



Sunny To Mostly Sunny

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Thune Surveys Yankton Flooding

Senator Speaks With Larson's Landing Owner About Damage

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

After surveying the flood damage Friday along the Missouri River at Larson's Landing RV Park west of Yankton, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) said the devastation breaks his heart.

"It's just more of the wreckage of the summer of 2011," he said at the water's edge. "It's another example (in South Dakota) of a lot of people displaced and who have lost everything. We're a tough people out here, and we get through a lot, but these people are going to have to dig really deep. We'll work on what we can to help them."

Larson's Landing owner Doug Larson said about 18 mobile homes in the park are probably total losses and will have to be removed when the waters recede. With 150,000 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) still roaring through Gavins Point Dam, much of Larson's Landing is still under water despite a wall of sandbags where the shore used to be located. Larson said the water level dropped about 16 inches when the releases at the dam were dropped from 160,000 cfs to 150,000 cfs.

He spoke with Thune about the possibility of getting a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan to rebuild his camp. He would like to have it operational by next spring.

"We're seeing the water go down, which makes us feel a little better," Larson said. "But you can't do anything if you don't have any cash. I'm not looking for anybody to give me anything. I just want to be able to get a SBA loan to get



Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), left, spoke with Larson's Landing owner Doug Larson Friday about the impact of Missouri River flooding on his camp west of Yankton.

some cash and start rebuilding."

In July, South Dakota was denied a request for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Charles Mix, Clay, Day, Hamlin, Hand, Hughes, Kingsbury, Lyman, Stanley, Union and Yankton counties.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced this week that the state is appealing that decision in an attempt to get help for private property owners.

A presidential disaster declaration has already been announced for South

Dakota because of flood damage to roads, bridges and other public infrastructure in 37 counties.

Thune said he finds it hard to believe the state wouldn't qualify for individual assistance, as well.

"There are a lot of people up and down the Missouri River this year who have had similar experiences (to the Yankton area)," he stated. "I would think the cumulative effect of that would certainly make us eligible for the FEMA assistance that might be available. Hopefully,

we'll get back a different determination."

The effort to press the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for answers about how the flood event transpired will continue, Thune said.

"In fairness to the Corps, it was an extraordinary event," he said. "It was unprecedented in South Dakota. At the same time, we continue to ask questions about why they appear to be so slow in responding. The short amount of time

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Obama Expects Earful On Midwest Bus Tour

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is expecting an earful from regular folks, including supporters, over their frustrations with Congress and some of Obama's decisions when he sets out on a three-day, campaign-style bus tour of Midwestern states next week.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Friday that people of all political persuasions will see Obama in their towns in Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, and will use the occasion of the presidential visit to take their concerns straight to the top.

"The president does anticipate that he'll detect a little frustration about the dysfunction in Congress and the strident position of some in Congress to put their parties and affiliation ahead of the country," Earnest said, as he tried to set expectations for the tour.

"I also anticipate that there will be some people who are supporters of the president, who voted for him last time, who will have some questions for him about the compromises that he was willing to make in the context of this deficit debate," he added.

A bill Obama signed this month to keep the government from defaulting on its debt didn't include tax increases that Obama had insisted were needed to help trim the federal budget in a balanced way. Republicans refused to accept any tax hikes as part of the deal.

With jobs and the economy a top concern for the public and politicians alike, the White House says the bus tour was designed to get Obama into the heartland and discussing ideas for growing the economy, jump-starting hiring and helping the middle class during sessions with small-business owners, families, private sector leaders, rural organizations, local government officials and others.



Obama

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Commuters Get Creative To Deal With Area Flooding

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

KNOX COUNTY, Neb. — Talk about a peaceful commute.

There's no road rage in parts of Knox County. For that matter, there's no road.

Welcome to life in the slow lane because of historic Missouri River flooding.

Since late May, water has covered two stretches of Nebraska Highway 12 east and west of Niobrara. For more than two months, northeast Nebraskans have found creative ways of reaching their jobs in southeast South Dakota.

Most of them work for Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, although a few hold jobs elsewhere. They use a variety of commuting methods ranging from kayaks, boats and buggies to crossing the water in hip waders and a jacked-up bicycle.

"It's frustrating, but you have to get to work and do your job," said Mark Pischel, who lives northwest of Verdigre, Neb.

BOATING ALONG

Pischel works as a prison guard in Springfield and boats part of the way, seeing his 30-minute trip turn into a 45-minute commute.

Still, it beats making the 85- to 100-mile one-way trip around the Missouri River, using either the Fort Randall Dam bridge at Pickstown or the Discovery Bridge at Yankton, he said.

"When you work overnight, you don't feel like driving home for two hours at 6 a.m.," he said. "And it would cost about \$35 per vehicle each trip. It's close to

COMMUTE | PAGE 8



Jeff Barta (left) and Dustin Pischel use a buggy to detour closed stretches of Nebraska Highway 12 while commuting to their jobs as correctional officers at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. They live in Niobrara, Neb., and Verdigre, Neb., respectively, and join others who creatively commute between northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota.

Mauch Family Honors Dad With Thrashing Party

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

It was thrashing weather Sunday and the Hubert Mauch family of Menominee made good use of it. They thrashed five acres of oats.

Way back in 1990, Mauch decided he wanted to honor his dad Edward on the anniversary of his death by holding a Thrashing party. A tradition was started. Every five years since, the family has had a thrashing celebration.

"Thrashing time was a special time for my dad in the good old days," said Mauch. "Neighbors got together to help other and had a good time doing it."

For the first thrashing event, Mauch borrowed a thrasher from Leonard Tramp. By the time the

event rolled around five years later, he had purchased a thrashing machine from Leonard Gleich of Yankton. Mauch and wife Henrietta noticed the old machine sitting on Gleich's place when they drove by so they stopped and asked if he wanted to sell it. He has had very good luck with the machine since they got it and haven't had to do many repairs. That's good because repairs would be hard to come by.

A son-in-law Keith Guenther works at Kayton's and found several containers of belt dressing standing in a corner on the second level of the store in Crofton. Having that certain kind of oil to keep the belt lubricated to run the thrasher was like a gold mine.

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Deal Reached In Burbank Man's Dog-Beating Case

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

A deal has been reached in the case of a Burbank man who allegedly beat his neighbors' dog to death with a hammer.

Clay County State's Attorney Teddi Gertsema said Robert Kyte is pleading guilty to intentional damage to property in the second degree and killing or injuring the animal of another, both of which are Class 1 misdemeanors.

Under South Dakota law, Kyte could face up to one year imprisonment in the county jail and a fine of \$2,000 or both for

each charge. He was set to make an appearance in the Clay County Courthouse Friday before the deal was made.

Initially, Kyte was charged with killing or injuring the animal of another, as well as intentional damage to property in the first degree, which is a Class 6 felony.

Had the felony charge been maintained, he could have faced up to two years imprisonment in the state penitentiary, a fine of \$5,000 or both.

In addition, Kyte will be re-

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The Mauch family takes part in a thrashing party, a celebration started in 1990 to honor Edward Mauch.

TRUCKLOAD TIRE SALE 2 Days Only!!



28th ANNIVERSARY August 12th-13th FREE Hot Dogs & Beverage Friday 8-5:30 - Saturday 8-3 FRI. & SAT. 11AM-1PM

Minneapolis Weekend Giveaway w/tickets to Nickelodeon Theme Park w/Free Lodging & Other Prizes Drawing Sat., Aug. 13



REGION 2 | OBITUARIES 3 | WORLD 3 | LIFE 5 | COMICS 6 | MIDWEST 7 | SPORTS 9-10 | CLASSIFIEDS 12-15

MONDAY: Audiologist Forms Hearing Loss Support Group

YANKTON RECYCLING NEXT WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET