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# Conference Targets A Growing Problem



**Bonnie Clairmont with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute of the Twin Cities speaks about warning signs and helping victims during Wednesday's "Sex Trafficking In Indian Country" conference at the Fort Randall Casino near Pickstown. She stands next to a "Stop Sex Trafficking" T-shirt.**

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

## Pickstown Forum Addresses Rising Tide Of Sex Trafficking In Indian County

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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**W**hen it comes to sex trafficking, some "johns" don't want teenagers — they're looking for children.

"Some (victims) are as young as 8 years old," Bonnie Clairmont told the *Press & Dakotan* during Wednesday's conference at Fort Randall Casino near Pickstown.

Clairmont serves as a victim advocacy specialist with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute's office in the Twin Cities. She brought

her message to the "Sex Trafficking In Indian Country" conference.

The thought of 8-year-old victims is unsettling. The persons peddling the youngsters are even more disturbing.

"It's a huge problem, and it's not just outsiders (preying on children)," Clairmont said, "It's within our families. We have parents who are trafficking their children."

Why would parents traffic their own children?

"They're doing it because of things like meth addiction. The parents need to pay for their drugs, and they don't have the resources," Fairmont said. "We've seen mothers

pimp out their children to buy drugs. And they don't need to leave home. You have trafficking that goes on through the Internet and word of mouth."

**BUILDING AWARENESS**

Wednesday's conference drew more than 75 people ranging from tribal government, law enforcement and health care to the general public, according to Charon Asetoyer with the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center in Lake Andes.

"It shows that people are concerned and

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**David Landon, 2015 American Welding Society president, spoke at RTEC Wednesday on finding inspiration and mentors in the welding field.**

## Welder Finds Inspiration In Superheroes

BY REILLY BIEL  
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When it comes to finding appreciation for the art of welding, David Landon doesn't have to look any further than Hollywood.

On Wednesday, Landon, the 2015 president and chairman of the board of the American Welding Society (AWS), addressed members of the Siouxland Section and members of the general public at RTEC with a talk entitled "A Triple Pass of the Torch: Technology, Heroism and Mentorship."

Landon delved into his favorite subject next to welding — his love of superhero movies, particularly Marvel's "Iron Man" films.

"Isn't that cool?!" he exclaimed gleefully after showing a clip of Tony Stark being outfitted in his "Iron Man" suit. "As a manufacturing guy, I get off on that!"

Landon pointed out that superhero movies are among the most popular film genres at this time and asked the question: What is it about superhero movies that entrance us?

"For me, it's the technology," Landon said. "I love to watch the toys they play with."

Landon believes these movies show the technology that's evolving today, albeit in a futuristic sense, from things like lasers to 3-D printing.

"When I started welding, it was considered to be a dark, scary and dangerous occupation, but today that has changed," he said.

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## Krebs Talks Initiatives, Many Roles Of Office

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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The 2016 election season is already shaping up to be a busy one for South Dakota. But as with every election, first-year state Secretary of State Shantel Krebs' office will be overseeing how the election goes — among many other things the Secretary of State's office is tasked to do.

Krebs was in Yankton Wednesday and sat down with the *Press & Dakotan* to discuss the office and what she's seen in her first year.

Krebs said that the ballot for 2016 could look a bit crowded, with a potentially record-breaking number of referrals.

"You already have three referrals on there from the Legislature," Krebs said. "Potentially up to 13 more that are being potentially circulated. We'll know (how many) by Nov. 9. The due date for them is

one year prior to the general election date."

Proposed referrals already on the ballot include a constitutional amendment concerning higher education, provisions regarding elections and election petitions, and a youth minimum wage. Some of the proposed referrals include criminalizing transfer of alcoholic beverages, decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana, revisions to campaign finance laws and creating nonpartisan elections.

Krebs said should all of them get on, it could be a record and would continue the state's tradition of being open to referrals.

"In 2006, I think there were 12 initiated measures on the ballot," she said. "Going back to 1910, there were 13 at the time. South Dakota has been known for its initiated

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says while it's going to be a busy year for elections in the state, her office goes far beyond overseeing elections.**

## SD Medicaid Plan Would Boost Native American Care

BY JAMES NORD  
Associated Press

PIERRE — In considering an expansion of Medicaid to make nearly 50,000 more state residents eligible for the program, South Dakota's proposal also focuses on improving access to care and boosting the health of the state's large Native American population.

The Health Care Solutions Coalition met Wednesday in Pierre to discuss in part the proposal's impact on Native Americans, who make up nearly 9 percent of South Dakota's population. The plan under examination to expand the Medicaid program for low-income and disabled people would be funded through state savings by improving access to care though the Indian Health Service and a change in the classification of some services to have them fully paid for by the federal government.

Improving access through IHS and tribal health programs means members wouldn't have to travel as far to get services and would improve health while lowering

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