

Road

From Page 1

14 this year and did not re-open until Aug. 30. Last year, the closure time was slightly shorter. During that time, water covered the road or was lapping at the upper edges of it. Even today, water from the river stands several feet below the roadway.

"Usually, by the middle of summer the water goes down," he said. "But the last two years have been exceptional."

In 2010, the floodwaters of the James River eroded huge chunks of the road away. This year, the damage wasn't as bad. However, Sorensen estimates that 500 truckloads of dirt had to be hauled in to build up the road, which is near the Hutchinson County border.

Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen described the stretch as "a money pit."

A recent weekday traffic study at the location revealed that 280 vehicles traveled along it in a 24-hour period, 130 of which went north to south. Peak travel times were 6-8 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. Twelve vehicles were traveling in excess of 75 mph. The average speed was between 52 mph and 61 mph.

Keeping the road open isn't just a concern to area residents. Officials from the Menno School District appeared before the County Commission in April to re-



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

Yankton County Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen (right) and Highway Superintendent Alan Sorensen survey 431st Avenue to the south, where a bridge stands. They recently met with Hutchinson County officials at the site to discuss possible remedies.

quest that it undertake efforts to minimize flood damage along 431st Avenue. Many of those same officials stood alongside residents again this month at the commission meeting.

"My wife is actually the bus driver that drives that road," said Daniel Mettler, president of the Menno School Board. "She spent most of the spring driving all the way through Scotland (to get stu-

dents living on the south side of the James River). It wrecked our gravel road south of (the Maxwell Colony that we usually use when 431st Avenue is closed)."

Dr. Chris Christensen, superintendent for the district, said a sizable number of students drive to school from the Lester-ville area.

"That road south of Maxwell Colony is

soft a lot of times," he said. "I can't imagine an inexperienced driver on the road. I hate to think that one time someone rolls (their vehicle) and dies. It just worries me when that road is closed, because I know the kids are probably not the best drivers."

Gillas Stern of the Hutchinson County Commission also attended the Yankton County Commission meeting. He said

Hutchinson County is willing to share its asphalt plant and possibly some costs in finding a solution.

"We all share the same concerns," he said. "Budgets are tight, and I know what you're dealing with."

Yankton County Commissioner Garry Moore suggested that the sides of the road could be rippedrap incrementally over time.

"We just don't have a couple million dollars, but I don't want the same thing to happen all over again next year," he said.

Moore said the first 300 yards on the northeast side of the road should be done first because that section receives the most damage.

On Sept. 9, officials from Hutchinson and Yankton counties gathered at the site to consider what could be done since it is a concern to residents on both sides of the river. Suggestions from locals to build up the roadway, put culverts underneath it or place riprap and fabric along the banks either don't address the problem or are cost prohibitive, Sorensen said. Based on recent bids for riprap received by the South Dakota Department of Transportation, he said such an effort would cost more than \$500,000.

However, he and Jensen said other options are being discussed that could alleviate the problem.

"It's a major problem, and it's not going to go away," Jensen said. "It should have been done many, many years ago, and it wasn't. But that doesn't solve the problem now."

HOME FEDERAL BANK
 Open 7 Days A Week
 In The Yankton Hy-Vee
 665-8205 • www.homefederal.com
 Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

Dakota Archery & Outdoor Sports
 "Where the buck stops and the hunter shops!"
 2305 E. Hwy 50 • Yankton
 665-8340

M.T. & R.C. SMITH INSURANCE
 Serving the area since 1949.
 Home, Auto, Business, Life, Bonds
 204 W. 4th Yankton, SD
 665-3611

List Construction
 222 Capital St. Yankton, SD
 665-5233

OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS, INC.
 178 Spring St., Yankton
 665-5181 • (800) 545-2847
 Putting Pests To Rest Since 1966
 www.800kilbugs.com

PROBuild
 301 E. 3rd Yankton
 665-7423
 www.unitedbuildingcenters.com

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK
 September 18-24, 2011

Roy Wilcox
 400 Pine, Yankton
 Off.: 605-665-7140
 Fax: 605-668-0814
 www.roywilcox.com

Minervas GRILL & BAR
 1607 E Hwy 50 • Yankton, SD
 605/664-2244
 www.minervas.net

L&S ELECTRIC
Harry Lane
 Electrical Contractor
 1600 E. 39th St., Yankton
 • Commercial • Residential • Farm Wiring
 • Prompt Service • Quality Work
 • Competitive Prices
 New Construction or Remodeling
 Home: 665-6612 • Mobile: 661-1040

FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK
 Yankton Downtown • 225 Cedar
 665-7432
 Yankton North • 2105 Broadway
 665-4999
 firstdakota.com
 Member FDIC

sapa:
 Shaping the future
 2500 Alumax Road
 Yankton
 605-665-6063

For Flooring with a Professional Touch
Larsen Carpet
 212 Walnut
 Historic Downtown Yankton
 (605) 665-2067

YANKTON LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET
 Hwy 81 North
 Yankton, SD
 665-2999 or
 1-800-952-3640

Midwest Insurance Agency
 Dan & Jeanne Devine
 Kendra Frick
 909 Broadway, Yankton
 665-2389 - Office
 665-5209 - Home

Press & Dakotan SHOPPER
 319 Walnut
 Yankton, SD
 665-7811

Walmart SUPERCENTER
 Open 24 Hours
 7 Days A Week
 Always Low Prices!
 3001 Broadway, Yankton
 665-1425

GEHL
 900 Ferdig St.
 Yankton, SD
 665-6500

VARILEK
 • Truck Repair •
 3507 E. Hwy 50
 Yankton
 665-1447

We're grateful to our nation's farmers for the important role they play in supporting our economy and our prosperity. Farmers face a variety of challenges every day, and one of those challenges is maintaining a safe working environment.

Here are a few essential tips every farmer should keep in mind for safety's sake:

- Make sure tractors are equipped with rollover protection and appropriate shields.
- Use equipment lights, flashers and reflectors whenever necessary.
- Test farm equipment and machinery regularly for proper functioning.
- When hitching and unhitching implements, always use proper equipment and procedures.
- Always follow confined-space rules when entering a manure pit, grain bin or silo.
- Train employees to use equipment properly and review safety procedures with them.
- Learn basic first aid and CPR techniques.
- Before assigning a farm task to a child, make sure the child is able to perform the task safely, and always provide adult supervision.

DAVE STEVENS CONSTRUCTION LLC
 Quality Concrete Work in Yankton
 Agriculture, Residential, Commercial
 605-664-4590 or 605-661-9571

UTICA GRAIN INC
 PO Box 6
 Utica, SD
 605-665-0589

SWIER LAW FIRM, PROF. LLC
 Scott R. Swier
 Scott@SwierLaw.com
 Brooke Swier Schloss
 Brooke@SwierLaw.com
 133 N. Main Street
 Avon, SD
 Ph. 605-286-3218
 www.SwierLaw.com

Yankton! WHAT A DISCOVERY
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 803 E. 4th • Yankton, SD
 www.yanktonsd.com
 Sponsored by the Agri-Business Committee

PREMIUM BEST TRANSPORT
 1501 Wek Road
 Yankton, SD 57078
 605-665-9202

ENGINEERED TARPING SOLUTIONS
GENUINE SHURCO
 2309 Shur-Lok St., Yankton
 605.665.6000
 www.shurco.com
 Log on! See our 3500 Series and ProTrap™ in action!