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# **Meridian Camp Ground Making Progress**

BY REILLY BIEL

reilly.biel@yankton.net

Boy Scouts know how to have a good time – by hiking in the wilderness lugging a heavy backpack with the nearest showers and WiFi connections hours away.

This weekend, Yankton Boy Scout Troop 133 is celebrating their 50th anniversary with a reunion at the Lewis and Clark Scout Camp.

The anniversary started Friday night with a "cracker barrel" and continues today (Saturday.) Games like rope tying, compass coursing, fire building and search and rescue will help returning scouts see if their skills are still up to par with when they were young. The anniversary will

conclude Sunday morning with a chapel service. All past and present members are welcome to attend.

According to Troop 133 committee members Rodney Veldhuizen and Tom Merrill, an enjoyable time is guaranteed.

"We're going to swap stories and tell lies," Veldhuizen joked.

Having been a part of the Scouts for many years, both men have plenty of stories to tell.

One young man suffered frostbite because his boots froze to the floor of a tent. He's a marine now," said Veldhuizen. "We get to watch these kids go from that awkward stage to growing into fine young men."

Boy Scout Troop 133 follows in the tradition of teaching young men between the ages of 10 and 18 how to camp, canoe and backpack safely and professionally.

"You take a kid from the fifth grade who's just getting away from mom and can't do anything," Veldhuizen said. "By the time that child turns 18, we can turn him loose in the wilderness with just his pocketknife and he'll come back weighing five pounds more than when we sent him in because of the skills he's learned.'

**SCOUTS** | PAGE 13B

## On The Road Again

2015 Yankton

**County 4-H** 

**Achievement Days** 



This section of SD Highway 50 at Tyndall, along with other parts of Bon Homme County, would be affected by a South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) proposal to convert divided four-lane stretches to two lanes with a center turning lane. The DOT requests that public comments be submitted by Monday.

# **DOT Considers Some Highway 50 Downsizing**

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

TYNDALL - To divide or not to divide? That is the question facing the South

Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) as officials consider a proposed \$14.2 million resurfacing and reconstruction project for parts of S.D. Highway 50 in Bon Homme County. The proposed reconstruction would

convert divided four-lane stretches in the Tyndall and Tabor areas into what the DOT considers a safer three-lane highway - two lanes and a center turn lane. The DOT asks the public to submit

comments on the proposal by Monday to Mark Malone, DOT transportation planning engineer. He can be emailed at mark. malone@state.sd.us.

The proposal isn't part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement

Program (STIP) for 2016-19. If approved, it would likely occur in 2020 or later, Malone Area residents and others have ex-

pressed concern about losing the divided stretches of four-lane highway, he said. However, the traffic volume doesn't justify four lanes, he said.

"They (residents) feel like their lanes are being taken away," he said. "We're trying to express to the folks from a traffic standpoint that a divided four-lane highway isn't needed at all."

The reconstruction phase would affect five segments of S.D. Highway 50 in Bon Homme County. Those four-lane stretches

- two sections at Tyndall and Tabor; • two intersections with S.D. Highway 37 going north to Tripp and south to Springfield;
  - one intersection with S.D. Highway

25 heading north to Scotland.

Under the proposal, all of those stretches of S.D. Highway 50 would become two lanes - one lane in each direction - and a center turn lane.

An independent review recommended eliminating the four-lane divided highway and providing two lanes with a center turning lane, according to the DOT. The review was conducted by the Clay County sheriff, Yankton County deputy sheriff, Highway Patrol, High way Safety Engineer, traffic engineers, Federal Highway Administration and other parties.

The divided four-lane stretches can actually create safety hazards - especially near intersections with other highways by creating more confusion for drivers and increasing the chances for collisions,

**HIGHWAY** | PAGE 13B

#### **Suspect In Robbery** Caught

From P&D Staff Reports

Authorities have captured one of the suspects in a home invasion robbery Wednesday evening in Yankton.

Donald R. Smith was apprehended by the Iowa State Patrol in Jasper County, Iowa, around 4:30 p.m. Friday, according to Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen.

Smith was considered armed and dangerous. He was on parole, had an active bench warrant for possession of marijuana and was also wanted n a parole detainer from the State of South Dakota.

The Yankton Police Department (YPD) was 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.





COURTESY PHOTO Members of the Yankton School Board recieve their Board of Excellence Award from the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (AS-BSD) at the annual conference in Sioux Falls this past week. ABOVE: From left to right: Frani Kieffer, Sarah Carda, Kathy Greeneway, Matt Pietz, and Jim Fitzgerald

### **Yankton School Board Receives Excellence Award**

**BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN** alissa.woockman@yankton.net

The Yankton School Board was awarded the 2015School Board of Excellence Award by the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) at their annual conference in Sioux Falls this past weekend.

"We do it to recognize their leadership and their accomplishments," said ASBSD Executive Director Dr. Wade Pogany. "If someone were to ask me what effective boards do, how they behave and what they look like, I think this award really spells that

There were several hundred school board members in attendance included school board members and administrators all across South Dakota. The conference is to assist members with aspects related to the governance of public educa-

Some topics at this year's conference included: do's and don'ts of executive session, handling public complaints and the implications of globalization and

technology on education. The (ASBSD) began giving the award in 2011, which makes Yankton School Board the fifth recipient.

"We were all very surprised and happy because we know we have been doing a lot of work and trying to incorporate the community in all that we have been doing,' said Yankton School Board President Matthew Pietz.

Each school board must go through as application process to be considered for such an award. An independent panel complete with board members, educators and business community leaders then reviews the applications and gives the ASBSD board a recommendation based on several

- Expectations as a Board
- Set Goals
- Demonstrations/Examples of Achievements • How the Board Works
- Together • Leadership Training
  - Effective Communica-

**AWARD** | PAGE 13A





