

YALC Scrabble Tournament Spells Success

Despite unseasonably rainy weather, participants from the tri-state area gathered at The Center in Yankton for the third annual Yankton area Literacy Council's Spellebration Scrabble Tournament on Sunday, Jan. 27.

Adults challenged each other in three tournament rounds. Students 18 and under also took part in the event.

In the 12 and under tournament division, Trystan Heimes, Natalie Woerner and Izzy Heimes placed first, second and third, respectively. Beau Heimes took first place in the Youth division (12-18). In the Adult division, Kay Adams, Pam Monfore and Andra Gates placed first, second and third, respectively.

"Spellebrate for a Good Cause" is a fundraising event hosted by the Yankton Area Literacy Council (YALC), a United Way Agency. All proceeds are used to organize free tutoring classes for Yankton area residents who need to learn reading skills. YALC funds provide all tutoring materials and annual tutor certification for volunteer tutors.

YALC Board President Loretta Sorensen says the tournament benefits both YALC and the Yankton community by helping people help themselves.

"Funds raised through the tourna-

ment allow YALC to provide literacy skills to individuals with low level skills or those who need to learn English," Sorensen says. "This truly is a 'good cause' that helps individuals improve themselves and in turn contribute to our community."

YALC is a volunteer-based organization that promotes literacy programs in Yankton County and throughout the region. The group trains and provides tutors for students desiring help with reading, writing, speaking, math, English as a Second Language, and basic computer skills. YALC is a member of United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton, ProLiteracy America and the South Dakota Literacy Council.

YALC Coordinator, Bev Calvert, says dedicated tutors make the organization possible.

"We are grateful for the many tutors who are making such a positive impact on our community," Calvert says. "They volunteer their talents, skills and time to enable our students to further their education."

To learn more about YALC or for additional information about the tournament, contact Bev Calvert at 605-665-3048 or yalc@iw.net.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left: Natalie Woerner, Izzy Heimes and Trystan Heimes enjoyed an afternoon of Scrabble competition at the Yankton Area Literacy Council's third Scrabble tournament on Sunday, Jan. 27.

Corps

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The drought has already exerted an impact in two areas, according to the Corps' Mike Swenson.

The Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have agreed to forego the spring pulses this year. Those pulses were set for March and May.

In addition, the Corps has forecast that 2013 hydropower generation will fall below normal, he said. "We are looking at 7.9 billion kilowatt-hours, while with the normal reservoir level we would expect to generate 10 billion kilowatt-hours," he said.

Besides dealing with the drought, Corps surveys have shown changes to the Missouri River channel as a result of 2011 flooding, Farhat said. During that flood, the Corps released 160,000 cfs through Gavins Point Dam near Yankton — and a similar figure for Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown — for several months.

In previous winters during drought, the Corps has reduced releases to 12,000 cfs, Farhat said. However, the Corps has needed to release 14,000 cfs this winter because of the changed channel.

"It's an indication of the changes to the river bottom and other areas where (we have lost) as much as a couple of feet due to degradation, or scour," she said.

The Corps controls the releases, but it doesn't control the withdrawal of water out of the reservoirs for municipalities and industrial users, Farhat said. The system contains room for flexibility, she said.

"The reservoir system is designed to operate over a wide range of runoffs," she said. "If you look back to the historic droughts from 1987 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2007, the reservoirs fluctuated widely during those periods."

Currently, the reservoirs are operating 20-25 feet higher than previous droughts, she added.

The Corps could hold back water at Gavins Point and release it at a later time in the event of high runoff in eastern South Dakota meeting downstream needs, Farhat said.

For the present time, Gavins Point releases will remain at 14,000 cfs to conserve water in the reservoir system, Swenson said.

"The goal is to keep Gavins Point releases as low as possible while meeting the water intake needs on the lower river," he said.

At the start of the runoff season, which typically begins around March 1, the total volume of water stored in the mainstem reservoir system is expected to be 8.5 million acre feet (MAF) below the top of the carryover multiple use zone, Swenson said.

The zone, often referred to as the reservoir system's "bank account for drought," contains 38.9 MAF of water when full. It's designed to provide service to the eight congressionally authorized purposes, though at reduced levels, through a 12-year drought like that of the 1930s and early 1940s.

Gavins Point would need releases of 20,000-28,000 cfs to support a navigation channel 8 feet

deep by 200 feet wide, Swenson said.

The ongoing drought and current snowpack have created a below-normal chance of significant flooding across the Missouri River basin in 2013, according to Kevin Lowe with the National Weather Service (NWS).

"That doesn't mean there isn't a chance of flooding or that it's non-existent," he said. "Places have experienced minor flooding during a drought due to ice jams or storms."

In addition, much of the winter activity remains, Lowe said.

"There is a lot of snow accumulation season ahead of us, and much could change before spring," he said.

The majority of the Missouri River basin remains classified as severe to exceptional drought, according to Corps hydrological engineer Bill Doan.

The mountain snowpack is currently 96 percent of normal above Fort Peck and 89 percent of normal for the reach between Fort Peck and Garrison, Doan said. The plains snowpack contains the equivalent of up to 3 inches of water.

"The eastern portion of South Dakota got (recent) significant plains snowfall events," he said, "but it was in the far eastern part of the basin, below the reservoir system."

Runoff during 2012 totaled 19.8 million acre feet, or 80 percent of normal.

Based on current soil moisture and snowpack conditions, 2013 runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City is forecast to be 20.5 million acre feet, or 82 percent of normal.

The conditions are right for continued drought, said South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today.

"We agree the drought is going to persist," he said. "We may see some slight improvement in the drought monitor as we go through spring, but we will still carry on drought conditions, particularly in the lower part of the basin."

The plains currently sits in a neutral pattern for El Nino and La Nina, Today said. February and March generally bring more active weather patterns for precipitation, he said.

However, the plains can't realistically expect to make up a 12-16 inch moisture deficit in a short period of time, Today said.

"That's kind of more than we're going to expect this spring," he said.

The 30-day outlook doesn't show a significant indication of major precipitation upstream of the reservoirs.

The forecast for April-June shows the disappearance of any major precipitation pattern, with a large area of below-average precipitation to the south, Today said.

Any moisture would likely get soaked into the parched soil, Today said.

"In South Dakota, there are still very dry conditions at a very high level," he said. "The U.S. Drought Monitor doesn't expect a great deal of runoff as spring goes along."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

Dam

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sess it," Curran said. "We didn't see any major damage, but there is the wear and tear."

Then last year, the Missouri River basin was hit by exceptional drought. The Corps has undertaken water conservation measures, including the possibility of cutting releases to 9,000 cfs later this year.

The reduced releases have actually provided more opportunities to undertake project on and around both Fort Randall Dam and Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, according to Corps spokeswoman Monique Farmer with the Omaha District.

"The low flows help facilitate repairing components of the dams," she said. "From a construction standpoint, if there are not large volumes of water flowing through the spillway gates in the spring, we should be able to keep working with very few delays."

As a result, the projects are moving forward, Farmer said.

"The work is progressing as scheduled on spillway slab repairs, spillway gates which are currently in design, and all other repairs at both Fort Randall and Gavins Point," she said.

Beside work on Fort Randall Dam itself, the projects include riverbank protection and taking care of any bank erosion below

the dam, Curran said.

"We own more than one mile of river below the dam on either side," he said. "It's so close to our operation of the dams, we need to make sure that those banks are protected. It's critical for our project."

Curran, who has worked at Fort Randall since 1999, said he has always remained confident about the stability of the dam and reservoir. That confidence was reinforced during and after

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TOM CURRAN

an unprecedented event such as the 2011 flooding, he said.

"The dams were well built, we already knew that. I was comfortable with the operation of the project," he said. "People were asking that question (during the flood), 'Do you feel like it can handle it, do you feel it's safe?'"

"Absolutely, without a doubt in my mind, we could handle that flood. The project is designed for much more than that."

For the first time, Fort Randall used all four of its flood tunnels during the 2011 high flows, Curran said.

"The first preference is to run the flow through the power plants and get the benefit of hydropower. Then it's either run the flood flows through the flood tunnels or spillway or a combination of both, depending on what's going on," he said.

"Since the flow requirement was so great, we decided that we needed to do some inspection on the spillway slab. The decision was to run the floors through the four tunnels."

Throughout the year, Curran remains in continual communication with Corps officials in Omaha who make decisions on the releases.

"They keep us in the loop. We let them know if there's any concerns," he said. "They are monitoring the whole system all the time. They make sure the release decisions are based on the (Corps) master manual and what is going on in the basin."

Curran will host the annual interagency meeting in March. The gathering provides a chance for him to present an update on the project's operations and to hear the public's concerns.

"We invite the stakeholders in the basin — those who are impacted by what is going on around here and around the area," he said. "We tell them what we have planned for the upcoming year. They can ask questions and maybe hear about things they aren't aware. From my perspective, it's a good chance to see and talk with people."

The discussion will likely include the ongoing projects, Curran said.

"With the flood over, it has come down to maintenance," he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

OBITUARIES

Newell Sorensen

Newell Sorensen, 98, died February 10, 2013 in Kenosha, WI.

Services will be on Saturday

at 11 a.m. at the Gayville Lutheran Church with visiting starting at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Burial is in the Rosehill Cemetery at Viborg.

Memorials may be directed to the Gayville Lutheran Church in Gayville, SD.

Register online at www.viborg-funeralhome.com

Newell Nels Sorensen was born on October 19, 1914 to Martin and Tina Sorensen on the family homestead at Irene. He was baptized at Maple Grove Church at Irene and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg where his family moved when he was 7 years old. He played baseball and football for Viborg High School, graduating in 1932. He then worked at the local filling station until 1934 when he went to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps in both Mystic and Chamberlain, located in the Black Hills of SD. In 1936 and 37



Sorensen

he attended barber school in Sioux City, IA.

Newell married Kathleen Horlocker on August 6, 1939 and moved to Hooker. They operated a grocery store, gas station, barbershop and post office all at the same time. He was called to serve in the US Army in 1943. He was trained for artillery at Waterville, CA, was stationed at Ft. Meade, MD, and then spent 14 months on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic Ocean as a postal worker for the Army. He returned to Hooker in 1946.

Their only child, James (Jimmy) Martin was born in September of 1946. They moved into Viborg where Newell returned to barbering. He was a faithful member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg, where he also taught Sunday School and served on the church council. In 1962, Jimmy passed away followed by his mother in 1978.

On July 9, 1983 Newell married Bernice Skove Huber in the Gayville Lutheran Church where the couple lived for many years. They wintered in Mission, TX where they had a trailer home and many "snowbird" friends from around the country; enjoying dancing, playing cards, shoot-

ing pool and golfing. In November of 2010, they moved to Kenosha, WI to be close to family. Newell, a life long member of Odd Fellow Lodge and the Masons, was known for many things, among them his Danish words and songs and his love of family and of God.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Kathleen, his son Jimmy, a sister Erma Jensen, a brother Virgil and a stepdaughter Judy and husband Loren Edleman.

His memory will be cherished by his wife Bernice; 2 stepdaughters Janice (Ron) Soulek and Jackie Huber and their families; a sister Betty Johnson; 1 nephew Mike; and other relatives and friends.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 13, 2013

Bethene Lockman

Bethene Joy (Hutcheson) Lockman, 76, formerly of Yank-

Union

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skipped Obama's speech. Missing were Justices Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito.

Jobs and growth dominated Obama's address. Many elements of his economic blueprint were repacked proposals from his first term that failed to gain traction on Capitol Hill.

The president implored lawmakers to break through partisan logjams, asserting that "the greatest nation on Earth cannot keep conducting its business by drifting from one manufactured crisis to the next."

Yet Obama offered few signs of being willing to compromise himself, instead doubling down on his calls to create jobs by spending more government money and insisting that lawmakers pay down the deficit through a combination of targeted spending cuts and tax increases. But he offered few specifics on what he wanted to see cut, focusing instead on the need to protect programs that help the middle class, elderly and poor.

He did reiterate his willingness to tackle entitlement changes, particularly on Medicare, though he has ruled out increasing the eligibility age for the popular benefit program for seniors.

Republicans are ardently opposed to Obama's calls for legislating more tax revenue to reduce the deficit and offset broad the automatic spending cuts — known as the sequester — that are to take effect March 1. The president accused GOP lawmakers of shifting the cuts from defense to programs that would help the middle class and elderly, as well as those supporting education and job training.

"That idea is even worse," he said.

Obama broke little new ground on two agenda items he has pushed vigorously since winning re-election: overhauling the nation's fractured immigration laws and enacting tougher gun control measures in the wake of the horrific massacre of school children in Newtown, Conn. Yet he pressed for urgency on both, calling on Congress to send him an immigration bill "in the next few months" and insisting lawmakers hold votes on his gun proposals.

"Each of these proposals deserves a vote in Congress," he said. "If you want to vote no, that's your choice."

Numerous lawmakers wore green lapel ribbons in memory of those killed in the December shootings in Connecticut. Among those watching in the House gallery: the parents of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, shot and killed recently in a park just a mile from the president's home in Chicago, as well as other victims of gun violence.

On the economy, Obama called for raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9 by 2015. The minimum wage has been stagnant since 2007, and administration officials said the increase would strengthen purchasing power. The president also wants Congress to approve automatic increases in the wage to keep pace with inflation.

ton, died Feb. 6, 2013, in Abilene, Texas.

A meorial service will be held this May in Yankton.

Daryl Bernard

Daryl C. Bernard, 89, of Yankton died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, March 2**, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791 and the SDARNG Honor Guard.

Visitations are 4 p.m. **Friday, March 1**, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a rosary at 7 p.m. followed by a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

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