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More Highway Money?

Yankton Co. Could See Funding Boost Under Transportation Bill

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Yankton County could see up to another \$1.5 million in annual funding under the new state transportation bill, according to an official studying the county's needs. "The state highway bill could mean another 50 to 55 percent a year for the county and its highways and bridges," said Bill Troe with the Omaha-based SRF Consulting Group. "This (transportation bill) could have a huge

impact," he told Monday's third and final meeting on the Yankton County transportation master plan. However, reaching the highest amount of additional funding would mean the Yankton County Commission — along with townships — would levy the full amount of taxes and fees allowed under the local funding options in the new bill. "Do we have the stomach to look at the property-tax increase?" he asked. "I'm not sure how that sits with Yankton County and on the commission."

The master plan's framework will receive final tweaks before heading to the Yankton County Commission for final action and approval of the document. The scenario has changed tremendously with the South Dakota Legislature's passage of Senate Bill 1, the state transportation bill, Troe said. Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the bill last week, with most provisions covered by an



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Bill Troe with SRF Consulting Group speaks to Monday's audience during the public meeting on Yankton County's transportation master plan.

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Off And Running



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Charlie Stephenson (center) is locked in a tight race in a semifinal heat of the 60-meter hurdles at the Dan Lennon Invitational Track meet Monday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. The two-day track meet — which features many area Class B teams today (Tuesday) — is the annual opening gun of the spring high school track season in South Dakota. For details from Monday's action, see page 7.

City OKs Downtown Parking Change

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Patrons of the Riverfront Hotel in downtown Yankton will now have the option of parking overnight in the street parking out in front of the property for most of the week. The Yankton City Commission voted unanimously Monday night to approve overnight parking for hotel guests on Walnut St. between Second and Third St. Community Development Director Dave Mingo said a number of individuals were involved with researching the ordinance and its impact.

"We had a downtown parking committee that was assigned earlier by the commission that included commissioners, staff, business owners (and) members of downtown Yankton gathered to discuss possible adjustments in the ordinance that would allow for overnight parking — specifically for hotel guests," Mingo said. "There was quite a bit of discussion about other potential downtown parking issues, but the group felt very strongly that the specific purpose for this discussion was to focus on the overnight hotel stays." Mingo said the changes represent a compromise on the existing ordinance

which only allows for street parking Friday and Saturday nights. "What the group came up with was a compromise that is an attempt to satisfy the city's needs for street cleaning and snow removal, whereby it would create one night per week where no parking at all would be allowed in a specific section of downtown," he said. "But (allow) hotel owners in downtown — of which, at this point, there is only one — to issue permits to patrons that they can put in the windshield of their car so they would be al-

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Charles Mix County

Man Gets Prison For Vehicular Homicides

AG Wants To Seek Change In Sentencing Standards

From P&D Staff Reports

PIERRE — A Lake Andes man has been sentenced to two 15-year terms in prison for two vehicular homicide deaths in 2013. Meanwhile, South Dakota's attorney general vowed to push for changes in state law to increase the maximum penalty for vehicular homicide convictions. According to a press release from the attorney general's office, Ronald Ray Fischer, 30, was sentenced to 15 years for each count of vehicular homicide, one year for driving or control of vehicle with alcohol blood or while under the influence of alcohol or drug, and 180 days for ingesting non-alcoholic substance to become intoxicated person. All sentences to run consecutively, with credit for 608 days of time served. The charges stem from an incident on July 8, 2013, where Fischer failed to stop at a stop



Jackley

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Job Fair Seeks To Hook Up Employers With Prospects

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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With an unemployment rate of just 3.30 percent in the region and more than 600 open positions in the area, Lacey Johnson of the S.D. Department of Labor and Regulation, Yankton office, hopes she has a potential answer for job seekers and employers alike: a job fair. Planned for Thursday at Yankton's Technical Education Center from 2-6 p.m., fair organizers are expecting more than 150 applicants and 36 employers to attend the job fair. "This is just the time of year we look at having a job fair," she said. "Many employers have open positions and are looking to fill

those positions with skilled, qualified workers. Basically, we are having the fair to meet the demands of the employers and the job seekers both in our area." Johnson said that currently, South Dakota is focusing on developing the state's work force. "This year, we were undecided if we were going to have the fair, but I did a survey of employers and they were looking for workers, and with work force being a huge topic for the whole state — not just the Yankton area — we decided to go ahead with it," she said. "We have 36 employers that plan to attend from the Yankton area. Most are from Yankton, but

FAIR | PAGE 16

2015 YANKTON AREA
JOB FAIR
REGIONAL LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

✦ 629 Job Openings Listed At DOL
✦ Unemployment Rate Of 3.30%
✦ 35 Potential Employers Expected From Yankton, Bon Homme, Hutchinson and Charles Mix Counties.
✦ Areas of employment include:
Manufacturing
Health Care
Restaurant
Retail
Education

GRAPHIC: SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Weather Radios To Be Distributed In Areas Hit By 2014 Storms

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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COLERIDGE, Neb. — In the aftermath of last year's devastating tornadoes, free NOAA weather alert radios will be distributed today (Tuesday) to residents in five northeast Nebraska communities affected by the twisters, including Coleridge. The Northeast Nebraska Long-Term Recovery Team (NNLRT) and its partners are distributing the free radios in areas affected by the June 2014 storms. Cedar County officials estimated shortly after last year's tornadoes that the county suffered millions of dollars in damages. Coleridgers can pick up their weather radios from 2-8 p.m. today at the Coleridge fire station.

Residents in each community are asked to limit themselves to one weather alert radio per household. The move is taken to ensure as many households as possible receive the devices for severe weather readiness. Tuesday's other distribution sites include: Stanton Fire House from 6-8 p.m. and the Pilger pool from 4-8 p.m. for Stanton County; the Wakefield Fire Station from 2-8 p.m. for Wayne and Dixon counties; and the Wisner Fire Station from 4-8 p.m. for Cumming County. Tuesday also marks an exercise preparing area residents for the upcoming severe storm season, according to Cedar County Emergency Manager Kevin Garvin. "This is Severe Weather

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