



Partly Cloudy, Breezy And Cool

9 a.m.: **50** | 3 p.m.: **55** | DETAILS: PAGE 2



The USDA Says We Need To Eat More Fish. Are Fish Farms Part Of The Solution? • 4

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



MMC Adds DII Transfer • 7



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Archery Upgrade

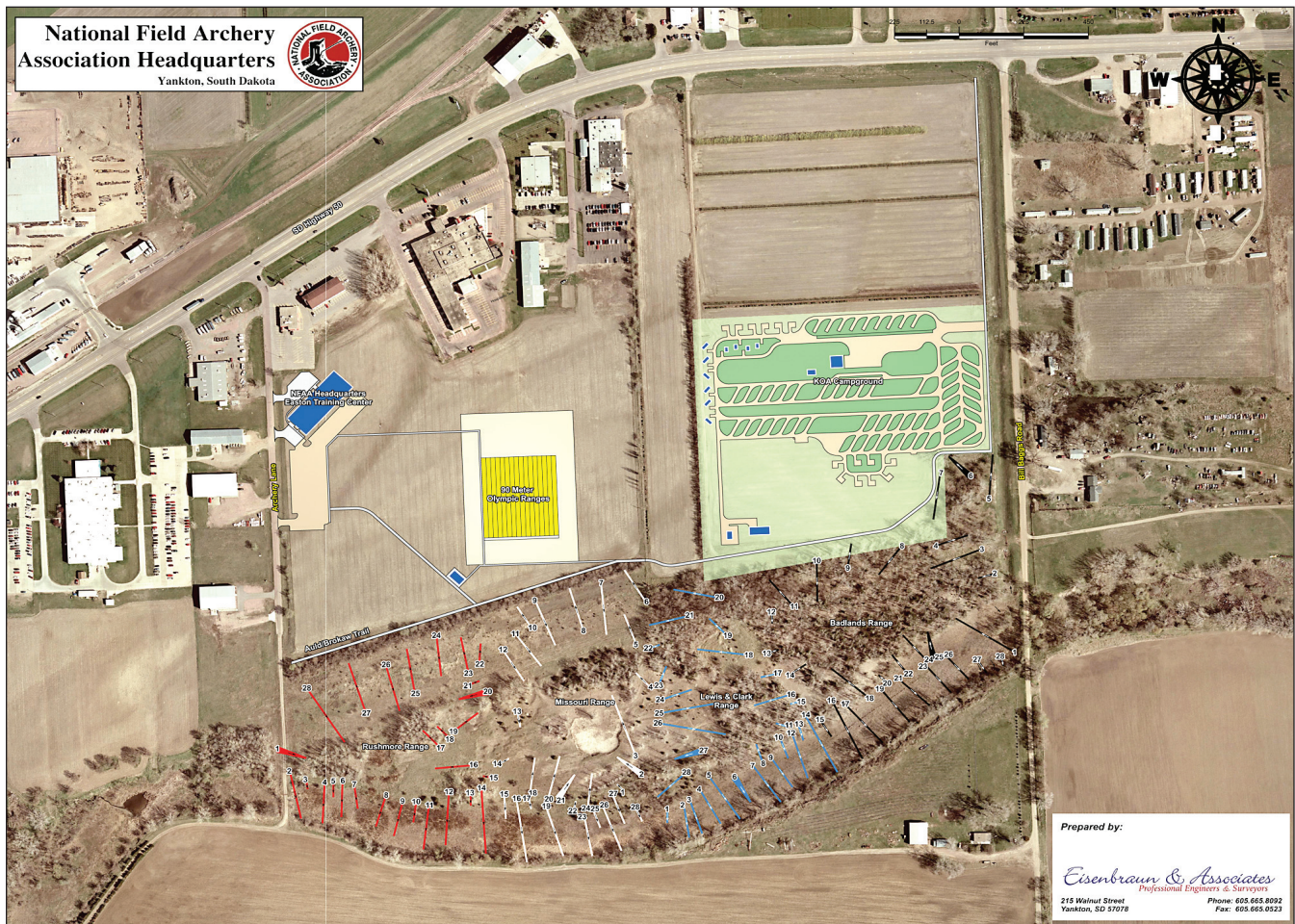


IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION
This aerial view of the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) complex is from several years ago, but it provides a good view of the approximately 90-acre development. The wooded area on the south side that has the names of four temporary archery ranges will be landscaped into three permanent ranges this summer. Also, a second Olympic range will be built next to the current one shown in yellow.

NFAA Complex To Get \$1M Upgrade With Work Projected To Begin In June

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With an eye on an international tournament that will draw hundreds of participants from around the world next year, the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) will be making some major upgrades to their grounds on the east side of Yankton.

Improvements valued at more than \$1 million will get under way this summer in preparation for the International Field Archery Association's 2014 World Field Archery Championships here. Just prior to that, the NFAA will hold its National Outdoor Field tournament.

"It's the first time we've ever had the World Field Archery Championships here," said NFAA president Bruce Cull. "It will be the biggest tournament we've had."

He said there will be a minimum of 800 participants hailing from 50 states and at least 30 nations.

"We're still in the planning stages," Cull continued. "We're hoping to have a full-fledged parade through the city Aug. 3, concerts, Native American dancing and other things. I think it's going to be really cool for the locals to see. Meanwhile, we're bringing in some great economic development to the tri-state area."

The work planned for this summer will be done by the National Guard as part of an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) project. Such projects enhance unit training and readiness while filling a community need.

Cull said the needs of the NFAA, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, meet the criteria of the National Guard program.

"We were very fortunate to meet their criteria," he stated. "We started looking toward the future of our complex and enhancing the ranges by planting trees, changing topography and things like that. As a non-profit, we don't have bulldozers and heavy equipment like that to do the work."

The IRT project will get under way June 8, and members of the National Guard are expected to be on site for two weeks.

The NFAA had four temporary outdoor ranges south of its headquarters in what used to be the channel of the Missouri River. During the flood of 2011, the area was under water, which killed vegetation and deposited a large amount of sand.

The National Guard has engineered and will build three permanent ranges where the four temporary ones were formerly located. Restoration of a fishing pond is also part of the development. Additionally, the National Guard will establish a second Olympic-sized field adjacent to the one that currently exists. Cull said each of those ranges is the equivalent of two soccer fields.

In late summer or early fall, the National Guard will construct a comfort station on the NFAA grounds.



DEREK BARTOS/P&D
Steve Thede began his new position in Yankton last week as the acting superintendent of the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR).

MNRR Names Acting Superintendent

BY DEREK BARTOS
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When Steve Thede arrived in Yankton last month to join the staff at the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR), he was shocked.

"I had no idea how cool this place is," he said. "You guys have this great resource here. It's a big river, and there are parts of it that are natural and untamed."

Thede began his position of the MNRR's acting superintendent last week. He replaces Steve Meitz, who spent three years as superintendent before leaving for the same position at Great Basin National Park in Baker, Nev. Thede will hold the interim position until a permanent replacement is named, which is expected to take place at the end of the summer.

During his brief time in Yankton, Thede has discovered that he is not the only person unaware of the park's features.

"One of the things that I'm learning is that a lot of folks around here haven't been out to see it," he said. "There's a lot of people that get out and enjoy it, but there's a

RIVER | PAGE 17

GFP Officials Set To Weigh Deer Disease Options

South Dakota GF&P Employees Will Hold Open Houses Across Area; Seek Public Input

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Next week, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) officials will outline proposals for dealing with a disease claiming more than 1,100 deer in the southeast part of the state.

The open houses in Yankton, Tyndall and Freeman also seek public input, according to Yankton County conservation officer Sam Schelhaas.

"If you are interested in the future of deer management, then you are encouraged to attend," he said.

Next week's open houses will be held at the following times and locations:

- May 14: Yankton, 6-9 p.m. at the NFAA Building, 800 Archery Lane;
- May 15: Tyndall, 4-7 p.m. at the Bon Homme County Annex Building, 103 West 18th Ave.;
- May 16: Freeman, 3-6:30 p.m. at Papa's Restaurant, 1121 S. U.S. Highway 81.

Last fall, the GF&P pulled all its unsold deer tags from a six-county region particularly hard-hit by epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or a similar disease known as blue tongue. The action affected Bon Homme, Hutchinson, Yankton, Clay, Union and Charles Mix counties.

"Some people were disappointed (with the pulled licenses)," Schelhaas said. "But most people that I talked to, they know and understand why we did it."

EHD and blue tongue struck hard in the southeast region last summer and fall, the conservation officer said. In at least one case, disease reduced the deer harvest by about half.

"In Yankton County, we were told hunters harvested 514 deer in 2012. That (number) was down 438 deer from 2011," he said. "I talked to some of the sportsmen and hunters who have lived in Yankton for years. They all remember a few times (with huge deer losses), but this was one of the more severe times."

Now, the GF&P is dealing with the aftermath of the heavy deer losses and another possible outbreak of EHD or blue tongue, Schelhaas said.

"We have predictions and models for the upcoming season and will look at possibly more restrictions to deer hunting," he said.

Schelhaas emphasized that any proposed regulations offered at next week's open houses — such as the number of licenses for counties suffering huge deer

DISEASE | PAGE 17

Obama Approves Disaster Declaration

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced Friday that his request for federal assistance to help with recovery efforts from a spring snow and ice storm last month has been approved.

President Obama signed a Presidential Disaster Declaration for seven South Dakota counties Friday, making federal financial help available. It authorized the federal government to provide recovery assistance for up to 75 percent of the eligible costs.

"Receiving the presidential declaration this quickly is good news for our communities and citizens," Daugaard said. "It means federal resources will be available to help our communities

recover as quickly as possible from this storm."

Preliminary estimates show the snow and ice storm caused at least \$11.4 million in damages to public and private nonprofit property. More than 115,000 people were left without power at some point during the storm in six southeastern South Dakota counties, while Shannon County and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation had a record 26.5 inches of snow.

Counties eligible for assistance are Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Turner and Shannon and the portion of the Pine Ridge Reservation that lies within Shannon County.



RIVERWALK ARRIVAL IN YANKTON

Will Bentley of Bow Creek Metal, Inc., uses a welder to secure the sculpture "Ojibway River" by Chris Powell to a pedestal at the intersection of Third and Cedar as the 2013 Yankton RiverWalk works were installed throughout the downtown district Friday. Approximately a dozen new sculptures were added to the downtown district for the coming year. An artists' celebration was held Friday night to commemorate the installation of the new works. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)