

MY JOB

Teaching kids is one of joys of working in water

NAME: Barbara Limbo
MY JOB: aquatic specialist in Rapid City

Q: What do you do for the pools?
A: I am an aquatic specialist, but I have also been a lifeguard and a swim instructor. I also help certify new instructors and lifeguards.

Q: Who taught you to swim?
A: My cousin, Charlene ... when I was about 5 or 6 years old. She used to come home in the summers and my mom made us take lessons.

Ever since then, I just really liked being in the water, and I worked as a lifeguard in college at Black Hills State.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?
A: The kids. I have some kids that work for me now that I taught to swim when they were young. Now they are really great

instructors. I really enjoy teaching the preschool classes as well. They don't have a concept of fear of the water yet, so it's fun to see how they react to the water.

Q: What's the funniest thing that has ever happened on the job?

A: The little kids just say the darndest things. I've had some young kids that really tested the waters to see what they can and can't do. They say the funniest things, even at 3 years old.

Q: Have you ever had to rescue someone?

A: Two or three kids. I remember my first one. Within five seconds, you realize what's going on and this child was just 2 inches from where he could touch. He was just kind of bobbing there, and his eyes got just huge, so it's a pretty shocking thing.

The first one was on one of my first jobs at a pool, and I remember being kind of



Kristina Barker/Journal staff

Barbara Limbo gets ready to swim laps July 22 at Horace Mann Pool in Rapid City.

shook up afterwards, because you realize that things like that can happen very quickly.

It's not always something that you can

teach a lifeguard. It's something you have to experience.

—Ruth Brown, Journal staff

OF NOTE

Spearfish resident enters Peace Corps

SPEARFISH — Aaron R. Merchen, 24, of Spearfish has been accepted into the Peace Corps.

He left for Cambodia on July 20 to begin pre-service training as an English instruction volunteer. After completion of volunteer training in October, Merchen will work to enhance student English-speaking skills, as well as provide support and classroom development strategies to the teachers within his community.

Merchen is the son of Max and Lisa Merchen, and a graduate of Spearfish High School and South Dakota State University.

He previously worked for Sen. Tim Johnson's office in Washington, D.C., and volunteered in Guatemala in 2008 and 2010.

During the first three months of his service, Merchen will live with a host family in Cambodia to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture.

After acquiring the language and cultural skills necessary to assist his community, Merchen will serve for two years in Cambodia, living in a manner similar to people in his host country.

Dancer wins two top awards

LEAD — Dancer Danye Carter of Lead won diamond first-place awards for two of her solos at the Spotlight and Thunderstruck Dance Nationals held in Las Vegas on July 6-14.

"The Chase," a modern dance choreographed by Andrea Schaefer of Barefoot Dance Studio, and "Hot Note," an open jazz solo choreographed by Beth Duffield, director of SCC Dance Academy in Sturgis, earned top awards, putting Danye in the top 10 nationally in each category.

Danye, 11, also received

Judges Choice recognition at each event, one for lyrical and one for acting that goes into performing her modern piece.

Schaefer received the Outstanding Choreography award for "The Chase."

At two regional events, Spotlight Dance Cup and Thunderstruck Dance Competition in Casper, Wyo., Danye won first place in the junior division for both competitions and took the title of Junior Miss Spotlight.

Four children win new bicycles

HERMOSA — Jayme Ross, Tru Lee, Simon Vander and Noah Ross won new bicycles at Black Hills Recovery Network's second annual Safety Saturday, a celebration of safe communities. The event at the Custer County Fairgrounds in Hermosa featured educational programs and a bicycle rodeo.

All children went home with backpacks, pencil cases, T-shirts and bike helmets provided by the Don't Thump Your Melon program.

About 30 attend Terraville reunion

DEADWOOD — More than 30 people attended the Terraville reunion at Gordon Memorial Park in Deadwood on July 25. People shared memories of the town that was "lost, but not forgotten."

Terraville was founded in 1877, and at its peak had a population of close to 700.

Attending the reunion Art Unterseher, Nellie Mix, Karen and Gene Kinney, Margret and Paul Cregar, Loray and Chuck Donner, Carol and Don Kinney, Peggy and Larry Albright, Shirley Petree, Deloris Waddington, Toni and Warren Long, Donna and Dale Long, Myra Warren, Sue and Tom Trancynger, Kitty Coffield, Irene Grenstiner and Chester Sherman, Wayne Mayer, Bart Tru-



Courtesy photo

Danye Carter of Lead performs one of her dances at the Thunderstruck Dance Nationals in Las Vegas earlier this month.

cano, Penny and David Neisent and granddaughter Brayden Lucas, Melody and Harley Helsing.

Ex-pageant winner holds meeting

RAPID CITY — Kristi Ludwig, former Mrs. South Dakota America and current director of the Mrs. South Dakota America pageant, will hold an informational meeting for anyone interested in entering the pageant from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Rapid City Public Library downtown. Call Kristi at 334-0619 for more information.

Dairy Queen sales Aug. 5 go to charity

RAPID CITY — Black Hills-area Dairy Queen restaurants will participate in Miracle Tree Day on Thursday, Aug. 5.

On that day, proceeds from the sale of Blizzards will go to the Children's Miracle Network at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Generations



Courtesy photo

Great-grandson Greg Geary, Rapid City; great-grandmother, Dianne Thatcher, California; grandmother Donna Hatch, Florida; and great-great-grandmother Jeanne Holmes holding great-grandson, Levi Geary, both of Rapid City.

Band donation from opera house



Courtesy photo

Gary Swenson, director of the Northern Hills Community Band, accepts a donation of \$1,200 from Anne Rogers, chairman of the Gold Camp Players of the Historic Homestead Opera House, after the band concert July 21. The theater group made the donation to honor orchestra players for their participation in the spring musicals. From left are Helen Auer, Zarah Mattox, Jerry Pontius, Mick Dragoog and Kim Davis.

participate. Candidates must be enthusiastic about experiencing and learning about another culture.

Team member candidates must be endorsed by a

local Rotary club and cannot be spouses or line descendants of current Rotarians.

For more information, go to www.rotary.org.

—Journal staff



Ryan Soderlin/Journal staff

Markie Scholz, center, the founder of Dragons Are Too Seldom, teaches the "puppet poem" to children at the Spearfish Festival in the Park.

"I don't want them to look at the puppet and think, 'It's telling me the same stuff everyone else is telling me.'"

Markie Scholz
puppeteer

PUPPETS: Lessons mixed with fun in Scholz's shows.

From Page C1

and entertainer figures her younger audiences will get the point and appreciate it more if she's subtle.

"It's done in such a way that it's not a lecture," she said. "I don't want them to

look at the puppet and think, 'It's telling me the same stuff everyone else is telling me!'"

Scholz can't think of a more rewarding career in the arts than puppetry. She writes her own scripts, makes her own puppets and delivers every line.

"It's a mixture of all the fine arts," said Termes, a fellow artist who paints on spheres instead of flat canvases.

The two have been married 30 years and have two sons.

"We complement each other very well," Termes said.

Scholz occasionally retires a puppet, but she intends to avoid the same fate. She has discovered her own fountain of youth and plans to keep drinking from it as long as she's able.

"The kids keep you young," she said.

MOBILE HOME PARK ORDINANCE OPEN HOUSE

The public is invited to attend an open house on the proposed amendments to the Rapid City Mobile Home Park Ordinance. Attendees will have the opportunity to review and discuss the proposed amendments with City Staff. No formal presentation will be provided. Interested individuals may stop in any time between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 3, 2010
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
First Floor Community Room
City/School Administration Center
300 Sixth Street, Rapid City, SD

The proposed ordinance amendments can be reviewed and comments submitted on-line at <http://www.rcgov.org/Growth-Management/>, click on Mobile Home Park Ordinance. Copies may also be obtained from the Growth Management Department.

Tax breaks for large projects stirs controversy

INCENTIVES: State has given more than \$66.2M in construction tax refunds to 37 businesses.

By Chet Brokaw
The Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota has given out about \$50 million in tax breaks in the past four years to lure companies into building large projects in the state, but critics question whether the state is getting enough bang for its buck.

House Democratic Leader Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton believes the state gives away too much tax revenue that would be better spent on schools. The state should target the tax breaks to specific industries, such as wind farms and ethanol plants, after closely examining how effective the breaks are, he said.

"To just blindly pass out corporate tax breaks hither and thither as we've been doing makes no fiscal sense whatsoever," Hunhoff said.

Even Gov. Mike Rounds, a supporter of the incentive program, acknowledges that it's hard to list what additional projects have been built because of the tax breaks. "It's difficult to quantify," he said.

However, the Republican governor believes the tax breaks help attract large energy projects that will provide good jobs for a long time to come.

"If we can get them to actually invest their capital in this state, we've got a pretty good chance of having those good jobs, those stable jobs here on a permanent basis," he said.

Hunhoff and other critics argue that some projects that got the tax breaks, particularly TransCanada's Keystone oil pipelines, would have been built in South Dakota regardless of any tax incentive.

Businesses are generally reluctant to say a break on construction taxes is the deciding factor in a company's decision to build in South Dakota.

Daryl Hill, a spokesman for Basin Electric Power Cooperative, said companies look at a number of factors when deciding where to locate projects. State reports show Basin Electric, based in Bismarck, N.D., has received nearly \$3.3 million in tax refunds on South Dakota projects since 1996, and it plans to begin construction soon on a \$400 million gas-fired power plant near Brookings.

"I think they certainly had a part in the decision-making process. When you look at saving millions of dollars, that's certainly a factor you consider when you develop a project," Hill said.

South Dakota has given more than \$66.2 million in construction tax refunds to 37 businesses from July 1, 1996, through June 20, 2010, according to the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation.

A review of tax records by The Associated Press shows the bulk of those refunds have been made in the past four years — since the state began providing incentives to encourage construction of energy projects in South Dakota. Most have gone to companies building ethanol plants and wind farms.

The state gave \$5 million in construction project tax refunds in fiscal year 2007, nearly \$15 million in fiscal year 2008, about \$18 million in fiscal year 2009 and expects to pay about \$12 million in fiscal year 2010, which ended June 30.

The Revenue Department publishes a list of companies and how much each has received in tax refunds overall, but does not specify how much is provided for each project. The law requiring that information be made public refers to the company, not the project, Revenue Secretary Paul Kinsman said.

Tax refund permits issued for projects are public information, but not the companies' applications for refund permits for projects, Kinsman said. "That's tax information that would give specific tax information for the taxpayer, which is protected."

Rounds in 2005 proposed expanded breaks on the sales tax and contractor's excise tax that apply to the cost of construction as a way to attract new power plants to South Dakota. A couple of coal-fired plants were proposed but never built.

The governor said South Dakota at that time was not competitive with other states in reducing the initial costs of building large projects. But as the recession took hold and revenue dropped, South Dakota and other states began to reconsider those tax breaks in the past year or two, he said.

Rounds this year proposed limits on the tax refunds. The Legislature passed a different version, intended to help balance the state budget, after extensive negotiations involving legislative leaders, industry lobbyists and the governor's staff.

For the past few years, the program refunded a portion of the sales tax and contractor's excise tax paid for many kinds of



Associated Press file

Gov. Mike Rounds delivers his State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature Jan. 12 at the State Capitol in Pierre. Gov. Rounds, a supporter of an incentive program of about \$50 million in tax breaks in the past four years to lure companies into building large projects in the state, acknowledges that it's hard to list what additional projects have been built because of the tax breaks. "It's difficult to quantify," he said.

business construction projects costing more than \$10 million. Refund levels varied from 25 percent to 90 percent, with larger projects getting larger percentage refunds. New or expanded agricultural processing projects costing more than \$4.5 million also were eligible for some tax refunds.

The law passed by the Legislature, which took effect July 1, allows rebates of 45 percent of taxes on projects costing \$10 million to \$40 million, and 55 percent for those costing \$40 million to \$500 million. The largest projects would not get any refunds for the portion exceeding \$500 million.

Lawmakers gave wind farms the same tax breaks, but with no upper cost limit. That means all wind farms costing more than \$40 million will get a 55 percent tax refund for even the portion exceeding \$500 million.

The budget passed by the Legislature assumes the changes will bring in an additional \$14 million in tax revenue in the year beginning July 1, but Rounds doubts the revenue gain will be that large.

Hunhoff and other Democratic lawmakers argued that no tax refunds should be given to oil pipelines, such as the one TransCanada Keystone has built across eastern South Dakota and the TransCanada Keystone XL

pipeline that is planned to be built in western South Dakota.

Hunhoff said the oil pipelines would have been built through South Dakota even without tax incentives, so the state gets little in return for the tax breaks given to TransCanada.

The first TransCanada pipeline qualifies for the previous version of tax refunds, but the law passed this year will cost the company about \$20 million in refunds for the \$920 million XL line in western South Dakota, roughly cutting in half the refund it would have received.

Jeff Rauh, a spokesman for TransCanada, said the refund cut increases the cost of the second pipeline long after the company had developed its business plan. TransCanada used its cost estimates when it sold 80 percent of the XL pipeline's capacity to companies that want to ship oil in the pipe running from Alberta to Texas refineries on the Gulf coast, he said.

"It is a significant change late in the process. It makes it very, very difficult," Rauh said.

Keystone is committed to running its second pipeline through South Dakota, but the change in tax refunds could cause companies to build future pipelines elsewhere, Rauh said.

"Shipping of oil is a competitive business. Competing pipelines run through Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other states," he said.

Rounds said he supports giving oil pipelines the same refunds as other large projects. He noted that TransCanada had the option of placing two pumping stations on the XL line either in South Dakota or just over the state borders in Montana and Nebraska.

In exchange for a break on construction taxes, TransCanada would pay substantial property taxes to local school districts and counties for many years, the governor said. "You really do have a trade-off on it."

Rauh said TransCanada has completed its evaluation and will keep those two pumping stations in South Dakota, one in Tripp County and one in Harding County. Each will cost tens of millions of dollars, he said.

The XL pipeline will bring thousands of construction jobs to South Dakota, and the state will get an extra \$10 million in sales tax revenue above and beyond construction taxes because workers and others will spend money on meals, motel rooms and other services, Rauh said.

The two TransCanada pipelines will pay more than \$20 million a year in property taxes to local governments along the two routes, Rauh said.

In addition, oil producers in North Dakota and South Dakota are exploring whether to ship through the XL pipeline, Rauh said.

Basin Electric officials have also said the new law means it will pay substantially more taxes for its Deer Creek power plant near Brookings.

Rounds said it's impossible to know which projects located in South Dakota just because of the tax incentives, but he believes Basin Electric's Deer Creek plant and some wind farms would not have been placed in the state without the incentives.

The tax refunds also reduced the cost of some wind farms, freeing up money so companies could spend more on the transmission lines needed to get the electricity to customers, the governor said. Hunhoff said the state needs to study what benefits it gets from the tax refunds and then decide which kind of projects should get the tax breaks.

"I think there's possibly a place for them. But I think we're wasting way too much money on them and probably getting a very poor return in most cases," the Democratic lawmaker said.

List of state tax refunds for construction projects

The Associated Press

PIERRE — A list of companies that have received state construction tax refunds from July 1, 1996, through June 20, 2010, and the total amount they have received, according to the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation.

Aberdeen Development Corp.	\$285,003
Aberdeen Energy LLC	\$3,954,334
ADP Inc.	\$1,095,313
Basin Electric Power Coop.	\$3,295,453
Cherapa Place LLC	\$194,582
City of Sioux Falls	\$720,942
Dakota Ethanol LLC	\$1,512,001
DM&E Railroad	\$1,887,021
Dakota Turkey Growers LLC	\$1,517,217
Davisco Foods International Inc.	\$1,615,951
Day County Wind LLC	\$3,830,906
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	\$4,217,125
Great Plains Ethanol LLC	\$5,081,632
Heartland Grain Fuels LP	\$1,823,744
James Valley Ethanol LLC	\$2,132,049
McFleg of SD	\$133,258
Midland National Life Insurance	\$155,505
Millennium Ethanol LLC	\$594,052
Minnesota Mining and Mfg (3M)	\$3,178,272
Missouri Valley Renewable Energy LLC	\$26,732
Northern Beef Packers LP	\$802,993
Northern Border Pipeline	\$1,809,487
Northern Lights Ethanol LLC	\$3,230,358
Prairie Ethanol LLC	\$2,968,676
Premier Bankcard	

Redfield Energy LLC	\$1,783,238
SD Wheat Growers	\$1,318,016
Sioux River Ethanol LLC	\$2,094,625
SD Oilseed Processors LLC	\$2,713,392
Tatanka Wind Power LLC	\$4,048,600
TransCanada Keystone Pipeline LLC	\$2,711,662
Tri-State Ethanol Co. LLC	\$165,306
Tri-State Financial	\$362,897
Universal Package Corp.	\$268,279
Valley Queen Cheese Factory Inc.	\$880,288
Versum Energy Corp.	\$2,067,498
Wessington Wind I LLC	\$3,129,633
TOTAL	\$66,231,400

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Tuesday, July 13, 2010
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

First Floor Community Room
City/School Administration Center
300 Sixth Street, Rapid City, SD

The proposed ordinance amendments can be reviewed and comments submitted on-line at <http://www.rcgov.org/Growth-Management/>, click on Mobile Home Park Ordinance. Copies may also be obtained from the Growth Management Department.

(Published twice at the approximate cost of \$167.04)

Overweight or obese adults are at greater risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, and more.

If excess weight is affecting your life and health, the **Regional Weight Management Center** at Rapid City Regional Hospital can help.

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Come learn more Tuesday, July 13 • 6 p.m.
Rapid City Regional Hospital's West Auditorium

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For more information, please call the Regional Weight Management Center at (605) 719-1375.

"Take a step towards changing your life."

Aberdeen wind blade makes trek to U.S. capitol

The Associated Press

ABERDEEN — A 13-ton wind turbine blade built in Aberdeen has made it to the nation's capitol after traveling more than 4,000 miles through 10 states.

More than 6,000 supporters along the way signed the blade, which acted as a petition of support for clean energy.

The 131-foot blade left Aberdeen in late April and arrived in Washington, D.C., Monday night. It was parked Tuesday in front of the main gate at Nationals Park for the 2010 Congressional Baseball Game.

The blade was manufactured by Molder Fiber Glass, which produces wind turbine blades for GE Energy. It was a part of GE's Capture the Wind tour, a multistate trek through Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Texas.

State elections draw national interest

By Jonathan Ellis
Sioux Falls Argus Leader

The arrival this week of the majority leader of the U.S. House and recent endorsements by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and others are an early indication that South Dakota's two marquee political races will draw interest from far beyond the state's borders.

South Dakota is no stranger to fierce contests that draw national attention, but it has been six years since a general election rose to that level.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Maryland, who is second in rank behind House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, is scheduled to join Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin on Thursday at two events, one on biofuels and the other on wind power.

His visit comes after Romney's political action committee last week endorsed Republicans Daugaard and Kristina Noem and sent them campaign donations to go with the endorsements.

Daugaard, the Republican candidate for governor, received \$5,000, and congressional candidate Noem got \$2,500 in her bid to unseat Herseth Sandlin. The endorsements and contributions are among those made nationwide by Romney's Free and Strong America PAC.

The PAC endorses conservative candidates who favor reducing taxes and government spending.

In the endorsements, Romney said Daugaard is a leader who will "say no to reckless spending and higher taxes," while Noem "understands South Dakota and its values and will restore its voice to the U.S. House."

Other groups also are getting involved. Noem received the endorsement Tuesday of the Susan B. Anthony List, a PAC that supports pro-life women.

A spokeswoman from the group did not return messages Tuesday, and it's unclear how a 10-minute break during the campaign will get. The group plans to spend \$6 million nationwide in the upcoming election.

In past elections, EMILY's List, a PAC that supports pro-choice women, has generated a significant amount of money for Herseth Sandlin through bundled donations from individual donors, but the congresswoman is not on the group's support list this year.

Daugaard's opponent, Scott Heidepriem, received a \$50,000 contribution from the national Democratic Governors Association in May, as the national group tries to help Heidepriem become the first Democrat in 25 years to win the state's top office.

Romney, who came up short in his 2008 bid to win the Republican nomination for president, is presumed to be running again in 2012. His donations help him expand his network and influence within the Republican Party in the event he runs.

For federal candidates, the last day of the second-quarter reporting period was June 30, both Noem and Herseth Sandlin are required to file their second-quarter reports later this month.

Noem, who starts off at a big disadvantage to Herseth Sandlin, said after winning the June 8 primary that she wanted to end the second quarter with a strong report.

"We're excited to have Gov. Romney's support," Noem campaign manager Joshua Shields said. "Obviously, it's going to take a lot of South Dakotans contributing to this effort to win in November."

Daugaard and Heidepriem file reports under state law, and their next reports aren't due until October.

"We're grateful to have the support of someone with Gov. Romney's stature," Daugaard campaign manager Tony Venhuizen said.

The national focus on this year's South Dakota campaigns comes after relatively quiet contests in recent years. Herseth Sandlin's two previous races have been sleepy affairs in which she trounced her opponent, and Gov. Mike Rounds ran in 2006 as a popular incumbent.

Aldermen elect Kroeger, Costello to council leadership

By Emilie Rusch
Journal staff

It took three tie votes and a 10-minute recess, but the Rapid City Council elected Ward 4 Alderman Ron

Kroeger and Ward 5 Alderman Aaron Costello as president and vice president for the 2010-2011 council term.

The new council, including four new aldermen elected in June, was sworn

in at Tuesday's council meeting.

In the annual officer elections, Kroeger defeated

Costello 7-3 for president. But in choosing a vice president, the council dead-

locked three times between Costello and Ward 2 Alderman Deb Hadcock before

Mayor Alan Hanks called for a 10-minute break. After the recess, Costello won 6-4.

Kroeger, who was first

elected in 1997, is the council's longest tenured member.

Costello, who won a special election in late 2008 to fill the seat vacated by

Bob Hurlbut, is in his first full term on the council.



Kroeger Costello

BILLBOARD: Billboard companies have objected to rule change.

From Page A1

11-member citizen task force agreed and recommended that the rules be changed so sign companies have to give up two static billboards for every new or converted digital billboard face requested.

But the resulting ordinance failed

tered on the council level, first getting killed in committee before being forcibly revived by the full city council.

Billboard companies have objected to the rule change, arguing the current sign code is already the strictest in South Dakota.

Terry Olson, lease manager for Lamar Outdoor Advertising, said his company has taken down 33 signs and spent more than \$1 million improving older signs under the existing code.

"A true compromise is where

both sides give and both sides take," Olson said.

But Lisa Modrick, a member of the task force, said Rapid City residents have made it clear how they feel about the appearance of their community, particularly with the efforts to improve downtown and Mount Rushmore Road.

"We want enhancements, safety, beautification. This is the time to wait and build on what we have going and growing," Modrick said. "If we do something now, it's going to last a lifetime."

Aldermen, though, expressed concern that there was more work to be done on the ordinance.

Ward 1 Alderman Ron Weifenbach said he didn't understand how the ordinance would achieve the ultimate goal — getting rid of signs that everyone agrees are old and unsightly.

Currently, sign companies can meet all the requirements and be willing to take down two billboards and still not get approval for new digital billboards, he said.

Ward 2 Alderman Deb Hadcock, who made the motion to send the issue back to the task force, said the more conversation aldermen have with sign companies, the more likely compromise will happen.

"We knew this was an important issue," Hadcock said. Ward 1 Alderman Gary Brown abstained from the vote because of billboard lease agreements he has with Lamar.

Contact Emilie Rusch at 394-9453 or emilie.rusch@rapidcityjournal.com.

SEPTIC: Opponents have until Aug. 10 to file petitions.

From Page A1

water quality.

On Tuesday, opponents had one last chance to say their piece.

"I am opposed to the ordinance, but I am for the concept (of promoting clean water)," said Dave Bolde, who lives between Box Elder and New Underwood. He suggested the commission start over and draft a clean water ordinance that addresses all potential contamination sources. The septic ordinance addresses just one piece of the puzzle, he said.

Dave Fisk drew a distinction between septic systems in the hills and those on the flatter lands east of U.S. Highway 16, where he lives. "I think you do need to do something in the hills," Fisk said, because of all the homes being built there. "I'm not sure it needs an ordinance for the whole county."

Fisk also questioned where septic pumps would spread the treated effluent pumped from county septic tanks.

"How do you know that that stuff isn't polluting my water?" he asked. "I don't want their stuff brought to me. They can keep their stuff."

Fisk said he is neither for nor against the ordinance. But he also isn't convinced changing property owners is

In other action

The Pennington County Board:

1 Voted 4-0 to reconsider a conditional use permit for Chris and Jolene Hinkley, who need the permit in order to provide adult foster care for two elderly women in their home on Palmer Road. The commission denied the request on May 18, but the Hinkleys said that action violates the women's rights under the federal Fair Housing Act. Neighbors will be notified, and the matter will be discussed at a future commission meeting. Commissioner Nancy Trautman recused herself.

Approved an additional \$25,000 for the Pennington County Health and Human Services Department to assist county residents with utility expenses. Director Karen Romey said she expects more people will be eligible for assistance because of rate increases by local utilities.

the answer, especially if there have been no complaints about their septic systems.

"Fees make people angry, especially right now when money is tight for a lot of people," he said.

Glen Lahner said county employees shouldn't be allowed to run "willy-nilly around the county" inspecting septic systems. He said "septic sleuths" should be required to show probable cause of a problem before inspecting a system.

Glorine Hunt said the ordinance will require

county residents to repeatedly prove their innocence by showing their septic systems are functioning properly. She estimated that "approximately 90 percent of us don't believe the ordinance is needed."

The commission did make one minor change to clarify that property owners who install, alter or repair septic systems could — but will not necessarily — be required to provide information on things such as soil profile and percolation test information.

"Whatever's pertinent is

what we're going to require," said Dan Jennessen, county planning director.

Before the vote, Commissioner Gale Holbrook again reminded residents that no ordinance is perfect and that this one, like others, can be amended if needed.

The ordinance could also go to a public vote. It goes into effect 20 days after publication in the newspaper, which county staff said would be on July 21. That means the ordinance would likely go into effect Aug. 10.

The approved ordinance will be posted online at <http://www.co.pennington.sd.us/planning/pz.html>.

Opponents have until Aug. 10 to file petitions referring the matter to a public vote.

They would need to gather about 3,137 signatures, county staff said. The ordinance could also be appealed in court.

Coleman, Hall named to planning board

A retired teacher and an engineer have been selected to fill two vacant seats on the Pennington County Planning and Zoning Commission.

After interviewing seven of the eight applicants for the commission on Tuesday, Pennington County commissioners appointed Jim Coleman and Karen Hall.

Coleman graduated from high school in Rapid City and has lived here since 1971. After operating Coleman Mattress for 15 years, he taught English, debate and advanced placement government classes at Rapid City Central and Rapid City Stevens high schools.

Coleman said he believes it is important to listen to and understand all sides of an issue before making a decision. Also, he said, "You can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." Asked why she applied, Hall said, "I really love this place. I think we have fabulous resources here, and I see this position as ultimately being responsible for protecting those resources."

Hall holds bachelor's degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in addition to an English degree. She said her experiences working with different groups of people while employed by a Minnesota oil refinery helped her learn mediation skills that would be used as a planning commissioner.

Other applicants for the vacant seats were Patrick Breen, George Ferebee, Gayle Jorgenson, Karen Murphy, Mel Prairie Chicken and Dan Strad.

— Heidi Bell Gease, Journal staff

STIP Public Meetings

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2011-2015 Five-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period. Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program:

July 15, 2010	Sioux Falls	Rapid City	7:00 PM
July 20, 2010	Sioux Falls	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 21, 2010	Rapid City	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 22, 2010	MTI Technology Center	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 27, 2010	Sioux Falls	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM

For more information please go to www.STIP2011.com

MOBILE HOME PARK ORDINANCE OPEN HOUSE

The public is invited to attend an open house on the proposed amendments to the Rapid City Mobile Home Park Ordinance. Attendees will have the opportunity to review and discuss the proposed amendments with City Staff. No formal presentation will be provided. Interested individuals may stop in any time between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 13, 2010
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**
First Floor Community Room
City/School Administration Center
300 Sixth Street, Rapid City, SD

The proposed ordinance amendments can be reviewed and comments submitted on-line at <http://www.rcgov.org/Growth-Management/>, click on Mobile Home Park Ordinance. Copies may also be obtained from the Growth Management Department.

(Published twice at the approximate cost of \$167.04)

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