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Area Schools Begin
Football Seasons • **8**

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One year after the Larson's Landing RV Park west of Yankton sustained severe damage from record flooding on the Missouri River, the park's owners, Doug and Linda Larson are celebrating the rebirth of the business. They are shown standing on the business's jetty, with camp pads full of customers in the background. The Larsons are hosting a grand re-opening today (Saturday).

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Resurrection

Last Summer, Record Flooding On The Missouri River Demolished Much Of Larson's Landing, An RV Park Located Just A Mile Downstream From Gavins Point Dam. However, 'The Landing' Has Arisen From The Wreckage In Grand Style

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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"It's a miracle."
That's the answer Linda Larson gives when asked about the fact that Larson's Landing RV Park is holding a grand re-opening today (Saturday).
A year ago, she and her husband, Doug, were just coming to terms with the aftermath of the flooding along the Missouri River. It had devastated their business and destroyed their home.
They had watched as Gavins Point Dam releases were increased to 160,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the water overcame a wall of tens of thousands of sandbags.
The earth at the park was left pockmarked once the water receded. Trees, mobile homes and sandbags had to be discarded.
"It seemed like an insurmountable effort trying to get rid of all (the sandbags)," Doug said. "I think back to how fast they put them in and how many people were here doing it. It doesn't go that way when you're removing them."
Volunteers spent hours cutting open a

portion of the sandbags and emptying them.
Doug said sandbags are now buried all over the property, and many more are still awaiting a final resting place.
"We buried a lot of them where the roads are, because we raised the roads up," he stated.
This week, sitting in the park's new community center — a former garage that has been renovated and expanded — the couple looks over their property. They are amazed at how fast their business was rebuilt.
"It makes you very humble to lose everything you have and then have to stand up and say, 'Get out of my way! I'm going to fix this!'" Linda said. "It would have been easier to stay down."
A Small Business Administration loan helped the Larsons fund the rebuilding of their park.
Doug said that work on the RV pads is about 95 percent complete. Only a handful of the approximately 90 pads are still available for occupancy.
Some weren't done until July, but campers continued to ask for them.



Using a pole located on the Larson's Landing jetty as a yardstick, Doug Larson points to the height the river reached during last summer's flooding. Larson's own home was one of the victims of the high water.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

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What a difference a year makes: On the left is a photo shot in the Larson's Landing area in June 2011, just after discharges from Gavins Point Dam had reached 150,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). (The discharges eventually reached 160,000 cfs.) Much of the lower level of the park was submerged, and numerous structures were drowning in floodwater. A year later (right), Larson's Landing has lost some of the structures and the trees, but the area has been cleaned up and refurbished. This week, even this late in the season, it was nearly filled with RVs.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D



Proposed Water Storage Fees Draws Criticism

Plan Affects Springfield, Rural Systems

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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From its first announcement, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has drawn fire for its proposal to begin charging a storage fee for Missouri River water.
Under the proposal, the Corps designates a portion of the Missouri River reservoirs as surplus water. In turn, cities and industrial users must enter contracts for purchasing surplus water from the six reservoirs, including four in South Dakota.
The contracts would generally run for five years, with the possibility of renewing the contracts with updated costs for another five years.

"We are the only one of the Corps' districts that doesn't charge for water storage," said Larry Janis, project manager for the Omaha District.

Janis spoke with the *Press & Dakotan* following Thursday's public meeting in Sioux City.

The Corps' proposal would mean four cities, including Springfield, and three water systems, including the Randall Community Water District and the B-Y Water District, would be required to pay for water stored behind the dams.

The proposal calls for temporary use of up to 28,427 acre-feet per year of surplus water (73,058 acre-feet of storage) from the Gavins Point Dam/Lewis and Clark Lake. Under current policy pricing, the annual payment for surplus water would be \$174.66 per acre-foot of yield at fiscal year 2012 price levels.

The temporary use of 28,427 acre-feet/year of surplus water in Lewis and Clark Lake would result in additional net annual depletions of 2,584 acre-feet from the system



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Sioux City resident Bill Smith, president of the Missouri Valley Waterfowlers Association, stresses his concerns about a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposal to charge a water storage fee for cities and industries using Missouri River water. Smith spoke during this week's Corps public meeting in Sioux City.

for the 10-year period, beyond existing usage levels.

Under another proposal, the Omaha District is proposing to temporarily make available 27,973 acre-feet per year of surplus water available at the Fort Randall Dam/Lake Francis Case Project. Under current policy pricing, the annual payment for surplus water would be \$51.86 per acre-foot of yield.

The Corps has released a draft surplus water report and environmental assessment for each of the mainstem reservoirs. The Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo

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Report Card Shows YSD Makes The Grade

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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As the Yankton School District (YSD) begins the 2012-13 school year, district officials recently learned of the students' test results for this past school year.

Eighty-one percent of YSD students came out at, or above, proficient in reading, compared with a 73 percent average for students across the state.

In addition, 83 percent of students in the district were at or above proficient in math, compared to a 74 percent average across South Dakota.

Kathy Wagner, director of Student Services at YSD, noted there is no Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or Schools of Improvement results this year because South Dakota is moving away from No

Child Left Behind (NCLB) standards to the Common Core standards.

"If we were still following the NCLB standards this year, we would not have any schools in improvement based on the test scores," Wagner said.

She added Webster School was the only school in the district last year listed as a School of Improvement, but students there were able to boost their test scores from last year to this year.

Each school in YSD has a different Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) to meet for test scores, and students with disabilities in the elementary schools was the only subgroup that did not meet the AMO target.

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CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in Friday's *Press & Dakotan* that Stream Global Services, which will be closing its call center in Vermillion in late October, is part of Bain Capital Ventures. Bain owned Stream in the 1990s, but according to an email received Friday from Joe Thornton, Stream's senior di-

rector of brand management in Bloomington, Minn., Stream has not been a part of the Bain Capital group for several years. "I don't have the date handy when Bain's interest in the company ended, but we have not been part of that group for a long time," Thornton said. We apologize for the error.