

Heartland Humane receives donation of warm blankets

The animals of Heartland Humane Society recently received several kennel-sized, hand-made blankets as a donation. Coral Huber and Samantha Straatmeyer decided to give back to the community with a service project. They got together at Huber's home and handmade 10 blankets for the kennels at Heartland Humane Society.

They spent about four hours making the little tied treasures out of fleece material. Each of the blankets will be used to make the cats feel a little more at home while they wait for permanent homes.

Heartland Humane Society welcomes community service projects like the one Huber and Straatmeyer did.

"We love to see people getting involved and doing things for the animals like this," said Tasha Anderson, executive director of Heartland Humane Society. "The blankets give the animals comfort and warmth while they wait for new homes, and the fleece washes and dries really easily."

If you would like information on doing a community service project for Heartland Humane Society, please contact Tasha Anderson at 605-664-4244 or email hhs@midcentwork.com.

Heartland Humane Soci-



Pictured are Coral Huber and Samantha Straatmeyer with some of the blankets that they hand-made and donated to Heartland Humane Society. Posing with the girls for the photo are kittens Katie and Noelle, and dog, Annie, an HHS alum.

ety is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves Yankton and Clay Counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the

lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people. Visit Heartland Humane Society online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net.

USD Theatre presents the Broadway classic 'A Chorus Line'

The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre continues its season with Broadway's "A Chorus Line," Feb. 26-27 and March 1-2 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

Under the leadership of director/choreographer Patricia Downey and musical director Nanette Hofer, "A Chorus Line" showcases students from USD's acting and musical theatre programs. Playing Zach, the director within the show, is senior Dylan Jost of Custer. Zach, who wants to know those auditioning by more than just a casting headshot, asks the 17 remaining dancers to introduce themselves so he can judge them as unique individuals and not as faceless masses.

Principal actors forming this audition "line" include: Jessie Atkinson of Sioux City, IA, Rebecca Barczak of Clarksville, IN, Devin Basart of Sioux Falls, Patrick Beasley of Lincoln, NE, Maggie Conley of Des Moines, IA, Gabrielle Cross of Brewster, MN, Zach Drane of Amana, Krysta Dziak of Helena, MT, Kevin Earlywine of Rockford, IL, Mary Fitzgibbons of Sioux Falls, David Hernandez III of Huron, Phil Johnson of Yankton, Nichole Jorgensen of Tea, Avalon Kann of McGregor, IA, Kevin Kelly from Aberdeen, Aaron Kuchta of Hartington, NE, Adam Larson from Chamberlain, Natalie Polisson of Crown Point, Ind., Tarryn Rouse of Doniphan, Neb., Brianna Wetrosky from Brandon, and Elizabeth Wright of Yankton. Members of the ensemble

include Will Cornay, Hannah Lambertz and Sara Otteman of Yankton, Angelica Elwell of Hill City, Chris Johnson of Crown Point, IN, Stephanie Maddox of Orlando, FL, Danny Marandola of Sergeant Bluff, IA, and Ebony Shanklin of Sioux Falls. The pit singers are Samantha Brewer of Fargo, ND, Kristen Edwards of Aberdeen, and Cody Perk of Yankton.

Professors Tim Case, Anthony Pellecchia and Linda Wigley Scribner design the set, lighting and costumes, respectively.

This beloved musical follows 17 dancers as they audition for eight coveted spots in a chorus line. With book and lyrics by Marvin Hamlisch

and Edward Kleban, the story is a moving tribute to the hopes, heartache and trials of these characters expressed through a brilliant fusion of song, dance and drama. Notable songs include "Dance: Ten; Looks: Three," "The Music and the Mirror," "What I Did for Love" and "One (Singular Sensation)."

Tickets to "A Chorus Line," which contains mature themes and adult language, are \$12 for adults, \$8 for K-12 and non-USD students and \$5 for USD students with ID. For reservations call the USD Theatre Box Office at (605) 677-5400 beginning Friday, Feb. 19 or reserve online at www.usd.edu/theatre.

NOTES FROM PIERRE

By Rep. Eldon Nygaard
District 17

What is a state FTE?

Last week there was significant debate over what is a state FTE (Full-time Equivalent Employee). One FTE is a total of 2,080 hours of state paid employment in one year. That is to say, 40 hours per week times 52 weeks in a year equals one FTE. Now that could be one individual working 40 hours per week for a year, it could be two employees working 20 hours per week each for a full year, it could be four employees working 10 hours per week for a year, or any combination of employees adding up to a total of 2,080 hours per year of state paid compensation. The impact to the budget is not always clear as some FTEs are paid for from grant monies and some are not.

We discovered that some FTEs are not living, breathing workers who draw a salary. They are just identified in the budget as an FTE, while the bureaucrats spend the salary monies for other things like desks, travel, supplies, etc. Some lawmakers jokingly refer to the non-existent workers as "phantom FTEs."

And to further confuse the issue, the House passed a bill last week that says some of the part-time people who actually draw salaries should not be called FTEs. We write them a paycheck and we pay their unemployment insurance, social security and workers compensation; but they should not be counted as an FTE?

Democratic Leader Bernie Hunhoff suggested that we just apply the age-old duck test. He said, "If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck then it must be an FTE." I opposed the bill, however the bill passed over my objections.

During the current administration a new FTE has been added every 48 hours for the last seven years resulting in 1,400 new Full Time Equiv-

alent employees. That represents a major growth in state government no matter how you count it.

Supporting local car dealers

The State Senate may become a battleground between big car manufacturers and local car dealers. The issue was ignited when General Motors and Chrysler filed bankruptcy, and then used bankruptcy protection to violate state franchise laws and close dealerships. In some instances, the dealerships had been in the same family hands for generations.

A bill to protect surviving dealers from similar treatment raced through the House of Representatives this week without a dissenting vote. If that same unity can continue, the legislature can hopefully take on other special interest groups that try to run roughshod over South Dakota businesses and farms. Monopolistic meatpackers, heavy-handed health insurance companies and other groups have done equal or greater damage to our main streets and rural areas. We have fought those battles for many years and it was heartening to send a bipartisan message this week.

There are capitol rumors that the auto manufacturers may send lobbyists to Pierre to fight the reform bill in the State Senate so stay tuned.

Holding the line on property taxes

Property taxes are high enough in South Dakota, and it takes constant vigilance to keep them from climbing. Several proposals are circulating in this session that might send us in the wrong directions. A bill from a Platte legislator would allow local governments to raise their levies if they put the issue to a vote of the people. A proposal by the governor would freeze the school levies. Since most property owners will see a valuation increase that idea would also result in

higher taxes for some South Dakotans.

The House Taxation Committee passed a bill this week that prohibits grasslands and pastures from being assessed as cropland regardless of the soil qualities. It's an extension of a multi-year effort in the legislature to assess farmland on its ability to produce rather than its marketable value. That plan is now being implemented across South Dakota.

I am concerned about raising any taxes in a recession and holding the line on property taxes is especially important at this time.

Corporate tax breaks

We continue to look for ways to solve the \$107 million budget shortfall that is projected for 2011. Democrats have laid out a plan that includes specific cuts and efficiencies as well as an across-the-board cut if necessary. Once our Republican colleagues present a similar list, we will have an opportunity to compare ideas and reach some compromises.

I strongly believe that the legislature should review our corporate incentive programs as part of the possible solution. We grant or rescind millions and millions of your tax dollars every year, and it happens without adequate review. I do recognize, however, that there are a few major wind energy projects in the mill currently that have relied on promises made to them way back in 2005 regarding excise tax rebates. Those promises need to be honored, so any reform must contain language to "grandfather" those commitments.

Thanks for reading and thanks for the over 500 emails I received last week on various concerns and questions. That is what makes representative government work. We have the best state in the union; let's work hard to keep it that way.

The University of South Dakota **get to know USD**

Business Connections

February 15, 2010

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Fill the puzzle so that every row, every column, and every section contain the numbers 1-9 without repeating a number

	8	1	6					9
4		7		9		6	8	
6	9					2		
		2	9		7		4	
	1	9				7	6	
	4		3		1	9		
		8					1	4
		4		2		3		7
3					9	8	2	

Check today's issue for the solution to the puzzle. EA Book 2 #2

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WELCOME

We're proud to welcome you into the world during January 2010!

The following 51 babies were born in Yankton at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital:

Shadrack	Tyler	Adelyn	Jayde	Aiden	Liam
Dodge	Kiana	Cante	Rielle	Jamison	Nathan
Abe	Alessando	Koal	John	Daimon	Bently
Bryan	RuthAnn	Bree	Raylee	Noah	Daylon
Owen	Aubrey	Alexander	Evan	Alexandre	Raleigh
Brady	Tianna	Landon	Rhianna	Raileen	Alex
Aaron	Kingston	Kassydi	Addyson	Ivan	
Avery	Briley	Conner	Nolan	Isaac	
Isabell	Jaycee	Zemmry	Marci	Levi	

Expecting Something Special?
Every baby born at Avera Sacred Heart goes home with a complimentary child passenger safety seat.

Avera Sacred Heart
averasacredheart.com