

Highway

From Page 1A

erwise, we follow a process that is set forth for condemnation. That still requires the purchasers to pay a fair market value, but the terms are laid out through that legal process.”

However, Yankton Community Development Director Dave Mingo told the *Press & Dakotan* that this doesn't mean the businesses on the properties in question are being displaced.

“We're not acquiring entire properties; we're just acquiring the front 30 feet of them,” Mingo said. “There's a couple of buildings that will be impacted, but none of them will be totally removed.

SDDOT

From Page 1A

according to Joel Jundt, director for DOT's division of planning and engineering.

Bergquist said Congress hadn't passed a new federal highway act for 10 years.

Instead a series of many temporary actions kept money flowing to states but didn't always provide certainty that states would be reimbursed for projects already under way.

“Overall I'm really happy we finally have that behind us,” Bergquist said.

It's just a corridor along the frontage.”

Mingo said that the strip of acquired land is divided between the state and the city.

“Of that 30 feet, 10 feet of it is for roadway purposes for the state and the other 20 feet is for the utility corridor,” he said.

Mingo said the agreed purchase price for the four acquired properties comes to a total of \$138,270.

Utility work along the corridor will include the movement of power poles, telecommunication lines, water lines and sewer lines.

Mingo said that, despite the corridor being along the second phase of the project which is slated for construction in 2017, negotiations must be wrapped up by this spring.

AT A GLANCE

Here's a summary of road projects added Friday to South Dakota's 2016 work list.

* A 2017 pavement preservation project on the shoulders of I90 from Vivian to Oacoma.

* A 2018 crack and asphalt concrete overlay project on US81 from SD46 to north of Freeman.

* A 2018 asphalt concrete resurfacing project on US281 from the west junction of SD44 to the south junction of SD42.

* A 2017 mill and asphalt concrete resurfacing project on US16/US16A from approximately 3.5 miles west of Custer to the west side of Custer State Park.

“Right now, it's just a matter of formalizing the acquisitions,” he said. “The state has given us a schedule on the project. We need to be in possession of the property in the March to April timeline. The state's bidding out the project in August and there's quite a bit of utility work that's got to get done before a roadway contractor from the state is able to be on site.”

He added that he expects all the necessary land to be acquired by the deadline.

“It's a pretty standard process the DOT uses all the time,” he said. “We fully expect to make that deadline.”

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* A 2018 mill and asphalt concrete resurfacing project on SD44 from SD47 to the Platte/Winner bridge park.

* A 2017 asphalt concrete resurfacing/milling/fault repair project on SD65 from US212 to SD20 in Ziebach County.

* A 2017 mill and asphalt concrete resurfacing project on SD26 from the Hand/Spink County line to US281.

* Resurfacing US16 from the Wyoming state line north 11 miles.

* Resurfacing SD79 at Hermosa.

* Resurfacing US212 at Belle Fourche from east of 10th Avenue for 1.5 miles east.

Liquor Official: Hastings Strip Club Business Plan Not Legal

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — The director of Nebraska's Liquor Control Commission has said that a business plan allowing patrons of a Hastings strip club to bring their own beer is not legal.

The Grand Island Independent reports that Shane Harrington, the owner of Midwest Girls Club, maintains that the BYOB practice is legal because the establishment is a private membership club, which means it is private property.

Commission director Hobert Rupe disagrees, and notes that even private golf clubs need liquor licenses under the current law.

Rupe says that he has no power to enforce statutes at the establishment, but the club will be subject to enforcement by city police, local sheriff's deputies or Nebraska State Patrol. Rupe also says that Harrington's

announcement that the club will give away alcohol at select events doesn't mean that he does not have to get a liquor license. According to the director, the liquor statute is based on alcohol consumption, not alcohol sales.

“This is a criminal act, so if law enforcement believes they are in violation of the statute, they would need to go in and issue a ticket and then it would go to the county attorney,” Rupe said.

The club opened Dec. 3, but closed after three nights due to zoning and liquor license concerns raised by the city. The zoning issues were resolved and the club was scheduled to reopen Thursday.

Hastings City Attorney Dave Ptak said that he deferred to the Liquor Control Commission regarding any other alcohol compliance issues.

Organizers Cancel North Platte's Rail Fest 2016

NORTH PLATTE, Neb.

(AP) — Organizers say that Rail Fest 2016 in North Platte has been canceled because of lack of staffing and resources.

The North Platte Telegraph reports that the event's chairman, Don Kurre, began informing people of the cancellation on Thursday. Organizers had expected next year's event celebrating the city's railroad heritage to be the biggest ever because it would have been Rail Fest's 10th anniversary.

“My sense is that the support is dwindling within

the community,” Kurre said. “We just couldn't do it anymore — I just couldn't do it anymore.”

The executive director of the North Platte/Lincoln County Visitors Bureau, Lisa Burke, estimates that the impact of the cancellation to the local economy could be about \$500,000. The bureau has provided Rail Fest with \$15,000 a year in grants to market the event, and Burke says, “we've fully supported it and hate to see it go.”

Logistics coordinator Dave Harrold says the grants help with promotion for the event, but they are

not enough. He noted that many tourists get information about events from social media.

“They don't rely on brochures or train publications. We've gotten grants, and we're grateful but that (type of promotion) is old-school,” Harrold said.

He says that having someone focus solely on social media for the event would help, but it is not a workable solution.

The coordinator says that he's not sure if this is the end for the festival, but he likes to believe that someone else will take over.

Pastor

From Page 1A

and didn't feel that God was calling me to do it then,” he said. “When the Abbot asked this time, I was a little more prepared. I didn't want to take it, but I knew that's what God wants me to do, so there's peace in my heart knowing that I'm doing what God needs me to do.

“We all have to learn that God is in control of our lives,” he added.

This is a lesson staff and students alike will learn with Wordekemper's departure.

Sister Maribeth Wentzloff knows his absence will be felt at the monastery. Wordekemper had done the sacrament of reconciliation, Sunday masses and daily masses there on a regular basis.

“The Sisters are having a hard time with him leaving,” she said. “But we understand the vow of obedience of when asked to do a difficult task, you need to be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit.”

“I'll never have it so good,” Wordekemper said of working with the Sisters. “Their holiness and goodness have made me become a better pastor and monk.”

One of Wordekemper's most valued traits is that he is genuine in everything he does, Wentzloff said.

“One of the things I appreciate most about him is that he's a person who walks the talk,” she said. “He's not someone who tells someone else to do something without him doing the right thing himself.

“When I think of him, I think of a set of giving hands,” she continued. “He's always there to put in a helping hand wherever needed, and that is very much evidenced by all the places on campus he's worked on. He made that come true with a lot of blood, sweat and tears.”

Wordekemper is well known for being active in campus beautification. It was a common sight to see Wordekemper on a stepstool painting a wall or hunched over a flowerbed with a gardening tool in hand.

“He's become a good friend and we've done a lot of work together through fundraising,” said Vice President for Advancement Barb Rezac. “He's done a lot with campus beautification from painting and working with the flower gardens that's created a nice atmosphere.”

Wordekemper's dedication to this has prompted the creation of two new MMC funds. One will be called the Father Thomas Wordekemper Campus Beautification

Fund, to which people can donate money so his legacy of campus work can be continued. The other fund, Father Thomas Campus Beautification Volunteer Hour, will allow people to volunteer their time to adopt and/or clean up a flowerbed or do some painting on campus buildings.

There will also be a Father Thomas Service to Mount Marty Community Award given to a graduating senior who sacrifices personal time and uses their gifts for the benefit of MMC.

“Father Thomas was always an example of that by serving others and doing things on campus that you wouldn't think he'd do,” said Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs Sarah Carda. “He was a big support to the staff. He always challenged us to find the truth in situations and to try to put the olive branch out to other people.”

“We are really sad he's moving on, but are grateful that he was given to us,” Carda said. “He was a gift on loan we knew we'd have to give back.”

Despite having been on campus for just one semester, new MMC President Marcus Long sees the impact Wordekemper has had.

“He is the heart of the campus,” he said. “I would venture to say there's no one who hasn't been touched by him.”

Wordekemper's frequent reminder for students to cooperate with his prayers is a simple message that rings home for those who hear it.

“No matter what the students' faith background is, it's a poignant reminder that they are responsible adults,” Long said. “He has a masterful balance between being a spiritual leader and a mentor to those on campus.”

Wordekemper says that, as a child, his grandmother prayed that he or one of his brothers would someday become a priest. Throughout the years, several people commented that he would make a good monk, which he refused to believe. One of those people was a Sister at Sacred Heart Monastery who gave Wordekemper some literature about Assumption Abbey Monastery in Richardton, North Dakota. At the time, Wordekemper was attending MMC pursuing a music degree with a plan of becoming a teacher, getting married and living on a farm.

However, six years later, Wordekemper felt drawn to visit the Abbey for a retreat, after which he formally joined the monastery in 1983. He left in November of that same year.

“I decided I didn't care what God wanted,” he said. “Even though I enjoyed being there, there was a part of

me that couldn't make that surrender.”

He landed a teaching job in Omaha, Nebraska, and was there for a few months before coming to a life-changing realization.

“I realized that I really had to surrender to what God wanted me to do if I wanted to be a fulfilled and happy human being,” he explained.

Wordekemper returned to the monastery and made his life commitment to be a monk in 1988. He changed his name from Joel to Thomas for being a “doubting Thomas.”

In 1990, the Abbot of the monastery asked Wordekemper to begin studying to be a priest. Though opposed to the idea, he agreed to go to the seminary and study the priesthood.

“In my mind, I wasn't studying to be a priest but was still taking courses required for that,” he said.

After much internal debate, Wordekemper decided to surrender to God's will, but not without giving an ultimatum: If he was going to be a priest, God would have to make him a good and happy one.

“Once I got God straightened out, everything was fine,” he joked.

Wordekemper officially became a priest in 1994 and he said he hasn't had a day of regret about his decision since.

After being ordained, Wordekemper worked at the monastery for many years, during which he was asked to be a campus chaplain for the University of Mary in North Dakota. After he declined that job, he soon heard that MMC was looking for a college chaplain and felt called to be there.

After persuading the Abbot that MMC was the place for him, Wordekemper joined the campus in June 2009.

According to Wordekemper, his duties included providing sacramental services for celebrating mass and being present for the students. He made it his mission to excel at both of these things, the latter of which was especially noticeable.

“I spend more time outside my office than in it,” he said, adding that he wanted to be seen all over campus. “I attend the sports games, plays and concerts; eat in the dining room and Cyber Café; and tend to flowerbeds and paint the halls. I want

the students to see that I'm a normal human being and they don't have to be afraid when they approach me.”

Wordekemper has also sung with the choir for Vespers and is a member of the Yankton Choral Union. He has attended three Spring Break Service Trips with students to Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma and Key West, Florida.

Outside of the college, he has raised money for the “Walk A Mile In Her Shoes” event held every September for the River City Domestic Violence Center “We Believe.” Wordekemper estimates he raised approximately \$15,000 for the center in his years of involvement.

One of the joys of being a college chaplain has been watching the students' growth, according to Wordekemper.

“When I hear their names at graduation and see them receive their diplomas, I feel like a proud father,” he said.

“It makes me think back to when they were freshman and how they've matured into fine young men and women.”

Being there for the students was one of Wordekemper's biggest priorities.

“I tell myself that I may be the only Christ a person sees,” he explained. “I use that as part of my guiding principle. I try to greet people and smile even if I don't know their names or they don't answer me back.”

Wordekemper has been continually surprised by the number of heartfelt farewells he's received in the last week.

“He's shocked by people's reactions because he really is that genuine and humble,” Carda said. “He doesn't think he's made that big a difference, but he's made a profound difference. He's well-loved and will be very missed.”

No matter where he goes, Wordekemper will always have MMC, its staff and students in his prayers. As he asked them to at the end of every student mass, their job is to cooperate.

“Being here has helped me realize how important it is to see Christ in everyone,” he said. “In 6 1/2 years, I've never had a bad day. I've had some tough days and been in challenging situations, but there's never been a day where I haven't wanted to be here.”

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

Archery

From Page 1A

Over the span of an entire week this past June, 557 athletes and trainers from 51 countries converged on Yankton for the WAYC – an event that became the most prestigious archery event to be held in Yankton since the NFAA relocated its national headquarters to the city in 2008.

The factor, though, that really told the story was the community-wide support for the tournament, according to Cull. A total of 807 local volunteers donated their time, in some way, to the week-long event.

“The icing on the cake for the community is to read a committee ... say that the hospitality and the way we ran that tournament are the reasons they're coming back,” Cull said.

The tentative dates for the Indoor Championships are Feb. 13-18, 2018, and Sept. 15-20, 2020, for the Field Championships.

Yankton had actually put together a bid package for three tournaments, the third being the 2019 World Archery 3D Championships. That event, however, was awarded to Canada.

Still, the confidence from World Archery that Yankton deserved two more opportunities spoke highly of how the community came together this summer, according to Nancy Wenande, the Tournament Director for the 2018 and 2020 events.

“It's really exciting to get that reinforcement that what we did was really at a high level of their expectations,” Wenande said.

Two potential issues that will be needed to ironed out before the events deal with air travel and lodging, Cull said.

Air service was one battle Yankton encountered during this summer's WAYC, because of the sheer number of people arriving and departing within a small window of time. Initial dialogues have already started with Mike Huether, the mayor of Sioux Falls, and with of-

ficials at Sioux Falls Regional Airport, according to Cull.

The second issue, lodging and hotel space, presents a different challenge for the 2018 and 2020 events, specifically in that because of the dates, the Mount Marty College dorms won't be available.

“I know that's one of the common things you hear, one of the growing pains in Yankton is motel rooms,” Cull said.

Between those hotel stays, dining visits and other activities from archers during the week-long events, there's an understandable boon to the local economy, as Cull pointed out Friday.

The budget for this summer's WAYC was just under \$1 million, and that figure is likely to be the same for the 2018 and 2020 events, he said.

“These will be similar, and the residual domino effect is incredible,” Cull said.

Such an impact is one of the reasons Cull said he also pushing for the acknowledgement by the state of sports tourism; in short, that athletic events can lead to economic development.

“Archery, obviously, has set the path in South Dakota, and I think everybody from the Governor on down is taking notice that sports can actually drive economic development,” Cull said.

Local organizing committee member Carmen Schramm, an appointee to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Tourism Advisory Board, called sports tourism “a quickly growing sector.”

“By having these types of tournaments in Yankton, it exposes them to the state, and hopefully that word of mouth continues when they go back to their country,” said Schramm, who also serves as the Executive Director of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce.

There's also the hope that word of mouth spreads within residents of Yankton for what archery means to this town on a global scale, Wenande said.

“I think people are still having a hard time grasping that, that we are an international hotspot for archery,” she said.

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SD Cattle On Feed Up 4 Percent

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — South Dakota feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more animals reported 245,000 cattle on feed on December 1, up 4 percent from last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its latest report that placements in feedlots during

November totaled 45,000 head, down 15 percent from 2014.

Marketings of fed cattle during in November totaled 38,000 head, up 12 percent from last year.

Other disappearance during November totaled 2,000 head, down 2,000 head from last year.

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