



Bill to lift one-year requirement on public notices killed in committee

Dana Hess
S.D. Newspaper Association

One week after defeating a bill designed to change the definition of a legal newspaper, the Senate Local Government Committee disposed of legislation that would lift the requirement that a newspaper be in business for one year before it is eligible to publish public notices.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, the issue was Senate Bill 183, sponsored by Sen. Al Novstrup, R-Aberdeen. Novstrup told the committee that a start-up newspaper in Aberdeen should be eligible for the legal notices.

Novstrup said the law mandating that a newspaper be in business one year before it is eligible to publish public notices, like the minutes of meetings and bid requirements, was passed by the Legislature in 1985. He said newspapers are no longer dominant like they once were.

Changing the one-year requirement would "make sure that local government prints (public notices) in a reputable place," Novstrup said.

Also speaking in favor of the legislation was Julie Johnson, a lobbyist for the Aberdeen Development Corporation. She said a new newspaper, the *Aberdeen Insider* should be eligible to publish public notices without having to wait a year.

"We are at a very unique point in time in Aberdeen," Johnson said. "We are at risk of not having a qualified entity be eligible to be our legal newspaper or at least one that anyone reads in our area."

Opposing passage of the legislation was David Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota Newspaper Association, who told the committee that the one-year requirement ensured that a newspaper was viable and distributed through a reliable system.

"Striking the one-year publication requirement, as proposed in this bill, would weaken the laws governing legal newspapers," Bor-

Public Notices
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The Clark County Courier office will be closed on Monday in observance of the holiday.

If you have news stories or advertising for next week's edition of the Clark County Courier, please email us at clarkcountycourier@gmail.com or call us at (605) 532-3654 by Friday of this week. Mailed items may not reach us in time for the next publication.

It's easier for us on Tuesday, if we can get the bulk of the work done by Friday night.

Thank you



Clark Elementary School celebrates 100 days of school

Staff and students at the Clark Elementary School celebrated 100 days of school in session for the 2022-2023 school year last Wednesday, February 8.

The third grade classes, taught by Mrs. Raegan Karber and Miss Heather Fuhrman chose to dress up as "100 year olds" for the day.

Pictured above are some of the students who dressed up for the day. In the front row, left to right: Lucas Johnson, Carter Severson, Abby DeS Lauriers, Railyne Jordan and Jaquelin Salmonson. Back row, left to right include: Lane Niehaus, Ethan Spieker, Tessa Thomas, Norah Hatle, Cali Boykin, Eve Gaikowski and Mrs. Karber.



Pictured above is the outer shell of the new Garden City Fire Department that has recently been constructed. The building will also have a community room for local meetings and department trainings.

Construction begins in Garden City

After much waiting and delays due to weather, availability of materials and crews, construction on the new Garden City Fire Department has begun. The 86 ft. x 64 ft. building will house the department's four fire trucks and also provide a community room for department training and local meetings. The new building, a Reaves Building

is being built by Hauger Construction, LLC of Watertown.

The new building has been made possible by community support and donations from Garden City area residents current and past residents, area businesses and two grants from the Clark Area Community Foundation and another from the Crocker Community Fund.

Attempt to change legal newspaper status fails in senate committee

Dana Hess
S.D. Newspaper Association

An attempt to change the rules governing the definition of a legal newspaper was defeated Wednesday, February 1 by the Senate Local Government Committee.

Senate Bill 80 would allow free distribution newspapers to publish public notices like local government minutes and bid notices if they had a minimum of 200 paid online subscribers and distributed 500 free copies. That's the business model of the *Dakota Scout* in Sioux Falls.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. David Wheeler, R-Huron, said it was time to recognize the changes in the newspaper industry.

"People are getting their news online more often," Wheeler said. "We need to adjust our definition of a legal newspaper to accommodate new business models and that's what this does."

Doug Cole, the publisher of the *Belle Fourche Beacon*, a free distribution newspaper, spoke in favor of the legislation.

"If you truly believe in the public's right to know, isn't it better to provide free distribution and access to everyone?" Cole asked the committee.

Lobbyists for the large school districts and S.D. Municipal League also spoke in favor of SB80.

Speaking in opposition to the bill, David Bordewyk of the South Dakota Newspaper Association said SB80 asked the Legislature to carve out a special exception to longstanding law to favor one or two businesses.

According to Bordewyk, current postal regulations ensure that a paid newspaper's circulation is verified while SB80 offers no accountability for the way the free newspapers would be distributed. "There's

no certainty that anyone received or picked up that free distribution product," Bordewyk said. There's "no means of verification or audit of that distribution."

Justin Smith, a lobbyist for SDNA admitted to being a fan of the *Dakota Scout* but questioned the publication's business model. "There's no precedence in South Dakota for this business model to be successful at publishing legal notices," Smith said.

Smith noted that the member newspapers of SDNA have met the standards set in South Dakota law to be considered a legal newspaper.

"But, rather than adjusting their conduct to satisfy the law, the proponents are asking that the law be adjusted to recognize their business model," Smith said.

Also speaking against passage of the bill were Garrick Moritz, publisher of the *Garretson Gazette*, and

Mark Watson, editor of the *Black Hills Pioneer* of Spearfish.

Wheeler said opponents of the bill wanted new business models to conform to their old way of doing business.

Newspaper Status (continued on page 12)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

| | HI | LO | PR |
|----------------------------|----|----|------|
| February 7 | 36 | 17 | 0 |
| February 8 | 37 | 19 | 0 |
| February 9 | 37 | 19 | 0 |
| February 10 | 28 | 8 | 0.01 |
| February 11 | 32 | 8 | 0 |
| February 12 | 40 | 17 | 0 |
| February 13 | 38 | 17 | 0 |
| 2023 precipitation to date | | | 0.53 |
| 2022 precipitation to date | | | 0.30 |

Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday services

Next Wednesday, February 22, Ash Wednesday begins the Easter Lenten Season with most churches in the area starting the first of a season of worship services.

In Clark, a community service with communion will be held at the Plymouth Congregational Church at 6:30 p.m. for the Ash Wednesday service with a meal being served starting at 5:30 p.m. prior to worship.

Saint Michael Catholic Church in Clark will hold their Mass with distribution of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. In Henry, at St. Henry's Catholic Church, the Ash Wednesday service will be at 4:00 p.m.

The Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have services at 7:00 p.m.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service held at 7:00 p.m. on February 22 at Grace Lutheran Church in

Willow Lake.

Moving forward with the Clark Ecumenical Lenten series, the first Wednesday Lenten service will be held on March 1 with a 6:30 p.m. service at the St. Paul Lutheran Church. A 5:30 p.m. meal will be served prior to worship.

A 6:30 p.m. worship for the remainder of Lenten season, along with a 5:30 p.m. meal being served prior to services, will be held with the dates and locations being: March 8 at the United Methodist Church; March 15 at Plymouth UCC; March 22 at St. Paul Lutheran and March 29 at the United Methodist Church.

Holy Week morning devotions have been planned for the week of April 3-7 at the Plymouth UCC church at 7:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday services will be held at the Plymouth UCC Church on April 6 at 6:30 p.m. and Good Friday worship will be April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clark Assembly of God Church.



Clark FCCLA receive donation to buy official FCCLA red jackets

Clark FCCLA now has its own store of official red jackets. The Lee Schlage Memorial donated money to Clark FCCLA so that the members could receive official red jackets required by National FCCLA at state and national meetings. In the past, the Clark FCCLA chapter rented jackets due to the large cost of acquiring enough jackets for all attendees. Members will wear the new jackets at the state meeting in April. The fifteen members are picture above including senior quiz bowl

team, pari pro team, state officers and those running for a leadership team that will attend the state meeting wearing the new jackets. Front row, left to right include: Raigan Flatten, Kamryn Nesheim, Madison Pickrel, Summer Seefeldt and Ella Sass. In the back row, from left to right are: Kendra Wren, Nevaeh Rusher, Hannah Heiman, Sara Thonvold, Talya Ortberg, Jakob Steen, Kayla Jordan, Logan Parker and Brynn Roehrich. Not pictured are Valley Roebke and Musonda Kabwe.