

# World Archery Event Tackles Security

When it comes to protecting archery contestants from around the world, Yankton area first responders want to remain on target.

A security briefing Thursday at the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) Easton Archery Center complex brought together law enforcement, firefighters and other emergency personnel. They are preparing for the influx of up to 1,000 teenage contestants, their coaches and spectators for the World Archery Youth Championship, set for June 8-14.

NFAA president Bruce Cull welcomed the first responders, walking them through the building and taking them on a tour of the outdoor competition site.

"We want to make this experience as good as it can be," he said of the world championship.

Thursday's briefing covered everything from security and safety procedures to medical emergencies, fires and inclement weather. At one point, the discussion included air space and dealing with the presence of planes and even unmanned aerial vehicles.

In addition, the briefing took into account the wide variety of cultures, languages, religions and food preferences that will be found among the contestants, staff and spectators from around the globe.

The world archery tournament has drawn the attention and cooperation of state officials. Thursday's briefing included Steve Pluta with the South Dakota Department of Public Safety's Office of Homeland Security.

Pluta said he was impressed with the coordination of regional resources for the June event.

"This (tournament) is

a huge event, and this is a world-class facility," he said of the NFAA center. "Kudos to the agencies and their planning for the archery tournament."

Any large event brings its logistical concerns, and

three-day celebration. Such events offer a trial run for the world archery tournament.

However, there are also differences between the events, Nickles said.

"With Riverboat Days,

all the possibilities," he said. "It will be great if nothing happens, but our planning needs to be efficient and effective."

The briefing also continued the cooperation among Yankton, Vermillion, Yankton

ants and support staff. The number could change before final registration May 10, with the possibility of hosting visitors from 60 nations around the globe.

In response, the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce



Area emergency responders load up vehicles during Thursday's security briefing to check out the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) complex. The complex will host hundreds of overseas visitors during the World Archery Youth Championship from June 8-14.

RANDY DOCKENDORF / PRESS & DAKOTAN

an international event with overseas visitors brings unique issues, Pluta said. In addition, the authorities need to plan how the event will affect the local community, he noted.

However, hosting an international event also brings tremendous opportunities, he said.

"This is a phenomenal event and recognizes South Dakota," he said. "The key thing is to plan so the athletes, staff and community have a safe event."

Yankton deputy fire chief Larry Nickles noted the community has hosted large events such as Riverboat Days, which draws 100,000 visitors during the

we know what to expect. We have people come and go all day long. And we're drawing people from a 150-mile radius," he said. "With the archery tournament, we're hosting people from all over the world. Everything we do may seem strange to them, and many of their customs may seem strange to us. Our role is to make them as comfortable and feel as much at home as we can."

Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen saw Thursday's briefing as an excellent opportunity for first responders to familiarize themselves with the NFAA complex and to learn the fastest response during emergencies.

"We have to think about

County and Clay County emergency personnel, he added.

"We started talking about this (archery tournament) after Jan. 1. There will be a full five months of discussion leading up to this event. We are working for the safety of the athletes, their entourage, spectators and the community," the police chief said.

"Our planning covers from the moment they arrive until the last day they are here. Even after the contestants leave, we'll have a debriefing on how we can improve the process."

Tournament director Nancy Wenande noted the preliminary registration stands at nearly 700 contest-

is offering cultural diversity training sessions, Wenande said. More information can be found on the Chamber website or by contacting Executive Director Carmen Schramm.

"You don't need to be in the service industry to attend the (cultural diversity) sessions. It's a great educational opportunity for anyone," Wenande said. "For the incoming contestants, we have the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on the website."

Wenande encourages the public to attend the archery tournament, and she welcomes area residents to sign up as volunteers.

She predicts the international visitors will be impressed not only by the local hospitality but also the vast prairie horizons.

"Many of these contestants come from cities and countries where space is at a premium," she said.

"When they arrive in Yankton, they'll see thousands of acres of farmland and miles of highway. They'll just be amazed by all our space."

## YANKTON NOT FOOLING AROUND!

YANKTON, S.D. — Not much is expected of cities the size of Yankton these days. That needs to change, according to a new group of young and old leaders.

So it's no April Fool's joke that the Yanktonians intend to launch a new initiative on April 1 in the theater of the town's high school with students, teachers, business and community activists and anyone interested.

And exactly what's the announcement?

Well, nobody's saying. The group called Onward Yankton has quietly formed, and members say they expect participation to expand.

"We hope this is the start of something big, but it's really up to all of the community," said Michelle Cwach, a farmwife and media relations manager at a local manufacturer. "We are starting at the high school because — I can say this much — we want to make Yankton a better place for today's teens to live and work and raise their own families."

"We can't find any example of another community that has done something like what we're planning," said Tabitha Likness, another one of the early organizers of the mysterious project. Likness, who works at Mount Marty College, said an interesting mix of "old hands and newcomers" have come together to plan the launch.

The announcement will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, at a special meeting of One Million Cups, the entrepreneurial gathering that meets weekly in Yankton. It will be held in the Yankton Senior High School theater. Everyone is welcome.

The organizers will do a repeat performance at the Yankton Middle School at 1 p.m. on the same day. Other schools in the greater Yankton area are planning to live-stream the 9 a.m. event. School officials from neighboring towns are also welcome to do the same by accessing the school's website.

Cwach said a Facebook page titled Onward Yankton has already been formed, and a website (onwardyankton.com) will go live on the morning of April 1.

"We'd like to tell people to contact us for more information, but the truth is that we're not saying anything else until the morning of April 1," said Likness.

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**Where will you spend Eternity?**

*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."*

**Where will all unbelievers spend Eternity?**

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.*

*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."*

**HEAVEN**

*"Enter by the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction and many are those who enter by it."*

*"He that believeth not shall be damned."*

**HELL**

*"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life and few are those who find it."*

**"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."**  
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