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# Yankton Health Center Planning Continues

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Work continues to get a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Yankton, and organizers are hopeful it will be funded and operational by the end of 2013.

In the last several months, work has been undertaken to identify the needs of the area and plan for corresponding services, according to Dr. Tom Stange of Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services. Stange has been the primary organizer of the FQHC effort.

A FQHC is a community-based organization that provides comprehensive primary care and preventive care on a sliding fee scale for qualified uninsured and underinsured patients. It operates under a consumer board-of-directors governance structure and functions under the supervision of the Health Resources and Services Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The people targeted for services in Yankton County have incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Yankton County has 7,322 such individuals. Stange said 58 percent of the group either has no insurance or is on Medicaid.

"The needs assessment included a great deal of input from individuals in the target group," Stange stated. "This included a number of focus groups that were conducted utilizing the expertise of District III Planning and Development and the support of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. This process was a critical leg in helping to identify need."

Along with the focus groups, Stange said many individuals familiar with needs in the community have stepped forward to offer input.

"The support of the community has been absolutely remarkable," he stated, noting the involvement of various healthcare, government and charity organizations.

The effort has also received a boost from allPOINTS Health Services, which operates FQHCs in Alcester and Elk Point. They have agreed to take the lead in applying for a FQHC in Yankton. The site would join the allPOINTS network.

"The easiest way for a new community health center to get funded is to go through another (FQHC)," said Dr. Noreen O'Shea, a family practice

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## BUCKLING UNDER THE HEAT



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Larry Kirschenman of the South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) confers via phone with other DOT personnel concerning a portion of heaving roadway on Highway 81 near the Human Services Center Wednesday afternoon. Southbound traffic was reduced to one lane, with vehicles like this semi cruising by at reduced speed. Heaving cracks in highways is not uncommon in the summer heat, but one DOT official said this is one of the first incidents the local DOT has dealt with this summer, as the lack of moisture (which seeps into roadway cracks and joints) has cut down on such damage. Another, larger heaving portion of roadway was reported in Yankton on 15th St. near the intersection with Broadway just after 6 p.m. Wednesday night.

## Tourism Group Looks To Reach Out

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

During Wednesday's board meeting of the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association in Yankton, Cathy Buchheim of the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau discusses some of the projects her organization is undertaking.

The Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association held its regular board meeting on Wednesday, during which board members discussed new ways in reaching potential visitors to the area.

The agenda for the meeting included financial and marketing updates, an update on a travel media showcase slated for later this summer in Sioux Falls and an update on Blood Run Park near Sioux Falls.

Board members spoke highly of the fact that the association came out of last year in the black, and should be a similar projection for this year.

"We received an increase in our contract funding," said Jacquie Fuks, executive director for the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association. "Anything is better than going backwards."

Fuks also gave an update on the new tourism website. "There are still a few issues

with the website that we need to work out," she said. "However, people are staying on the website longer, which is one of the goals we had."

She added that the tourism magazines and brochures that are on the new website function much better than they had before and noted that the new events calendar has been a big draw for people visiting the site.

"The website is still a work in progress," said Cathy Buchheim of the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Board members also spoke at length of the successes they have had in marketing this year.

"The number one state that people are requesting information about the area come from Ohio," Fuks said. "This is still very surprising to us."

The travel media showcase in Sioux Falls will allow tourism representatives from around the region to spotlight the area to a

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## Moeller To Be Executed This Fall

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — In the 22 years since the kidnapping, rape and killing of a 9-year-old girl, Donald Moeller has repeatedly fought his conviction and sentence of death.



Moeller

On Wednesday, a 60-year-old Moeller indicated he's ready to accept execution. Moeller was convicted in 1997 for the rape and killing of Becky O'Connell.

"It's been long and drawn out and uncalled for, and now he says he's ready?" the girl's mother, Tina Curl, said. "Huh. Why didn't he say he was ready 22 years ago?"

Ruling on a request by Attorney General Marty Jackley, circuit court Presiding Judge Kathleen Caldwell on Wednesday set Moeller's execution for between Oct. 28 and Nov. 3, with the exact date and time up to prison officials.

Moeller, through attorney Mark Marshall, had asked to be executed on Aug. 6.

"Mr. Moeller specifically told me that he accepts the execution as the consequences of his actions," Marshall told the judge.

Moeller has exhausted his available state and federal remedies, and the U.S. Supreme Court last month refused to hear an appeal, Jackley said.

"The time has come where we believe the jury's ultimate sentence needs to be carried out," Jackley said after the hearing.

Moeller, balding with a long gray beard and hair and wearing an orange prison jumper and shackles, said few words during the hearing.

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## History, Cooperation Take Center Stage At Danish Days

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VIBORG — Two decades ago, Viborg buried part of its history but is ready to resurrect it this weekend.

The annual Danish Days celebration will feature a time capsule buried 20 years ago. The capsule will be opened and its contents revealed during Friday night's entertainment in the park. A new time capsule — using pipe from the current water line project — will be filled with contents over the weekend and buried during Sunday night's closing ceremony.

The invitation for items to put in the time capsule has drawn a wide

variety of contributions, said Danish Days co-chair Julie Hartmann. They include a Turner County plat book, Danish Days deck of cards, and a cap or T-shirt with the Viborg-Hurley "Cougar" mascot, she said.

The time capsule will involve people attending Danish Days, Hartmann said. "We are hoping to have a sheet of freezer paper and have people sign it throughout the weekend," she said.

The weekend will recognize the Viborg Co-op Elevator Association with the 2012 "Friends of Viborg" award. The annual award honors a business, organization or family that has

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PHOTO COURTESY PAUL CHRISTENSEN

It's the only way to travel, as this Viking ship rolls down Viborg's Main Street during a past Danish Days parade. The Great Danes (and non-Danes) will celebrate once again, as the annual event runs Friday-Sunday and features two time capsules.

## Escapee Sighted Near Dolton

From P&D Staff Reports

DOLTON — South Dakota law enforcement officials are seeking the public's help in locating an escaped Florida convict sighted today (Wednesday) near Dolton, in Turner County.

Oscar Antonio Herrera-Menjivar escaped last week when he jumped from a transport van. The driver of the van had stopped for gas at a truck stop along Interstate 90 south of Spencer, in McCook County.

Herrera-Menjivar was last seen at 11 a.m. today just east of Dolton, according to South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley.

The escapee has asked for



Herrera-Menjivar

assistance from locals in the area. He was last seen heading north, likely heading towards Interstate 90.

Herrera-Menjivar is described as standing 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighing about 140 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. He was seen wearing shorts and a dark colored t-shirt.

Law enforcement officials are asking people in Dolton and

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