



Partly Cloudy And A Bit Cool

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Dam Release Hike Helping City

Discharge Increase Helps Feed Water Intake Sites

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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With the announcement this week that flows from Gavins Point Dam will be increased, City of Yankton officials breathed a sigh of relief that no adjustments will be needed to the community's surface water intake.

Flows had been at 14,000 cubic feet per second

(cfs) with some earlier talk that they would be reduced to 12,000 cfs to conserve water in the upstream reservoirs. However, Jody Farhat, chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said Tuesday that releases would be increased to 18,000 cfs from Gavins Point Dam. Flows reached that level on Thursday.

"The good news is, the flows are going back up," Interim City Manager Al Viereck told the Yankton City

Commission Friday afternoon during the body's final meeting of the year. "The bad news is, it was getting scarily close (to exposing the surface water intake) at 14,000 cfs. At 12,000 cfs, we'd probably have to go in and lower the intake or put in a temporary intake."

The Corps anticipates that releases from Gavins Point Dam will be maintained at 18,000 cfs until early January. It has also said it is unlikely releases will dip below 14,000 cfs this winter.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Interim City Manager Al Viereck addresses the Yankton City Commission during its final 2012 meeting Friday.

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Nobody Fights Alone

Mount Marty College softball coach Albert Fernandez guides his Lancers during a game last spring at the Riverside Park softball complex. Fernandez is battling Stage 4 lung cancer, but he has received a tremendous outpouring of support. (P&D File Photo)

MMC Softball Coach Battles Cancer, But He Has An Army Supporting Him

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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As Mount Marty College softball coach, Albert Fernandez finds ways to defeat his opponent.

Now, he faces the greatest foe of his life, and it's not found on the softball field.

Fernandez, 39, is battling Stage 4 lung cancer discovered after brain surgery. He is receiving radiation treatment in Austin, Texas, and plans to return home for chemotherapy.

Speaking with the Press & Dakotan this week, Fernandez said he plans to confront his cancer with the same ferociousness he shows coaching from the sidelines.

"I made the decision to take it head on with attitude and effort. Those are the two things I can control at all times," he said. "I am positive that I will overcome this. It's just my way of looking at everything. I have to attack it with everything I have inside me."

Fernandez will receive an early Christmas present when his two children — 13-year-old AJ and 10-year-old Mya — join him today (Saturday) in Austin for the holidays. They have remained in contact by Skype and other means, but today marks the first time he will

spend time with them in about a month.

"When I get back together with my children, it's going to be a great day," he said. "I am staying with my sister and her family while I'm in Austin, and they are going away for the holidays, so my kids and I have the place. We have plans, like going to the movies and going to restaurants they have never been to."

The holidays will carry another celebration, as Fernandez is scheduled to receive his final radiation treatment Dec. 28. He will then begin chemo treatments, receiving pills rather than the intravenous (IV) method. He can return to Yankton and complete his chemo series.

In addition, he will need to receive CT scans every six weeks during a six-month period. He will also require blood work every two to four weeks.

However, he remains anxious to return to MMC, where he serves as an admissions counselor in addition to his coaching duties. A goal-driven person, he has set a Jan. 5 target date for returning to campus.

"I want to be there before classes start on the 14th, and I need a good week to get things ready," he said. "I want to take care of some

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THE WORLD



NRA Speaks Out After Tragedy • 7

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 22
3 shopping days to Christmas

Anniversary Of Executions To Be Recalled In Santee

BY LISA HARE

P&D Correspondent

SANTEE, Neb. — This Christmas while many are sipping eggnog, sorting through Santa's loot and celebrating Jesus' birth, the Dakota people in Santee will be passing the season in a different spirit of remembrance.

On Dec. 26, 1862, in Mankato, Minn., 38 Dakota Sioux Indians were hanged in the largest mass execution in America's history.

"It's a piece of the nation's past that not many people even know about today," said Roger Trudell, chairman of the Santee tribal council. "Almost all of the people in Santee are direct descendants of the prisoners and those that were executed in Minnesota."

To commemorate the event and honor the deceased, a day-long memorial will be held in Santee, Neb., on Wednesday.

Though the Santee tribe has long-honored the occasion with commemorative activities, Trudell added that this is the first year that horses will be included in the event.

"We are going to have the horses dressed in regalia with drapes that commemorate each one of the men that were executed," said social services director Misty Thomas.

Thomas also heads up the Sunktanka Oyate Wan On-ispepi—a tribal youth program that incorporates horse activities into life skills development and therapeutic measures for tribal youth in Santee.

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Crofton School Celebrates Great Test Showing

BY LINDA WUEBBEN

P&D Correspondent

CROFTON, Neb. — The Crofton District has a lot to celebrate.

On Friday, there was an unplanned early dismissal with a shortened class schedule and a movie for the students' enjoyment before they leave for the Christmas holiday and break.

There's a reason for all this hoopla.

Back in October, Governor Dave Heineman issued a press release which offered congratulations to several school districts from across the state which showed positive improvement in the state assessment testing required by the Nebraska Dept. of Education. Heineman grouped the schools and their assessment results according to their Nebraska School Activities Association classification. In the press release he announced accolades for Crofton students.

"Among Class C-2 schools, I want to recognize Crofton for being first in reading, math and science," Heineman said. He also added, "In Class C-2, the following schools have improved their reading

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Merry Christmas
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