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National Calling

Local Auctioneer Qualifies For National Event

BY JEREMY HOECK
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If Dan Koupal could go back and watch some of his earliest auctioneering performances — six short years ago — he says he would probably laugh.

"You can get nervous up there," said Koupal, a 25-year-old Dante resident who serves as an auctioneer and field rep at Stockmen's Livestock Market in Yankton.

"Sometimes a buyer, if you're new, they might try to take you for a ride," he adds, smiling. "That's why you should know what you're doing."

Those kinds of performances are now a thing of the past for Koupal, who jokes that he is still relatively new to the craft.

Koupal, whose family owns and operates a cattle operation in Dante, finished in the top 10 at a regional qualifying event for the 2016 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship. He also earned "rookie" honors at the event, held Oct. 16 at Saint Onge in northwest South Dakota.

Not initially interested in competitive contests, Koupal eventually saw the opportunity as a measuring stick.

"I had kind of followed some of the other people who had done it in the past years," he said. "I wondered how I could compare."

There were 22 entrants in the qualifying event, and the 10 best earned a spot in the 2016 Championship next June in Paris, Kentucky.

Contestants from states as far away as California and Texas were judged on such things as clarity of their chants and how well they held the sale. The judges were livestock market owners from across the country.

The Saint Onge contest was the first of three qualifying events, and one newcomer from each was named champion rookie and qualified for the national contest.

The fact that Koupal was classified in the rookie category proved he's still got plenty to learn about being an auctioneer, he said.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Dan Koupal, a 25-year-old Dante resident and auctioneer at Stockmen's Livestock Market in Yankton, qualified for the 2016 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship in Kentucky. Koupal finished in the top 10 at a regional qualifying event on Oct. 16 in Saint Onge.

"It's one of those things (where) the more you do it, the more you learn," he said. "There's always new stuff to learn in this business."

Perhaps as important as the performance is the auctioneer's knowledge of

the market — for instance, what each calf should bring at sale time.

"It's all about momentum and hype

KOUPAL | PAGE 11

Nebraska

Lawmakers Are Urged To 'Step It Up' On Road Repairs

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — With Nebraska expected to see millions of dollars in new state funding for roads next year, lawmakers are looking for ways to accelerate work on a decades-old backlog of highway projects.

Members of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee have spent the summer traveling the state to examine Nebraska's highway and bridge repair needs as they prepare legislation for next year's session.

"One thing we've heard very clearly is that we need to step it up," said Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion, the committee chairman.

Smith said he's looking for additional revenue sources to address the backlog and a way to generate money up-front, instead of waiting for smaller amounts to trickle in each year.

Lawmakers voted in May to increase the state fuel tax to 31.6 cents per gallon by 2019, eventually generating an extra \$25 million annually for the state and \$51 million for cities and counties. The tax will rise by 1.5 cents on Jan. 1, and increase by another 1.5 cents each year until the increase totals 6 cents.

Another recent law, the 2011 Build Nebraska Act, diverts roughly \$70 million a year in state sales-tax revenue into roads projects and is projected to increase over time.

Smith said he's working with Gov. Pete Ricketts' new state roads director, Kyle Schneeweis, to find other alternatives. Earlier this month, the Department of Roads announced the formation of a new task force that will explore innovative ways to pay for roads. The 19-member group includes Smith, city and county officials, scholars and business leaders.

The efforts come as business groups, cities and counties join forces to build support for highway projects that were promised in the 1980s.

A new coalition, 4 Lanes 4 Nebraska, is pushing for the expansion of a 45-mile stretch of Highway 275 in eastern Nebraska. In the Nebraska Panhandle, cities and counties are lobbying for the expansion or roughly 150 miles of the Heartland Expressway, a major thoroughfare for truckers and tourists heading to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore.

ROADS | PAGE 11

Highway Patrol Trooper Assaulted During Stop Near Rapid City Saturday

PIERRE (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper has been assaulted during a traffic stop near Rapid City.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety said the assault occurred Saturday morning. Four suspects fled the scene in their vehicle after the assault and were apprehended by Pennington County deputies near Wall.

Authorities say the trooper is being treated for serious injuries that are not a threat to his life. Officials are not releasing the trooper's name at this time.

The investigation is being led by the Pennington County Sheriff's Office.

Header



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota midfielder Elena Tsakakis heads the ball as she battles Western Illinois' Daniela Salinas (8) for position during their Summit League women's soccer match on Sunday at the USD Soccer Complex. Tsakakis was one of seven seniors honored for USD prior to the match, the final match before the team moves to the First Bank and Trust soccer complex in 2016. The Coyotes rallied from a 2-0 halftime deficit for a 4-2 victory.

Yankton's 1 Million Cups Celebrates First Anniversary

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Ben Hanten recently received a message from someone in a Texas city with a population of 240,000 residents.

The question? Could Hanten offer some advice on how that city could start a 1 Million Cups chapter, much like he did a year ago for Yankton, with a population of 15,000.

"Yankton's story is out there about what this is doing for our town," Hanten said, as he looked at his phone.

The smallest among the 77 chapters across the United States, Yankton's 1 Million Cups will celebrate its one-year anniversary this week during its regular 9 a.m. Wednesday morning gathering at the Avera Professional Pavilion.

Hanten, a local business owner and entrepreneur, had previously been a guest speaker at 1 Million Cups — a national program developed for entrepreneurial engagement — in Brookings, Sioux Falls and Fargo, North Dakota. He came away from those meetings sure that Yankton was just too small to become a chapter.

"I had seen what it was doing for their communities, but I didn't really feel like Yankton had enough components or the proper size to pull that off," Hanten said. Nevertheless, Hanten and a handful



P&D FILE PHOTO
Ben Hanten speaks during a Yankton/Vermillion joint town hall forum at 1 Million Cups earlier this year. 1 Million Cups, a national program designed for entrepreneurial engagement, will celebrate its one-year anniversary this week during its regular Wednesday gathering at the Avera Pavilion in Yankton.

of other like-minded residents created a group called Startup Coffee that met Friday mornings at Hy-Vee. It was essentially a trial run at a potential 1 Million Cups, Hanten said.

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TOMORROW: Commission To Examine Community Surveys

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

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OF 15TH STREET