people in America has increased dramatically since when we started," he said. "The middle class has become more like poor people than they were 30 years ago. So I don't think it's getting any better."

Years of tax breaks for the wealthy, a minimum wage untethered from the inflation rate and electoral districts drawn to maximize political

polarization have reduced the quality of life for all but a small fraction of Americans and imperiled the nation's standing as "a real super-power," he said.

"Equity of taxation and treating the middle class with a great deal of attention, providing funding for people in true need, like for affordable housing, those are the sort of things that would pay rich dividends for Americans no matter what kind of income they have," said Carter.

Vigil

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After trying to feed Berkson and getting "more on him than in him," Wambach said he felt like he was letting his new friend down.

"Mike, being the intuitive 12-year-old he was at the time, looked at me and said, 'Tim, no need to cry over spilled Taco Bell,'" he said. "It was at that moment I was hooked, and I was going to help Mike in any way I could."

While Wambach said it was easy for him to learn what kind of a person Berkson was, others weren't as willing to give him a chance.

Since Berkson is confined to a wheelchair and has very limited use of his arms, legs and torso, as well as affected speech, most people make incorrect assumptions, the two said.

"When you look a certain way and you talk a certain way, people treat you a certain way," Berkson said.

Added Wambach, "I noticed people's reactions to Mike. They'd see Mike and immediately look away. They'd pull their kids closer. They'd rush past us, like they were going to catch what Mike has ... The thing is, they didn't see the light in Mike's eyes. They didn't hear his razor-sharp wit. They didn't get to feel his caring heart. They didn't get to experience his infectious laughter. They just saw a deformed kid in a wheelchair. They never saw Mike."

Wambach and Berkson encouraged the audience members to avoid doing the same thing to others.

"When you stereotype someone, you pre-judge, and when you pre-judge, you're making a conscious choice not to give someone a choice," Wambach said.

Berkson said that to overcome any misconceptions, all one has to do is start talking.

"If you start a conversation with them, you'll see they're not different at all," he said.

Berkson said that while he has had

to deal with many issues his entire life, it wasn't until he started school that he realized just how different he really was. He said that he was able to deal with it for a long time, but it started to take a toll on him in high school.

"I would see these kids running around, doing what I really wanted to do. It was a reminder of everything I couldn't do," he said. "I didn't talk to anyone about it, so I kept it inside, all day. Then I'd go home, and I'd cry myself to sleep. I'd wake up, and do it over and over again, until one day, I knew I needed to talk to someone."

Berkson spoke about his emotions, which included suicidal thoughts, to Wambach. In return, his friend shared his story about his own battle with depression, and the two vowed to find a solution.

Berkson said he has since been diagnosed with severe anxiety and depression and is successfully undergoing treatment, and encouraged others who need help to seek out a similar support system.

"To those who suffer from mental

illness, I encourage you to find a friend and don't be afraid to bring it up," he said.

While Berkson has had many experiences dealing with his disability, he said one that often stands out is the help he received from his eighth grade teacher.

Knowing Berkson was unable to raise his hand, the teacher made a contraction that turned on a light above Berkson's head when he pressed a button, signaling that he wanted to be called upon.

"He didn't see me as a problem," Berkson said. "He saw me as a student with a problem, and he was going to help me solve it."

Getting that help taught him his most valuable lesson, he said.

"It's not what others say you can't do," he said. "It's what you know you can do."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Calendar

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The focus of National Fire Prevention Week this year is kitchen fires.

"It is one of the bigger causes of fires," Nickles said.

Among the tips he gave for avoiding kitchen fires is to keep the area around the stove clean, to not store things inside the oven and to keep tabs on what items are underneath the sink.

"That is the most hazardous

part of kitchen because a lot of people store chemicals there," Nickles said. "At some point, if water gets under it, that can rust the cans. The cans start leaking the chemicals. I've seen an explosion. I've seen a couple fires. It's a good idea to go through those cans and look at the dates on them."

In a recent case, the homeowner could smell a chemical but the source could not be found.

"After 20 minutes of searching, we found a 10-year-old can of paint stripper and the seal had been eaten out," Nickles said. "That could have eventually turned into an explosion."

Several incidents in recent years have involved intoxicated individuals deciding to cook food and then falling asleep during the process.

"Most of them are minor, but we had one incident earlier this year that was serious," Nickles said. "My recommendation is to order pizza. It's safer."

Below are some facts about kitchen fire compiled by the National Fire Protection Association:

- U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011, resulting in 400 civilian deaths, 5,080 civilian injuries and \$853 million in direct damage;

- Two of every five home fires start in the kitchen;
- Unattended cooking was a factor in 34 percent of reported home cooking fires;
- Two-thirds of home cooking fires started with ignition of food or other cooking materials;
- Ranges accounted for the 58 percent of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16 percent;
- Children under 5 years old face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire;
- Microwave ovens are one of the leading home products associ-

ated with scald burn injuries not related to fires. Nearly half (44 percent) of the microwave oven injuries seen at emergency rooms in 2011 were scald burns; and

- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1 percent of home cooking fires, but these incidents accounted for 16 percent of the cooking fire deaths.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Jack

From Page 1

ment for three months and it has not grown," Andy wrote.

To boost his staff's Team Jack fundraising efforts, Tellus wore a South Dakota State University T-shirt to work just prior to the Huskers' home game with SDSU. The idea was to raise \$50 from employees, then burn the SDSU shirt.

"I live in Yankton, and I showed up at work that Friday morning with the (SDSU) Jackrabbits T-shirt," he said. "I had this all planned, but you never know how it will go. I had my Husker shirt in the car (as a back-up)."

The stunt not only proved popular with the 45 members of the Bloomfield staff, but it also gained the attention of Yankton site manager Twyla Andrus and her staff.

"Twyla's group got involved and was throwing in money for me to keep the SDSU shirt on," Tellus said. "The whole thing got really big momentum. In the end, we raised \$200 from the day."

And the Jackrabbit T-shirt? Well, it went up in a blaze of glory.

"All the (Bloomfield) employees were in our parking lot while I burned the SDSU shirt, and I got a standing ovation," Tellus said. "In

all the (15) years that I have worked for the (First National Bank) call centers, I have never gotten a standing ovation."

The promotion created some spirited rivalry between the Yankton and Bloomfield sites, Tellus said.

"There was a lot of talking smack back and forth," he said with a laugh. "It was a lot of fun, and it was a great morale builder."

As the Jackrabbit T-shirt was torched, you could say the Bloomfield staff got fired up.

"They got into it and were really passionate for the cause," Tellus said. "They really tapped into their Husker spirit, and it was a fun thing to do."

The Team Jack effort literally hits close to home, Tellus said.

"Atkinson is about an hour away from Bloomfield, so it isn't too far down the road. And we have a lot of employees from Crofton, where Jack's uncle (Tony Hoffman) is the football coach," he said. "First National is also the official bank for Husker Nation, and here we could adopt something relatively (close) in our back yard."

The announcement of Jack's cancer remission comes as great news during a long, dark journey for the young boy, Tellus said. "Jack was the grand marshal for last Saturday's homecoming parade (at the University of Ne-

braska), and they announced his remission at the Husker game," Tellus said. "It's exciting news for Husker fans everywhere. The state has really had the opportunity since last year to follow Jack's progress."

Tellus still remains emotional about Jack's 69-yard touchdown "run" during last spring's Husker intrasquad scrimmage. The play was viewed 8.4 million times on YouTube and was shown numerous times on national television.

The video went on to win an ESPY award for "Best Moment."

"It was cool as you watched (the touchdown run) online the night after the spring game. I got goose bumps," Tellus said. "You never really thought it would reach to the national level where it would win the ESPY, but (the award) was well deserved."

The Bloomfield site's employees are thrilled with the news of Jack's remission but don't intend to ease up on their fundraising efforts, Tellus said. Besides the shirt-burning event, the center has sponsored bake sales and collected donations with more events in the works.

"We got started (with fundraising) around the first part of September," he said. "Our goal is to raise the full amount (of \$1,000) by the end of the football season. We're almost halfway there with about \$500 now."

Besides the fundraising efforts, the Bloomfield employees are showing their support by wearing official "Team Jack" T-shirts every Friday to work.

"Almost 100 percent of our staff bought the shirts. The company paid for half of the shirts' cost and helped us get a shipment of shirts from Omaha," Tellus said. "Every Friday, we sport our red Team Jack shirts. We even took a 'team' picture. It's all part of our team building and showing off our passion."

The fundraising aside, Tellus has been following Jack's story on Facebook.

"You have people who continue to wear their Team Jack shirts different places," he said. "One family wore their shirts in front of Mount Rushmore (and posted it on Team Jack's Facebook page)."

Another person wore a Team Jack shirt to a Cincinnati Bengals pro football game, Tellus said. The fan wore the shirt to the National Football League game because former Husker Rex Burkhead, who has developed a very close friendship with Jack, now plays for the Bengals.

The First National Bank staff is already planning special ways of delivering the \$1,000 to the Hoffman family, Tellus said.

"One of our employees (at the Bloomfield call center) is from Atkinson, and we're figuring out a

way to get in touch with (the Hoffmans)," he said.

On Facebook, Andy Hoffman said his family remains cautiously optimistic about Jack's future. Whatever the future holds, Andy said, the family feels tremendously grateful for the outpouring of love and support shown toward his son.

"While it is likely that Jack will need more treatment in the future, doctors overall feel good about Jack's case and have told us that it is possible, that he is done with treatment altogether," Andy wrote. "About 1/3 of all cases don't relapse, and you are done. We are praying that Jack is in that 1/3."

"Regardless, we are so thankful to God for this day. Thank you for all of your love, prayers and support. It truly means the world. We continue to be buoyed by everyone's support."

To donate or to learn more about the Bloomfield call center's fundraising effort, contact Tellus at (402) 373-5711.

To learn more about joining the fight against pediatric brain cancer, visit online at www.TeamJackFoundation.Org.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Freidel

From Page 1

ors on the football squad there, and graduated in 1979 with a double major in Social Science and Physical Education (1979).

Freidel's obituary describes him as a renaissance man who was also a cowboy, musician, published historical author, and who played a mean guitar in several bands. He was a free agent for San Francisco 49ers, inducted into the Dakota State Athletic

Hall of Fame, and published articles on the American Indian Wars.

As soon as spring football was over, he would make his annual trek to his friend's Wyoming ranch. "Time spent there refueled his soul," states his obituary.

USD Athletic Director David Herbster, whose employment with the university began in 2007, never had the opportunity to work with Freidel, but became well acquainted with his wife, Joni,

and their children who remain active in the Vermillion community.

"I felt like I knew him from all of the conversations I had from people who talked about him," Herbster said. "They talked about how he was a man of character, a man of integrity, how well-liked he was, how good of a coach he was, and how good of a husband and father he was. I just wish I had the chance to know him."

In this time of sadness,

Herbster said he hopes this is "a time of blessing in that he's found peace."

Freidel is survived by his wife, Joni of Vermillion; and their five children, Kelsey (ifancé Joey Nelson), Jackson, Jerrod, Kylen and Hailey Freidel, Vermillion; his mother, Mary and step-father, Chuck Mimmack, Armour; and several siblings, step-siblings and many other relatives.



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