

## SB75 bill to change definition of a legal newspaper clears first hurdle during legislative session

By Dana Hess  
For the S.D. NewsMedia Association

After fighting off two attempts in the 2023 legislative session to change the definition of a legal newspaper, the South Dakota Newspaper Association has changed its name and its attitude toward free newspapers.

On Friday, the Senate Local Government Committee unanimously endorsed SB75 which makes the changes necessary to the definition of a legal newspaper to allow free publications like The Dakota Scout of Sioux Falls and The Aberdeen Insider to publish public notices.

Speaking in favor of the bill was David Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota NewsMedia Association. Formerly the South Dakota Newspaper Association, Bordewyk said SDNA now represents the state's newspapers as well as various digital-first outlets in the state.

"This bill recognizes the change in trends occurring in the news environment nationwide and also in our state," Bordewyk said. "It's a good, proactive step toward keeping pace with those trends."

Bordewyk explained that the bill allows free distribution newspapers to become the official newspaper for local government

entities like school boards, county commissions and city councils. The criteria for a free distribution newspaper to publish the minutes of meetings and bid notices is that it must have a print publication of at least 500 copies, at least 200 online subscribers and have its circulation audited annually by a recognized auditing agency.

Free distribution newspapers must also meet the same criteria as subscriber-based newspapers on frequency of publication, percentage of news content, maintaining an office and office hours and publishing an annual statement of publication.

"Senate Bill 75 contains strong safeguards to ensure that public notices are delivered to an intended audience and community served by the newspaper," Bordewyk said.

Last year's attempts to change the definition of a legal newspaper were accompanied by complaints about daily newspapers in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Watertown that are owned by Gannett. Corporate decisions have led to those newspapers cutting staff as well as local news content.

Speaking in favor of this year's bill were representatives of The Dakota Scout and The Aberdeen Insider.

Troy McQuillen, publisher of

The Aberdeen Insider, said his publication has been contacted by schools, the county and the city about the possibility of placing public notices in his free weekly newspaper.

"We are experiencing a tremendous need in our community for the ability to post legal postings," McQuillen said.

Also testifying in favor of the bill were the South Dakota Municipal League and the South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships.

There was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

Committee member Randy Deibert, R-Spearfish, said he has witnessed a trend in which ownership of local newspapers by large corporations leads to less local news.

"If we can reinvest in local newspapers and local news, I support that," Deibert said.

Committee chairman Tim Reed, R-Brookings, praised the quality of the work of what he called the "newer type of news media. But we had to make sure we were protecting public notices. That's something that newspapers have provided for years."

The bill was endorsed on a 7-0 vote and now goes to the full Senate.



Pictured above are the cast and crew members for Clark High School's One Act Play *The Candidate*. In the front row, from left to right are play director Amy Nelson, Westen Olson, Aleisha Naze, Madison Pickerel and Olivia Fuller. In the back row, from left to right are Kaden Janisch, Logan Parker, Waylan Olson, Leah Nelson, Nevaeh

Photo by Carolyn Olson

## Region 6B One Act Play competition is today

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark High School One Act Play cast and crew have been gearing up to perform the Region 6B One Act Play Competition today, Wednesday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m. at Great Plains High School in Watertown. The play chosen by play director Amy Nelson this year is called *The Candidate*, a drama written by Brett Holland.

According to Nelson, *The Candidate* is about four people locked in a room with no way out, and they are put through a series of events. Each time the lights go out, one of them disappears. Their

minds get the better of them as they try to decide if they are indeed criminals. Their memories have been erased, and they do not know why they are there.

This is Nelson's first year directing the One Act Play. "I have never been involved with One Act before, so I was grateful to have such an experienced group who knows what needed to happen and help lead me," Nelson said.

"Rehearsals have been very productive since these actors have spent a lot of time on their own memorizing their lines," explained Nelson. With their play-

books arriving later than expected and Christmas break looming, the group didn't get a jump on things as early as in past years. "We got a late start, but it didn't bother them one bit," Nelson added. "We were able to practice this past Sunday at Great Plains Lutheran, and we feel way more confident being able to be in the space that we compete in this week."

Clark will be competing against Summit, Rosholt, Florence and Henry for two spots in the State One Act Play competition next weekend at Brandon Valley.

## Clark County 4-H program includes community service for club members

By Tara Knutson

During the winter season, Clark County 4-H members have some extra time on their hands as they don't have to prepare for the fair as they do in the spring and summer months, but that doesn't mean they're taking a break from the principles and values taught through the 4-H program. They are out and active, making a positive impact in the community.

At the beginning of every 4-H club meeting, the members of each club recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. The 4-H pledge is as follows: "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world."

The members of the Country Kids 4-H club from rural northern Clark County took the statement of "my hands to larger service" to heart recently when they completed another community service activity, continuing the club's commitment to make their community a better place to live.

Last month, the club of 18 members, and their families, met at the Faye Wookey Memorial Assisted Living Center in Clark for an hour of bingo and fellowship. The youth brought numerous prizes to give out as awards.

According to the Country Kids club president, 15-year-old Lily Hemmingson, "Kids that volunteer and participate in community service are more likely to continue the acts of kindness into adulthood; 4-H builds self-esteem from seeing the positive results of their service."

"Kids also develop problem-solving and decision-making skills by applying the knowledge they learn through community service to the real world," she continued. "4-H is a good way to teach the kids what community service is all about. It also allows us members to get to



Members of the Country Kids 4-H club, along with their families, played bingo at Faye Wookey Memorial Assisted Living Center last month as part of the club's commitment to community service.

Photo by Tara Knutson

know one another better as we work together on a common goal," added Hemmingson.

She also assists with the packing of holiday food for students over Christmas break through the People Against Child Hunger (PACH) program at the Florence School District.

"In 4-H, we try to do a variety of community service projects throughout the year; some have more people interaction than others," she stated. "Other projects we have participated in are ringing the Salvation Army bells over the holidays and cleaning up the cemetery in the spring."

When asked, Hemmingson felt the members enjoyed their time

visiting with the residents at Wookey's. Seven-year-old Judd could tell all about the gentleman he played with. "They had quite a conversation," Hemmingson explained. "I think Judd and Dick had similar personalities."

After playing bingo, the club went to the bowling alley for their monthly meeting and annual Christmas party.

For the its members, 4-H is not simply about the ribbons or other awards that they receive. It's about the relationship they build, challenges that are overcome and the opportunity to step outside one's comfort zone to become a role model in the program and within the community.

## Municipal nominating petitions may begin being circulated

### ▲ Henry School Board also

Nominating petitions for city government offices which are becoming vacant due to term expirations may begin circulating January 26. Petitions for Henry School Board are also permitted to be circulated. Those petitions are available from the respective city finance offices or the Henry business manager for the Henry School Board position. The petitions can be filed with the local finance officer/business manager no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2024.

**Clark:** Three council positions will become vacant in Clark due to the expiration of the present terms of office. In Ward I, there is one, three-year term open. In Ward II, there is one three-year term open and in Ward III, there is one three-year term open. The finance officer in Clark is Alaina Wellnitz.

**Willow Lake:** Four positions will become vacant in Willow Lake. The position of mayor will become vacant. It is a two-year term. The

other present terms of office for council members that will expire are: Ward I - a one-year term and a two-year term, Ward II - a two-year term. Heidi Madsen is the Willow Lake City Finance Officer.

**Henry School:** Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. Two three-year terms will become vacant with the incumbents being Paul Johnson and Audrey Rider. There are also two open positions on the board that are two-year terms. Gail Thompson is the business manager at Henry School.

Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

**Garden City:** One board member position will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. It is a three-year term position. Andrea Helkenn is the finance officer for Garden City.

**Vienna:** One three-year term position will become vacant in Vienna.

Nancy Roberts is the finance officer for Vienna.

**Bradley:** One three-year term position presently held by Royal Roshem will become open. Jeanette Warkenthien is the finance officer for Bradley.

**Raymond:** One three-year term position currently held by Scott Drexler will become vacant in Raymond. Carrie Reis is the finance officer for Vienna.

**Primary Election:** The deadline for filing nominating petitions for the primary election is March 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. For the offices of Clark County Commissioner District 2 and 4, Clark County States Attorney, Clark County Coroner, County Treasurer, Republican Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman and Republican Delegates to the State Convention nominating petitions must be filed in the office of the Clark County Auditor Christine Tarbox.

## Clark Community Blood Drive is Wednesday, Jan. 31

LifeServe Blood Center, the SOLE supplier to 29 hospitals in South Dakota, and 157 hospitals total in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, is seeking eligible blood donors to give blood at an upcoming community blood drive. Blood is a vital part of treatment for countless illnesses and injuries afflicting local hospital patients. Generous community members who give blood with LifeServe Blood Center are directly impacting patients in their

local hospitals.

The Clark High School National Honor Society students will be hosting a blood drive on January 31, 2024 from 9:10 - 2:00 p.m. at the Clark High School Field House. Get signed up today.

You can register by using the following link: [https://donor/lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/or](https://donor/lifeservebloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/or) by calling Tammie Paulson at 605-532-3605.

First time donors are welcome.

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 16.....	-6	-17	0
Jan. 17.....	6	-10	0
Jan. 18.....	13	-1	0
Jan. 19.....	2	-8	0.10
Jan. 20.....	2	-13	0
Jan. 21.....	13	-8	0
Jan. 22.....	20	12	0
2024 precipitation to date	0.29"		
2023 precipitation to date	0.25"		