

# SAFETY

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skills. He noted that he is just one of several volunteer leaders active in the club.

"I guess you could say I've been around the longest," he said.

For some archery participants, Sunday afternoon was more than a time of leisurely practice. They were taking their best shots at scoring high enough to qualify for state competition.

"Things are a little more serious when you're trying to qualify for state," Hout said.

The Shooting Sports program is offered nationwide through 4-H.

"We are a 4-H program sponsored through the Extension program. We are a regular 4-H club, and right now we meet every Sunday afternoon. We offer archery, BB gun, shotgun, .22 (caliber rifle), and there are opportunities for pistols," Hout said.

The club is able to offer such a diverse program of shooting instruction thanks to its seven volunteer club leaders.

"Safety is the very first thing that we teach, and a common phrase that may be yelled out by anyone at any time is 'Cease fire.' When anybody hears that, you shut down, no matter what," he said.

"Everything is set down and put in a safe situation so nobody gets hurt. We want kids to learn safety, and to handle things correctly and properly."

The Clay County Flyers currently have enough leaders to be able to offer shooting instruction year-round. The Clay County Sportsmen's Club allows the 4-H'ers to use its facilities near the Clay County Park during the summer for training with shotguns and .22 caliber rifles.

"We use the 4-H building here in town for BB guns and archery. We started with the BB guns and archery during the end

of November, and just got things going again here this year," Hout said.

The Shooting Sports program involves much more than simply teaching young people how to shoot a gun or bow and arrow. Heavy emphasis is also placed on teaching participants everything they need to know about bows, arrows, shotguns, and BB guns.

"In archery, for example, we teach them about understanding their bow, understanding the arrow, understanding every part of what they're doing. When they step to the line, they should be able to tell you what part of the bow is where; they should be able to tell you different areas of safety, and the proper way to treat their bow," Hout said. "Before they ever get to shoot an arrow, that's one of the first things they've got to know - proper handling of the equipment and proper knowledge of the things they are doing."

Hout has been involved in teaching Shooting Sports for seven years. His involvement began when his son desired to participate in the program, but there was no full-time leader.

"A few of the other 4-H leaders from other clubs asked if I'd be interested in doing it," he said, "so a friend of mine and I went through the courses and got started."

The club was already active in the Vermillion community, Hout added, when he became involved.

"Shooting sports for 4-H had been here a lot of years," he said. "It's a volunteer thing, and for us to have seven leaders means that many people have stepped up to do it."

One sign of the program's success: Kids from Vermillion have participated in state shooting competitions every year.

"The state competition takes place every year in Ft. Pierre," Hout said. "It's usually a three-day event."

The club operates on a limited budget, but does own a few bows and BB guns so that kids who can't afford such equipment will still have the opportunity to learn how to shoot.



(Above) Wyatt Waage, 13, is presented a plaque by Clay County Flyers 4-H club leader Randy Hout in honor of his recent "Robin Hood" achievement in archery marksmanship. (Photo by David Lias)

(Left) Wyatt Knutson, 10, stands by the target that holds two of his arrows that became conjoined when he shot what is referred to as a "Robin Hood," in which one arrow lodges in the nock of another. Wyatt Knutson accomplished this feat approximately an hour after fellow club member Wyatt Waage received special recognition for doing the same thing last December. (Photo by David Lias)

## Enough to make Robin Hood jealous...

By David Lias  
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On Dec. 2, 2012, Wyatt Waage, 13-year-old son of Brad and Patty Waage of Vermillion, accomplished a feat in archery marksmanship that hardly anyone can brag about.

Until last Sunday, that is.

"Wyatt Waage did something that you just don't see," Randy Hout, a leader of the Clay County Flyers 4-H club, said during the club's meeting in the 4-H building in Vermillion. "He shot one arrow, and he shot another arrow, and it completely went through the nock of the first arrow. It was perfect - the two arrows, going together, made one

arrow. You don't see that, hardly ever."

Waage, a member of the club, was simply practicing the afternoon of Dec. 2 when he managed to split his own arrow, so to speak.

"It's called 'shooting a Robin Hood.' It was pretty neat. It's something to be celebrated," Hout said.

The club took a break from its activities Sunday in the Extension building in Vermillion to watch as Hout presented a plaque to Waage in recognition of his achievement.

"I have been helping as club leader for seven years, and I've not seen this happen in this building," Hout said, referring to Waage's feat

of excellent marksmanship. "I've seen some tremendous scores ... but I've never seen someone shoot a Robin Hood. I think it's something to be recognized. I think it's something to aspire to."

With fellow club members gathered around, Hout presented Waage a plaque acknowledging that the Clay County Flyers hold his achievement in marksmanship in high esteem.

Wyatt Knutson, 10-year-old son of Matt and Jenny Knutson of Vermillion, evidently was listening to Hout very closely. Approximately an hour later, Knutson also shot a Robin Hood.

# Forum: Money, conflict used by al-Qaeda in Africa

By Travis Gulbrandson

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"Are we losing Africa to al-Qaeda?"

The answer is unclear, but if people want to prevent this from happening, changes must be made.

This was the consensus reached at an international forum held Monday afternoon in Farber Hall on the USD campus.

The Sanford School of Health Sciences' Dr. Moses Ikiugu, a native of Kenya, said one of the real questions is how al-Qaeda attracts young people in the first place.

"What is it that they are getting (from al-Qaeda) that they are not getting anywhere else?" he said.

One thing is money, Ikiugu said, pointing out that many of the places from which groups like al-Qaeda recruit new members are those that have nothing in terms of finances, and often seem forgotten by their own countries.

"If we don't work to solve these problems in places that ... are so left behind, basically they become sect leaders for such things," he said. "I'm sure that if people (can access) nice health care, good schools, probably they would not have been taken in so quickly by these young men."

Ikiugu added that when Islamic ideologues go to places like Africa, they come with "a different attitude," one that sees

them reinvesting in the places they visit.

For example, Ikiugu said that many Africans supported Muammar Gaddafi, former leader of Libya, in large part because he invested in many African states, "in many different things, not just one or two."

Dr. Isaac Joslin, assistant professor of languages, linguistics and philosophy, said the problem is exacerbated by ongoing conflicts in several African nations, which are used as opportunities for expansion by groups like al-Qaeda.

One such nation is that of Mali, which was thrown into crisis in March 2012 after a military coup d'état that Joslin said was performed "in response to the government's perceived inability to support its soldiers who were being routed by an ethnic Tuareg rebellion in the north. ...

"The disorder spawned by this rebellion created the proper circumstances for war machines to migrate to new, fertile soil," he said.

As such, Joslin said Time magazine has reported an influx of Islamist fighters, as well as members of the radical Nigerian insurgent group, Boko Haram.

In addition, many of Gaddafi's former supporters have entered the picture, he said.

"Although Islamist groups have been operating in the region for some time ... it is worth noting that the terrorist

network is not the grand mastermind of the crisis, but rather something more akin to a post hoc attribution," Joslin said.

In terms of Africa being "lost" to al-Qaeda, Joslin said the continent was never "ours" to lose, but also, "There is a sense in which we must admit that it has already been lost inasmuch as al-Qaeda has successfully established itself as a permanent discursive element in the African continent, much like it is an inextricable part of 21st century global discourse."

The only certainty, he said, is that the Malian conflict will continue "for some time until a profitable alternative to war-making is proposed by local, regional and transnational authorities and institutions."

Ikiugu said as much earlier in the program, stating, "Governments have to do their part in taking care of their citizens."

The forum was sponsored by the Beacom School of Business and moderated by Dr. Benno Wymar.

# TOUR

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Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, the band played at high schools in Sturgis, Spearfish and Hot Spring.

"We'll drive to Pierre on Tuesday night, stay over and play at Pierre High School Wednesday morning," Olson


said, "and we'll be at Platte-Geddes Wednesday afternoon and then we'll head home."

"We'll do six school visits instead of eight because of the weather," he said. "It will be good to do that. The band does tour every year - some years a little further away than others. It depends partly on our budget, and we try to get to areas in the region that we haven't been to before. It's a good thing to do -

it's good for the school and it's good for the students. It's good for everyone involved."

This is Olson's fourth year as director of the USD Symphonic Band, and in that time, he's learned the importance of promotion and marketing of the group.

"One of the things I want to do is make the band a little more visible," he said.



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Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 pm at Clay Rural Water Plant

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Other annual business will be conducted including opening of quotes for gravel, road maintenance, and snow removal. Any citizen wishing to add an item to the agenda, please contact the supervisors at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Brandi Johnson, Clerk

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