



**Showers And Storms Likely**

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**FRIDAY ■ May 29, 2015**



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## Brookings Man Paints Archery Themed Mural

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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A vacant building next to the Easton Yankton Archery Complex has received a long-awaited, and colorful, facelift, thanks to a South Dakota artist.

Chuck Bennis, a resident of Brookings, was hired this week to create and spray paint – a style called “street art” – a design on the west side of the old Mexico Viejo building, in time for the upcoming World Archery Youth Championships (WAYC).

Bennis, a stay-at-home father who previously worked with the Brookings Boys & Girls Club, was approached by WAYC tournament manager Nancy Wenande to use his talents to create some sort of archery-themed design.

“She saw some of my work, apparently, and connected the dots,” Bennis said Wednesday afternoon, as he began the process of coloring in the design. “For her, I would definitely do this.”

Starting from an image of the west facing of the building, Bennis created a theme that includes targets, arrows and the phrase ‘Welcome Archers’. As daunting as the process is, it’s something Bennis says he thoroughly enjoys.

“As an artist myself, I love the process of it all,” he said. “When you can see art happening, it’s pretty special.”

The process began Tuesday night when Bennis used a projector to display his outline on the wall and sketch out the design. The only direction he said he was given by the WAYC staff was that the theme had to be “bright and welcoming” – that it could be clearly seen from Highway 50.

“Something like this, it’s a ton of work before hand,” Bennis said. “There are many, many hours of planning.”

Although he has an Art Education degree, Bennis said he has never received any formal training for his craft. He had only created a few large pieces in his career (including a mural at the Harley Davidson shop in Sioux Falls), but “jumped” at the Yankton opportunity.

As he drove from his hotel over to the site on Wednesday morning,

JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
**Chuck Bennis, an artist from Brookings, painted this mural this week on the west wall of a former restaurant near the Easton Yankton Archery Complex.**

# Take Two

## DOT Splits Highway 50 Project In Yankton Into Two Phases, Will Seek Two Bids

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State highway officials said Thursday they’re trying a different approach to a major road construction project needed at Yankton.

They now plan to seek separate bids for the two phases of rebuilding South Dakota Highway 50/ Fourth Street.

One phase calls for construction to start in 2015 on the downtown stretch from Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street.

The second phase set for 2016 would cover the eastern segment from Burleigh to Archery Road.

The two-phase approach had been previously planned but the work still was considered as a single project for bidding.

The lone bid received in March was about \$11 million. State Department of Transportation engineers estimated the work would cost about \$8 million.

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## A Big Fish Tale



Workers at the Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery collect eggs from a 129-pound female paddlefish Thursday. The fish is one of the largest ever brought in to the hatchery for the purpose of spawning.

## Hatchery Takes On The Task Of Spawning Their Largest Paddlefish

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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The Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery has one big paddlefish on its hands, and she’s doing her best to help insure the future of her species in the region.

A 129.4-pound, 7-foot long female paddlefish was caught near the mouth of the White River on Lake Francis Case as part of the hatchery’s brood stock effort last week. Another paddlefish, weighing just more than 126-pounds was also caught around the same time.

Hatchery project leader Jeff Powell said while

these fish are a bit larger than what they usually take for restocking, they’re still helpful.

“These fish are typically bigger fish than we target, but this year we’re trying to get some good genetic diversity brought into our place,” he said. “These happened to be the only females we caught that day, so we brought them into the hatchery to be spawned.”

Powell said while they aren’t the biggest paddlefish caught in the state, they’re the biggest that have been brought back to the Gavins Point Hatchery.

He added that the 129-pound paddlefish is

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## Delmont Seeks Fed Assistance

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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DELMONT – Federal assistance could be on the way for victims of a May 10 tornado in southeast South Dakota, including Delmont.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard requested Thursday a presidential disaster declaration to help tornado victims in Douglas and Charles Mix counties, according to a news release.

The Mother’s Day tornado heavily damaged the west side of Delmont. Nearly three weeks later, the Douglas County community of around 235 residents – along with owners of surrounding farms – are continuing clean-up operations.

For safety reasons, portions of the town were closed Wednesday and Thursday to vehicle and foot traffic during the removal of large debris by heavy equipment and trailers.

In his letter seeking the disaster declaration, Daugaard emphasized the need for federal aid as Delmont residents rebuild their lives.

“As you understand, recovery from a disaster takes years and even longer if no federal assistance is available,” he wrote to federal officials. “Residents of this small South Dakota town need your assistance to help them recover and return them to the new normal lifestyle.”

Daugaard seeks funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through its Individual Assistance program. The funds would help homes and businesses suffering tornado damage.

The governor’s request does not guarantee federal funding will be made available to South Dakota citizens. South Dakota last received an Individual Assistance declaration in 2011 for widespread damage from Missouri River flooding.

In a letter to FEMA, Daugaard noted the May 10 twister, classified as an EF-2 tornado, traveled more than 16 miles, cut a path 400 yards wide and hit peak winds of 130 miles per hour (mph). The governor stated

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### On The Job

## Schaefer Receives Nat. Honor

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA  
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In naming a recipient of this year’s Tomorrow’s Leaders Award, Jamie Schaefer, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital vice president of finance and CFO, earned not only a huge national honor, but also recognition as being the first recipient in finance and of South Dakota in a Catholic health care profession.

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) selects 10 individuals nationwide as Tomorrow’s Leaders recipients. The award was started in 2011 to recognize those with strong leadership and passionate commitment to the healing mission and to



encourage them to continue their careers in the ministry.

“I was shocked because of the finance aspect,” Schaefer said. “I think it is more of a mission-focused award and no one in finance has gotten this award before, so I was honored to be named for that.”

Kara Payer, vice president of Mission at Avera Sacred Heart, nominated Schaefer on

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ALYSSA SOBOTKA/P&D  
**Jamie Schaefer, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital vice president of finance and CFO, was recently named a winner of the Tomorrow’s Leaders Award by the Catholic Health Association of the United States.**

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