



**Lancers Top Dakota State  
3-1 In Home Opener ■ 7**

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# S.D. Reps Yet To Make Decision On Syria Strike

## President Seeking Congressional Approval Of Limited Attacks

**BY CHET BROKAW**  
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota's two U.S. senators have not yet decided whether to back President Barack Obama's proposed military strike against Syria, but the state's lone member of the House is leaning against approving such a move.

The president is seeking congressional approval of a resolution authorizing limited strikes in retaliation for the Syrian government's alleged use of chemical weapons in a rebel-held suburb of the Syrian capital of Damascus.

**also**

■ While U.S.  
Debates,  
Fighting  
Continues In  
Syria.  
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said she needs to be convinced that military strikes would be the best option for U.S. national security interests.

"I care about America and protecting our country and believe that we simply can't afford to get into another war that could potentially produce a powder keg in the Middle East," Noem said Wednesday.

"Right now, I don't believe that this is the direction to go, and I don't support the president's plan. But I am willing to reserve judgment until we can have the discussion and see what this authorization resolution looks like," Noem said.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said the use of weapons of mass destruction raises U.S. national security concerns relating to Iran and the entire Middle East region.

"The use of these weapons warrants a response, and it is incumbent on the president to make the case to the American public that our intelligence is correct, that the objective is clearly defined, and

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## Park Paradise



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**Outdoor recreational opportunities once again attracted many people to the Lewis and Clark Lake area this summer, but the cool start to the season impacted numbers. At the end of July, the visitor numbers at the L&C Recreation Area were down 3.7 percent from last year. If the trend holds true, it may be only the second time since 1993 that the lake area has seen a decrease in visitor numbers.**

# Numbers Down At Area Campgrounds

**BY DEREK BARTOS**  
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Thanks to a cool start to this year's camping season, state officials are looking at a potential drop in visitors to the Lewis and Clark Lake area for the second time in three years.

Through the end of July, camping numbers for the entire district were down 4.4 percent compared to last year, including a 3.7 percent decrease at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area.

"Last year we had a really warm summer that started early," said Shane Bertsch, district park supervisor for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. "This summer, May and the first part of June were really cool, and the water temperature affected a lot of the water recreation as well. That was the main factor that we were down a little bit compared to last year."

It would be only the second time since 1993 that camping numbers would be lower compared to the previous year. In 2011, the district also saw a decrease in visitors due to significant rains and flooding.

While the slow start hurt numbers at the beginning of the season, Bertsch said the district

has rebounded well the rest of the summer, including impressive occupancy during the Labor Day holiday.

"It was really outstanding," he said. "We were 100 percent full for the weekend for Lewis and Clark, White Crane and Pierson Ranch."

With Labor Day marking the final weekend for heavy traffic to the area, park officials now are turning to projects that will be completed during the so-called "shoulder season."

"Right now we have a major road project going (at Lewis & Clark Recreation Area)," Bertsch said. "We've done a lot of patching and now we're doing some chip sealing throughout the entire park."

He said crews will be working around visitors, but it shouldn't be an issue for campers. The project is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Work also will begin next week on an electrical upgrade project at White Crane Recreation Area, where roughly 75 percent of pedestal wiring will be replaced. Other areas of the park will remain open.

"We're going to upgrade from 30-amp

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# County Seeking To Remedy Deer Boulevard Trail Problems

**BY NATHAN JOHNSON**  
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After giving a construction company the summer to correct deficiencies on the Deer Boulevard Trail, the Yankton County Commission will move forward with legal proceedings against LRC, Inc.

It's the latest development in what has been a bumpy road to completing the recreational trail along the busy Deer Boulevard.

"We'll have to hire a new contractor to get it done right," Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said after Wednesday's commission meeting. "We're going to get it fixed."

In March, the commission reluctantly rescinded a motion from last September to forfeit the \$76,000 performance bond for LRC.

The company was awarded a \$276,000 bid to construct the Deer Boulevard Trail from south of Highway 52 to the Missouri River in August 2010. However, the County Commission was not satisfied with the end result. One of the largest concerns is soft spots in the base.

The company had agreed to come back in the spring or summer of 2012 to address the issues, but no work was completed.

Laurie Schultz, administration program manager for the South Dakota Department of Transportation, advised the County Commission last March that it should give LRC until July 1 to complete the work. Doing so would mean that the county had followed its contract with the company to the letter and, therefore, any risk of having to pay back the sizable chunk of federal



Jensen

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# Students To Collect Shoes For Charity

**BY ROB NIELSEN**  
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Students in Wausa and Bloomfield have been given a new challenge: Collect 5,000 pairs of lightly worn shoes in 15 days for charity.

The challenge was prompted by a visit from Think Kindness founder Brian Williams and will involve Wausa High School and Bloomfield Junior/Senior High.

Speaking Wednesday in Bloomfield, Williams says the organization came about as a way to inspire kids to become more involved in spreading kindness.

"We're a non-profit organization that has the sole mission to inspire measurable random acts of kindness in schools and communities," Williams said.

One of Think Kindness' main campaigns is Shoes for Kindness. The campaign challenges middle and high schools across the country to collect

5,000 pairs of gently worn shoes in 15 days, after which the shoes will be distributed to families and children all over the world. Each challenge kicks off with an assembly led by Williams.

"The goal of the assembly is to really inspire each student that they can make a difference in the world," he said. "And that's the main purpose of our initiative: to just inspire people to take the privileges they have in their life and use them in a way to make the world a better place in any way, shape or form."

Williams said that so far this year, he has spoken to 9,000 students with a goal of reaching 60,000 by the end of the year.

Bloomfield and Wausa teacher Amanda Rojas helped bring Williams to the area in an effort to help her students.

"I was doing an Internet



ROB NIELSON/P&D

**Think Kindness founder Brian Williams challenges a combined audience of Wausa and Bloomfield students to collect 5,000 pairs of shoes in 15 days during a presentation at Bloomfield Junior/Senior High.**

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# Report: Alcohol, Marijuana Contributed To Fatal Accident

**BY NATHAN JOHNSON**  
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Alcohol and marijuana contributed to the July accident that killed 30-year-old Joshua Paul Scott, according to the Yankton Police Department.

Chief Brian Paulsen said the toxicology report was recently completed, and Scott's blood-alcohol content was .207, more than double the .08 legal limit for operating a motor vehicle. Marijuana was also found in his system.

The cause of death was previously determined to be blunt force trauma.

The crash on the embankment of Marne Creek along East Highway 50 was reported at 6:16 a.m. July 16.

Scott's car went off the south side of Fourth Street just before the Marne Creek bridge near Burleigh Street. The vehicle came to a rest, in part, on top of a major City of Yankton sewage pipe between the vehicular bridge and a walking bridge just to the south. It's estimated the car was traveling at 65 miles per hour in a 30 mph zone when it went off the road, and it sustained extensive damage upon impact.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

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