



Cloudy With A Chance Of Snow

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County OKs Road Plan

Work Begins To Pursue Funds For Bridge Projects

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The Yankton County Commission took a crucial step in order to potentially secure money for future bridge projects.

During its regular meeting Tuesday, the commission approved a five-year road and bridge plan for the county that will help make it eligible for some additional state funding — but it will still be some time before the county

could even see that money.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said the plan will help boost the county's chances of getting the grant money.

"The purpose of (passing the plan) is to make the county eligible for the Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG), which is a new program that the state has passed in this past year," Woods said. "It helps us get a higher ranking so we can get some grants to take care of our bridges. We all know the bridges

that we have problems with and they're going to take some big dollars. This will help us move up the priority list in regards to getting some grant money from the state."

Yankton County Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad said the grants, which would be exclusively used for bridge work, primarily focus on larger projects.

"These larger structures take longer to



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton County Commissioner Don Kettering speaks during Tuesday's commission meeting. The commission unanimously passed a five-year road plan during Tuesday's meeting.

PLAN | PAGE 14

Happy Holidays



Dec. 16
9 shopping
days to Christmas

* * *

A Regent Questions Governor's Plan For State Universities' 2017 Funding

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The governor's budget proposal for South Dakota's public universities falls short of the money needed to stay competitive in paying faculty and administrators, one member of the state Board of Regents said Tuesday.

Regent Harvey Jewett of Aberdeen was the only board member who raised questions about the recommendations Gov. Dennis Daugaard made Dec. 8 to the Legislature.

The governor proposed freezing tuition for resident on-campus students, raising university employees' pay 2.7 percent and offering 0.5 percent for faculty salary enhancement.

Jewett said the regents had been giving 1 percent for faculty salary enhancement, but missed four years during times of budget difficulties, which he said set the salary pool back \$6 million.

The 0.5 percent in the governor's proposal would put the salary pool further behind by \$750,000 more, according to Jewett.

Regent Terry Baloun of Sioux Falls said the tuition freeze would help South Dakota compete for students.

"From that standpoint it's probably something that I guess we're going to support and move forth on," Baloun said.

Jewett said he would support it but he called it a bad deal.

"We need to do a better job saying we hire nationally... and we have to pay those salaries. It's just the real world. We have to do a better job of showing those people it's no joke," Jewett said.

"It's just a status quo, tread water deal when we have these freezes," Jewett continued.

The tuition freeze was the regents' top priority when they submitted their requests to the governor.

"At the end of the day it's a big number and we will appreciate the effort by our board staff and the governor's office in getting a number that will get us to the tuition freeze," said Randy Schaefer of Madison, the



Jewett

Meet The New Boss



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Bob Nielson, left, is flanked by University of South Dakota athletic director David Herbster during a Tuesday press conference in Vermillion to announce Nielson as the new head football coach for the Coyotes. The 56-year-old Nielson was hired away from Western Illinois, where he was the Coach of the Year this season in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. Nielson guided Western Illinois to a 7-6 record this season and a berth in the FCS playoffs. For more on this story, go to Page 9.

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Sunday

BY RANDY TRAMP
P&D Correspondent

On Dec. 20, bird watchers and nature enthusiasts in Yankton are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

As Roger Dietrich starts another CBC season, he wonders what interesting birds there may be this year.

"I always do the Yankton and Sioux City CBCs, and this year I will also be doing the Ponca CBC," he said.

There are two different way to participate in the count. One involves watching for the birds that come to the feeders in your backyard and recording the maximum number of each species you see at one time. The second way is to be a field observer, who actively searches for birds. This is classical birding where you drive around in the countryside then hike into likely spots to find, identify, and count all the birds

you see or hear.

The CBC period is a 24-hour period starting at midnight Dec. 20 and going to the next midnight.

Dietrich said he usually starts at 5 a.m. "We start the day in the dark calling for owls," he said.

At this time of the year, the owls are establishing breeding territories. If they hear another owl in their area, they will try to drive them away. Yankton has Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech Owls that we get most every year.

The Sioux City area has Barred Owls, "but I have yet to see or hear one of those around Yankton," Dietrich said.

The Great Horned Owl gives the classic "who-who-who" call while the tiny Screech Owl sounds more like a horse whinny.

Playing the owl sounds is very effective. "I have had a Screech Owl fly right up within five feet the car window I was playing the



COURTESY PHOTO

Bald Eagles will be one of many species of birds nature enthusiasts will be on the watch for during the annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 20.

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

National Park Service Ranger Dugan Smith shows the new logo for the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR). The organization will work with river projects, which could include the Clean Boat Event and other efforts dealing with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Yankton Event Will Flex Its Mussels

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Yankton has become a battleground for containing the zebra mussel, a mollusk (clam) that reproduces rapidly and harms wildlife and infrastructure.

Now, Yankton will host a regional conference on dealing with the zebra mussel and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The zebra mussel has appeared in Lewis and Clark Lake as well as the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam.

The conference represents a targeted approach to dealing with the zebra mussel, said Paul Lepisto with the Izaak Walton League of American (IWLA).

"A multi-state, multi-agency effort is

under way to organize a two-day meeting, tentatively scheduled for June in Yankton," he told the *Press & Dakotan* on Tuesday.

"(The conference) will provide information on zebra mussels and their impact on people that utilize water from infected lakes and rivers. Speakers will present information about the mussel and describe how other areas of the country are trying to deal with the invader."

Zebra mussels are a small, invasive mollusk that originated in Eastern Europe and first arrived in the United States in the mid-1980s.

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Seeing The Signs

Path Of Suicide Shows Loved Ones How To Interpret Signs

EDITORS NOTE: This is the third in an ongoing series of stories involving the issue of suicide.

BY ALISSA WOODCKMAN
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At some point in their lives, everyone feels pain. For some, the pain may be too great and can lead to serious thoughts of ending his or her life.

Suicide is something that may come to others without warning and can devastate a community. There is a sense of panic and confusion about what could have been done and what can be planned for the future.

The path of suicide is not the same for each individual. There are many factors that can contribute to a person's desire to commit the act. For loved ones, the important thing is to be aware when someone may be in need of help.

"Everybody experiences the pain and angst that inevitably accompanies thoughts about suicide in a very individual way," said Dr. Tom Stange, Yankton's executive director of Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health. "If you have had experience trying to help anybody who is suicidal, you have to be able to understand the pain that they are in is pretty horrific."

Most people do not want to die. Individuals who are suicidal have ambivalent feelings about life and death. The feeling contradicts the basic instinct of human preservation. They are genuinely seeking relief from an



Stange

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