



# Reporter & Farmer

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Webster, South Dakota

Housing party

A success: B5

March 28, 2016

reporterandfarmer.com

**Featured business**

Sturdevant's Auto Parts: 6-7

**Trooper Tedder**

Nominated nationally: 9

\$1.30 includes tax

## WHAT'S UP

### Women's expo

Ladies Night is April 2, 4-9 p.m. at Dakota Event Center, Aberdeen, including shopping, interactive classes, health screenings and wine tasting. Tickets are available at Ken's SuperFair Foods, Mavericks Steak & Cocktails and Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center welcome desk.

### Project 22 to be shown

Project 22 will be shown April 13, 14 and 15, showtime 7:30 p.m. at the Webster Theatre. Advance tickets are available from Travis at Sturdevant's, Webster or the Veterans Service Office.

### Birthday bash

Bristol Pool's 40th birthday bash is April 1 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the H.O.T. Spot, Bristol. Other activities include silent auction 5:30-7, live auction at 7:30 and Mark Remilly Karaoke at 9.

### Pancake brunch

Our Savior's Lutheran Church pancake brunch will be served April 3, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Waubay School Commons. There will also be a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing.

### Vision team gathering

Design:SD vision team gathering is March 30, 5-6:30 p.m. in the Day County Courthouse. Teams will meet individually with our community coach March 30-31 to discuss challenges and solutions. More details are available at WebsterSD.com or 345-3159.

### Freedom Church worship

Freedom Church will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus March 26 with worship at 7 p.m. preceded by potluck at 5:30 at Webster Elementary School gym.

### Ducks Unlimited banquet

Day County Chapter Ducks Unlimited Banquet is March 31 at The Galley, Webster. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 followed by the auction. Tickets are available at Sturdevant's or contact Travis Ascher, 412-6055 for information.

## PUBLIC NOTICE PREVIEW

On the Public Notices pages, you'll find school board meeting minutes, election information, county equalization and tax exemption applications, property sale and hearing, name change, quotes and opt out notices. See pages B8-B9.

## WEATHER

Day County Sheriff's Office

	High	Low
March 18	38	23
March 19	38	27
March 20	40	28
March 21	51	30
March 22	58	29
March 23	38	20
March 24	48	23

Inserts: A&W,  
Mike's Jack & Jill



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## Former finance officer allegedly embezzled from town of Greenville

*Grand theft charges in separate stolen credit card case have been filed*

by Amanda Fanger

reporter@reporterandfarmer.com

Allegations of pilfering by a former financial officer of Greenville stem for the misappropriation of municipality funds over the course of nearly 14 months. Charges have likewise been filed in a separate case pertaining to a stolen credit card involving the same individual.

The town board of Greenville is "most definitely seeking prosecution" against former financial officer Becky Jo Kennedy said board president Andrew Dolney last week when

the findings of a South Dakota Department of Legislative Audit were made public. Russell Olson, local government audit manager of the Department of Legislative Audit, said the findings of that report show Kennedy possibly misappropriated nearly \$72,000.

Day County State's Attorney Danny Smeins said Kennedy is facing potential charges of embezzlement in the case.

"We're reviewing criminal prosecution in connection with that report," Smeins said. He also called the

amount of money Kennedy is accused of stealing, "substantial."

Kennedy, 50, Greenville, is also being prosecuted on an unrelated grand theft case. She appeared in Day County Court March 23 for charges of obtaining property or services with a false debit or credit card. Court documents show that charges she's accused of in that case total more than \$11,000.

In the second case, Kennedy is accused of stealing a credit card which had been issued to Patricia Mitchell. According to court documents,

Mitchell reported her Capital One credit card had \$11,031 worth of fraudulent charges. The documents say she maintained the card was typically kept at a zero balance and only used for emergency purposes.

The case was investigated by South Dakota Department of Criminal Investigation special agent Brandon Neitzert who found that an email address associated with records related to the card had been switched, presumably from Mitchell's to Kennedy's. Security camera footage

See CHARGES: 10



Reporter & Farmer photo by Amanda Fanger

**Kyle Monteith stands in his home gallery March 21 next to one of the mounts he recently won awards on at the North Dakota Taxidermy Association. This male and female Lady Amherst, a type of nonnative pheasant, shown here won Monteith "Best Exotic," "Best Pheasant" and the "Competitors Award" in the masters division at that state's convention March 4-6. He also won "Taxidermists Choice Best Waterfowl" and the "Competitors Award" for a second mount featuring two male wood ducks (one was an albino) and he received "Best of Category" on the pheasant mount by earning the highest score in the masters division.**

## Monteith wins awards for skill set he's still developing

by Amanda Fanger

reporter@reporterandfarmer.com

Even with award-winning, master-level skills at his disposal, Kyle Monteith is convinced he has more yet to learn about his craft.

Earlier this month, Kyle received multiple awards at the North Dakota Taxidermy Association contest for two bird mounts

he entered. The contest was held March 4-6 in Mandan, ND.

For a mount featuring two male wood ducks – one of which is an albino – Kyle received "Taxidermists Choice Best Waterfowl" and "Competitors Award." On a mount with a male and female Lady Amherst pheasant, he won "Best Exotic," "Best Pheasant," "Competitors Award" as well as "Best of Category" in the master's division, which means he had the highest score of the contest in that division.

This was Kyle's second year attending the North Dakota Taxidermy Association contest.

Kyle has been competing for at least the past decade and has been doing so in the masters category (the highest level of competition) since about 2011.

"I've gone through all the growing pains... it's definitely been a struggle," he said about his craft.

Among the first contests that Kyle ever went to turned out to be

See SKILLS: 10

## Solution is closer than realized

### Teachers tour businesses, gain insight, bringing students to prosperity

by Emre K. Erku

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The opportunity for professional growth is right here in Day County.

After local educational leaders toured four separate businesses March 18 during a "Teacher Tour Day" orchestrated by the Webster Area Development Corporation, the community may be one step closer to bridging a stronger local workforce.

"One of the concerns is our teachers might not realize all the opportunities that

exist in Webster," said Webster high school assistant principal and WADC advisory member Amy Miller. "(Students) constantly get the impression that they have to go somewhere else." Relocating to big cities for prestigious, high-paying jobs, Miller noted, is a pre-conceived notion that may be shared among circles of Day County's secondary students. But as educational leaders experienced and learned firsthand the availability of lifetime profes-

sions here in the heart of South Dakota's glacial lakes, remaining within the community could be as satisfying as living along New York City's Park Avenue.

"There's everything

from welders, to drafters, to engineers, accountants, heavy equipment operators and manufacturers..." Miller added. "There are jobs right here in Day County."

From four 40 minute touring sessions led by the CEOs and head honchos of Mereen-Johnson Machine Company, Webster Scale, Dakota Foundry and Anderson Industries, teachers obtained information pertaining to a vast variety of workforce responsibilities current and nearly graduated

local high schoolers may be inclined to pursue.

"I'm hoping they see that they can come out to this industrial park and make a good living," said Josh Bartos, vice president of manufacturing at Dakota Foundry. "Just come up here and apply. We really want to tap into our high school kids out here."

Bartos guided six groups of what he said were engaged and interested teachers through a foundry that sometimes radiates with 2,700 degree iron.

"We're lucky to have teachers that take their time to do this," said Bartos.

After high school, when

Bartos began working in the

See TOUR: 9

## Couples will have 'enchanted' time at Waubay prom

by Amanda Fanger

reporter@reporterandfarmer.com

This year's Waubay High School prom theme is "An Enchanted Forest" and will be held April 1.

The theme colors will be black, purple and shades of blue, according to junior class president Shelby Ness. The junior class is in charge of decorations, which will also include a gazebo. She said other decorations will be flower balls hanging around with white trees and white lights, as well as bird cages rigged with lights.

Tailfeather Photography will provide pictures and the dance DJ will be Ultimate Entertainment.

The grand march begins at 9 p.m. Doors open to parents at 8:30 and to the public at 8:45.

Prior to the dance, prom-goers will attend a banquet at The Galley in Webster, beginning at 7 p.m.

At midnight, students will board a Waubay school bus and head to the after prom party in Watertown where they'll enjoy laser tag. The after prom party will be sponsored by the After Prom Committee. A Saturday morning breakfast is being planned at HyVee in Watertown.

This year's junior class council is: Ness, president; Jenna Larson, vice president and Vanessa Kurkowski, secretary-treasurer.

## Charges

**Continued from 1**  
from several Watertown businesses also showed a woman, later identified as Kennedy, making transactions on the stolen card.

There are \$2,442.94 in fraudulent charges in Day County alone. Other transactions took place in Minnehaha, Brown, Marshall, Roberts, Codington and Brookings counties, as well as in North Dakota and online.

The purchases were likely made between July 10-Oct. 12, 2015.

Court documents show that Kennedy had done book-keeping for Mitchell and that Mitchell was aware Kennedy was having financial problems.

At the time of her arrest, Kennedy reported being unemployed. Her employment with the municipality of Grenville was terminated at a special executive meeting in September 2015 when the town board became suspicious of fraudulent financial municipality activities, according to Dolney.

The state Department of Legislative Audit became involved in that case shortly after that and Grenville's assets were locked down.

"It's been a sit and wait thing since then," Dolney said.

The Legislative Audit's special review encompassed the dates of Aug. 1, 2014 through Sept. 11, 2015. It was presented by Olson to the Grenville Town Board at their March 7 meeting.

The review found irregularities within the municipal liquor store receipts and deposits, a number of checks redeemed for cash, additional checks presented for cash, deposits and cash withdrawals, an additional payroll check and unauthorized transfers from the municipality's savings account to checking.

According to the report, records showed \$47,703.93 less than records of Municipal Liquor Store receipts and video lottery and game profits between the dates of the review.

A review of the video lottery logs showed five instances where cash was turned over to Kennedy to be deposited but the Legislative Audit was unable to determine those amounts were ever deposited intact to the town's bank account.

There were also 10 checks which were cashed between April 14 and Aug. 25, 2015. The total of those checks is \$11,557. In three of the cases, the date of the check and date of it being cashed were not in normal numerical sequence.

## Crime

**Continued from 1**

Burns commented that, as police officers patrol the streets of Webster at night, they notice a number of garage doors that are left open. He said those are essentially invitations to theft.

A string of similarly described burglaries have been cropping up throughout the region, Burns said. From Redfield to Watertown, over into Spink County and beyond. It is not known at this point if all these cases are linked.

**JOIN US - THIS WEEK!**



### VISION TEAM GATHERING

1. Get energized for 2016  
*[90 Day Challenge!]*
2. Welcome others to get involved
3. Share new ideas

**WED. MARCH 30, 2016**  
**5-6:30 PM**

**DAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

*Plus, each team will have 1-on-1 time with Joe, our community coach, to discuss challenges and solutions*

**MARCH 30**  
6:45-7:45 PM: Walk/Bike Path Vision Team

**MARCH 31**  
7-8 AM: Marketing/Welcoming Vision Team  
8:30-9:30 AM: Main Street Vision Team

10-11 AM: Workforce/Education Vision Team

11:30 AM-12:30 PM: Housing Vision Team

1-2 PM: \_\_\_\_\_ (open slot)

**More details: WebsterSD.com or 345-3159**

## Skills

**Continued from 1**  
In most of the cases, the check memo field or accounting record notation indicated that the purpose of the checks were to replenish the video lottery cash box at the Municipal Liquor Store. However, no documentation of that cash ever being added was found. The corresponding cash box balance also did not match up, the report states.

"A lot of trust went on there that was misplaced," Dolney said, adding that small towns tend to operate on trust. "Some things have just been done (the same way) for a long time."

Since last fall, the town board has been working to implement new procedures such as requiring checks to have two signatures, which they hope will prevent this type of fraud from being possible in the future.

"Everybody in town knows everyone... It's a town of 60 people, think about it. There's only 30 houses here. There's gossip everywhere," Dolney said. Having personally known most people since he was young makes the case feel personal.

The town board will be seeking the dollar amount found in the special report as well as the cost of that review – which was estimated to cost of over \$10,000, Dolney said.

"It's a terrible shame it's had to come to this," said Dolney who said the board is doing their best to pick up the pieces, however. "It's what happens. You move on."

Kennedy was indicted on the grand theft charge by a Day County grand jury last week. That charge is a Class 4 Felony, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$20,000 or both.

Kennedy is currently out on a \$5,000 surety bond with conditions of a no-contact order and no possession/consumption of alcohol nor entering establishments where the same is sold.

Day County Circuit Court Judge Jon S. Flemmer is presiding in the case. Kennedy's court-appointed legal representation is Scott Bratland of Watertown. Smeins is the prosecuting attorney for the case.

In the Grenville case, Smeins said it now comes down to show beyond a doubt that Kennedy is guilty. Until that time, she is presumed innocent.

"The burden of proof is that she was responsible (but) when dealing with cash, the paper trail is tough to follow," Smeins said.

Her next scheduled court date is April 6 in Day County.

The Day County Sheriff's Office assisted in the Grenville investigation.

Besides the undisclosed number of cases reported in Webster, Burns said at least two or three cases have been reported in Waukon as well. Burns had not heard of any reports from rural Day County.

While this is an ongoing investigation, Burns cautions people to lock their vehicles and close their garage doors to thwart thieves.

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one of the best things for his craft. The bird he'd mounted wasn't drying as it should which caused the judge to disqualify him; while talking to Kyle later to give him some pointers, the judge accidentally ruined the mount when he tried repositioning the bird's wing. Because the judge felt so bad about the incident, he invited Kyle to spend two days training with him – a class that usually costs \$500.

Looking back, Kyle said that was a turning point in his taxidermy career. It was worth that one ruined bird, he remarked.

Because that's the thing about taxidermy, he said; you never stop learning.

Kyle began doing taxidermy in high school, learning at his elder brother Kevin's elbow.

"Kevin...started in taxidermy. He had me do all the nasty stuff," Kyle said with a laugh, explaining that meant rendering the fat from the skin among other less pleasant parts of the craft. "Then one day, he had me start doing birds. I always looked up to him."

But it wasn't until college that Kyle got serious about the craft. He would come home and work out of his dad's garage since he couldn't do taxidermy in his dorm.

The biggest challenge to his craft is, "In every project you do, you literally destroy the specimen you're working on," he said. "Then you preserve the skin and mount it to make it look real again. The struggle is what's the best way to do that? There's a million ways of doing this – you never stop learning."

That's why Kyle said he enjoys going to taxidermy conventions so much – he said it's where people come together to learn each other's secrets.

With each passing year, Kyle says he knows he gets better.

"Looking at my (mounts) from way back when (is) probably embarrassing," he said with a laugh. "Even just within a yearly basis, I can see my improvement. This (art form) is (about) constantly learning to do better; it's a constant learning curve."

On the pheasant mount



**Reporter & Farmer photo**  
by Amanda Fanger  
The detail of a spider web strung over a twig was tedious to create, but worth the time it took, said Kyle Monteith. Shown here is the female Lady Amherst pheasant in the taxidermy mount he won several awards on earlier this month in a North Dakota competition.

he did for competition this year, Kyle put in the detail of a spider's web between the forks of a twig. It was made with hot glue.

"It was time consuming, but I thought it was worth it," he said, then laughed and told how he'd considered putting a spider in the web too, ultimately deciding not to because he knew his wife wouldn't appreciate that particular detail.

Kyle said he spent about 60 hours on each of the competition mounts, although he doesn't spend that much time on the commercial mounts he does.

For Kyle, his favorite part of the process is near the end, just when he can start to see the specimen taking shape and beginning to look like a bird again.

"You try to get it as close to as God designed them," he said. "And sometimes, you can make them look even better than they did in the wild."

Kyle and brother Kevin have run Monteith Taxidermy together for about 15 years. While Kevin specializes in big game, Kyle specializes in birds – which he says it's one of the least for-

giving types of taxidermy.

But taxidermy is just a side career and hobby for Kyle. Since he works full time for NRCS, he only has the chance to spend about two hours a day, between 8 and 10 each night, working on it in his basement workshop. He also puts in 11-hour days every other Friday and works at least that long each Saturday.

"My family takes the brunt of that sacrifice, but by doing this, it allows my wife to stay home with the kids, and that's always been a dream of hers," he said.

Kyle and his wife Danielle have three children, ages five, three and one.

As a lifelong and passionate hunter and fisherman, Kyle said, "I get my inspiration both from hunting and fishing, but also just observing and admiring God's creation. One cannot help but praise God for all the creatures He has cre-

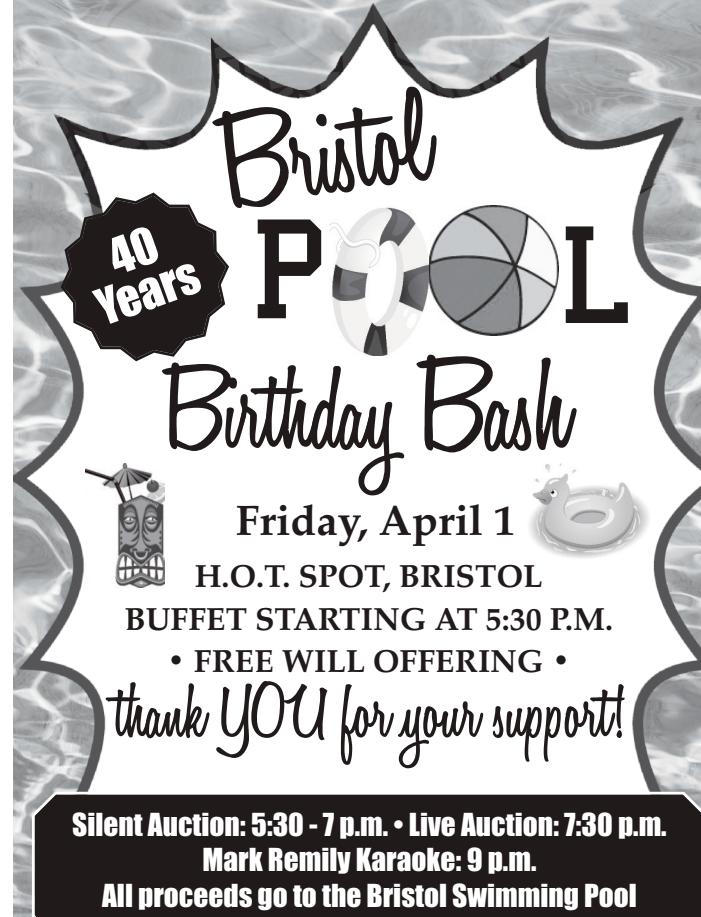
ated just for our enjoyment."

To aspiring taxidermists, Kyle suggests training with a professional and perhaps starting out with a bufflehead duck, which is an easy starter bird he said.

"Just jump ahead right away," he commented. "Struggle for many, many years... Just keep mounting up stuff and eventually (you'll) catch on."

Kyle is a 2005 Langford High School graduate, although he had attended all but his senior year at Bristol High School before that school closed. He went on to earn his bachelors in wildlife and fisheries sciences from SDSU in 2009 and in 2012 earned his masters of wildlife biology.

He and his family live near Wallace where Kyle says he has a freezer full of his own game that he suspects he'll never get to mount because of his extensive customer list.



**Silent Auction: 5:30 - 7 p.m.**  
**Mark Remilly Karaoke: 9 p.m.**  
**All proceeds go to the Bristol Swimming Pool**

## DAY • COUNTY • CHAPTER DUCKS UNLIMITED BANQUET Thursday, March 31

**The Galley, Hwy. 12, Webster**  
**Social Hour 5:30 p.m.**  
**Dinner starts at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Auction follows**

Tickets available at Sturdevant's, or contact Travis Ascher (412-6055) for ticket information.

**\$35 - Single**  
**\$45 - Couple**  
**\$20 - Green Wing**

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