

OUR TOWNS Hartington

■ To get a news item published on this page, contact Travis Gulbrandson at 665-7811 (x121) or e-mail travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net

Missouri River Futures Is All About The Future

MRF Director Works To Bring River Interests Together

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Missouri River Futures (MRF) was established in 2004 in part to improve communication and understanding between various agencies and private landowners on river issues.

Six years later, that element of communication continues to be improved upon, said MRF coordinator Theresa Smydra.

"The (cooperation) of private landowners along the river is hugely important for us to be able to do conservation efforts along the river," Smydra said. "Providing opportunities for these groups to interact really helps everybody understand where everybody else is coming from, and hopefully it will lead to some compromises and lack of hard feelings or misunderstandings."

That's why the Hartington-based MRF is always looking for input from all parties.

"We're trying to avoid duplication of efforts along the river and disperse information things that are available along the river," Smydra said. "We're always taking new ideas, some new ways of approaching or assisting landowners and agencies in achieving their goals, as well. So it's a huge cooperative effort."

Since she became coordinator in 2006, Smydra has developed an

e-mail contact list of 60 different groups and a list of more than 300 individual landowners to whom she sends direct mail.

"I think the communication continues to improve," she said. "There are always rumors or misunderstandings, but I think that's getting better. People are a little more open-minded to listen to other groups' positions on things

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— THERESA SMYDRA

and why they feel that way." Along with this push toward improved communication, MRF is also involved in a number of projects that aim to get the public educated and involved in regard to river issues.

Three such projects are coming up next month:

- The Missouri River Watershed School Festival in Yankton, on May 7.
- The annual river clean-up on May 8 and
- The annual "clean boat" event on May 22.

The school festival — now in its second year — gives area seventh- to 10th-graders a chance to see a number of educational presentations on such topics as "Trashology," the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan, climate change, and the recovery of

the least tern and piping plover. This year's festival already has 270 students set to attend, topping the 250 who came last year.

"It went very well last year," Smydra said. "There were some hiccups, but overall it went very well. We got rave reviews from the instructors that brought the students there. They said it was well worth the half-day that they spent up there."

The clean boat event will take place on approximately eight different boat ramps in the Yankton area, and will educate residents on how to clean their

equipment to avoid the spread of various invasive species.

This is a growing concern for the area, Smydra said.

"There are things that are not within our control with these species, but getting the word out is our best plan of attack right now — and just being on the preventative side before it gets any worse," she said.

MRF also continues to interact with landowners, with public scoping meetings dealing with the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study.

"They're re-evaluating the authorized purposes established with the Flood Control Act of 1944," Smydra said. "In the process of that, they look for public input so they can hopefully influence some of the decisions that are made down the line."



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/P&D
Missouri River Futures coordinator Theresa Smydra said the organization is gearing up for a trio of spring events, as well as continuing a push to improve communication between MRF and area residents and landowners.

MRF focuses its efforts primarily on the 39-mile and 59-mile segments of the Missouri National Recreational River, located on the border between Nebraska and South Dakota. These two sections of the river are the only parts of it between Montana and the mouth of the Missouri that remain undammed or unchanneled.

For this reason, Smydra sees the preservation of these sections as becoming a bigger focus.

"If you talk to any of the agency folks, they come up to this stretch of the river and say how beautiful it is, and how it's as close to a natural river as you can get. There's a lot of manipulation done on this part, but (this area) is very beautiful," she said.

For more information about MRF, visit www.missouririver-futures.com.

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DHHS Receives Grant For Reproductive Health Services

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is seeking community-based providers to make family planning and reproductive health services available to low-income persons.

Approximately \$1.8 million for family planning and reproductive health services will be available for a 12-month period, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs.

Family planning/reproductive health services include pregnancy testing, education, counseling and appropriate referral and follow-up. It also includes services such as STD testing and treatment, blood pressure screening, breast exams and pap smears.

Education to community groups, a requirement of the grant, will cover such topics as abstinence, birth control, sexual decision-making, drugs and alcohol, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The funding will be given to selected entities that demonstrate capacity and experience in providing family planning and other reproductive health services to low-income persons.

The request for applications, due May 17, can be found at: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ReproductiveHealth>.

Horse Liniment Erases Pain

HALEAH, FL — An ingredient often used to treat inflammation in race horse legs, is now back on the market in its original doctor recommended clinical strength formula.

According to a national drug store survey, the formula at one time became so popular that it rose to the top of pharmacy sales for topical pain relievers. But the company marketing the product at the time changed the formula and sales plummeted. One of the inventors of the original formula has brought it back to the market under the trade name ARTHARREST and says it can relieve pain for millions.

ARTHARREST works by a dual mechanism whereby one ingredient relieves pain immediately, while a second ingredient seeks out and destroys the pain messenger signal before it can be sent to the brain. Considered a medical miracle by some, the ARTHARREST formula is useful in the treatment of painful disorders ranging from minor aches and pains to more serious conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, tendonitis, backache and more.

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3pm

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Beau's History: Beau was injured by a hit-and-run driver on November 6, 2009. He has been hospitalized since. He now resides in Omaha at the Quality Living Rehab Center working very hard at recovery!

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