

Press&Dakotan

GFP Seeks To Raise License Fees

BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

SPEARFISH — Inflation has risen 20 percent since 2005, the last time sportsmen faced price increases for their licenses to hunt and fish in South Dakota. The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission decided Thursday to propose raising prices for 2014.

Health care and salary increases were cited as the reason the increases are needed. A public hearing will be held Nov. 7 in Pierre by the commission at its next meeting. The goal is to raise an additional \$2 million.

"The budget we put together was a flat budget," Tony Leif, the Wildlife Division director, said.

He said the division also recommends expanding use of the \$5 fee on preference points for unsuccessful big-game applicants. "These would not be required," Leif

said. "They would have the option to decline the preference point and the payment for those.'

Among the standard most-purchased licenses for residents, the annual fishing license would increase to \$28 from the present \$25; the annual small-game license would go to \$33 from the current \$30; and the combination license (fishing and small game) would become \$55 from the current \$50.

Big-game license prices would increase too. For example, the standard deer and antelope licenses would increase by \$4. Furbearer licenses would rise to \$30 from the present \$25.

For non-residents, the annual fishing license would climb to \$67 from \$60 and big-game licenses would see increases, but there wouldn't be any change in the small-game and preserve license prices.

Those licenses are primarily used by non-residents who hunt pheasants. Those prices went up last year for non-residents to the present \$121 for the 10-day smallgame license and to the present \$46, \$76 and \$121 respectively for the one-day, three-day and annual preserve licenses.

The working capital in the game fund is about \$3 million below the \$10 million target for state reserves on hand for emergencies, according to Leif.

He said the \$10 million is intended to cover about three months of the division's \$40 million-plus annual operations if necessary.

Federal funding is shifting up and down in various programs. Overall, a 4 percent reduction is expected because of sequestration.

Leif said \$1.1 million will be saved by cutting equipment purchases in half and other capital improvements will be rebudgeted by seeking other sources of funding.

Family Members Charged In Omaha Killings

BY MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. - A man accused of killing four people in three separate shootings in and around Omaha this summer won't face charges alone.

Prosecutors say several of Nikko Jenkins' relatives — his uncle, sister, a cousin, even his mother — each played roles in at least one of the three fatal ambushes over three weeks.

Jenkins, 27, was ordered Tuesday to stand trial on four counts of first-degree murder for the mid-August shootings, which happened less than two weeks after he had been released from prison for a 10year stint on robbery, assault and weapons convictions. Police say Jenkins confessed to the shootings, saying voices and commands from an Egyptian god told him to do it.

ins' uncle, 51-year-old Warren Levering, was charged Wednesday with first-degree murder and weapons counts in the Aug. 21 death of 33-yearold Andrea Kruger. Prosecutors say Levering, one of Jenkins' sisters and a cousin were in a vehicle with Jenkins when they ambushed Kruger at a rural intersection around 2 a.m. as she was driving home from her job at a night club.

Jenkins pulled Kruger from her SUV and shot her four times, Levering assisted in the carjacking and attempted to burn Kruger's vehicle.

who represents Levering in a charge of being an accessory in Kruger's death, said Thursday he expects to be appointed to represent Levering on the murder charge. He would not comment further.

Jenkins' sister, Erica Jenkins, 23, also faces a felony conspiracy charge. Police say she scolded her brother after Kruger's shooting, asking, "Why didn't you move that body into the ditch?"

She also faces first-degree murder and weapons charges in the Aug. 19 death of 22-yearold Curtis Bradford. Nikko Jenkins told police he shot Bradford, a prison acquaintance, twice in the head, but police believe Erica Jenkins

fired at least one of the shots. Court records do not list an attorney for her.

Police say Erica Jenkins also was involved the Aug. 11 deaths of Jorge Cajiga-Ruiz, 29, and Juan Uribe-Pena, 26, whose bodies were found inside a pickup truck in southeast Omaha. Jenkins and cousin Christine Bordeaux, 39, lured the men to a secluded area, where Nikko Jenkins ambushed and shot them, court documents say. Police believe robbery was the motive. Bordeaux, whom police say

was also in the car the night

Kruger was killed, is charged with two counts of conspiracy for the two ambushes that resulted in the deaths of Cajiga-Ruiz, Uribe-Pena and Kruger.

Bordeaux's attorney, Kevin Ryan, did not immediately return a message left Thursday. Nikko Jenkins' mother, 46-

year-old Lori Jenkins, was charged in federal court Tuesday with one count of a felon in possession of ammunition transported over state lines. Omaha police say she bought the bullets used in the shootings. Court records do not list an attorney for her.

Review Sought Of Lethal Injection Drug

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A lawyer for death-row inmate Michael Ryan has asked the Nebraska Supreme Court to order a review of how state corrections officials obtained a lethal injection drug made by a Swiss company.

Nebraska and several other states were forced to buy sodium thiopental overseas when the last U.S. manufacturer quit making it in 2010 because of death-penalty opposition from customers, according to the Lincoln Journal Star.

Nebraska prison officials bought the drug from a middle-man named Chris Harris, and his company, Harris Pharma LLP. Attorney Jerry Soucie, who used to represent Ryan, has previously argued Harris was sold the drug in the form of samples and was not authorized to do so. That meant, Soucie argued, Harris misappropriated the thiopental and left Nebraska in possession of stolen property. Thus, he said, the state should not be allowed to use it.

Defense lawyer Rob Kortus, of the Nebraska Commission of Public Advocacy, questioned the quality of sodium thiopental in a court filing.

"If there can ever be a humane way of executing a human being with lethal injection in a three-drug protocol, the first drug has to work. It has to absolutely work," Kortus said in a brief filed this week. "That means effectively anesthetizing the person that has been condemned to die so that the first drug and the remaining two drugs can be administered without causing cruel and unusual pain," he said.

Sodium thiopental recently has been banned for export by the European Union and is becoming increasingly difficult to get. It is made in India and China.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit ruled earlier this year that the drug that Nebraska and several other states acquired should not have been allowed into the country.

Black Hills Could Get 30 Inches Of Snow

RAPID CITY (AP) — South Dakota authorities are warning drivers about a winter storm that could dump as much as 30 inches of snow on the Black Hills.

Transportation and Public Safety officials say the early-fall storm with heavy snow and strong winds could make travel difficult in the Black Hills and much of western South Dakota from early Friday morning through much of the day Saturday.

The National Weather Service says 6 to 12 inches or more is expected across a large area of the western plains, and high winds will reduce visibility.

The weather service says blizzard conditions are likely Friday in an area along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills.

