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Westward Planning Officials: Highway 52 Corridor Needs Research

BY ROB NIELSEN
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While many people agree much of the future of Yankton lies to the west along the Highway 52 corridor, officials caution there's still a lot of research that needs to be done and that major progress on the corridor will take years.

One of the main focal points of Thursday's Yankton City/County Planning Committee meeting was development along the corridor and the

necessity of sewage upgrades to help facilitate it.

Yankton County zoning administrator Pat Garrity said there have been multiple attempts at getting water and sewer to the area between Gavins Point Dam and the west end of Yankton.

"Clear back in the late '80s was one of the first times people started talking about a sewer district out here," Garrity said. "It was more like, 'Can we team up with the state on the lagoons they have?' ... The only thing that was

developed at the time was the English Heights area.

"In the '90s we came up with a more concerted effort and actually had an election. The election ran into some technicality difficulties (whether) the Census was correct for this area and whether it was a 60 percent majority."

Today, the vast majority of development in the area relies on septic systems. But, with



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Yankton County zoning administrator Pat Garrity details proposed development along the Highway 52 corridor during Thursday's Yankton City/County Planning Committee meeting. Officials say one of the keys to the project is upgrading the area's sewage capacity.

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Trouble On The Bridge



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Traffic along the Discovery Bridge was interrupted through a good portion of Thursday afternoon after a semi-trailer went out of control and hit the structure at approximately 1 p.m. The driver was uninjured, but the truck blocked traffic and leaked diesel fuel. Crews from the Nebraska Department of Roads, the Cedar County Sheriff's Office and the Nebraska State Patrol, assisted by the Yankton Fire Department, worked on the scene, while the Yankton Police Department closed traffic on the north end. Some of the diesel fuel was recovered. While the crews worked, traffic was reduced to one lane for about two hours, with a couple of complete stoppages also needed.

Expanded Bridge Program Is Ready To Aid Local Needs

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Transportation Commission adopted rules Thursday for South Dakota's expanded program to help counties, townships and cities repair and replace road bridges.

The Legislature earmarked \$7 million from license plate fees. That is in addition to \$6 million available from federal funding and \$2 million from the commission.

The commission will control the grant decisions on a quarterly basis starting in April 2016.

County governments must file a five-year highway plan and update it annually to qualify. County commissions also must charge some level of wheel tax.

The Legislature set those two requirements. The proposed regulations now go to the Legislature's Rules Review Committee for final clearance.

The additional \$7 million from the Legislature and

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Federal Frustrations

Bloomfield Residents Vent At U.S. Rep. Smith

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) visited Thursday with Bloomfield area residents, asking what he can do for them in Congress.

In turn, they told Smith that some of their greatest problems come from — well, Congress and the rest of federal government.

At the round table discussion, former Bloomfield mayor Jim Cripe said people are frustrated by the political paralysis which grips Washington. In turn,

the impact is felt by everyday citizens, he said.

"What does it take for you (parties) to get together?" he asked Smith. "If you can't sit down and have an honest discussion, why are you there (in Washington)? The perception is that all you (politicians) do is bicker."

As a result, maverick billionaire Donald Trump is leading the Republican presidential race, Cripe said.

"That's why Trump is doing so well. He's saying

SMITH | PAGE 11A



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Menno artist Mickey Harris paints a great white shark on the wall of the former Jim Goetz law building on Third St. in preparation for next Wednesday's "Fish Night" interactive arts event, sponsored by Yankton Area Arts and the Yankton RiverWalk Committee. Individuals will have a chance to add their own artistic touches to the building, which is scheduled for demolition this fall.

RiverWalk And YAA Team Up For 'Fish Night'

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Why is there a shark on Yankton's Third Street?

It's part of an art project for kids to add their own new impressions on an old and soon to be demolished — building.

The Yankton RiverWalk Committee and Yankton Area Arts are partnering on "Fish Night," an interactive community art project next Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. Kids will get a chance to paint on an aquarium themed canvas created from the exterior walls of a building on W. Third Street.

This event will be a part of the committee's first RiverWalk tour that will allow families to explore the rich art and culture that downtown Yankton offers.

The building at 311 W. Third Street is

scheduled to be demolished in October to make way for a new parking lot for First Dakota National Bank.

The building was previously the law office of James Goetz. After the attorney passed away more than a year ago, Larry Ness, chief executive of First Dakota, saw the opportunity to create not only some needed space, but also a chance to give the community an artistic adventure.

"I talked to the RiverWalk Committee and the Yankton Area Arts council," Ness said. "The next thing I know, the building is blue and there's fish on it."

Ness first brought the idea of using the building as an art project to the RiverWalk board. The committee then contacted Mickey Harris of Menno, who is donat-

RIVERWALK | PAGE 11A

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