

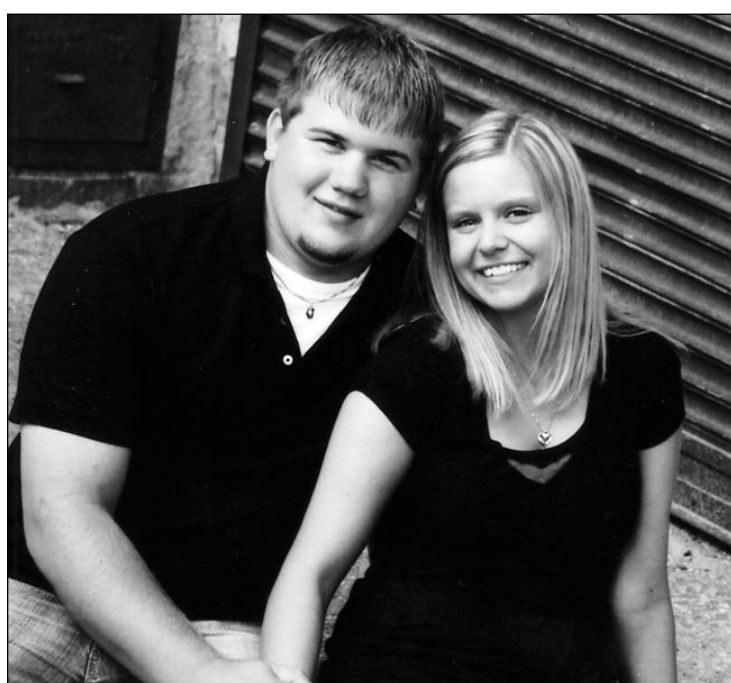
Allen Neuharth and Evangeline Orr

To be wed

Evangeline Orr of Yankton and Allen Neuharth of Freeman are happy to announce their engagement.

Parents of the couple are Kenneth and Doris Orr of Meckling and Harlin and Joan Neuharth of Freeman.

The bride-to-be is a correctional officer at the Yankton County Jail. The future groom is a self-employed farmer. An April 24, 2010 wedding is planned at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Freeman.



Adam Polley and Danielle Morris

To be wed

Rod and (the late) Cheryl Polley of Wakonda are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Adam Polley, to Danielle Morris, daughter of Steve and (the late) Linda Morris of Plymouth, MN.

Adam is a 2007 graduate of Wakonda High School and is attending SDSU, pursuing

a degree in civil engineering. Danielle is a 2005 graduate of Wakonda High School and is also attending SDSU, pursuing a bachelor of science degree with a major in nursing. She will graduate in May of 2010.

A June 12, 2010 wedding is planned.

REPORT FROM PIERRE

By Sen. Ben Nesselhuf
District 17

Greetings from Pierre. As we start the fourth week of session things are really beginning to pick up. Deadlines are fast approaching and we will soon know the total amount of bills we will have to deal with this year.

Last week I wrote about my bill to eliminate the ban on embryonic stem cell research. I want to give a quick update. I just returned from the committee hearing where I amended the bill. It will no longer eliminate the entire ban on stem cell research but will ensure that South Dakotans can receive any FDA approved treatments derived from such research. There is currently a ban on research and treatments. I fully support a repeal of the entire ban but find it absolutely unconscionable that we would prohibit our neighbors from receiving, possibly life saving, treatments.

The other bill I'm pushing this year

is to ban texting and cell phone use for those drivers with restricted licenses.

Sadly, we are all aware the number one threat to the life of a South Dakota teenager is a motor vehicle crash. In 2008, 21 people were killed in crashes involving teen drivers in South Dakota, according to the Advocates for Highway Safety.

Shockingly, 20 percent of 16 year olds will be involved in a car accident according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It's time we take a stand and pass legislation that will help bring an end to these preventable collisions.

The proposed cell phone ban would amend the current SD law to prohibit the use of cell phones while driving, including texting, for the state's most inexperienced drivers age 14-15. Emergency calls and GPS devices would not be banned.

Talking on a cell phone is significantly more dangerous than talking to

a passenger, especially for the least experienced drivers, according to a University of Utah study. Passenger conversations can make the driver aware of varying road conditions they might not see and can stop the discussion if traffic circumstances warrant.

Drivers who text and drive are six times more likely to get into an accident than drivers who do not text while driving. A driver talking on a cell phone is more impaired than one with a blood alcohol level exceeding the legal limit.

Although this bill only applies to young drivers, it impacts all of us. Young people do not exist in a bubble and anything we can do to make them safer drivers, make the roads safer for everyone.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or opinions please feel free to contact me at sen.nesselhuf@state.sd.us or call me at home at 605-624-6178. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in Pierre.

Cinda Baxter, founder of The 3/50 Project, will address VCDC banquet

The Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company will be holding its annual banquet on Friday, Feb. 19. In an effort by the VCDC to highlight the importance of shopping locally, this year's featured speaker is Cinda Baxter, founder of The 3/50 Project. With a tag line "Save your local economy three stores at a time," the project's goal is to promote shopping in locally owned businesses while thanking customers for the positive impact that decision has on a local economy.

"We ask consumers to think about which three stores they'd miss if they disappeared, then remind them to return there," said Baxter. "Shoppers have become so rooted in thinking about the essentials that they've forgotten about the little gift store on the corner whose owner remembers their name."

"Fifty comes from the idea that if even half the employed population spent a mere \$50 per month in locally owned retail stores, those purchases would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue," she said. "That's a huge impact for a relatively small investment."

"In essence, the whole thing boils down to 'Pick 3, spend 50, save the economy.' It's really that simple."

About Cinda Baxter

Cinda Baxter understands retail from the inside out. Her commitment to exceeding customer expectations resulted in two national Retailer Excellence Awards and frequent press coverage ranging from Minnesota

Monthly to Modern Bride. Today, she "pays it forward" to both retailers and vendors through her consulting company Always Upward, as a contributing editor for Gifts and Decorative Accessories Magazine, and as founder of The 3/50 Project.

Widely recognized as an expert in the gift and stationery industry, Cinda's resume includes seats on some of its most distinguished advisory boards: AmericasMart Atlanta, the National Stationery Show, Retailer Networks Incorporated, and the Gift and Home Trade Association (GHTA), where she also served on the board of directors. Her most recent appointment to the Gift for Life board of directors is of particular note.

She's been a featured speaker at numerous trade shows, including the Hong Kong Gift and Premium Show, the New York International Gift Show, the Los Angeles Gift Show, and the National Stationery Show – and at several regional marts, including Dallas, Chicago, Seattle, and Boston. Whether addressing an audience of independent retailers or international business leaders, her focus remains constant – creating success.

As founder of acclaimed online communities RetailSpeaks (independent gift and stationery retailers) and Brilliant Ink (professional stationers dedicated to original design), Cinda is considered a pioneer of social networking in the retail industry – a reflection of her passion to help community based business survive and thrive for years to come.

Maryland professor to deliver USD Thurgood Marshall program

The University of South Dakota School of Law will honor the legacy of Thurgood Marshall with the program, "The Influence of Social Protest Movements on Thurgood Marshall's Gender Jurisprudence While on the Supreme Court," by Taunya Lovell Banks on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. in the law school courtroom on the USD campus.

In addition to Lovell Banks' address, the School of Law will host a panel discussion at 2 p.m. in the courtroom featuring law students and others offering general advice on preparing for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), completing law school applications, selecting courses and majors, and staying in school. The program is hosted by USD's Black Law Students Association and is sponsored by the Law School Admission Council as part of DiscoverLaw.org Month, which was developed to encourage racially and ethnically diverse under-

graduate students to discover career opportunities in law. The panel discussion and lecture are free and open to the public.

Lovell Banks, the Jacob A. France Professor of Equality Jurisprudence and the Francis & Harriet Iglehart Research Professor of Law at the University of Maryland School of Law, teaches constitutional law, torts, and seminars on law in popular culture, citizenship and critical race theory. Prior to entering legal education in 1976, she worked as a civil rights attorney in Mississippi litigating voting rights and housing discrimination cases as well as providing technical assistance to black elected officials.

Lovell Banks has also worked as a senior trial attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Los Angeles, litigating some of the early sexual harassment cases under the interim guidelines.

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having to dip into our reserves, which, from a staff standpoint and working with the budget that the council has approved, we feel pretty good about that, in what was a very challenging year," Prescott said. "The department heads were great help as we identified some things that maybe we could hold off on (purchasing), or maybe some expenditures that we didn't need to make."

"We monitored that throughout the year, and would see how those (sales tax) numbers would change, or perhaps not meet expectations," he said. "We appreciate everyone's help in meeting that goal (of not tapping into reserves)." Vermillion certainly wasn't the only South Dakota city to experience a downturn in its sales tax receipts.

In terms of 2009 sales tax revenue, Sioux Falls was down 2.28 percent. Mitchell experienced a 2.75 percent drop. Brookings had the biggest loss among the state's largest cities with a 6 percent downswing.

Yankton officials adjusted the city budget in mid-2009 when it became clear that budget projections of a 3 percent increase in revenue would not materialize. The strong sales tax numbers in that city are credited, in part, to the

hundreds of workers on the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline who were living in the area. They contributed to a 10 percent increase in sales tax revenues for July in Yankton over the same month in 2008.

Yankton's revenue came in above projections through the summer before dropping to the 2-3 percent range by the end of the year.

The 2009 sales tax revenues of other area communities were:

- \$34,900 in Gayville, down 13.4 percent from 2008;
- \$95,800 in Irene, up 3.3 percent from 2008;
- \$141,800 in Lake Andes, up .24 percent from 2008;
- \$13,900 in Lesterville, up 10.6 percent from 2008;
- \$172,000 in Menno, down 4.2 percent from 2008;
- \$304,400 in Scotland, down 24.6 percent from 2008;
- \$170,500 in Springfield, down 4.2 percent from 2008;
- \$58,800 in Tabor, down 12.6 percent from 2008;
- \$234,300 in Tyndall, up .24 percent from 2008;
- \$4,400 in Volin, down 75.8 percent from 2008;
- \$610,800 in Wagner, up 2.2 percent from 2008; and
- \$26,900 in Wakonda, down 3.4 percent from 2008.

First Dakota employees log over 100,000 miles

First Dakota National Bank employees were challenged by Bank Management to participate in the "Tour de First Dakota." The "Tour" was designed to promote wellness and a healthy competition between bank employees and locations. The "Tour" was a six-month period and each employee was challenged to log 375 miles during this period, which is the distance between all First Dakota locations starting in Yankton and traveling to Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Salem, Mitchell, Kimball, Chamberlain, Oacoma, Wagner, Parkston, and back to Yankton.

Each participant was given a pedometer and personal tracking sheet to log their miles. One hundred eighty two employees logged 102,238 miles.

Larry Ness, CEO of First Dakota, said "We like to create fun and competition between our locations, and this was a great way to accomplish that along with adding fitness awareness. Healthy employees make a



Sandy Brown

healthy bank."

Sandy Brown logged the most mileage of all First Dakota employees in Vermillion with over 722 miles.

First Dakota was founded in 1872 and holds the first bank charter issued in all of Dakota Territory. It has 13 full-service banking locations in ten South Dakota cities. It also has six loan production offices throughout South Dakota and Nebraska.

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Community Supports Supervisor

Are you looking for a great opportunity to enhance the lives of others as well as your own?

We are looking for a Community Supports Supervisor to support the people we serve in their homes and in the community. SESDAC serves over 70 adults with developmental disabilities in the Vermillion area. You will be responsible for management of a community based group home that supports adults to live and work in the Vermillion area.

Minimum qualifications are as follows: 5 years combination of college education and D/D experience. (3 to 5 years must be college education). BA/BS degree in related field preferred. Salary range will be \$26,143/yr. or more depending on education and experience.

This individual must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, great attitude, computer use capabilities, and be very flexible. Primary duties include providing support to the individuals including: personal finances, community inclusion, direct support, current and long range support plans, medication administration, leadership, supervision of employees; etc. This position will also have some On-Call responsibilities.

This position is generally Monday through Friday and mostly daytime hours. We offer a great benefits package including paid health and dental insurance, matching 401K plan, generous personal and sick leave and great family oriented organization.

Persons who wish to apply for this job will provide a letter of interest and resume to the Human Resources Director at SESDAC, Inc., 1314 E. Cherry St., Vermillion, SD 57069

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