

## Preparing For Their Title Defense



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Drill sergeant Steven Davis from the South Dakota Army National Guard puts the Yankton High School Football team through a workout early Thursday morning. Drill Sgt. Davis, along with Sergeant First Class Chastity Oswald (Yankton recruiter) and two other soldiers also spoke to the team about the Army leadership values, teamwork, dedication and goal setting. The Bucks, the 2014 Class 11AA champions, will spend two more days in Nebraska practicing and building the 2015 football team. A total of 63 athletes, six coaches and two wives (cooks) came to the camp.

# Brand Board Votes To Discuss Asking Legislature To Lift Caps

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The state Brand Board proposed a no-growth budget request for the coming fiscal year Wednesday and voted to consider asking the Legislature for authority to increase fees for various services in the years ahead.

State law caps the fees the board charges for brand registrations, renewals and transfers and for livestock ownership inspections at sale barns, ranches and processors.

The fees apply for cattle and horses west of the Missouri River. The ownership inspection fee is charged when the livestock change ownership or are transported from western South Dakota.

The program depends financially on two main sources of revenue.

There is the inspection fee of \$1 per head, which can vary by hundreds of thousands of cattle per year depending on the weather and livestock prices.

And there is the lump of revenue from brand registrations that are renewed every five years. That money is parceled out over multiple years as an annual supplement.

Fee increases wouldn't take effect until Jan. 1, 2017, if the Legislature approved higher caps or removing the limits altogether.

The fee maximums now in law are \$25 for registering a brand or transferring a brand and \$50 for renewing a brand. The renewal runs for five years. The ownership inspection fees are \$1 per head.

There also are some special permits for horses that run \$3 annually and \$20 lifetime.

The ownership fees dis-

cussion wasn't specifically listed on the board's agenda Wednesday.

That didn't please Silvia Christen, the executive director for the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

She told the board she would appreciate that the meeting agenda be posted with more notice in the future and that the proposed budget be publicly available in advance of the meeting next year.

The Stockgrowers ran the livestock ownership inspection program for decades as a contractor for the Brand Board until July 2008 when the board took over direct control.

One of the changes made by the board is higher pay for both full-time and part-time inspectors, providing insurance coverage for them and paying mileage expenses at the state government rate for private vehicles.

Brand renewals generated about \$1.2 million in the past fiscal year. The budget plan for this fiscal year calls for transferring \$333,000 from that reserve and the proposal for next fiscal year would use nearly \$362,000.

At that rate the reserve would be expended in four years and leave a hole for year five.

Meanwhile employee costs and insurance will continue to rise, said Wanda Blair of Vale, the board's chairwoman.

Bart Blum of Reliance, a board member who is a past president for the Stockgrowers, suggested that the board members might think about asking for the fee caps to be removed.

Debbie Trapp, the board's executive director, distributed a comparison sheet for South Dakota and the neighboring states.

"This is interesting," said

board member Lyla Hutchison of Wounded Knee.

"As usual South Dakota is the cheapest," remarked board member Myron Williams of Wall.

Hutchison offered that South Dakota might consider increasing its brand fees to the equivalent of Montana, where they are \$200 for 10 years.

Most of the states are at \$1 for the inspection fees.

Hutchison later made the motion that passed without opposition to begin discussions for requesting action from the Legislature.

The public comment period followed, and that's when Christen stepped forward. She made her comments about the need for more public availability of the agenda and the budget proposal. Then she spoke about the fees.

"I'm hearing about it for the first time as well," Christen said.

Responded Blair, "First time we've talked about it too."

Christen said the inspection fee was increased to \$1 in 2013 and there was a commitment then to hold the fee at \$1 for five years. Blair said the five-year freeze comment came from the Stockgrowers and wasn't a formal action by the board.

"We had hoped we wouldn't have to do it for five years," Blair said.

"That was the discussion," Christen said.

Blum spoke up. "There's no way we can lock anything in and have a quality program. That's a given," he said. "They need to be paid."

He added that at current cattle prices the inspectors should be paid a quality wage.

Several board members commented that they use projections in their bud-

eting but there's no good way to deal with prices and weather that change beyond their control.

The minutes-long exchange was polite but pointed.

Replied Christen, "We live on projections but somebody has to pay it."

The budget numbers presented by the executive director showed actual spending for the 2015 fiscal year that ended June 30 was \$1,880,867. The projected expenses for the current 2016 fiscal year total \$2,152,211. The proposal for the coming 2017 fiscal year calls for \$2,118,159.

Trapp said the differences between this year and next year are mostly for brand-book printing and technology purchases that won't be repeated next year.

The proposed budget now goes to the governor for his decision whether to recommend it to the Legislature for consideration in the 2017 budget.

The board's interest in lifting the fee caps will be taken to the Department of Agriculture for internal consideration and possibly the governor's office for further discussion about whether to introduce legislation for the 2016 session.

Friction between the Stockgrowers and the administration of previous Gov. Mike Rounds led to the contract termination. In 2010 a past president of the Stockgrowers, Ken Knappe, ran in the Republican primary election for governor, finishing last while Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard won.

The decision to seek the maximum \$1 inspection fee two years ago by Daugaard's administration put new wood on the fire.

## ND Regulators Approve \$6M Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Public Service Commission has approved a siting permit for a \$6 million liquid natural gas pipeline in McKenzie County.

Tulsa, Oklahoma-based Oneok (ONE'-oak) is planning to construct and operate a new 4-mile long, 8-inch diameter pipeline and associated facilities.

The Lonesome Creek Pipeline Project will have a maximum capacity of 30,000 barrels per day. The pipeline will carry a mixture of ethane, propane, butanes, pentanes and natural gasoline produced at Lonesome Creek Gas Plant to the company's Garden Creek Pipeline southwest of Arnegard.

The pipeline is expected to be operational in December.

## Annual Women's Business Conference To Be Held In Deadwood

SPEARFISH (AP) — The South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity at Black Hills State University is hosting this year's annual Women's Business Conference in Deadwood.

The center said Wednesday that the conference is set to be held in late October.

This year's featured speaker at the conference JJ Di-Geronimo, who is president of Purposeful Woman and Tech Savvy Women.

Those organizations connect, celebrate and empower women.

Rapid City Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Linda Rabe is also expected to make a presentation.

South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity CEO Helen Merriman says the conference the organization's signature event each year.

## Patrol, Tribal Police Work Together At Dakota Nation Powwow

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Troopers from the South Dakota Highway Patrol are working with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe again this year to help provide additional law enforcement for the Dakota Nation powwow this weekend.

This is the third year the Highway Patrol has been invited by the tribe to work with tribal officers during the powwow. Troopers, some of whom have drug detection dogs, will assist tribal officers during the event that runs from Aug. 14 to Aug. 16.

The tribe and the state have signed a memorandum of understanding for the operation.

Troopers involved in the operation will be sworn in Thursday after a training and orientation program.

Highway Patrol superintendent Col. Craig Price says all troopers involved volunteer for the assignment.

## Judge Denies Request To Close Part Of Rodriguez Hearing

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A judge has rejected a request by defense attorneys to close part of an evidentiary hearing for Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., the Crookston, Minnesota, man sentenced to death for kidnapping and killing University of North Dakota student Dru Sjodin (shuh-DEEN') in 2003.

Lawyers are scheduled to debate Rodriguez's appeal during a hearing scheduled next month in Fargo. Federal Judge Ralph Erickson said in denying the defense request that "secrecy is poor public policy in the absence of necessity."

It has been nearly four years since Rodriguez's attorneys filed the federal habeas corpus motion, considered the last step in the appeals process.

Sjodin was abducted from the parking lot of a Grand Forks shopping mall in November 2003. Authorities say she was raped, beaten and stabbed by Rodriguez, a convicted sex offender.

## Project Safe Send Pesticide Collection Sets Another Record

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A state program that helps North Dakota residents dispose of unusable or unwanted pesticides for free has set another record for collections.

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says more than 192 tons of chemicals were collected and shipped to out-of-state incinerators for disposal this year through the Project Safe Send program. That eclipsed the previous record of 150 tons set last year.

Goehring says more than 325 people took part in the program this year, up from about 300 last year. Collections were conducted in a dozen cities in July.

The Project Safe Send program was started in 1992. It's funded by fees that pesticide manufacturers pay to register their products in North Dakota.

## 2 Dead After Rv Strikes SUV In Iowa

INDIANOLA, Iowa (AP) — Two people have died, including a 9-year-old boy, after an RV carrying a trailer struck an SUV in Warren County.

The *Des Moines Register* reports 9-year-old Eric M. Fuller and 72-year-old Karla K. Handy, who were passengers in the SUV, died Wednesday morning. According to the Iowa State Patrol, the collision happened at the intersection of Highway 69 and Highway G76.

Sgt. Nate Ludwig said the driver of the RV ran a stop sign and struck the SUV on the passenger side. He said 47-year-old Kimberly R. Fuller was taken to a Des Moines hospital in critical condition, and 10-year-old Lillian J. Fuller was transported in serious condition. The RV's driver refused treatment at the scene.

The collision is under investigation.

### OBITUARIES

#### Connie Allen

Dr. Connie Allen, 76, of Springfield, died unexpectedly in England on Sunday, August 9, 2015.

Her funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, Au-

gust 17 at the United Church of Christ in Springfield. Burial will be held at a later date at Springfield Cemetery, rural Springfield. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of arrangements.

## Suspect Found In Throat Slashing Of Pregnant St. Paul Woman

MILBANK (AP) — Police say a 30-year-old man accused of slashing his pregnant girlfriend's throat in St. Paul has been found in northeastern South Dakota.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reports Steven Gutierrez was charged Aug. 5 with attempted murder and first-

degree assault in the July 31 attack. Boyd VanVooren, the police chief in Milbank, South Dakota, says Gutierrez was arrested Wednesday at a woman's apartment in the city.

A criminal complaint says Gutierrez's girlfriend was found "in a pool of blood" in the couple's home and

needed life-saving surgery. Authorities say the 24-year-old St. Paul woman is about 12 weeks pregnant with Gutierrez's child.

Gutierrez was being held Wednesday in South Dakota. It wasn't immediately clear if he has an attorney.

## Friends

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miles. We want to raise people's awareness and get more of them to utilize those two stretches of the river."

The establishment of Friends of the MNRR will provide more visibility and a louder voice for river advocates, Clark said. An emphasis will be placed on enlisting more supporters, he said.

"This will allow things to be broader and more encompassing," he said. "We

can combine the federal, state and private efforts. We can leverage one another's efforts toward a common goal."

In addition, the creation of a formal organization will give the river efforts more stability and credibility, Clark said.

"We can convene on a regular basis, and it will provide for better coordination," he said. "It will also increase our access and brand (in terms of public awareness). The brand will better unite the communities, especially up and down the 100-mile corridor (of the MNRR)."

The Friends organization can also provide a more united and visible support for river issues, Clark said.

"Together, they have more of a voice and it's not piecemeal. They can coordinate their efforts," he said. "They can reach out to additional landowners and stakeholders, and they can promote and preserve (the river) as a natural and cultural resource."

In addition, the Friends can advocate and raise funds in ways federal employees, such as the NPS, cannot do under federal law and policy, Smith said.

The Friends organization allows river supporters to take more action than currently possible, he added.

"The idea is that we can help out and not just sit around a table talking about it," he said. "People appreciate the river and want to be part of advocating and volunteering on issues related to the river."

Clark agreed. "This allows people to give back to the river and to promote the quality of life here," he said.

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**IN REMEMBRANCE**

<b>Margaret Lou Heard</b> 7:00 PM, Thursday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	<b>Dorothy Reppert</b> 7:00 PM, Friday Mame Creek Apartments Yankton
<b>Gloria (Aune) Lippert</b> 3:00 PM, Saturday Riverview Reformed Church Yankton	<b>Alverna Rathgeber</b> 10:30 AM, Saturday Immanuel Lutheran Church Coleridge

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