

RBD

From Page 1A

staff will also benefit from a student nurse working the shifts.

"During the summer, we hire nursing students in the Clinic Enrichment Program, or CEP," she said. "Their last weekend is Riverboat Days, so we have them plus the extra nurse on Sunday."

The emergency department can expect patients from a wide variety of locations around Yankton and the surrounding region, Gehl said.

"They have things going on from Riverside Park to the rodeo grounds to Lewis and Clark Lake," she said. "We have people coming from all directions."

The summer patient load follows a pattern, particularly on the weekends, Gehl said. "Around 5 or 6 p.m., it's like the bus stopped. We have a huge influx of people some days. It gets busy mostly on the p.m. shifts," she said.

The patient load varies throughout a summer weekend, with more patients during the earlier hours on Saturday and the afternoon hours on Sunday, Gehl said. However, the patient load could change with the dramatic increase of visitors and activities this weekend, she said.

Two ambulances are ready should patients require transportation from Riverboat Days sites or any other location, said Steve Hawkins, director of the Yankton County EMS.

The EMS will operate its normal daily staff along with the First-Aid station manned by EMTs at Riverside Park, Hawkins said. The First-Aid station is located in an air-conditioned RV trailer just behind the amphitheater.

Riverside Park will also feature a "Gator" or ranger for quick response, Hawkins said. In addition, Riverboat Days committee members have radios that can summon EMTs to the location of a person in need.

The Riverboat Days committee has communicated with the entire range of emergency responders, said RBD co-chairman Steve "Chopper" Johnson.

"We have a civil defense radio which interacts with the (Yankton County) emergency manager, Jeremy Dangel, and the fire, police and ambulance," he said. "We can do anything with this line of communication."

Dangel said he is planning not only for the large Riverboat Days crowds but also heavy boat and highway traffic as visitors enjoy one of the last weekends of summer.

In order to keep things running smoothly, Dangel said he will keep open the lines of communication with the RBD committee and emergency responders.

"Our planning has been the lessons learned over 27 years of Riverboat Days, from people involved in this. And this is my sixth Riverboat Days as emergency manager," he said. "It has always helped to call on that experience, but we are learning new things every year."

Dangel keeps an eye on the weather, but no major storms are predicted for this weekend. However, the forecast calls for temperatures in the 90s with high humidity.

"You need to keep hydrated. That means water, not the other (caffeine and alcoholic) beverages that dehydrate you," he said. "You also need sunscreen with UV protection and just finding a place to cool off occasionally."

Some restrictions are in place during certain RBD activities, Dangel said.

"Search and Rescue will be on the water Saturday and Sunday during the airplane demonstration," he said. "People have to realize, during the aircraft demonstrations, that no boats are allowed between Meridian Bridge and the city dock."

Law enforcement will be out in force throughout Yankton, as well as around the county and on the highways, Dangel said.

"With all the shuttles and buses, there is absolutely no reason for drinking and driving in Yankton," he said. "Many of the calls we get on weekend nights are attributed to alcohol."

All drivers and pedestrians need to show good judgment, Dangel said.

Hundreds of people are also filling the parks and campgrounds around Yankton and on Lewis and Clark Lake, Dangel said. The Aug. 8 storm that raked the area with 70 mph winds shows the need for vigilance against rapid weather changes, he said.

"You will never hear me not recommend a weather radio," he said. "And they do a good job with the intercom system (at Riverside Park and on the campgrounds)."

Whatever happens this weekend, the ASH staff will be ready, Gehl said.

"The (emergency department) nurses stay on their toes," she said. "They have to be ready to go at a moment's notice. You don't know what comes through the doors."

College Taking On Tribal Officer Shortage

BY JENNY MICHAEL
The Bismarck Tribune

BISMARCK, N.D. — The future of law enforcement in Indian Country might lie in a brick building with expansive windows curving to the northeast, which sits in an empty field south of Bismarck.

The building, bearing the logo of United Tribes Technical College and imprints of horses and thunderhawks, won't be finished until later this fall and won't hold classes until January 2011. Instead of housing desks and books, it's filled with ladders and the smells of paint and plaster.

But walking through the halls and classrooms, dodging construction equipment and cords along the way, David Gipp, president of UTTC, sees the potential the new science and technology center could have in training law enforcement officers to provide public safety services to Native American tribes.

Reservations across the country, including those of the five tribes in North Dakota that operate UTTC, have long dealt with a shortage of law enforcement officers. Part of the problem has been a shortage of training opportunities. Bureau of Indian Affairs officers are trained

through the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M., which has a limited number of openings annually.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said the Artesia facility only accepts three classes of 50 per year, and only about half of each class graduates. That means only about 75 new officers make it out of the academy every year.

Dorgan said UTTC could provide a solution down the road.

"Our goal is to create an Artesia north," said Dorgan, the chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Gipp also is optimistic that the college someday could house a full law enforcement academy. UTTC already offers a certificate and a two-year degree in criminal justice and will offer a four-year degree for the first time this fall. The tribal college also has a memorandum of understanding with the BIA to provide specialized training to federal law enforcement officers. This summer, the school offered a police dog training program.

The college's next plans will get it closer to the eventual goal of offering complete law enforcement training.

Elmer Four Dance, the BIA's regional special agent in charge, said UTTC will offer a "bridge program," where state-certified officers who want to work for the

BIA will go through a three-week federal police certification program that will be run through the Indian Police Academy.

"There are efforts right now to try to get that going yet this summer ... or early fall," said Four Dance, a UTTC graduate.

The bridge training will allow officers trained anywhere to complete their federal certification without waiting to go to Artesia, which also might interest people in the Upper Midwest who want to complete training closer to home. Gipp hopes the training will attract people from this region — North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming — who want to stay and work in this area. However, the program will be open to people nationwide.

"From our perspective, that will allow us to get more previously trained and serving law enforcement officers into the field," Gipp said. He said the college also hopes to work with tribes to develop their own standards for law enforcement similar to federal or state standards, allowing for more communication and cooperation among agencies.

About 15 to 20 people will be able to train per bridge training class. Gipp is unsure at this point how many classes will be set up per year. He said it will depend on how the first few classes go.

What Does Blago Case Mean For Fitzgerald?

BY KAREN HAWKINS AND MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press Writers

CHICAGO — With a string of high-profile prosecutions under his belt, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald exuded confidence when he first presented corruption charges against former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich in late 2008.

The prosecutor, once described as "Eliot Ness with a Harvard law degree and a sense of humor," raised eyebrows when he appeared to go beyond the normally dry recitation of facts by accusing Blagojevich of a "political corruption crime spree" that would make "Lincoln rollover in his grave."

But this week in the courtroom, the man often mentioned as a candidate to be the next FBI director suffered a setback: Jurors deadlocked on all but one charge. The failure to win a bigger conviction has now raised questions about possible missteps by prosecutors — and about Fitzgerald's future.

"He's been there for three presidential terms, and that's unusual," said Phil Turner, who was a federal prosecutor in Chicago before Fitzgerald's tenure began. "The power can go to your head. ... You can't get personal with defendants, and he does."

Most legal observers in Chicago insist that a single case, even one as notable as the Blagojevich prosecution, does not undermine decades of success.

"I think his legacy of success is quite entrenched," said Harold Krent, dean and professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. One setback will not "do much to tarnish the image."

The 49-year-old Fitzgerald rose to prominence by convicting another former Illinois governor, George Ryan, of corruption, and media mogul Conrad Black of defrauding investors.

He was also tapped to be the special prosecutor in Washington's CIA leak case, eventually convicting former Vice President Dick Cheney's top aide, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby for perjury and other offenses.

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