



Scattered Rain

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WEDNESDAY ■ November 18, 2015



Coyotes 'Fighting Like Heck' To Finish With Winning Season
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County Gives OK To Developer's Pact

County, Dakota Plains Take Major Step Towards Rail Park

BY ROB NIELSEN
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After years of debate and stalemate, a project that would bring a grain sorting facility to the Yankton area is all but finalized.

Yankton County Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to sign a developer's agreement between the county and Dakota Plains to help facilitate a grain sorting facility and industrial rail park at Napa Junction northwest of Yankton.

The agreement's first draft had been presented at the commission's last meeting on Nov. 3. No action was taken at the time to give commissioners a chance to study the document and have any issues they saw with the draft addressed before a final agreement was signed.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said one thing he'd noticed lacking in the first draft was any mention of Yankton Area Progressive Growth's (YAPG) involvement in getting the project moving.

"One of the biggest reservations I had was not having YAPG in the original document that we got two weeks ago," Woods said. "YAPG's been involved — whether it's a feasibility study, the TIF, other parts of the process we've gone through — they've been involved with this for the past several years."

He added that YAPG helps put development in the hands of a local entity.

"I wanted to see them in there because they give a local control of developing that park," he said. "Me, as a commissioner, I don't know how to bring other opportunities in there. Having YAPG in there to market that property is very important. That got put in the document and I felt very confident."

With YAPG involved in the final document, Woods said the entity has already been at work trying to attract neighbors for Dakota Plains.

"There's been discussions going on as we speak," he said. "They're very active. I don't know any specifics, but I know they've been doing some talking with opportunities out there."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton County Commissioner Deb Bodenstedt asks County Zoning Director Pat Garrity a question about a proposed developer's agreement for the Napa Junction site during a commission meeting Tuesday.

Owen: Teacher Pay Continues As Issue

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Even when he offers more pay than other districts, Yankton superintendent Wayne Kindle finds it tough to attract teachers.

How tough? At times, he can't find any teachers. "When Bob Muth retired (as a building trades instructor), we had to go two years to get somebody to fill that position," he told Yankton business leaders at Tuesday's luncheon.

Yankton faces the same challenges as other schools in attracting teachers for hard-to-fill subjects.

"We had two math openings last year and got three applicants," he said. "We had a science opening and got one applicant."

And Yankton is in a better position than most schools in the state, Kindle said.

"The Yankton School District has (the second or third) highest starting pay in South Dakota, and we still can't attract teachers. You should be con-



Owen

cerned," he told the audience.

Tuesday's luncheon brought together Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce members for a preview of the 2016 Legislature. The gathering featured Dave Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Owen noted the 2016 session should shine a spotlight on education, particularly the recommendations of the South Dakota Blue Ribbon Task Force. The task force held meetings across the state, including Yankton, and recently forwarded its final report for action.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed the task force members, including Beth Pietila of Yankton and State Sen. Billie Sutton (D-Burke). Sutton's legislative district includes Charles Mix County and a por-

CHAMBER | PAGE 11



JAMES CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton High School Band will perform at the Russell Athletic Bowl in Orlando, Florida Dec. 29.

YHS Marching Band Prepares For Orlando

BY REILLY BIEL
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The Yankton High School (YHS) marching band will get a brief break from the South Dakota winter next month to catch some rays from the Florida sun.

On Tuesday, Dec. 29, the YHS marching band will perform at the Russell Athletic Bowl in Orlando, Florida. The event, put on by WorldStrides OnStage program, will include marching bands from across the country in performing in the halftime show finale of the college bowl game.

The YHS band, consisting of 106 students, will leave early Saturday morning on Dec. 26 and make the 30-hour bus drive there. In between rehearsals and the performance, the band will visit Cocoa Beach, Universal Studios and Old Town theme park. They will return to Yankton early Jan. 1.

Receiving their acceptance notice last winter helped the band start planning in advance and raising funds for the event, which they did by selling fruit and business discount cards, as well as turning in their own money.

The band has previously performed under WorldStrides in 2013 for the McDonalds Thanksgiving Parade in Chicago.

Todd Carr, YHS band director, is excited to work with WorldStrides again.

"We sent them (WorldStrides) an application and a recording of the band last fall," he said. "A big part of us getting accepted was how our performance went in Chicago. That had a lot to do with us getting in this time."

The theme for the Russell Athletic Bowl Marching Band program is 'Shout It Out Loud!' The YHS band will perform three songs: "Shout It Out Loud" by KISS, "Mustang Sally" and "Killer Joe."

"The KISS tune will appeal to people who grew up in the '70s and '80s, 'Mustang Sally' will get people from the '60s and '70s and 'Killer Joe' is a jazz tune — everyone likes jazz some way or another," Carr said.

Despite being dubbed a marching band, the band will do minimal marching at the event, said Carr.

"With 2,600 kids on the field at one

BAND | PAGE 11

Yankton Man Dies In Weekend Hunting Accident On Reservation

MARTY (AP) — A Yankton man who died while hunting on the Yankton Sioux Reservation is believed to have accidentally shot himself.

Yankton Sioux Law Enforcement Police Chief Chris Saunsoci says the 54-year-old man was found unresponsive behind his truck Saturday morning by other hunters passing through.

Those hunters attempted first aid but were unsuccessful, and the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Saunsoci says authorities believe the man accidentally fired his gun, and his death does not appear to be suspicious. He was not immediately identified.

'Beautiful' Choice



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Fifth graders from Yankton's Beadle Elementary School offer a salute while performing "America, The Beautiful" during the school's first "Student Choice" Concert and Art Show Tuesday at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Students from grades 4-5 got to choose their own songs for the concert, which also featured an art display in the high school corridor.

Daugaard May Seek Medicaid Expansion In Budget Address

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard wants to make an additional 55,000 South Dakota residents eligible for Medicaid if he can get assurances that the plan's cost would be offset by budget savings and would improve health care for Native American residents.

During a recent interview with The Associated Press, Daugaard said he plans to propose the expansion in his budget address next month, provided the conditions are met, before sending it to the Legislature for approval. A coalition he established to explore the viability of expanding Medicaid is set Wednesday to review new projec-

tions about the number of eligible residents and the potential cost.

Such a proposal would be a departure from many other Republican governors around the country, who have steadfastly resisted expanding the Medicaid program for low-income and disabled people, in part because of opposition to the federal health overhaul.

"I would say I've never been, I don't think, an ideologue about expansion," Daugaard said of the measure, which would go into effect for the 2017 fiscal year.

The updated numbers project about 55,000 people could be eligible for the program if it's expanded. The state's share would be offset by

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TOMORROW: Hartington Ready To Welcome Holiday Season

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
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OF 15TH STREET