

Work Under Way On Kimball Grain Elevator

KIMBALL (AP) — Work is under way on a new \$32 million grain elevator about six miles east of Kimball.

The *Mitchell Daily Republic* reports (<http://bit.ly/qymJAm>) that topsoil at the Liberty Grain LLC group site is being stripped for building sites and roads.

Chuck Jepson says the project should be completed around October 2012.

Jepson's facility is expected to hire 70 to 100 construction workers for more than a year to build the grain elevator.

Once complete, the elevator will have 12 to 15 employees.

The new elevator could handle 400 to 600 trucks each day dumping 100,000 bushels an hour.

Jepson estimates the maximum number of bushels of grain entering the facility at 15 million per year.

Wahoo Residents Urged To Boil Water

WAHOO, Neb. (AP) — Residents of Wahoo are being urged to boil their drinking water after tests turned up E. coli bacteria in the city's distribution system.

KOLN-TV in Lincoln (<http://bit.ly/pbfYKN>) says Thursday the bacteria could have come from added run-off getting into the water supply. Health officials say bottled or boiled water should be used until further notice.

Residents will be notified when the water is safe to drink again.

Groups Seek EPA Action Against Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Three environmental and activist groups are serving notice to the Environmental Protection Agency that they intend to sue the agency if it doesn't respond to a 2007 petition seeking to revoke Iowa's authority to issue permits under the Clean Water Act.

The Washington D.C.-based Environmental Integrity Project, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement and the Iowa chapter of the Sierra Club filed their notice of intent to sue EPA on Thursday.

The EPA did not immediately respond to the notice when contacted by telephone and e-mail Thursday.

The groups say Iowa has failed to meet minimal standards and to implement critical regulations for factory farms. They say Iowa laws have failed to keep pace with changes in the livestock industry, leading to hundreds of manure runoffs into the state's waterways.

Activist Means Battling Cancer

PORCUPINE (AP) — An American Indian activist who says he has survived nine assassination attempts is now battling throat cancer.

Former American Indian Movement leader Russell Means tells the *Rapid City Journal* (<http://bit.ly/qrC7pM>) that doctors have told him the cancer is too advanced for surgery.

He says he would not have chosen surgery anyway because it would have meant the removal of his tongue and his ability to speak.

Means also is forgoing mainstream medical treatments such as radiation and chemotherapy, turning instead to alternative treatments and traditional American Indian remedies.

He says he is at peace with the possibility that he might die because Lakota people believe death is a change of worlds.

Means also is an actor, known for his role in "The Last of the Mohicans."

Jackpot-Winning Ticket Sold In S.D.

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Lottery officials say someone who bought a Dakota Cash ticket in Spearfish won the jackpot in Wednesday's drawing.

The prize is worth slightly more than \$68,000.

The odds of winning the jackpot are one in about 325,000. The winner has about six months to claim the money.

Dakota Cash is played only in South Dakota.

The jackpot goes back to \$20,000 for the next drawing, on Saturday.

Sacrifices Needed From Governors To Avert Floods

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Months of historic flooding have governors along the Missouri River ready to join forces, but experts warn that real change will require unpopular sacrifices and a new approach to controlling the nation's longest river.

Releasing water from reservoirs earlier and allowing the river to expand naturally would solve many of the problems, but there's a tradeoff: Doing so could push fishermen out of Montana's prized streams earlier, force farmers from the Dakotas to Missouri to give up land for floodplains, and limit barges hauling grain and other goods.

Governors from most of the eight river states will meet Friday in Omaha, Neb., to discuss options for keeping the river in its banks. Brigadier Gen. John R. McMahon, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers northwest district, also will attend, but agency spokeswoman Sarah Rivette cautioned against demanding sweeping changes based on one flood season.

The Missouri, which travels 2,341 miles, has been overflowing for months because of heavy Rocky Mountain snowpack and a

rainy spring. Flooding has forced residents from their homes, submerged thousands of acres of farmland, and rerouted motorists and trains. Cities, including Omaha, have spent millions of dollars to protect airports, water treatment plants and other facilities.

"This is a 1,700-mile flood — extraordinary — and we're all frustrated with it, and so our focus tomorrow is going to be to get a united front as Missouri River basin governors on the operation of the Missouri River reservoir system," Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback said Thursday.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls six dams along the river, from Fort Peck in northeast Montana to Gavins Point in the southeast corner of South Dakota.

Holding less water in upstream dams would mean less water for boating and fishing in upriver states, and fewer reserves during summer dry periods that could be hard for wildlife, worsen dry-year drought conditions in Kansas and Nebraska, severely limit barge traffic and reduce hydropower generation, said Tim Cowman, director of the Vermillion, S.D.-based Missouri River Institute, which studies the river basin.

"Eventually, nature will overpower what we've done to protect ourselves from the river," Cowman said. "How does that trans-

late into what we do along the river?"

Should channels be widened? Should reservoirs' spring target levels be lowered? Such questions will likely come up Friday. In interviews ahead of the meeting, governors and other state officials said they expect to unite around safeguards such as levee repairs and improved river-level gauges. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has said he would call lawmakers into a special session to develop a plan to repair and rebuild hundreds of miles of flood-damaged levees.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, who is hosting his fellow governors, said that the scale of this year's flooding should convince states to find common ground.

"I think you're going to see a more united front than ever before between the upstream states and the downstream states," Heineman said, adding that the flooding "impacted homes, farms, ranches, businesses, power facilities ... from North Dakota all the way down to Kansas and Missouri."

However, governors have promised in the past to work together to prevent flooding without much progress, said J. Michael Hayden, executive director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes. Hayden pointed to a report written after the river flooded in 1993 that warned of too

many roads, railroads and other infrastructure in the flood plain.


"Nobody really listened," Hayden said. "Since then, there's been tremendous development all the way from Pierre to Bismarck to Dakota Dunes to Sioux City. Of course, now, it's devastating."

And it may be difficult to bridge differences in the states' priorities. In Montana, for example, Gov. Brian Schweitzer said he tried to warn downstream states about Montana's huge snowpack this year, but ultimately, downstream flooding isn't his problem.

"It's not about flood control in Montana," Schweitzer said. "It's recreation, hydroelectricity. It's about irrigation."

Farming advocates say their industry has taken a backseat and want levees repaired to protect farmland. Iowa farmer Leo Ettleman, spokesman for Farmers for Responsible River Management, said flooding this year ruined more than two-thirds of the 2,300 acres he farms with his son.

"The entire system was built for flood control," he said. "Fish and wildlife issues have really dominated the scene in recent years. Agriculture didn't have a big enough voice. This recreation stuff is great, but there's got to be a happy medium here."



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