

## CAL Courses Begin Next Week

Mount Marty College's Center for Active Learners (CAL) fall courses are set to begin next week on the Yankton campus.

As part of the Benedictine Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Social Justice, CAL exists to "enrich the lives of those who wish to indulge in learning for its own sake." No grades, quizzes, research papers or tests — just an exchange of ideas with others who love learning. Classes meet three to six times.

Courses include:

- "Recipe for a Sweet Success — As Easy as 1, 2, 3!" with S. Margo Tschetter on Monday mornings;
- "Symbols in Stone" with Fr. Thomas Wordkemper happening Tuesday afternoons;
- "Getting Along with Social Media" with Kristi Tacke on Thursday mornings;
- "Literature of the American West" with Dr. Jamie Sullivan occurring Thursday afternoons;
- and "Failing to Bother to Love: Looking Behind the Rules of Catholic Moral Theology" with Dr. Helen Ciernick on Fridays midday. (NOTE: Dr. Ciernick's class is also being offered in Sioux Falls on Saturday mornings.)

For more information on the courses including times and dates offered as well as instructor biographies please visit [www.mtmc.edu/benedictineinstitute](http://www.mtmc.edu/benedictineinstitute) or contact Director Andrew Henrickson at 605-668-1495 or [ahenrickson@mtmc.edu](mailto:ahenrickson@mtmc.edu).

## Orders For SHARE Due Oct. 10

Orders for SHARE (Self Help And Resource Exchange) are due by Friday, Oct. 10. In addition to the regular packages, the Yankton site is offering two new ways to share nutritious food.

This month a Baking Package has almost everything needed for your holiday baking: peanut butter, chocolate and vanilla chips, mini marshmallows, oatmeal, walnuts, cinnamon, raisins, baking mix, flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, baking soda, vanilla, Crisco, and spray oil for only \$30. In November there will be a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and in December, a ham dinner.

If you would like to SHARE a baking package this month, or a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, SHARE is now offering a "Buy One, SHARE One Program." You can purchase one or more of the packages to give as gifts, to give anonymously or to give to someone in need by calling someone from SHARE to set it up.

The second program is a chance for a lucky person to win a \$30 Baking/Pantry Package (D). Your name will be put in the drawing for \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. This is not available online, so orders must be made by calling one of the numbers listed on your order form in order to participate. If you don't have an order sheet, call Veronica "Roni" Trezona, host site coordinator at (605) 660-5612.

In November and December, there will be a drawing for one of the dinners. SHARE hopes to be able to offer more packages in the future, as well as do some fundraising for schools and other groups.

Yankton SHARE is expanding to Salem, Emery, Alexandria and Mitchell. To order from Salem, email Ruth Hildaigo at [ruth.salemshare@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.salemshare@gmail.com) or call her at (605) 425-2094. For Emery, Alexandria and Mitchell orders, email Tim Buehler at [timbuehler@santel.net](mailto:timbuehler@santel.net) or call him on Wednesday or Thursday evenings at (605) 999-7641.

## Area Democrats To Host Event Friday

The Yankton Democratic Party will be hosting an informational and social meet-and-greet event this Friday at 5 p.m. to discuss the minimum wage initiative that is on the ballot this fall and its impact on the general economy of South Dakota.

This event will be held outside of the Yankton Democratic Party headquarters located at the corner of 3rd Street and Capital (232 Capital Street) in Historic Downtown Yankton.

State Treasure Candidate Dennis Pierson will be on hand to join in the discussion and to offer his insights on the effect of the increase in the minimum wage.

This meeting is part of a series of informative meetings sponsored by the Yankton Democratic Party to inform voters of the issues and candidates to be decided in the upcoming election. Everyone is welcome and we encourage voters to join us to ask questions and to share their views.

There will be refreshments available and the event is open to the public.

Early voting for this election has already begun. Citizens can cast their ballots by visiting the County Auditor's office located on Broadway between 2nd and 3rd Street in downtown Yankton. Sample ballots and other informational materials can be found at both the County Auditor's office and at the Yankton Democratic Headquarters. Anyone interested in information on early voting or anyone who needs assistance getting to the polling place to cast their votes can contact the Yankton Democratic Party at (605) 260-0527.

## Zoning

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The ordinance has remained controversial and could face a referendum, said Brian McGinnis with the District III Planning and Development office in Yankton.

"If it's referred, and there are comments it's going to happen, the county has 30 days to set an election," he said. "You are looking at December or January for an election. The last (special election) cost the county almost \$10,000."

The county hasn't budgeted for a special election and would need to allocate the funds, Brunken said.

During Tuesday's meeting, consultant Toby Morris of Dougherty & Company provided an update on the proposed Dakota Plains elevator. In particular, he talked about the anticipated \$9-12 million cost for upgrading the rail line.

Dakota Plains has submitted five proposals to Burlington Northern, which needs to approve any rail plans, Morris said.

Morris admitted a number of questions remain to be answered as the project moves forward.

"One thing that isn't liked by (county) government is a moving target, and this is a moving target," he said.

In terms of financing, the project could receive a combination of state, federal and local government funds, as well as private contributions, Morris said.

"The state takes the approach that they want to help, but they are waiting to see what is coming for a local contribution," he said. "They are looking at a three-legged stool, and (the state) will likely provide the longer leg, to prop it up."

Dakota Plains has offered to provide up to \$4 million for rail service, Morris said. "But whatever we contribute to the rail line, it's still a state-

# Education Funding Gets Review At Public Forum

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE  
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In a mission to promote responsible and equitable fiscal policy through research and education, Joy Smolnisky of the South Dakota Budget and Policy Institute (SDBPI) presented the groups research regarding K-12 education funding during a public forum held at Yankton's Technical Education Center Tuesday.

Noting that SDBPI is a nonpartisan, non-profit, Smolnisky stressed she was there to present the results, not to take a side on the issues.

"The constitution of the state of South Dakota says we each have the responsibility to provide equitable education to all of our state's children," she said.

Smolnisky stated that, based on SDBPI's research, teachers in South Dakota have an average salary that is 76 percent of the average of regional states, which includes Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota.

"The reason I focus on our regional numbers is because I want to compare like to like," she said.

Smolnisky went on to say that another way to assess teacher salaries is to look at how the salaries of teachers compare with the salaries of other non-farm workers in the state.

"When you look at the non-farm workers in South Dakota and compare them to our regional states, they are making 88 percent of the regional average. In other words, teachers are making 24 percent less while the rest of the state's employees are only making 12 percent less. South Dakota teachers make more money when they choose to teach in neighboring states, both in actual dollars and in purchasing power."

She noted that just by moving to a regional state, educators could increase their salaries by as much as 34 percent in Wyoming and as low as 17 percent in North Dakota, with the other states ranging between the two.

The second main point presented focused on state spending to education.

According to SDBPI research, South Dakota spends 25 percent less per K-12 student than the regional average.

Smolnisky said she found the funding data when broken down to the local, state and federal level the most surprising.

"When you look at the data, our local funding is average with what other regional states are spending," she said. "When you look at the federal funding,



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Joy Smolnisky of the South Dakota Budget and Policy Institute presented a report on k-12 funding issues Tuesday as part of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce community meetings.

South Dakota is actually receiving more money than the regional states. Where we are falling behind is funding at the state level. Since 2002, the state of South Dakota has spent almost 50 percent less than the regional states based on the U.S. Census FESEF Table 11."

She noted that based on the S.D. Budget Analysis the portion of the state general fund used on K-12 funding is down 25 percent. In the same time frame, property taxes burdens have only decreased 17 percent.

"I knew that we spent less on education," she said. "What I didn't know was how the trends over time in all the areas show we are falling behind."

"The question is, what do we as a state want to with the data?"

Smolnisky said another factor that can be looked at to track educational results is to look at testing results and compare them to the regional states.

"Based on the 2014 Kids Counts data book, South Dakota has dropped from 22nd in the nation to 32nd overall," she reported. "The Kids Counts program looks at four data sources: the number of students ages 3-4 who are in preschool; the percentage of fourth graders who scored below proficient reading level; the number of eighth graders who scored below proficient in math; and the number of high school

students not graduating on time. South Dakota was lower than the national average in the first two and only slightly better than average in the second two."

In 2012, South Dakota ranked 21st, and in 2013 the state ranked 22nd. Among regional states, the next closest was Wyoming ranked 24th and the best, Minnesota, ranked 6th.

"It isn't that our students are doing significantly worse," she said. "It is that we are not improving at the rate that the rest of the country is."

While SDBPI does not take sides in the debate, Smolnisky did offer potential alternatives on how to fund education, ranging from staying at the status quo to school consolidation and finding additional funding revenue.

"I don't know what the right answer is in terms of funding education in the state - that isn't what I am here to figure out," she said. "Our goal was to present the data, encourage you to discuss the issues and facilitate getting the information to you. What you decide to do with it, at this point, is up to you."

Follow Shauna on Twitter @Shauna-Marlette/. To comment on this story, go to [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## Bridge

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said the need to act has become more urgent.

"We're going to have to fund it some way," Jensen said. "We can't leave it on the back burner for four or five years — it's not going to last."

Jensen said the budget was prepared in a way to allow for some emergency

spending on a project like this.

"That's why it's good to have a budget that has some excess and not spend everything," he said. "If you spend everything, you don't know when stuff like this is going to come up."

Jensen said he expects the high estimate of bridge replacement to be around \$4 million. He added that while the county could keep trying to fix the bridge, the best option is to replace it entirely.

"There's different phases, but I would favor to get the

whole thing done right," he said. "You could Band-Aid it a little bit, you could shore it up ... but we'll do what we have to do because you've got to have bridges."

He added that while the news might not have been positive, it helps get the process moving with more urgency.

"It's not good news, but it is because it gets you off your laurels and gets (us) going," he said. "There's a point where you can hold off on things, but this is not one of them. This is the number-

one priority next year."

In other business Tuesday, the commission:

- Approved a gravel road request by Doug Hevle.
- Discussed remodeling the Yankton County Government Center basement to deal with leakage issues.
- Discussed variances in the county.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at [twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/](https://twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/)

owned rail line," he said.

Bon Homme County could provide a sign of local commitment through the formation of a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district, Morris said.

He noted the rumors surrounding a possible TIF district.

"When it comes to TIFs, there has been more misunderstanding," he said. "People think it's subsidizing the developer. But it's more along the line that we are building infrastructure for Bon Homme County."

Morris emphasized Bon Homme County wouldn't put itself in any liability with a TIF. He pointed to his experience in working with local governments.

"All the TIFs I have done, I never put the county or city in harm's way," he said. "If I would do something to a city or county, I would need to get a new ZIP code out of state. That's the way South Dakota is."

The Bon Homme County

Commission's passage of the zoning ordinance lifted a hurdle for the Dakota Plains project, Morris said. However, the action also sent a strong signal to state officials, he said.

"When we go to the governor, we want to show that we've got local support," he said.

Bon Homme County Commissioner John Hauck of Tabor said he supports a TIF for many aspects of the proposed grain facility. However, he opposes forming a TIF for improving a state-owned rail line.

"The state needs to step in (at that point)," he said.

However, Bon Homme County Commission Chairman John Pesek of Tyndall said the county faces a golden opportunity to develop rail service.

"The railroad to Bon Homme is like the interstate (highway) to Mitchell," he said. "And the railroad is important to Dakota Plains. I think it will bring the county a lot more growth in the future."

The other commissioners — Russell Jelsma of Springfield, John Fathe of Avon and Mike Soukup of Scotland — expressed general support for moving forward with TIF discussions.

In particular, Jelsma noted his desire to see rail service return to Bon Homme County.

Morris said he now plans to meet with the Bon Homme school board at its next meeting. He will present the county commission's support with its passage of the zoning ordinance and its willingness to discuss a TIF district.

Winsand said the Dakota Plains project has received attention far beyond Bon Homme County. He has received inquiries from parties interested in using the rail line.

"There is a lot of opportunity," he said. "We want to build a grain elevator. If something else comes along, great."

Winsand added, if the Tabor facility is built, Dakota Plains officials would offer local first responders a walk-through to learn the layout and possible escape routes for emergencies.

Tuesday's zoning change represented the next step toward making the Tabor facility a reality, Hauck said.

However, he also noted the long road still ahead. "They have a long way to go before they stick a shovel in the ground," he said.

After Tuesday's meeting, Pesek reiterated his support

for the Dakota Plains project.

I think opening up the railroad is important, even more so than the (Dakota Plains) elevator," he said. "Opening the railroad would benefit the county in many ways."

However, the proposed grain facility and possible TIF district has stirred questions and controversy, he admitted.

Pesek noted his vehicle was "keyed" during a recent information meeting in Tyndall. The damage was presumably done by an opponent of the Dakota Plains project or a TIF district, he said.

He shook his head as he talked about the vandalism. However, he said he remains firmly committed to moving forward with the rezoning and Dakota Plains project.

"I'm very supportive of it," he said. "I think it's the right thing for Bon Homme County."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## OBITUARIES

### Richard Niemann

Richard Niemann, 67, of Yankton and son of Raymond and Marybelle (Osborne) Niemann, died Friday, Oct. 3, 2014, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Memorial services are at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 13, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the Rev. Rodney Veldhuizen officiating. Burial of the remains will be at the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the memorial service at the funeral home. To send an online mes-

sage, visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Lila Hansen

Funeral services for Lila A. Hansen, 91, of Bloomfield, Nebraska, are at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 13, 2014, at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomfield. The Rev. Jacob Bobby will officiate, with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to services at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomfield.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements.

Lila died Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014, at Crete, Nebraska.

### Mark Eisenhauer

Memorial services for Mark L. Eisenhauer, 52, of Creighton, Nebraska, are at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield, Nebraska. The Rev. Tim Koester will officiate, with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Creighton is in charge of arrangements.

Mark died Friday, October 3, 2014.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Michael J. Hochstein**  
10:30 AM, Thursday  
Holy Family (Immaculate Conception)  
Catholic Church  
St. Helena

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Meet Hugo! He is a 3.5 year old Puggle with lots of energy. He loves to be around people and loves to run around in the yard. Hugo is neutered, fully vaccinated and micro-chipped. If you'd like to meet Hugo give Heartland Humane Society a call at 605-664-4244.

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or call 605-664-4244 for more information.  
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