

Knox

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the Livestock Friendly Certification. When the process started a year and a half ago, there were 18 counties with the designation and it was a challenging prospect. Knox County Development Agency (KCDA) Director Matt Cerny considered it a worth-while project to pursue. It would provide jobs in a county where declining population was a sad reality.

"Agriculture is the No. 1 industry in Nebraska and in Knox County," said Cerny. "By adopting the necessary

steps to become Livestock Friendly and be part of the program, Knox County can stay competitive with other counties in Nebraska to continue to grow our ag economy and create and maintain jobs and stabilize our population."

"We now have several opportunities for present livestock operators and new operators to expand in Knox County," said Planning Commission Chairman Dean Wilken.

He was pleased the process was a success. It took time for the Planning Commission to review all the livestock regulations which previously were on the books for Knox County and amend them to fit the Live-

stock Friendly Designation. This new process welds the past with the present and ensures the future of agriculture in Knox County.

Cerny invited Willow Holoubek of the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN) to make a presentation to the KCDA about what a Livestock Friendly Designation would mean to Knox County. This designation recognizes counties in Nebraska which actively support the livestock industry, encouraging it to grow. Holoubek told the board. She went full circle to make the presentation to the Knox County Board of Supervisors and Knox County Planning Commission so county officials were all on

board.

Knox County Zoning Administrator Liz Doerr noted where a 1,000-cow dairy was previously the limit in the county, now a 5,000-cow dairy was a possibility.

"It enables current operators in the county the ability to bring their children back into the operation and grow it," said Doerr.

Knox County Board of Supervisor Virgil Miller agreed the decision was invaluable to the future of agriculture in the county.

"This adds to the well-being of the county," said Miller. "We now have opportunities for young people; we are opening doors for family and our youth to come back to Knox County."

Nebraska Assistant Director of Agriculture, Bobbie Kriz-Wickham, was excited to see another success in Nebraska. She said it is important for areas where livestock makes most sense and the rural lifestyle can flourish to have this reinforcement and approval which extends from one end of the state to the other.

Kriz-Wickham said the Nebraska Department of Roads will be placing the Livestock Friendly Designation signs at all main-stream county roads in Knox County as visual cues for everyone entering the county to know agricultural is vital in Knox County.

"Agriculture drives Nebraska's economy," said

Heinemann. "And as Ag drives the economy, it follows it drives the economy on Main Street America."

Yes, it is a big deal and very important to rural Nebraska and its success will be seen in rural storefronts, schools and churches. It shows vitality and the Knox County officials are commended for recognizing the need, Heinemann said.

"Knox County's economic development strategy is to capitalize and grow on the assets we already have," Cerny said. "With our open spaces and ag industry already #1, it made sense to do what we can to encourage and enhance development."

Threat

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viduals for sex or labor through the use of force or forced coercion. It also occurs when the victim is under age 18.

"Human trafficking is the second most lucrative industry in the world, with drugs in first and pornography in third," he said. "All three go hand in hand."

A GROWING PROBLEM

Bartscher emphasized South Dakota's human trafficking isn't isolated to the Sturgis rally. For that matter, it can be found across the state involving people of all ages and walks of life.

"You think human trafficking isn't happening here? Think again," he said. "People have been engaged in it for years. It's a business. This ought to be raised on our radar. We need to be aware of its magnitude."

South Dakota's location and easy accessibility makes it a prime target for traffickers, Bartscher told the Press & Dakotan.

"South Dakota has its interstate highway system covering the north, south, east and west corners of the state," he said. "You can get where you want to go."

The sex trafficking statistics for South Dakota include the following:

- There are 30 federal sex trafficking cases since 2009, with more than half of them from the past 15 months.
- Nine arrests are associated with the 2013 Sturgis rally.
- Two arrests were made in Sioux Falls in March 2014.
- Five indictments came from the 2014 Sturgis rally.
- Two people from Minnesota were indicted for sex trafficking Sept. 17, 2014.
- Dozens of girls and women have been discovered as victims of sex trafficking in South Dakota.
- Every high school in Sioux Falls has had sex trafficking victims.

"There is reason to believe there are more victims whose cases have never been reported to law enforcement and have never been prosecuted," Bartscher said.

The issue has gained statewide exposure and aware-

ness because of widespread media coverage, he said. In addition, churches and other parties are sponsoring conferences dedicated to the issue.

He showed a billboard warning those intending to traffic in South Dakota.

"We say, 'Pimp, john and trafficker, you're not welcome. And if you come here, you'll be prosecuted to the full extent of the law,'" he said.

Trafficking can even be found in rural areas such as American Indian reservations and regions with a large influx of hunters, he added.

Training efforts were conducted last week in Indian Country to address the problem, Bartscher to the Press & Dakotan.

"There is human trafficking on the reservations because the lure is the same as anywhere else - money, power and glamour," he said. "There is also the desperation of young people trying to move out of their situation. They suffer from despair, and this is promised as their way out."

CRACKING DOWN

South Dakota has cracked down on the problem thanks to the combined efforts of elected officials, law enforcement, educators and the general public.

"They are taking the matter extremely seriously," he said.

Bartscher referred to South Dakota's trafficking law which includes prostitution, forced labor and involuntary servitude. The violations can be treated as a Class 2 or 4 felony, depending on circumstances, he said.

In addition, the 2014 Legislature passed a bill addressing the issue, Bartscher said. The law, known as SB25, established the procedure to forfeit personal property in child pornography, human trafficking, child solicitation or exploitation cases, and to direct money from the forfeitures.

Despite such efforts, the Polaris Project gave South Dakota a grade of "F" on its human exploitation laws, Bartscher said. The organization works on all forms of human trafficking and serves victims of slavery and human trafficking.

"(South Dakota Attorney General) Marty Jackley would argue we don't deserve an 'F,'" Bartscher said. "You find statutes other than ones that list human trafficking. You find

(our protections) under laws dealing with pornography or enforced child labor."

Bartscher anticipates South Dakota will toughen its trafficking laws when lawmakers return to Pierre next January.

"Can we do better? Yes, we can," he said. "During the 2015 session, I look for additional legislation."

THE FACE OF THE PROBLEM

During Tuesday's presentation, Bartscher presented a chilling look at trafficking across the United States.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an estimated 100,000 American youths are forced or lured into prostitution every year. An estimated 300,000 American youths are at risk. The average age of someone entering the sex industry is 13 or 14 years old.

The average victim may be forced to have sex between 20 to 45 times per day, according to the Polaris Project.

Human trafficking's rapid growth can be traced to a number of factors, Bartscher said. He pointed to today's highly sexualized culture with its failure to value all people. The industry is fueled by technology such as the Internet, social networking and cell phones.

"And it's in high demand and highly profitable," he said. Traffickers come from all

walks of life, including husbands and boyfriends.

Bartscher paused, questioning why men would exploit their loved ones for profit.

"How much of a boyfriend are you if you're really pimping out your girlfriend?" he asked.

The victims of human trafficking can come from any background. However, they tend to share a number of characteristics, Bartscher said.

"They are often homeless, minorities and runaway children," he said. "They often come from poverty, drug and alcohol addiction; a single or no parent, particularly with no father; and sexual abuse. And they may be seeking high risk and adventure."

Bartscher exploded the myths surrounding human trafficking in what he termed "lure versus reality."

The lure includes promises of acceptance and love; desperation; money, power and glamour.

The reality is physical abuse, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), forced abortions, emotional abuse, malnutrition and physical and emotional scars.

"Human trafficking results from the complete failure to value others," he said.

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

South Dakota is braced for the potential of its next big

wave of trafficking, Bartscher said.

For next year's 75th anniversary of the Sturgis bike rally, authorities are expecting an estimated 1.4 million visitors will flood the Black Hills and surrounding region, he said. The influx of visitors will impact the entire state, he added.

Officials are already months into planning for the inundation of 2015 rally visitors, including awareness about trafficking, Bartscher said. The awareness effort includes public service announcements (PSAs) and billboards in the Black Hills and across South Dakota.

"We're warning (traffickers), 'You can be caught if you come here,'" he noted.

At Tuesday's Rotary meeting, an audience member talked about the growing abuse of prescription drugs among young women and how it can lead to human trafficking. The audience member also talked about the high rate of suicide among young girls.

The trafficking victims are predominantly girls, usually 13 or 14 years old, who are often runaways, Bartscher said.

"They find they are caught up in a spiral and the shame of it all. We seek to find them a safe haven," he told the Press & Dakotan. "If we remove one child from the streets and know they're in a safe place,

we're encouraged."

In conclusion, Bartscher likened the trafficking response to the most lopsided college football game in history, played Oct. 7, 1916. Georgia Tech crushed Cumberland College 222-0, leading 63-0 after one quarter and 126-0 at halftime. The rushing statistics showed Georgia Tech with 978 yards and Cumberland College at minus 42 yards.

In the second half, a Cumberland College player fumbled the football, and a teammate — overwhelmed by the opponents — refused to recover the loose ball.

"The first player's response? He said, 'You dropped it, you pick it up!'" Bartscher said. "Fear had paralyzed the team."

In the same way, fear often paralyzes the response to illegal activities, he said.

"When it comes to human trafficking, many of us have dropped the ball," he said. "It's time to pick up the ball and run with it."

For more information, visit online at www.familyheritagealliance.org.

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

Weekly Specials

Wednesday
Dollar Doubles
Double load washing \$1.50

Thursday
Triple Loads for \$3.00
10-80 lb. Machines
24 Hr. Service

24 HR EXPRESS LAUNDROMAT
2020 Elm St. - Behind Walgreens

Relax at Diggers Casino & Bar Next Door While You Wash & Dry

EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP

Yankton County voters will get the

BANG

out of county government they deserve by Re-electing

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Yankton County Commission

on November 4th

Paid for by Garry Moore

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665-3412
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FREE Harvest Breakfast

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, our customers, for your patronage, and invite you to join us for a free breakfast!

Thursday, October 30 • 6:00am-10:00am

Serving Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Cinnamon Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Orange Juice & Coffee • Dine-in Only

While you're in the store shop these great specials!
Prices good Thursday & Friday, Oct. 30 & 31.

<p style="margin: 0;">Hormel Always Tender Pork Loin Back Ribs</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">\$2.99 lb.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Coke</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">4/\$9</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">24 oz. 6 packs</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">Rotisserie Chicken</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">\$4.99 Each</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Hy-Vee Tortilla Chips select varieties</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">4/\$3</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">10-13.6 oz.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">Dilusso Classic Chef or Garden Salad</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">\$2.99 Each</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Washington Braeburn apples</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">.79¢ lb.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">Purex select varieties</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">4/\$10</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">50 oz.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Cottonelle 9 mega roll</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 2em;">\$6.99</p>

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*With Hy-Vee Fuel Saver™ Card. See store for details.
Fuel savings are limited to 20 gallons per vehicle.