



Scattered Showers

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75¢



The Final
P&D Leader
Board of 2015
Unveiled.
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Rail Authority OK'd

County Approves Board, Offers Candidates For Position

BY ROB NIELSEN
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One week after the Yankton City Commission approved the city's inclusion into the Yankton County Regional Rail Authority, the Yankton County Commission voted to do the same Tuesday afternoon.

With very little discussion, the four commissioners present (Commissioner Don Kettering was absent at this point in the meeting but was present later) voted 4-0 to approve joining the authority.

Regional rail authorities are meant to serve as tools for local bodies to access funds for improvements to rail infrastructure.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said the commissioners have scoured the community to fill a fifth position on the authority and they've been able to narrow down their list.

"Commissioner (Debra) Bodenstedt and Commissioner Kettering really did the leg work in talking to people and seeing if they had any interest," Woods said. "We talked to some people with some good common sense and good business experience and we've got four very

good names for that."

The candidates are Jeff May, Tom Noecker, Steve Weiland and Brian Stahl.

From here, the list of candidates is set to go before the Yankton City Commission at its next meeting for approval. Filling the other four spots will be two commissioners from the County Commission and one commissioner from the City Commission, along with the city manager.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton County Commission chairman Todd Woods presides over Tuesday's commission meeting. The commission voted Tuesday to join the Yankton County Regional Rail Authority.

Vermillion

Death Treated As Homicide

Body Of Sioux City Woman Found In River Monday

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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VERMILLION — The Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) are investigating the suspicious death of an adult female who was found late Monday afternoon.

According to Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe, the body of Alicia Hummel, 29 of Sioux City, Iowa, was found in the water near the boat dock at Myron Grove, also known as the Highline Landing, around 2 p.m. Monday.

"At this time, due to the suspicious nature of the death, based on indications at the scene, we are treating the matter as a homicide investigation," Howe said during a press conference Tuesday. "We are receiving leads from the public and we are following up on them."

Howe said that no suspect has been identified and her husband is not considered a suspect, at this time.

The sheriff said it was his understanding that Hummel was in the area to fish.

"It would seem reasonable, since the body was at the landing, that the crime occurred there," Howe said. "All indications are that the death occurred there. It is a very remote area."

The Highlines Boat Landing area is located south of Gayville and Meckling.

"It is a state park boat ramp on the Missouri River," Howe said. "The state park has an employee that monitors the boat ramp and he is the person that found the body. She was found in the water. The area is a popular boat landing (but) she was not using a boat."

Due to the nature of her death, Howe said the search for evidence has been extensive. He noted water depth in the area fluctuates from several inches above sand bars to 12 feet deep at some spots.

"The other units, including search and rescue, are just trying to cover all the basics so that we don't leave any stone unturned, literally," he said. "So, we are doing all we can to do a thorough search of that area so we don't have to wish we had at a later time."



Hummel



SHAUNA MARLETTE/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe addresses the media during a press conference held Tuesday in Vermillion regarding the suspicious death of Hummel. Her body was discovered on Monday floating in the Missouri River near the Highlines Boat Landing area south of Meckling and Gayville. Due to the nature of her death, her death is being considered a homicide at this time.

Knowing The Drill



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
A young artist watches as Al Klinczyk drills a hole in a gourd that will be made into a bird house during Tuesday's annual Kids Art Fest at Riverside Park. Klinczyk and his wife, who live just south of Yankton, supply the gourds for the activities, which is one of many artistic endeavors found at the event, which is sponsored by Yankton Area Arts. To see more photos from Tuesday Art Fest, visit www.yankton.net/.

SD Produces Wind Energy Without State Mandates

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota ranked fourth nationally in percentage of electricity generated from renewable sources such as wind and hydropower during 2014, according to an annual index released Tuesday by a consulting firm.

When measured only for wind-generated electricity, South Dakota finished second with 25.29 percent.

Iowa led the way at 28.53 percent. Kansas was third at 21.67 percent.

But the report from Clean Edge showed South Dakota lagged in five other key measures:

Solar generation, hybrid-electric vehicles, electric vehicles, LEED building deployment and smart-meter usage.

South Dakota also sat near the bottom of the 50 states in policy mandates and incentives for renewables and in financial capital for renewables.

The overall result put South Dakota at 39th in Clean Edge's full index. North Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming were in the bottom 10 below South Dakota.

Clean Edge is based in the San Francisco, California, and Portland, Oregon, areas. California placed

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Plans To Improve Events Mulled

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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A group of Missouri River events held in early May is experiencing growing pains, and organizers are considering changes to handle the popularity.

The Missouri River school festival, clean-up and rendezvous fill the first weekend in May. In addition, the Clean Boat Event launches its week-long effort at that time.

Area residents and organizations have stepped up to the plate in making the events a success, said Paul Lepisto of Pierre, regional conservation coordinator with the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA).

"I can't say enough about community support," he said. "It's been wonderful."

At Tuesday's meeting, organizers decided to keep the first weekend in May as the focus, opting for May 6-7 rather than April 29-30. However, one major change was made in the schedule.

The River Rendezvous, which debuted last year as the River Expo, will be moved out of the weekend rotation and scheduled at a later date. The rendezvous emphasized outdoor recreation and was held on Saturday afternoon in Riverside Park, following the morning river clean-up.

"The transition (from the clean-up) to getting everything set up (for the rendezvous) went better this year," said Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park Service.

However, organizers said the back-to-back Saturday events proved to be too much for volunteers — especially if they were also involved with Friday's school festival.

"We need to do (the rendezvous) on a different day. People were burned out," said Mary Robb with the City of Yankton.

Lepisto agreed. "You can't tax the same people (as volunteers) since sunrise and expect them to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. Having the events back-to-back is too much," he said.

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TOMORROW: Robots Set To Invade Yankton!

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET