

Cautions Relief As River Levels Fall

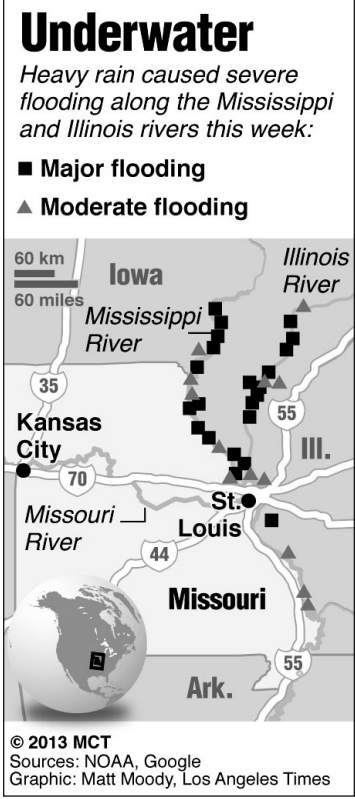
BY JIM SUHR AND JIM SALTER
Associated Press

PEORIA HEIGHTS, Ill. — Slowly retreating floodwaters gave Midwesterners some hope Wednesday that the worst was over, but many worried that the earthen and days-old sandbag levees along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers could still fail.

Fast-moving currents were testing makeshift protections around Dutchtown, Mo., where the Mississippi was expected to rise well above flood stage later this week and potentially send water into the scattered homes and businesses that comprise the tiny, unprotected river town.

In downtown Peoria, Ill., tens of thousands of white and yellow sandbags stacked 3 feet high lined blocks of the scenic riverfront, holding back Illinois River waters that already reached a 70-year high and surrounded the visitors' center and restaurants in the 114-year-old former train depot. Across the street, smaller sandbag walls blocked riverside pedestrian access to the headquarters of heavy equipment maker Caterpillar and the city's arts and culture museum.

Despite the receding water, city leaders were reluctant to



issue an all-clear.

"I'm very pleased so far, but we're not out of the woods," Peoria City Manager Patrick Ulrich said. "The water's going to stay up for a while."

Higher water levels over extended periods of time put significant pressure on levees regardless of how well they're built. Sandbag walls are particularly vulnerable because of their porous nature, and concerns persisted along the Mississippi River in southeast Missouri, where smaller levees had been overtopped or breached.

Elsewhere, there were no reports of other significant Midwestern population centers in peril, but high water bedeviled business and home owners who are assessing the damage across multiple states.

— About a dozen northern Indiana homes were condemned and as many as 200 were damaged by flooding in Kokomo after downpours pushed the Wildcat Creek to its highest level on record. Residents took to the streets in canoes, and some people had to be rescued from their vehicles.

— Hundreds of evacuated residents began returning to their homes in western Michigan as the rain-swollen Grand River began receding.

— Officials in Fargo, N.D., are considering scaling back flood protection efforts after the National Weather Service on Wednesday lowered the crest

prediction on the Red River by a couple of feet. The crest late next week in Fargo and Moorhead, Minn., will likely range between 38 and 40 feet. The river overflows its banks at 18 feet, but most structures are protected to about 38 feet.

In Peoria, citywide damage estimates are murky and could be sorted out in about a week once flood-affected businesses weigh in on their losses, Ulrich said.

Up to 20 homes sustained damage, though much of downtown was spared by what he called lessons from floods past: Water Street, which runs along the riverfront, was raised years ago to form more of a barrier between the river and the central business district.

The city's museum and a Caterpillar visitors' center opened last October and together cost \$150 million. Both tourism attractions were built on intentionally elevated ground — again out of flood concerns — and weren't harmed by the latest inundation.

"Being as proactive as we were, we mitigated what could have been severe damage to some of those properties," Ulrich said. "That would be an awful lot of water to be sitting inside someone's business."

Confederate Flags Fly Again At VA Hosptial In Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS (AP) — Confederate flags are flying again at a southwestern South Dakota veterans hospital, upsetting two patients who first complained about the flags and then say officials allowed them to complete a hospital program early.

The two flags were removed from historical displays at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Hot Springs last week after some patients said they were symbolic of racism. The flags were returned to the displays Tuesday as "a reflection of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for America," VA Black Hills Health System Director Steve DiStasio told the *Rapid City Journal*.

"The original purpose of the VA's Hot Springs facility was for the care of Civil War veterans," he said. "Out of respect for all of our nation's veterans, from every battle in history, we will maintain the historic Freedom Shrine (display) in its entirety."

Craig DeMouchette, a veteran of Desert Storm in Iraq, said he understands the historical value of the flags but still objects to

their display.

"These flags belong in a museum, not an active government building that treats veterans, some of them African-American," he said.

DeMouchette, of Denver, and fellow veteran Kameron Mitchell, of Lincoln, Neb., said that a few days after they raised the flag issue, they were told by VA officials that they could leave their treatment program for post-traumatic stress disorder more than two weeks early, with full credit.

They contend the offer was intended to get rid of them and defuse the flag controversy. VA officials declined to respond to that assertion.

VA Black Hills Health System spokeswoman Jill Broecker said officials can't discuss individual veterans or their treatment.

"Our first priority is always to maintain the privacy of our veterans," she said.

DeMouchette said he has contacted a member of Colorado's congressional delegation for help in once again getting the flags removed.

Service

From Page 1

third floor of the old Yankton County Courthouse as our circuit judge from 1934-1973," Hunhoff said. "He was first elected in 1934 at age 52 and won a total of 10 consecutive four-year terms. He retired in 1973 due to ill health at age 91. At that time, he was the oldest and longest-serving trial judge in the United States. He died in 1974."

8. Clayton Oien: 39 years, highway department;

9. Arnold "Archie" Rokusek: 39 years, highway department;

10. Dave Hunhoff: 38 years (1972-2010), sheriff;

"Dave [who is Hunhoff's brother] served 38 years, including eight consecutive four-year terms as sheriff — both county records for that office," Hunhoff said;

11. Tom Hunhoff: 38 years (1975-present), highway department;

12. Pam Marchand: 36 years (1977-present), treasurer;

13. Steve Larson: 35 years (1977-2012), deputy sheriff;

14. Janet Moderegger: 34 years (1976-2010), deputy register of deeds;

15. Cathy Lucas: 33 years (1974-2007), deputy register of deeds;

"Lynette (Larson), Janet (Moderegger) and Cathy served a combined 110 years in the Register of Deeds office," Hunhoff stated. "They spent 33 consecutive years together as the three-person team in that office. I have yet to

hear of another office where an entire office staff worked side-by-side for that long," and

16. Virgil Boyles: 33 years (1919-1925 and 1930-1957), county judge.

Hunhoff also came across some other notable figures during his research.

Lesterville farmer George Mueller served nine consecutive four-year terms, or 36 years, on the County Commission. He began his tenure in 1950, but lost his bid for a 10th term in 1986.

"At one time, I believe his nine consecutive terms was a state record, but I'm not sure if it still stands," Hunhoff said. "It is a county record."

Yankton blacksmith John Fanslow served as county commissioner for a total of 29 years, although they weren't continuous terms. He was elected to eight four-year terms during a 41-year period that started in 1892 when Fanslow was 32 years old.

"He died in the midst of his eighth term on May 8, 1933, at age 73," Hunhoff said. "Although quite ill during his final term, Fanslow made a valiant effort to fulfill his duties. He checked out of the hospital on May 1, a week before he died, so he could attend the commission's regular monthly meeting on May 2."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](#)

Sioux Falls Council To Spend \$1.8M Of Surplus

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Sioux Falls City Council has decided to spend \$1.8 million in surplus money for a generator for law enforcement and a tractor for the fire department, among other projects.

The *Argus Leader* reported that council members decided during Tuesday's work session to spread the money across more than 10 different projects or upgrades. The projects will now be put into a resolution, which will require a final majority vote at a future meeting.

The projects include a \$290,000 fire station alerting system, \$45,000 for a tractor for the fire department and \$800,000 for a larger generator for the law enforcement center.

"We have to have a different system to alert all the stations together, the current system will not do it," Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Chief Jim Sideras said about the new fire station alerting system replacement.

Councilor Dean Karsky said the system replacement would help accommodate future fire stations that will come online as the city grows.

Another project is outfitting the city's bus stops and curb-ramp upgrades to meet requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act. One-quarter of the city's bus stops don't meet the federal standard, according to consultants hired in 2011 to perform a city-wide audit of public facilities.

The surplus money is partly the result of unanticipated revenue from a second penny sales tax.

Neb. Lawmakers Advance Wind Tax Bill

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lawmakers have advanced a tax incentive bill designed to attract wind-energy companies to Nebraska.

The 30-0 vote on Wednesday came as a Kansas-based company, TradeWind Energy, considers building a possible location in northeast Nebraska.

TradeWind Energy executive Frank Costanza said the company is interested in Nebraska's wind capacity, which ranks third nationwide. But he says the state has done "almost nothing" to compete with Kansas, Oklahoma or South Dakota.

The vote came one day after Iowa approved \$18 million in tax credits for Facebook to build a nearly \$300 million data center. Kearney was vying for the project, but lost in part because Facebook has placed a heavy emphasis on sustainable wind power.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Steve Lathrop, of Omaha. The bill is LB104.

Rapid City Airport Passenger Numbers Down

RAPID CITY (AP) — The number of passengers flying through Rapid City Regional Airport has steadily declined in recent years, but the airport's executive director hopes that will change with a strong summer.

The *Rapid City Journal* reported Tuesday that total passengers peaked in 2010 at about 610,000. That number dropped in 2011 to 540,000 and 533,000 in 2012.

But executive director Cameron Humphres said the airport is forecasting passenger gains this year of up to 3 percent. He said he's hopeful Rapid City may get new flights to and from the North Dakota oil fields, which has seen many new flights in recent months.

"We're looking at that very closely, and trying to help the airlines understand the demand between Rapid City and Williston and Dickinson," he said. "The demand doesn't look to be quite strong enough to support daily service, but maybe a twice or three-time weekly flight."

Officials also hope a \$20 million renovation project completed last September will attract people. The renovation widened hallways, added more security lines and added passenger amenities, such as an outdoor patio.

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We remember those who have passed
away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 25th we will publish in print and online at [Yankton.net](#) a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.

Aneta
Burrows

Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery
still inspire us all, and the
memory of your smile
fills us with joy
and laughter.

Dan, Ann & Sarah

- Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.
1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
 2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
 3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
 4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together.
My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
 5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
 6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
 7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
 8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
 9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
 10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
 11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
 12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
 13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
 14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
 15. I have written my own message and it is included.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo.

Fill out the form below and mail to:
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Deadline: Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Name of deceased _____	
Date of birth _____	Date of passing _____
Number of selected verse _____ OR Personal message (25 word limit) _____	

Print your name here _____	
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DEADLINE: Noon, April 26th

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