



Mostly Sunny

9 a.m.: **48** | 3 p.m.: **68**
FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2

**Cedar Catholic
Falls To Hastings
St. Cilia In B2
First Round
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The Sound Of Sirens

County Discusses New Proposal, State And Federal Plans

BY ROB NIELSEN

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Lake area residents were given an opportunity Thursday night to learn about a new proposal for the installation of three warning sirens along the Highway 52 corridor.

Steve Hermanson, deputy director of the Yankton County Emergency Management Office, said sirens are to be placed in the Boy Scout camp and the Lewis & Clark Recreation Area.

Hermanson said the sirens being placed in the park system helps lift some of the financial burden.

"With these sirens that are going into the park, it's really a win-win for both Yankton County and the state of South Dakota," Hermanson said. "The state of South Dakota, through the Game, Fish &

Parks Department, will be paying for the electricity for these sirens to be sitting there, because they've got to constantly have electricity (running) to them. The county, besides paying for the siren, is paying for the upkeep or the maintenance of that siren, which we do for all of the sirens in the county at this time."

Hermanson said the plan had originally been much larger.

"About a year ago when the commission tasked us with finding the areas that we could put sirens in the Lewis & Clark Lake area to protect the citizens, at that time, we proposed 10 sites," he said.

"Since then, we have decided to bring the sirens into the park because we'll still have good coverage outside the park."

For now, the plan is to just install the three, but Hermanson said



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Steve Hermanson, Yankton County Emergency Management deputy director, details the proposed locations of three warning sirens in Yankton County near Lewis & Clark Lake during a public forum Thursday night at the Government Center.

SIREN | PAGE 10A

River City



'Big River' Set To Flow At Freeman's Schmeckfest

Inside



7 DAYS UNTIL SPRING

Bees Take The Floor



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Bloomfield Bees take the floor prior to their Class D1 opening round game against Heartland in the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament on Thursday in Lincoln. Bloomfield was eliminated with a 65-46 decision.

Legislature Shifts \$2.6M To Property Owners For Schools As Part Of Two Percent Funding Increase

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Deep reluctance by many of the members didn't stop the Legislature from giving Gov. Dennis Daugaard what he wanted on public school funding Thursday.

Lawmakers adopted a 2 percent increase in the student allocation — approximately \$95 per pupil — for the coming school year and accepted the governor's requirement that property owners pay a larger part of it.

An estimated \$2.6 million that state government was providing for three special categories of aid will be shifted onto property tax levies.



Daugaard

The full amount of the shift will double in the second year to an estimated \$5.2 million.

That's because the school-tax year runs January through December while state government's school-funding year runs July through June.

The House of Representatives voted 48-18 while the Senate voted 26-7 to accept the governor's plan.

The legislation, SB 53, needed two-thirds majorities of 47 in the House and 24 in the Senate for approval.

The bill reduces general-education

tax levies for agriculture property, owner-occupied homes and other taxable property.

The levies won't go down as far as they might have, however, because state government will stop paying the full amount for technology subsidies, assessment costs and special bonuses for sparsely populated school districts.

That is the reason for the \$2.6 million — and eventually \$5.2 million — shift onto property owners.

A similar move was attempted six years ago, according to Sen. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark, and the Legislature "summarily dismissed" it.

SCHOOLS | PAGE 2A

Lawmakers Disagree Over Gas Tax Hikes

BY JAMES NORD

Associated Press

PIERRE — Legislative negotiations on a proposal to hike road and bridge funding in South Dakota stalled on Thursday over the longevity of gas-tax increases included in the plan.

House and Senate lawmakers couldn't come together on the plan and opted to revisit the proposal on Friday, the last day of the legislative session's main run.

At stake is a key priority of Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Transportation funding is likely the most hotly debated issue lawmakers will consider during the 2015 session. The proposal under negotiation would raise road and bridge funding in South Dakota by more than \$50 million in its first year through increases in fuel taxes, fees and other assessments.

Both the House and the Senate have passed the plan, but they disagree on exactly what it should look like. Lawmakers on a special legislative panel are now attempting to hash out a compromise proposal.

But House lawmakers are resisting attempts to expand fuel tax increases. The Senate position included increases of 2-cents per year for 8 years, but the House reduced those 2-cent increases to 3 years. Senate offers to drop the overall increases to 9 cents or 10 cents were rebuffed. Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, who has been a key proponent of addressing the state's transportation funding, said the Senate's offers were much closer to the House's position.

"I think that's a fair compromise between the two proposals," Vehle said. "To only do 6 cents when you know that that doesn't come anywhere (close) to covering the need, I was hoping obviously that we could do more than that."

The governor's director of policy and operations, Nathan Sanderson, has said the administration also supports longer-term hikes in fuel taxes.

TAXES | PAGE 2A

The Center 'Rocks' For A Cause

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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Kristy Hauer, executive director of The Center in Yankton, has a message she wants to share: "We are doing great things here."

In order to continue to offer a variety of programming, The Center is telling community leaders to get "Rockin'" — in a rocking chair that is.

The Center is planning its first ever "Rock-A-Thon" for Tuesday, March 17.

"We have lined up several community leaders who are going to have a 'Rock-off' against another community member to see who can raise the most money," Hauer said. "There will be a winner of each rock-off, and an overall winner for the person who raises the most money. The rockers are already out there raising funds and we have jars with each of their pictures on them here at The

Center, where you can place money in the jar to support the person of your choice."

Each pair of rockers will "battle" for 30 minutes.

"While they are battling, the participants will be trying to raise money and people can call in with donations, as well," Hauer said. "They are already out there fundraising, and I hope it gets to be a big competition to see who can raise the most money."

The event starts at 10 a.m. and goes until 2:30 p.m. It will also feature live broadcasts from Scott Kooistra at KYNT. Hauer noted that Cathy Lynch-Becker of Modern Woodmen of America has offered to match the first \$500 raised.

"I really think it is going to be a lot of fun and hope the community embraces it and helps us raise money for our March For



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Kristy Hauer and Julie Greenfield are pictured with two of the fundraising efforts currently going on at The Center in Yankton. The jars, each with a photo of the person they represent are part of the "Rockin' For Meals" fundraiser going on Tuesday, March 17, while the shamrocks on the wall are part of a month-long raffle going on at The Center.

ROCKING | PAGE 10A

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