



Sunny Skies Continue

9 a.m.: **62** | 3 p.m.: **81**
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Charges Filed In Local Taco Johns Incident

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of South Dakota announced Wednesday it is taking on the case of Yankton's Tyler Brandt. ACLU of South Dakota and co-counsel Stephanie E. Pochop filed charges in Sioux Falls with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against Taco John's of Yankton, Inc. and Taco John's International, Inc.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred in June when the 16-year-old Brandt, then an employee of Taco Johns in Yankton, alleged the night manager forced him to wear a name tag that read "Gaytard" during his shift. Brandt resigned from the restaurant the next day.

The charge alleges that Taco John's violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

"LGBT people in all 50 states are still protected by Title VII from discrimination based on sex stereotypes," said Heather Smith, executive director of the ACLU of South Dakota, in a press release Wednesday. "Taco John's has a responsibility to ensure that its franchises in all 50 states — including South Dakota — understand that this discrimination is unacceptable and illegal."

Brandt told the *Press & Dakotan* Wednesday that this was a needed action.

"I feel like it's a step that needed to be taken," he said. "It was very necessary, and I just have to wait out and see what happens from this point."

Brandt said the ultimate aim is to prevent such an incident from happening again.

"My goal is to make sure the story is heard," he said. "Basically, I want Taco John's to promise it's not going to happen to anyone else. I don't want it to happen to any other people."

In June, Yankton Taco John's manager John Scott told the *Press & Dakotan* that the name tag

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Rave Reviews



Yankton County Commissioner Allen Sinclair was honored recently with the Outstanding Service by a County Commissioner Award. Sinclair is in his 12th year on the county board and is not seeking reelection this fall. Also, Yankton County Register of Deeds Brian Hunhoff was presented the South Dakota Counties Association's Outstanding Service by a County Official Award.

Sinclair, Hunhoff Receive State Recognition

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Civil servants working at the Yankton County Government Center have recently made a habit of winning awards.

This month, Yankton County commissioner Allen Sinclair was recognized at the 100th annual South Dakota Counties Convention with the Outstanding Service by a County Commissioner Award.

Meanwhile, register of deeds Brian Hunhoff won the South Dakota Counties Association's Outstanding Service by a County Official Award.

Sinclair, who is in his 12th year as a county commissioner, said it was a reflection of not only his work, but the entire commission's. "It's a real compliment to Yankton County, and to myself as well," Sinclair said. "That award is based on accomplishments in Yankton County — not as part of the state organization, necessarily. You have to give the other members of the County Commission a lot of credit for that. We try to work together as a team to get things done, and I think the fact that I received the award is a reflection on the other members



Hunhoff

of this commission and past commissions that I've worked with."

Hunhoff said his own award came as a bit of a surprise, despite being nominated in the past.

"I was definitely caught off guard," Hunhoff said. "I'd been nominated once before and did not win, so I wasn't expecting to win this time either. In fact, I was so sure I wouldn't win that I didn't even bother to wear a tie to the awards banquet. I was very surprised."

Hunhoff, who was nominated by County Commission chairman Bruce Jensen, said it was an honor to be nominated by the commission.

"It's just a good feeling that our commission was willing to put my name in nomination, and our state counties association saw fit to recognize my work as meeting recorder last year," he said.

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Questions Raised In EB-5 Visa Program

Panel Requests More Information About Joop Bollen's Actions

BY CARSON WALKER
Associated Press

PIERRE — A panel looking into an embattled visa program designed to lure wealthy immigrants to invest in rural South Dakota projects will ask the former administrator's supervisors at Northern State University and on the state Board of Regents to testify.

State Rep. Larry Tidemann, chairman of the Government Operations and Audit Committee, said Wednesday that he'll call on former EB-5 administrator Joop Bollen's supervisors to testify. Bollen worked for Northern State University in Aberdeen when, documents indicate, he signed an agreement with his own company to manage some of the investments without his superiors' knowledge. His supervisors included the state Board of Regents and university leaders.

The committee also reviewed written answers provided by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and former Gov. Mike Rounds, both Republicans, about the EB-5 program. Daugaard is running for re-election, and Rounds is seeking the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson. The program has become an issue in the Senate race.

The federal EB-5 program allows foreign investors to obtain a green card with a \$500,000 investment in an approved rural project that creates at least 10 jobs. A beef packing plant approved as part of the program, which also received state economic development money, went bust while Rounds was governor. Democrats say millions in taxpayer dollars may have been lost.

The state faces a breach-of-contract lawsuit that Democrats say stem from Bollen's actions. The lawsuit alleges Bollen acted without authority in recruiting Asian investors.

The GOP majority on the panel voted to hold the next hearing on Nov. 14, after the Nov. 4 election, but state Rep. Susan Wismer and state Sen. Larry Lucas, both Democrats, voted against. Wismer is running for governor against Daugaard in November.

Tidemann said one of the questions he has for the regents is how much has been spent defending the state against the lawsuit. Wismer said lawyers have billed the state \$250,000 so far this year.



COURTESY PHOTO
Father Tim Lange will perform concerts to raise money for Sacred Heart Schools on Sunday, Oct. 5. He has offered to match the first \$10,000 raised for the school's tuition assistance program.

Lange Concerts Set To Benefit SHS

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The sound of music ranging from classical to jazz will fill the sanctuaries of St. Benedict and Sacred Heart churches soon, with the hope that a challenge will help increase support for Sacred Heart Schools (SHS).

Father Tim Lange will present two piano concerts for the benefit of Sacred Heart School and is including a challenge that he will match the first \$10,000 raised to go to the tuition assistance program of the schools.

"I decided to do something for the school, to encourage others to help support the school," he said. "I would rather spend the money now, than after I am dead."

The concerts are planned for Sunday, Oct. 5, at 3 p.m. at St. Benedict Church and at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.

Lange, who was born in Crofton, Nebraska, and

graduated from Yankton High School in 1950, was ordained to Catholic priesthood in 1961. For the next 47 years, he served in the Omaha Archdiocese, before retiring to Yankton.

He said he believes in giving back to the church community, specifically its children.

"Father Tim just believes, like we do, in the mission of the school," said Tim McCaffrey, director of the Yankton Catholic Community Foundation. "I think he believes that the more times he steps forward, the more others will."

Lange began piano lessons at age seven and after ordination to the priesthood, received a M. Divinity degree from Creighton University and was able to continue studying music with a B.A. in Music Education from Briar Cliff University and an M. A. in Organ Performance from USD. He has taught more than 1,000 students. Before retiring, he was pastor at St. Peter's Church in Stanton, Nebraska, for 22 years.

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Yankton Co. 4-H Team Set For Nationals

BY JORDYNNE HART
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Four Yankton County 4-Hers will represent South Dakota by competing in the national Consumer Decision Making contest. Stephanie Hauger, Laurel and Cami Friedenbach and Leah Waid placed first as a team in the contest held at the South Dakota Sate Fair.

The national contest will be held Jan. 8 to Jan. 11 at the Western National Roundup in Denver, Colorado. Many 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members across the U.S. will represent their state in the contest.

Cami Friedenbach said that the group is happy to represent Yankton County and South Dakota.

"We are all very excited and surprised," she said.

Cami said that this is the first year Yankton County participated in the contest.

Stephanie Siebrandt 4-H Youth Development Coordinator and coach admitted that she was a little surprised too.

"It's not that I didn't have faith in them, but this is all so new to us," Siebrandt said. "I am very proud."

Siebrandt said the four girls were chosen to be on the Yankton County 4-H team after receiving the top

scores at the county consumer ranking contest.

"We had quite a few kids show up for the event," she said. "These girls scored the highest. They work well together."

Siebrandt said that the contest teaches 4-Hers to be better consumers.

"These kids are all growing up and will soon be out in the world on their own. One of the challenges that they will face will be getting the best quality of a product for the best price," Siebrandt said. "This is what this contests targets."

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JORDYNNE HART/P&D

Yankton County 4-H Members Laurel Friedenbach, Cami Friedenbach, Stephanie Hauger and Leah Waid placed first as a team in the South Dakota State Consumer Decision Making contest held at the South Dakota State Fair. They will now advance to the national Consumer Decision Making Contest in Denver. Stephanie Siebrandt (far right) 4-H youth development coordinator will coach the team at nationals.