



A Sunny, Crisp Saturday

9 a.m.: **36** | 3 p.m.: **48**

FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2

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75¢



**Hartington
Cedar Catholic
Breezes To C-2
Playoff Win**

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COURTESY ARTWORK

These renderings show plans for the Meridian Plaza at the foot of the Meridian Bridge. The project started phase one of three earlier this fall.

Meridian Plaza Taking Shape

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Construction has begun at the foot of the Meridian Bridge on a plaza that is hoped to become a new attraction for people making their way downtown.

Todd Larson, director of Parks & Recreation, said the project will be divided up into three phases.

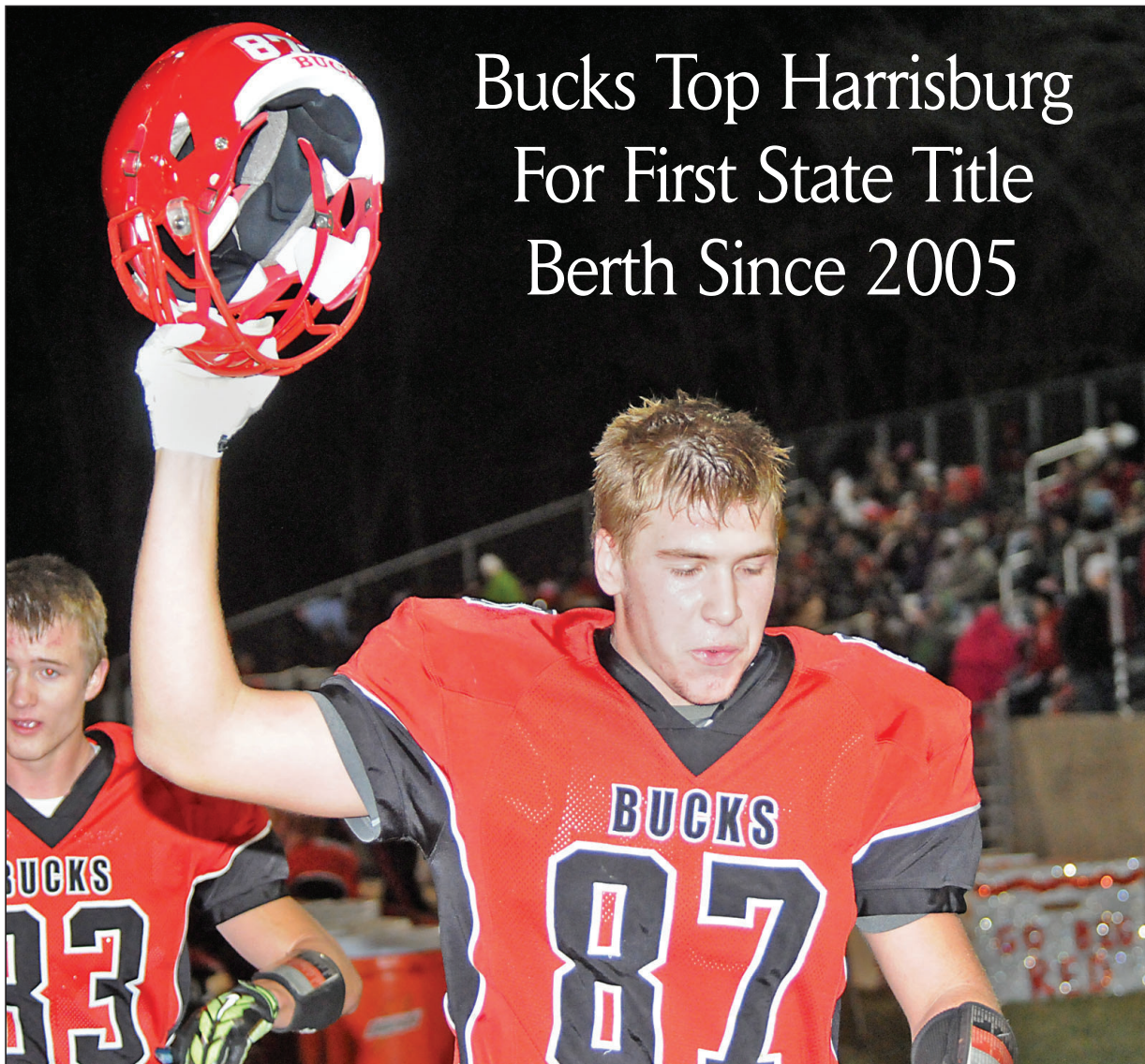
"The work that they're doing right now is just phase one," Larson said. "That is the area north of the access to the upper-level — mainly work between the two trails that are already there. There will be a little bit of work on shade structures and visual barriers to block out the gas station property. There will be a little bit of landscaping done on the east side to kind of flow into the landscaping on the property."

Larson said fountains will play the centerpiece of the first phase.

"What details phase one is a plaza area that has a decorative fountain that will be lit so people can — during the day or night — sit around and socialize, relax and meditate around," he said. "To the south of that decorative fountain ... there will be some spray jets that spray water out of the concrete. Those are made more for interactive use. The spray jets will not run 24-7 — there will be a push button system that will turn them on, run them for 15 minutes and they'll turn off. There will also be LED lighting that goes along with those jets."

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Dome Run!



**Bucks Top Harrisburg
For First State Title
Berth Since 2005**

The Yankton Bucks' Evan Greenaway hoists his helmet in the air at the start of the second half of Yankton's Class 11AA semifinal football game against Harrisburg Friday night at Crane Youngworth Field. The Bucks rolled to a 27-0 triumph to punch their first DakotaDome ticket since 2005. Yankton will play Brookings — two Eastern South Dakota Conference schools that did not meet in the regular season — for the state championship next Friday night in Vermillion. For details on Friday's game, see page 7.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Opportunities Brewing

New Program Aims To Lend Hand To Local Entrepreneurs

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Communities across the country, both large and small, have been utilizing a new tool to help entrepreneurs and established businesses grow. The program, named 1 Million Cups, has 61 chapters around the nation and, as of Oct. 29, in Yankton as well.

The program's Yankton chapter got its start thanks in part to Ben Hanten, who said the program got its start

as a fresh way to exchange business ideas.

"1 Million Cups is a program that's sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation out of Kansas City," Hanten said. "Essentially, it was created by two people who were frustrated that most entrepreneurial events happened at night and over alcohol. They thought while that was important, it wasn't helping. People weren't launching new businesses, they weren't meeting new people — they were just catching



PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

CUPS | PAGE 5

Getting Ready For Winter

With below freezing temperatures fast approaching, camper owners in the Yankton area have been rushing to winterize their campers and recreational vehicles. Some basic steps to consider include: Draining all water from the camper including potable, grey and black. Following the drainage of all water it is recommended that you then fill the lines with non-toxic RV antifreeze. Kampgrounds of America, Inc. has a checklist that can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/KOAWinterize> for more details. Pictured Dave Marlette of Sioux Falls, drains the water out of the hot water heater of his camper in preparation for winter. (Shauna Marlette/P&D)



Lawmakers Approve Transportation Funding Plan

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — State lawmakers agreed to preliminary recommendations Friday regarding how to best fund hundreds of millions of dollars in necessary repairs to highways and bridges.

The Highway Needs and Financing Committee passed the recommendations on Friday. Republican Sen. Mike Vehle is chairman of the committee. Vehle's plan would come up with more than \$100 million in its first year through a variety of fuel taxes, vehicle fees and other assessments.

But Vehle says those additional funds won't fully address the growing problem. Tax increases will face an uphill climb in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Some local governments have simply abandoned maintaining some roads in recent years. Counties have identified a more than

\$80 million funding increase needed for 2015 for infrastructure repairs, while state highways need a more than \$140 million hike. Funding necessary county bridge replacements would cost more than \$240 million overall.

Officials say 25 percent of state roads will be rated as poor within the next decade, compared to about 2 percent now.

Included in Vehle's framework proposal was an increase in a vehicle excise tax projected to raise about \$25.3 million, a fuel tax expected to raise \$50 million and a hike in vehicle registration fees expected to raise about \$8.7 million, to name a few. Tax-averse legislators debated axing many of the individual tax and fee hikes, but the recommendations passed on Friday with few changes. Still, they stressed that the recommendations would

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SOUTH DAKOTA
vs.
WESTERN ILLINOIS

TODAY
4 P.M. - DAKOTADOME

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