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Onward Yankton: What's The

BIG IDEA?

Onward Yankton Announces Contest

BY ROB NIELSEN
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If you have an idea that can aid in the economic potential of the City of Yankton and help retain the city's youth, it just may net you a lot of money.

After weeks of hype and buildup, Onward Yankton announced a contest to find Yankton's next big idea.

Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce director Carmen Schramm, flanked by community business and civic leaders, introduced the project in conjunction with 1 Million Cups at Yankton High School Wednesday morning by stating it's time for the city to find a new vision.

"We're here this morning because we think Yankton is long overdue for the next big idea," Schramm said. "We're going to announce today that we're beginning a big 100-day search for Yankton's next big idea."

Larry Ness of First Dakota National Bank told the audience, made up mostly of high school students and area professionals, that a great idea could really pay off.

"We're going to give away \$10,000 to somebody — possibly in this room — who has the big idea for Yankton," Ness said.

District 18 Sen. Bernie Hunhoff said it comes down to attracting youth to Yankton.

"Yankton really has two choices because a town our size cannot grow without young people and young families," Hunhoff said. "There's really two ways we could (retain youth) in Yankton — we could build a fence around the town and tell you it's scary outside beyond that fence. ... I don't think that'd work so well anymore. Or we could build Yankton as the kind of town you want to live in, where young people want to stay or come back to, and that's the idea behind the big idea. We want to find a big idea that makes Yankton the kind of town



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton businessman Larry Ness used a \$100 bill to make a \$10,000 point Wednesday during an Onward Yankton program at YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Ness waved the \$100 and asked the packed house who wanted it; while he was waving it, a member of the Yankton Middle School band, which was on stage performing at the event, grabbed the bill from Ness's hand. Ness said the lesson is not to simply want opportunity, but grab it. The event kicked off a contest in which Onward Yankton is seeking the next "big idea" for the community's development, offering \$10,000 as a top prize.

Our Towns | Charles Mix County

Lake Restoration Moves Forward

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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PHOTO COURTESY PATTI RONFELDT

This graphic shows the features of the Park Avenue Project playground, part of a restoration effort for Lake Andes on the edge of the Charles Mix County community.

LAKE ANDES — Supporters are moving forward with the next phase in their plan to restore the lake which is this Charles Mix County community's namesake.

The Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization (CMCLRO) is working a \$2.3 million effort known as the Park Avenue Project.

It includes a multi-use trail, artesian well, parking, open shelter, wellness path, rip-rap, wildlife blinds, native grass plot, handicap accessible fishing dock, playground area, picnic shelter, boat ramp and educational center.

"We'd like to be done in

summer 2017, if not sooner," said CMCLRO president Darryl Deurmier. "We were looking for ways to benefit a lot of people and a lot of wildlife. This (project) should draw a lot of interest."

The CMCLRO held its annual supper last Saturday in Lake Andes, providing an update for members and other supporters, he said.

"It's one of the ways to keep community involvement going," he said. "So many times, you get a project going and then the community doesn't get informed. This is a good way to do it, with our updates."

Lake Andes actually

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Area Sediment Considered For Fracking Use

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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NIORRARA, Neb. — A research team is determining whether Lewis and Clark Lake sediment can be used for the hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," process used in the oil and gas industry.

If so, the sediment — which is rapidly filling up the lake — could turn from a burden into a bonanza worth millions of dollars.

"This sand could be used in the Bakken oil fields (of North Dakota) for fracking. If that's true, the marketability could defray the dredging costs," said Ron Zelt, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Zelt spoke this week at the annual meeting of the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (MSAC) in Niobrara. He described his team's research starting at the Chief Standing Bear Memorial Bridge on the Missouri River just east of Niobrara and running five

or six miles downstream.

"We are looking at three to five sandbar sites," he said. "Eventually, we expect to collect 25-30 borings. We are looking at 26-28 feet of vertical penetration."

The Lincoln, Nebraska-based research team is racing against the clock, as it must complete its work to accommodate two endangered species of birds, Zelt said.

"We have funding for the current fiscal year, and we have some dollars for next year. But the time window is determined by the tern and plover nesting season, which generally runs from late April to August," he said.

"I think we'll get the samplings before the nesting season. If not, it'll be pushed back to August. If we have to wait until August, then we won't have our report completed until summer 2016."

THE PROCESS

The fracking process injects high-pressure sand and water into



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Sandy Stockholm, executive director of the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (MSAC), speaks with U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist Ron Zelt following this week's MSAC annual meeting in Niobrara, Nebraska. Zelt shared his team's research on the possible use of Lewis and Clark Lake sediment for fracking purposes.

the surface, creating small cracks so crude oil or natural gas can be drawn. The proper type of sand goes into the cracks and acts as a

proppant, meaning it props open the fracture once created.

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Regents Approve New Policies

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

VERMILLION — The Board of Regents has authorized the rebranding of a university center in Rapid City, established a new policy for drones and approved resident tuition for out-of-state students who attend the South Dakota public university where one of their parents received a degree.

The board met Wednesday at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

CHILDREN OF ALUMNI

Freshmen or transfer students from out of state who decide to attend the South Dakota university that one of their parents graduated from will now be eligible for in-state tuition and fees. System Vice President of Finance and Administration Monte Kramer said the in-state tuition proposal will help attract students to South Dakota. A report to the board says the move could also help make donors and alumni happy.

Students would be required to meet certain initial criteria and then meet ongoing standards to keep the in-state tuition rate depending on the institution they attend. Kramer said allowing children of alumni to attend a public South Dakota university of their choice would make it apply to too many incoming students.

DRONE POLICY

Regents General Counsel Jim Shekleton said drones are an area where technology has

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Universities Impacted By Minimum Wage Law

BY JORDYNNE HART
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VERMILLION — The new year came with a pay raise for hundreds of student workers who attend the University of South Dakota (USD).

Last November, South Dakotans approved a measure that raised the hourly minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. It also increased the hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage.

But the with the increase will come changes — both good and bad.

According to Jack Warner, executive director of the Board of Regents, the change in pay will almost exclusively effect student employees and the hours that they work.

The pay raise will not exactly put extra money into student worker's pockets.

"I think what is generally happening is the amount of money allocated for student employment will remain constant, but the hours that students work to get that amount will be fewer in order for us to minimize the financial impact," Warner said at a USD campus forum Wednesday.

The financial impact is just

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