

REGION DIGEST

Asphalt Surface Treatments Set For Area

Asphalt surface treatments on several segments of highway in the Yankton Area will begin the week of Aug. 9.

Segments that will receive asphalt surface treatments are as follows:

- Highway 50 from the east end of Yankton, east 3 miles.
- Highway 50 from Vermillion, east 12 miles to the junction of Highway SD 11.
- Highway 37 from the Jct of Highway 50 north 12 miles to the Bon Homme Co. Line.
- Highway 314 from Yankton, west 3 miles to the junction of Highway 50.

Asphalt surface treatment work involves spraying fresh oil on the surface, then layering loose rock chips on top of the oil. Following the layer of rock chips, a light fog seal coat of oil and new pavement markings will be applied.

Motorists will be guided through each project by the use of flaggers and pilot cars on two lane routes, with lane closures and flaggers on four- and five-lane routes. Motorists are asked to reduce speed and obey all signing on these projects.

Motorists can expect to encounter fresh oil and loose rock on these projects and may want to consider an alternate route.

Changing conditions, as the projects proceed, will be indicated on the 511/SafeTravelUSA System. Motorist can call 511 or visit the Safe Travel USA website at www.safetravelusa.com to check on those changing conditions of the projects listed above.

Construction is expected to last 2-3 weeks.

Part Of Sixth Street To Close Next Week

Sixth Street from Maple Street to Locust Street in Yankton will be closed due to construction starting the week of Aug. 9.

This project consists of street reconstruction and storm sewer repair. This area will be closed to through traffic during construction. The tentative completion date for this project is Oct. 7, 2010.

YHS Band Kick-Off Night Will Be Monday

The Yankton High School Band Boosters will sponsor the annual YHS Band Kick-Off Night for all members of the 2010 band program at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, in the YHS Commons.

Colonguard as well as all band members and their families are invited to attend. Dinner will be provided. All aspects of the school year will be discussed.

For more information, contact Ted Powell, band director, at 665-2073 or tpowell@ysd.k12.sd.us.

Yankton To Host Ted Nugent Kamp For Kids

The inaugural NFSA & Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids will be held in Yankton at the NFSA/EASTON Yankton Archery Complex on Saturday, Sept. 18. The camp begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

This will provide a hands-on outdoor experience for children ages 8-16. The day will include learning opportunities in archery, air rifles, trap shooting, fishing, game calling, sling shots, geo-caching, and much more. Participants will receive lunch, drinks, event T-shirt, fishing rod and archery accessories as a part of the paid registration.

For more information about the camp, call the NFSA at 1-800-811-2331. This Kamp is limited to the first 200 paid registrations. Register online at www.cityofyankton.org. For questions about registering, call (605) 668-5234. Participants can begin registering at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 9. Registration ends at noon on Friday, Sept. 17, or when the 200 spots are filled.

YHS Ninth-Grade Orientation Will Be Tuesday

The Yankton High School ninth-grade orientation will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10. Staff will be available to assist students at 6:45 p.m. However, all students need to be in their homerooms no later than 7 p.m.

The orientation will conclude at 7:45 p.m.

Parents of ninth-grade students should pay student fees from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the YHS Principal's Office on Tuesday, Aug. 10. If this specific date doesn't work, the office is open the week of Aug. 9-13 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Parents of students in grades 10-12 should pay student fees anytime from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. the entire week of Aug. 9-13 at the YHS Principal's office.

Student schedules and a letter pertaining to other school information for grades 9-12 will be sent out prior to the week of Aug. 9-13.

Volunteers Needed For Yankton's Ribfest

Volunteers are needed for the fourth annual Rockin' Ribfest on Saturday, Sept. 18, in Historic Downtown Yankton, running from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Rockin' Ribfest has volunteer opportunities in the information booth/souvenir sales, kids' area, garbage and tear down areas. Shifts are two hours unless otherwise requested.

If you are interested in volunteering or more details about the volunteer areas, e-mail Lori at yhrd@w.net or call 260-3003.

For more Rockin' Ribfest information, visit www.historicdowntownyankton.com and click on the Events tab followed by the Rockin' Ribfest heading.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

KNOX

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area has seen growth over the years in terms of both residences and recreational use, Henery said. The lake area also forms the boundary with South Dakota.

Henery is working to fill a final vacancy for deputy sheriff who will be stationed in Verdigré, Neb.

"We have received more than 24 responses for the application," he said. "We are down to three finalists. I have interviewed two candidates and am interviewing the third one."

Henery believes the high number of responses indicates that applicants are seeking a change in lifestyle.

"These are people in law enforcement who want to come back to a rural area," he said.

The final vacancy was created, in effect, when former sheriff Jim Janeczek resigned in June to pursue business interests. He was elected as sheriff in 2002

and re-elected in 2006. He did not file for re-election this year and resigned seven months short of completing his term.

Janeczek could not be reached for comment for this story.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors appointed Henery, who had been serving as chief deputy, as Janeczek's successor.

"Jim (Janeczek) decided that he wanted to return to the business he started before he ran for sheriff. He is a gunsmith, and he has a gun shop in Bloomfield," Henery said. "He stepped down, and I was appointed and took office the first of July."

Under Nebraska state law, the county Board of Supervisors is authorized to fill a vacant county office, said Knox County Clerk Joann Fischer. The statute provides for the appointment of a deputy to the vacant office until a permanent successor is appointed or elected.

Janeczek's resignation took effect June 30, and Henery took over as Knox County Sheriff effective July 1, Fischer said.

Henery, who now lives north of Center, Neb., began his law enforcement career with the Creighton, Neb., police force in

1981. He joined the Knox County sheriff's department in 1984 and has served as chief deputy and investigator for 14 years.

The new sheriff will be elected for a four-year term in the Nov. 2 general election. Henery won the Republican primary for sheriff in May and will face Democrat Mark Krepel in the general election. Krepel serves as the Crofton police chief and ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.

While Janeczek has stepped down as sheriff, he has been retained as a part-time deputy until a permanent replacement has been hired, Henery said.

"After that, Jim has agreed to continue working part-time for us as needed (in the sheriff's department)," Henery said. "Jim also is willing to work for other police departments. He will remain available for Knox County."

Henery said he appreciates retaining Janeczek's experience. "I am lucky that Jim is staying on as a part-time deputy," he said.

After hiring one more deputy, Henery said he considers the Knox County sheriff's deputies fully staffed. The force includes

Ernie Ibach of rural Bloomfield, Dale Robertson of Center, White in Crofton and the one stationed in Verdigré.

"The ultimate goal is to have the staff be in full force by Sept. 1," Henery said.

The rest of the sheriff's department is also in place, Henery said. Connie Janeczek serves as 911 coordinator, Rhonda York serves as the head dispatcher-jailer, and Jennifer Meier has begun work as dispatcher-jailer.

Before his resignation, Jim Janeczek hired Meier, of Hartington, Neb. She will replace Bonnie Cash of Niobrara, Neb., who is retiring after more than 30 years as a dispatcher-jailer.

Henery said Cash made the final decision to retire following the April death of her husband, Paul, who had served as Niobrara police chief for a number of years.

With his first month as sheriff under his belt, Henery said he has adjusted to the new role.

"The transition went smooth," he said. "I found out you have to multi-task more than I have before (as deputy), but things are going good."

OLYMPIC

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ley relay with fellow South Dakota swimmers, Jarod Markley and Wade Uhrich, both of Aberdeen, and Chelsea Popham, of Watertown.

Her favorite race is the 100-yard freestyle because she gets to use her legs and she has to use her arms a lot, Kathie said.

Kathie started swimming about seven years ago. While fetal alcohol syndrome has prevented her from functioning like other kids her age, Kathie's adopted parents, Dr. Leonel and Yolanda Herrera, enrolled her in swimming lessons because they thought it would help her physically and mentally.

"It's an all-encompassing disability," Yolanda said. "It's affected her motor functions, her growing capabilities. It affects her ability to put things in order."

"Her muscles were pretty weak and she struggled with coordination," she added. "In team sports, she really struggled because kids were just very impatient with her. She liked the water and we thought she might do well."

Kathie's swimming career got

off to a rocky start. She had panic attacks and would often quit in the middle of races.

Today, her past is hardly evidence of her success.

"Now, that's all gone," said Mike Moran, the Vermillion Area Swim Team (VAST) coach. "She has the confidence. She has the strength. She knows she can do it."

Currently, Moran serves as Kathie's coach through VAST, Vermillion's club swim team.

VAST swimmers practice five nights a week during the year and seven days a week during the summer. The group of about 40 active members, ages 6 through seniors in high school, compete all over the region.

Like many of the other coaching staff, Moran had little experience coaching a special-needs child before meeting Kathie. "We treat her as just another kid," he said.

VAST assistant coach Melanie Mahowald agreed that treating Kathie the same has worked toward her advantage. Kathie's memory — especially her short-term memory — has really improved, Mahowald said.

Her teachers in school have also seen a difference, Yolanda said.

"Her instructors always tell me how diligent she works," she added. "She tries really hard to

meet their demands. She's a people pleaser."

After hearing about the Special Olympic games at school, Leonel signed Kathie up to compete in swimming and running at the local Special Olympics. She easily qualified for South Dakota's games.

From there, she earned a spot to compete in the national games in both running and swimming — but Kathie had to make a choice between which sport to compete in, as they were scheduled for the same time.

Kathie chose swimming. "Swimming is much more fun and you can be in water most of the time — not the hot sun," she said.

Kathie added that while she used to get pretty overwhelmed at swim meets — especially at bigger ones — her competitions were pretty easy going. And while the rest of Kathie's family was unable to attend the games, Leonel went to Lincoln every day to watch her compete.

She liked having her dad there to support her.

"Kathie solo-ed it," Yolanda said.

"It felt good," Kathie added. "I don't know how I would describe it. You compete against other people like a regular meet. There were hundreds, thousands."

Her experience meeting new people and gaining friends has been a big plus of joining the Special Olympics, too.

"Everybody's so friendly and generous of their time and attention," Yolanda said. "The kids are very loving. It's a different atmosphere. The competitiveness is not there."

"It's a great equalizer," she added. "Everybody participates. Everybody cheers for everybody. It gives them a good physical activity, too. Otherwise, special-needs kids might not exercise as much. It's very important for us to get her moving."

Kathie plans on staying with VAST as she enters her freshman year at Vermillion High School. Today, she is extremely proud of her gold medals she earned at the national games in Lincoln. It is almost hard to believe such a confident, good-natured young girl has been through so much.

"She's gained a lot from swimming, not just swimming and the medals," he said. "Her memory has gotten so much better in the last year because, I swear, of swimming. She knows exactly what to do now. ... She just gets up there and does it like everybody else."

Kathie added, "Even though they work us, I get it done."

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