



## Bond election is Tuesday June 28 at Willow Lake School

Next Tuesday, June 28, is election day for voters in Willow Lake School District 12-3. The election is a bond election. Voters will be voting for, or against, a school bond principal amount not to exceed \$9,800,000.

The Willow Lake School Library will be the polling place. For this bond election to pass, a 60 percent majority in favor is needed. This election is a vote of the dollar amount, \$9,800,000, not a vote of any specific plan.

### Why is this needed?

School board members, school administrators, Co-Op Architects

and internal staff committee members have been looking for some time now at a long-term facility plan.

In April, a public forum was held describing this project and the process. After this presentation and feedback, the board made the decision to initiate a bond issue to finance substantial building additions plus a partial redesign of the existing school complex.

The Willow Lake School board consists of Julayne Thoreson, president Trav Bratland, vice president, Tia Felberg, Jared Knock and Randy Nelson. Chris Lee is the super-

intendent and Melissa Burke is the business manager.

Superintendent Lee stated that school growth has been consistent, and with growth, the school is short on space.

"The NESO cooperative instructors and staff do not have any space to work with students," he said. "Plus, we need to split our kindergarten class. Classroom spaces are very tight."

The science room is in need of space and equipment. Lab tables

**Bond Election**  
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## The long road to state's first impeachment

▲ Trial is Tuesday-Wednesday, this week

Dana Hess  
S.D. Newspaper Association

It has been roughly 21 months since a vehicle driven by South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg struck and killed pedestrian Joe Boever of Highmore. What follows is an overview of the events that followed, taken from various news sources.

The long road to its first impeachment of a statewide elected official started on U.S. Highway 14. It began on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, when Ravnsborg, driving his personal vehicle to Pierre from a political event in Redfield, struck and killed Boever as he walked along the north shoulder of the road, facing traffic.



Ravnsborg called 911, explaining

returning to the accident scene the next day to find Boever's body.

Ravnsborg originally was charged with three misdemeanors. One charge - careless driving -- was dropped in exchange for no-contest pleas on two charges: an illegal lane change for driving on the shoulder of the highway and illegal use of an electronic device while operating a vehicle. Ravnsborg was fined \$500 for each offense. He never appeared in court.

Aside from the judicial outcome, Gov. Kristi Noem, who, like Ravnsborg is a Republican, has been adamant that Ravnsborg should resign. On Feb. 23, 2021, Noem of-

**Ravnsborg**  
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## Ceremony held on Flag Day for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags

The Johnnie Fonken American Legion Post #113 Willow Lake held a Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags on Flag Day, June 14, 2022.

The Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags is outlined in Resolution No. 440, passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion in New York, on September 20-23, 1937. The ceremony has been an integral part of the American Legion ritual since that date.

The purpose of the American Legion in adopting

this ceremony was to encourage proper respect for the Flag of the United States and to provide for disposal of unserviceable flags in a dignified manner. Flag Day, June 14, is recommended as the most appropriate day on which to annually hold this ceremony.

In the above photo, Marlin Warkenthien, left, and Herb Loterbauer II, right, prepare to dip an unserviceable Flag of the United States in kerosene before placing it into a fire for proper disposal.



## 12U baseball team assists with youth ball field updates

Many improvements are being made at the Clark youth baseball and softball field complex this summer. Work began on the concession and restroom building last week, and cement and dirt work were completed in May.

Recently, the 12U boys baseball team volunteered their time in 'sprucing' up the spectator seating at the ball field. Members of the team, along with their coach

Jay and Shannon Huber and family scraped and repainted all the bleachers. The painting project day was organized by Kyle Gaikowski.

Pictured above are 12U players (foreground to background) Logan Foster, Jaden La Plante, Braeden Schoepp, Kaden Wookey, Cade Gaikowski and Isaac Johnson (on ladder).

## Education experts: S.D. teachers deserve trust and respect, not continued criticism

Kylie Carlson  
South Dakota News Watch

With outside political forces adding new stress to South Dakota schools and teachers, a panel of four education experts stressed the importance of restoring trust in professional educators to do their jobs well and focus more on teaching than worrying about potential criticism from beyond the classroom.

The hour long discussion generally debunked claims that public school teachers and administrators in South Dakota are indoctrinating students to think a certain way and stressed the importance of treating teacher with respect and providing them with some autonomy in the classroom to reach students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Panelists agreed that across South Dakota, and especially among some of the most outspoken critics of public education, there is a general lack of understanding of what is happening in South Dakota classrooms and the overall good intentions and actions of classroom teachers.

The panel noted that the new stress on teachers is making an ongoing teacher shortage worse in South Dakota. In spring of 2022, the state had more than 500 open teacher positions, far more than in a typical year.

The recent shift to negative attention toward classroom content has left veteran teachers uneasy, but the next generation of educators in South Dakota may be feeling the most disenfranchised, panelist said. Many experienced teachers are retiring early or changing careers and recent teaching graduates are eschewing South Dakota for other states where pay is better and the political stress is lower.

The online panel discussion was hosted by South Dakota News Watch via Zoom and Facebook Live as part of a special report on

the increasing influence of politics in public education. Featured panelists were Augustana education professor Sharon Andrews, retired Parker High School teacher Phil Bjorneberg, Rapid City school board member-elect Michael Birkeland, and Jim Holbeck, board development director for the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. The discussion, the most recent segment in News Watch's ongoing "South Dakota Matters" series of polls and panel discussions, was held June 16 and is available for viewing on the South Dakota News Watch Facebook page.

Panelists said that many individuals feel that they are qualified to have a voice in guiding classroom education, curriculum and teaching standards without having the necessary experience or training of professionals in the classroom.

"I've been in schools consistently for the last four decades and teachers are just trying to do what they have a passion to do and what they've been trained to do," said Andrews. "I don't see this indoctrination or know these agendas."

Birkeland also highlighted a disconnect he has seen between some parents and teachers. Many parents trust their own children's teachers, having seen what they're doing in their classrooms, but remain skeptical about teachers overall. Birkeland said that finding ways to show what teachers are doing in their classrooms in a more public way may be a key to helping bridge the gap between educators and parents and reduce the tension felt in some districts.

Putting more faith in trained teachers to do their jobs according to school standards is also very important, said Andrews.

"[Educators] know what to do. We know a lot about how learning happens. We know a lot about how to teach with a multicultural, inclu-

sive stance but still acknowledge diversity. Just doing that alone is enough for teachers, let alone that we have some hidden agenda that we're trying to indoctrinate our students."

While the uproar over what is being taught is relatively new, Holbeck said that there have been no major changes in how school curriculum has been developed and implemented in recent years. Much of the K-12 curricula in South Dakota are designed around textbooks picked by the school or by curriculum directors charged with ensuring their school system is teaching by cohesive guidelines, Holbeck said. He feels that the issues with what is being taught can be traced back to disagreements between political parties.

"[Educators are] out there trying to show both sides of things, but I'm afraid sometimes today there's people who don't want to hear both sides, they want to hear their side," said Holbeck. He also stressed the importance for voters to learn about the positions and values of the candidates running for positions influencing education at the local and state levels prior to elections.

The panel agreed that encouraging current and future educators to

**S.D. Teachers**  
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
June 14.....	86	65	0.06
June 15.....	81	63	0
June 16.....	76	59	0
June 17.....	79	57	0
June 18.....	84	60	0
June 19.....	95	69	0
June 20.....	96	69	0
2022 precipitation to date	10.38		
2021 precipitation to date	8.10		