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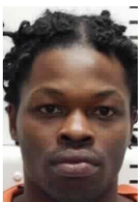
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Police Looking For Robbery, Assault Suspects

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The Yankton Police Department (YPD) is on the lookout for three suspects who were involved in an armed robbery that occurred at a residence in the 800 block of Broadway Ave. Wednesday evening.

According to a press release from the YPD, at approximately 11:08 p.m. Wednesday, two black males entered a residence in the 800 block of Broadway Ave. Both males were armed with semi-



Smith

identified as driving the vehicle that left the crime scene. Police identified the first suspect as Donald R. Smith of

automatic style handguns (one gun silver, the other black) and demanded money. The victim was physically assaulted and the suspects left the residence with the money. A black female was

Yankton and released the following description:

- Known gang member of "Duce 9."
 - 5'8" 175 lbs. with numerous tattoos.
 - Cornrowed hair.
 - Considered armed and dangerous.
 - On parole.
 - Has active bench warrant for possession of marijuana
- Smith is also wanted on a parole detainer from the State of South Dakota.

The second suspect was de-

scribed as approximately 6-foot, 24 to 25 years old wearing tan baggy shorts and is also considered armed and dangerous.

The vehicle that the suspects were driving was later recovered at a business on Burleigh St. A subsequent search of the vehicle was conducted and no weapons or money were found.

There were no further updates as of press time.

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

Special Election Set For Opt-Out

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was inadvertently omitted from Thursday's print edition of the Press & Dakotan. We are printing it here today. We apologize for the inconvenience.

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

A levy intended to pay for road and bridge improvements in Yankton County is set to go to a vote next month.

The special election will occur Sept. 29 in order to comply with the Oct. 1 deadline for setting taxes. Absentee ballots will be available starting Friday.

The levy, passed July 15 and set to take effect in 2016, would impose a property tax levy of 90 cents per \$1,000 of valuation to help aid in funding of road and bridge improvements in the county.

Yankton County Auditor Patty Hojem said during the meeting that 677 petition signatures were required to force a vote and the county had received 708. Hojem said the auditor's office has authenticated the signatures.

She did not have a figure available on a cost for the special election.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said there will be a need for drastic changes to the budget should the levy be voted down.

"Without this money, we're going to go in and have to change the budget because we're going to have to eliminate road projects and bridge projects in the county because the money is just not there to take care of the roads and the bridges," Woods said. "I'm fearful if it doesn't pass because I don't know what our roads will come to because the money's not there. It's not coming down from the state or the feds."

He added that options are very limited beyond having the levy in place — and they too have a chance of being rejected by the public as well.

"We can maximize the wheel tax, which is somewhat of a help, but again, that could get referred to a vote," he said. "Otherwise we'd have to do some outside the box thinking. I think we've tried to find all the alternatives that are out there and right now this is the only one we can see that's going to be able to do something."

Woods said he'd like to use upcoming town hall meetings and proposed forums as an opportunity to educate the public further on the levy.

"I want to do some forums and more public education because I want to educate the public on what's going on," he said. "I don't want mis-truths, I want them to know the facts and let them make a decision based on the facts."

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

A Friend For The Mighty Mo



COURTESY PHOTO

These volunteers help with Missouri River clean-up below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton. The annual clean-up could benefit from the newly-formed Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR).

'Friends' Organize To Keep River Clean

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Sometimes, even the Missouri River can use a Friend.

also

■ National Parks Service Prepares For Year-Long Centennial Celebration.

RIVER CITY

With that in mind, a group of river supporters have established the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR). The private, non-profit organization will provide opportunities for fundraising and advocacy not currently available for river projects.

The MNRR consists of the 39-mile stretch from Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown to Running Water and the 59-mile stretch from Gavins Point Dam near Yankton to Ponca, Neb.

The public can learn more about the Friends organization during a National Park Service open house from 2:30-7 p.m. Monday at the Riverside Park large picnic shelter. Brief identical presentations will be given at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Dakota Territorial Capitol replica in Riverside Park.

The Friends is an independent organization, but the NPS open house offers a good opportunity to provide more information about the group, said MNRR superintendent Rick Clark.

"We'll roll out formal recognition of the



Friends group, which will coincide with the presentation we're giving about the National Park Service's 100th anniversary," he said.

The NPS has shown interest in the formation of a Friends group for some time, Clark said.

"There have been efforts to formally establish Friends of the MNRR. It's been a high priority with the National Park Service before (my December 2013 arrival in Yankton)," he said. "This will play an important role in river stewardship."

The Friends effort has gained momentum in recent years but has still taken time, said FOMNRR organizing committee chairman Paul Lepisto of Pierre. He also serves as regional conservation coordinator for the Izaak Walton League of America (IWL).

"Actually, the start of the whole (Friends) process dates back almost two years," he said. "It's been a gradual process to get interested people together about what we want the group to do and what the goals of the

group should be."

The organization has completed incorporation and is awaiting final word on its 501c3 tax-exempt status.

The creation of a formal organization should open the door for more fundraising, said Mary Robb of Yankton.

Robb and Lepisto, along with MNRR Ranger Dugan Smith of Yankton, have provided leadership for four Missouri River events held each May. Those activities include the school festival, river clean-up, river rendezvous and clean boat event.

"It's difficult to raise funds as we are (currently) unable to apply for many of the grants available because the group needs non-profit status," Robb said.

"We've been using other agencies to collect funds for us. With the Friends group, we will not have to rely on another agency. We'll have more funding options available to us."

When the non-profit status is granted, organizations and individuals can make tax-deductible donations, which should encourage more contributions, Clark said.

However, the Friends organization will benefit in more ways than fundraising, Lepisto said.

"This is going to open up avenues for donations but also much more," he said. "The goal of the group is to promote and enhance the MNRR for the two reaches of 39 and 59

FRIENDS | PAGE 3

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extension arm with a sponge and squeegee.*

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TOMORROW: Boy Scout Troop 133 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET