



Cloudy With Heavy Rains Possible

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WEDNESDAY ■ JULY 13, 2011

3 P.M. TODAY



USD Athletic Director David Saylor Will Be A Guest On Today's P&D Sports Chat. Visit www.yankton.net/sports

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GOP LEADER:

Give Obama New Power

Senate Republicans Propose Allowing Increased Borrowing Authority

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — With compromise talks at a vituperative standstill, Senate Republicans unexpectedly offered Tuesday to hand President Barack Obama new powers to avert a first-ever government default threatened for Aug. 2.

Under a proposal outlined by Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Obama could request — and likely secure — in-

creases of up to \$2.5 trillion in the government's borrowing authority in three separate installments over the next year, as long as he simultaneously proposed spending cuts of greater size.

The debt limit increases would take effect unless blocked by Congress under special rules that would require speedy action — and even then Obama could exercise his authority to veto such legislation. Significantly, the president's spending cuts would be debated under normal procedures, with no guarantee they ever come to

a final vote.

The White House had no immediate reaction to the proposal, which came a few hours before Obama presided over his third meeting in as many days with congressional leaders searching for a way to avoid a default and ensuing financial crisis.

In an interview on CBS taped before the meeting,

DEBT | PAGE 11

OUR TOWNS:

BH Sets Wheel Tax In Motion

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TYNDALL — The new Bon Homme County wheel tax just keeps rolling along.

This month, Bon Homme joined the list of counties collecting the wheel tax for additional road and bridge funds.

Citing the county's rapidly deteriorating roads, the Bon Homme County commissioners instructed Auditor Tammy Brunken to draw up a wheel tax ordinance. The commissioners voted unanimously in mid-May to adopt the ordinance, which Brunken based on other counties.

The Bon Homme ordinance was then published in the county's legal newspapers. No county residents submitted petitions seeking a referendum, so the ordinance moved full speed ahead and became law 20 days later.

"The wheel tax wasn't brought before a vote, so it went into effect July 1," Brunken said, noting the actual starting date for the tax collection.

The Bon Homme County wheel tax will raise an estimated \$38,500 for the rest of this year and an estimated \$77,000 annually in following years, Brunken said.

"Those figures are estimates based on the current number of vehicles," the auditor said.

The county ordinance sets the tax at \$2 per wheel with a maximum of \$8, Brunken said. The wheel tax is paid at the time of license renewal.

However, the total wheel tax payment depends on the vehicle, the auditor said. "It would be a maximum of \$8 for a car, but a semi would pay \$8 for the actual truck and \$8 for the trailer," she said.

The wheel tax is dedicated to the road and bridge fund, with none going to the county's general fund, Brunken said.

The 2011 county road and bridge budget is \$2,035,528. The figure includes \$400,000 from the county's general fund.

The \$38,000 raised this year by the wheel tax will help tackle projects, said Highway Superintendent Dennis Hovorka.

"I would like to see it go to crushing (gravel), possibly patching and chip sealing," he said.

Bon Homme County has needs unlike most of its neighbors, Hovorka said.

"We are unique in Bon Homme County in that we take care of all the townships. There are only two or three counties in the state that take care of (all) township roads," he said. "Most of the counties only have to take care of a very few township roads, if any."

And those township roads have large needs this year, Hovorka said.

"We have approximately 500 or 550 miles of township roads, and those are the ones that

ONE INJURED IN ACCIDENT



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

One person was injured when two vehicles collided at the intersection of Fourth and Broadway in Yankton at 1:05 p.m. Tuesday. According to the Yankton police, a vehicle driven by Dominique Boudreau pulled in front of a pickup truck driven by Morris Skinner Jr. of Gothenburg, Neb. Boudreau was transported to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The incident is under investigation.

House Acts On Flood Insurance Program

BY JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is trying to right a four-decade-old federal flood insurance program that was nearly sunk by Katrina and other 2005 hurricanes.

The House on Tuesday voted 406-22 to add five years to the life of the National Flood Insurance Program and carry out changes, such as allowing a bump in premiums, to restore solvency to the agency that now owes some \$17.8 billion to the federal Treasury.

The flood insurance program, a branch of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, enjoys bipartisan support but has been reeling in recent years both because of the huge costs of Katrina and the inability of Congress to act on needed changes.

Since 2006 the Government Accountability Office has identified the flood insurance program as "high-risk" because of inadequate management and insufficient funds.

The bill, which has the support of the Barack Obama White House, now goes to the Senate.

Speaking in support of the legislation, the first long-term extension of the flood insurance program since 2004, were several lawmakers from Mississippi and Missouri River area districts that have been hit hard this year by flooding.

"It's been a very tough spring for North Dakota," said Rep. Rick Berg, R-N.D., who pushed an amendment that would protect homeowners who buy policies at least 30 days before their property is damaged even when FEMA declares that there is a flood in progress.

Heeneey Revered As Officer, Family Man

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The first thing many people noticed about Duane Heeneey was that he was a big man.

"He was one of those guys who was bigger than life," said Jerry Hisek, a long-time friend and colleague. "I remember (a friend) saying he was sitting in his office, and all of a sudden the sun was blocked out. He looked up and Duane was standing there."

But what also became quickly apparent about the former Yankton police chief is that he had a big heart to go along with his hulking frame.

"He was a really welcoming and warm guy," recalled current Police Chief Brian Paulsen about the first meeting he had with his predecessor. "He came into my office and chatted for a little while. He had a big smile on his face. You would have thought he had known me for 20 years. You got that feeling that he just liked being around law enforcement and liked being in the building. I told him he was welcome in the office any time."

Heeneey, 63, passed away Friday at the Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton while surrounded by his family.

Despite his legacy in the community as a law enforcement officer, Heeneey was always a father and husband first and foremost, according to his daughter, Dena Heeneey.

"When we were kids, everybody would ask, 'What's it like for your dad to be a cop?' I told them, 'He's not a cop after 5 p.m. He comes home, hangs his gun up and then he's my dad,'" she said. "He was very family-oriented. He told us to always remember three things: trust, love and respect."

That sense of family extended to the workplace. He came to the Yankton Police Department in 1989 and became chief in 1995.

"I think he wanted the department to feel like a family itself, and he treated us as such," said Julia Hussein, the assistant systems manager at the police department and a close friend of the Heeneey



Heeneey

HEENEY | PAGE 7



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Gloria Pearson, executive director of Ability Building Services (ABS), and resident Ryan Petrik cut the ribbon on a new ABS apartment facility in Yankton Tuesday.

ABS Opens Second New Facility

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Smiles, laughter and pride were on display Tuesday when the residents of Yankton's newest Ability Building Services (ABS) apartment building hosted a grand opening for the community.

Construction on the apartments, located on Piper Street, began last October. The 6,600-square-foot assisted-living residence includes six apartments, as well as common dining and living areas.

"There are a variety of people that have moved into the home," said Gloria Pearson, executive director of ABS. "Several of (the apartment residents) had been living at home with their parents. A couple of them moved from

other locations. But for everyone, it is just very thrilling to have their own home and own apartment."

Last August, ABS opened an eight-apartment facility in Yankton, and according to Pearson, the success of that facility directly led to the building of the Piper Street apartments.

Federal stimulus dollars provided a total of \$1,413,600 in the form of two separate grants through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to allow the nonprofit organization to build the two Yankton facilities.

"We had a lot of people interested in moving into the (first) apartments," Pearson said. "That is why we were able to get the second project, because the first one was full immediately. This one was actually filled with a lot of peo-

ple who were unable to get into the other one."

The four men and two women who moved into their new apartments within the last month are enjoying the new facility.

"The freedom, you just can't explain it," said Justin Hisek. "It feels good, like entering the real world."

"These are young adults that have completed their high school program and typically are over 18, but more common are closer to 21," Pearson said. "Typically, people go through the transition process through their school when they are students. When the educational aspects have been met with

ABS | PAGE 2

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TOMORROW: Tournaments, Tourism Season Stress Local Hotels

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: **NORTH** OF 15TH STREET