

Gavins Point Sees Higher Releases

From P&D Staff Reports

Fluctuating river levels caused by cold weather required higher than planned releases from Gavins Point Dam during January, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported Thursday.

Releases from Gavins Point ranged from 13,000 to 16,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) during the month compared to the target winter release of 12,000 cfs.

"Several cold blasts across the lower Missouri River Basin locked river flows into ice and caused repeated dips in river stages downstream of Gavins Point," said Jody Farhat, Chief of the Water Management Division.

"Releases have been above the target winter release of 12,000 cfs to offset water lost to ice formation and to ensure water intakes remain operational. Once temperatures moderate, releases will be gradually reduced to the target winter release to conserve water in the reservoir system."

Gavins Point releases are currently scheduled at 16,000 cfs.

Based on the current soil moisture and mountain snowpack conditions, forecast runoff in the Missouri River

Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, is 26.7 million acre feet (MAF), 106 percent of normal, in 2014. Normal runoff is 25.2 MAF. January runoff into the Missouri River Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, was 175 percent of normal.

Runoff typically slows during winter months as rivers freeze over, reducing inflows into the reservoir system. However, intermittent periods of warmer-than-normal temperatures in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota contributed to the above normal runoff in January.

Despite the high January runoff, the upper three reservoirs, Fort Peck in eastern Montana, Garrison in North Dakota, and Oahe in South Dakota, remain 5 to 11 feet below the desired operating levels.

As of Feb. 1, the mountain snowpack was 107 percent of normal in the reach above Fort Peck and 113 percent of normal in the reach from Fort Peck to Garrison. Light plains snowpack has accumulated over the eastern Dakotas.

Releases from Gavins Point will be increased in mid-March for the 2014 navigation season, which will open on April 1

at the mouth near St. Louis.

"The Corps will continue to monitor the plains and mountain snowpack through the winter and into spring, as well as basin soil conditions, to fine tune the regulation of the reservoir system based on the most up-to-date information," Farhat said.

Gavins Point releases averaged 14,800 cfs during January. Releases will gradually be reduced to 12,000 cfs as conditions permit. The reservoir behind Gavins Point Dam ended January at elevation 1207.6 feet, and the pool will be drawn down to 1206.0 feet by March 1 in anticipation of the upcoming spring runoff season.

Fort Randall Dam releases at Pickstown averaged 12,700 cfs during January. Releases are expected to average 11,400 cfs this month and will be adjusted as necessary to maintain the elevation at Gavins Point.

The Fort Randall reservoir ended January at elevation 1344.7 feet. It is forecast to reach elevation 1350 feet by the end of February. Refill of the reservoir is designed to increase winter hydropower generation at Oahe and Big Bend.

SDHDA Ups Benefit For First-Time Homebuyers

PIERRE — Last year South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) began offering a new tax credit benefit for first-time homebuyers called a Mortgage Credit Certificate, or MCC. As the families who took advantage of the MCC in 2013 approach tax season, they are now realizing the benefits of the Tax Credit, which could add up to be as much as \$2,000 every year.

Recently, SDHDA increased the MCC benefit to make it an even better deal in 2014.

When it was launched a year ago, this MCC option allowed borrowers to convert 20 to 40 percent of their mortgage interest into a tax credit, explained Brent

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BRENT ADNEY

Adney, SDHDA director of homeownership.

In 2014, he said, first-time homebuyers will realize an even bigger benefit as the percentages have increased to 30 to 50 percent for new loans.

"The mortgage credit certificate has been a great option for first-time homebuyers in South Dakota, and this change will help even more individuals

while they are in their first home," Adney said.

He said 236 families took advantage of the MCC option in 2013, and he expects that number to increase.

The maximum tax credit remains at \$2,000 per year. The exact amount varies depending on how much mortgage interest an individual pays, their income and other factors such as their tax liability. Unlike a tax deduction,

the credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the federal income tax that is paid.

For example, someone with a 30-year, \$150,000 mortgage could receive a 40-percent tax credit of about \$2,000 a year or \$167 per month. And over the course of the loan, the benefit could be as much as \$43,200.

The MCC concept was created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and due to a change in the way SDHDA finances its lending programs, it is now possible for the agency to offer the credits in South Dakota. This benefit is optional and borrowers should contact an SDHDA Participating Lender for more details.

OBITUARIES

Glen May

Glen May, son of Walter and Hannah (Hagen) May, was born December 27, 1926 at his family home in Verdel, Nebraska. He attended grade school in District 91 and graduated from Niobrara High School in 1944. On May 10, 1946, he married Hazella Crosley at Vermillion, SD. One child was born to them, Mickey May, of Verdel Nebraska.

Glen attended The United States Merchant Marine Academy in Brooklyn, New York for a year. After WW2, he returned home to work for Lenard Nelson as a farm hand. After working for Lenard he worked on his uncle and aunt, Joe and Arvella Viterna's, farm in Jelen, Nebraska until moving to Santee where Glen worked for Ross Crosley as a farm hand. In 1952, Glen and Hazella moved to their farm, 3 miles east of Verdel and resided there for the next six years. In 1958, the couple

bought the Cornhusker Bar on the east end of Main Street in old town Niobrara. They sold the bar in 1976 and rebuilt on the west end of Main Street when the town moved. Glen retired for a year and a half to take care of his oldest granddaughter, Michelle. In the spring of 1978, he took a job with the Niobrara State Park mowing and doing odd jobs. He worked for the park for 18 years and loved his job dearly.

Glen is survived by his wife, Hazella May of Verdigré, NE; son Mickey May of Verdel, NE; brother, Irvin (Phyllis) May of Yankton South Dakota; three grandchildren, Michelle Porter of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Erin Lane of Houston, Texas, and Ross & Ashley May of League City, Texas; five great grandchildren, Graceyn and Bayleigh Porter of Ft. Lauderdale Florida, Darby and Frederica Lane of Houston, Texas, and Kennedy May of League City, Texas.

Glen was preceded in

death by his parents, Walter and Hannah May; and his brother Ronald May.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 7, 2014

Victor Steffen

Victor Joseph Steffen, 96, of Constance, Neb., died Wednesday at the Golden Living Center in Hartington, Neb.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Constance, Neb. with the Rev. David Fulton officiating.

Burial will be in the St. Joseph's Cemetery in Constance with military honors by the Crofton American Legion Post 131.

Visitation will be on Sunday, at church in Constance, from 3-5:30 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 4 p.m. Visitation will continue on Monday at church one hour prior to services.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Norman Jacobsen

Norman "Norm" Jacobsen, 86, of Vermillion died Wednesday at Sanford Vermillion Care Center.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Joe DeBlauw

Joe DeBlauw, 101, of Crofton, Neb., died on Thursday at Sister James Nursing Home in Yankton.

Funeral Services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton.

Anna Peitz

Anna C. Peitz, 92, of Crofton, Neb., died Thursday at the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Center in Bloomfield, Neb.

Funeral Services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton.

Wagons

From Page 1A

wagon train co-chair," Kessler says. "We've been friends for a long time and traveled on wagon trains together before. He has organized the route from Yankton to Ethan. From what I'm hearing about the response of all these communities to having the wagon train come through or camp overnight in their town, there's already a lot of excitement about it."

Along the way, Kessler's team has planned to incorporate evening entertainment and/or speakers at each stop. Some communities will call on non-profit organizations (such as 4-H clubs) to prepare a meal wagon train participants can purchase at their evening stop.

"That kind of option makes it easier for those on the wagon train to bring along enough food," Kessler says. "It's also good to have a meal ready at the end of the day because traveling on a wagon train is taxing. After about the third day of it, most people are pretty quiet at night. They're tired and their livestock is tired."

Two rest days, when the wagon train will stay in one place, are integrated into the travel plan.

"We don't expect temperatures to be really hot at that time of year," Kessler says. "However, people should be prepared for unexpected events like rain because we'll travel in that kind of weather

in order to stay on track with our scheduled arrival in Pierre. Bring rain gear, make sure you're in shape for the trip and make sure your livestock is in shape. It's not a good idea to bring either really young or really old horses. The trip is just too much for them."

During the rest stops, wagon train participants will have the option of returning home for one night and re-joining the wagon train the following morning.

"That gives everybody a chance to catch up on laundry and restock supplies," Kessler says. "Each day of the trip we'll travel between 15 and 16 miles. Our longest day is 22 miles. Most of the trail we're following isn't rough country. We expect to travel quite a bit in road ditches and along gravel roads. Livestock definitely need to be shod so they don't get sore footed."

Arrangements are underway for shuttling wagon train members back and forth to support vehicles. Porta-poties and potable water will be available at noon and evening stops.

"The towns where we're camping will have water for us," Kessler says. "But there are a couple of nights when we'll camp outside a town. For those times we'll have a semi-tanker that provides potable water for animals and people. When we were on the train ride from Pierre to Deadwood it was really hot. We went through 5,000 gallons of water at a noon stop."

Kessler has already completed registrations for wagon train enthusiasts from other states.

Registration includes a fee of \$125 per participant. The fee applies whether riders travel one day or go the full route. Fees and donations are applied to the cost of the ride. Any remaining funds will be donated to the non-profit South Dakota Draft Horse and Mule Association (SDDHMA), who are sponsoring the ride.

Registration information and forms can be obtained by contacting Gerald and Joan Kessler, 20429 SD HWY 1806, Fort Pierre, SD 57532. Kessler can also be reached at 605-223-2313.

"One of the main things to keep in mind if you're traveling on the wagon train is, prepare to be self sufficient," Kessler says. "Have knowledge about your livestock, wagons and equipment. One of the greatest things about the ride is the people you meet, the camaraderie. We have people of every age, some in their eighties, who plan to take part. We have some incredible historians lined up to provide evening entertainment. You'll learn a lot about wagon trains and about South Dakota."

Wenande To Seek New Term On City Co.

From P&D Staff Reports

Nancy Wenande will seek another three-year term on the Yankton City Commission.

She returned her nominating petitions to the City Finance Office this week.

Wenande is currently serving as mayor and has been on the commission since 2005.

The terms of Jake Hoffner and Craig Sommer are also up this year.

Candidates have until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, to turn in nominating petitions for the April 8 municipal election.

The deadline for voter registration is March 24.

D19 Lawmakers Set Crackerbarrels

From P&D Staff Reports

The District 19 legislators are holding a "crackerbarrel" session at 10 a.m. Saturday at Alexandria, in the community room at the Hanson school library.

The District 19 delegation consists of Sen. Bill Van Gerven (R-Tyndall) and Reps. Kyle Schoenfish (R-Scotland) and Stace Nelson (R-Fulton). The district includes Hanson, McCook, Douglas, Hutchinson and a portion of Bon Homme counties.

Another crackerbarrel session is planned for the Corsica Community Center at 10 a.m. March 1.

Annual S.D. Picnic Slated For Feb. 23

LAKELAND, Fla. — The 62nd annual South Dakota Picnic will be held indoors on Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Woodbrook Estates Mobile Home Park Recreation Center, 1510 Ariana Street, Lakeland, Fla.

Attendees are asked to bring a large covered casserole or hot dish, salad, or dessert to share, also plates and silverware for your own family. Coffee, iced tea, and sodas will be furnished.

Lunch will be at 1 p.m., but feel free to come anytime after 11:30 a.m. to visit with fellow South Dakotans.

If you have any questions, call or email June Clark, president, at 863-646-1131 or jclark01@msn.com/, or Sue Kelly, Secretary, at 941-792-8235 or suehkelly@verizon.net/. If you can attend, RSVP to June or Sue.

Digital Media Workshop Set For March

A workshop on creating community action through digital media, co-sponsored by the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton and the Yankton Chamber of Commerce, will be held Wednesday, March 5, at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Pavilion Amphitheater. The workshop runs from 2:30-5 p.m.

Held annually in March, this workshop is designed for community leaders, nonprofit boards and staff, and the general public who are seeking knowledge and skills to improve their programs, businesses and the community.

This year's featured speakers are Scott Meyer and Matthew R. Fairholm, PhD.

Meyer is the co-founder of 9 Clouds, a digital marketing and education firm that improves the digital literacy of businesses. He writes and hosts the Digital Homesteading blog and podcast focusing on growing rural business and community and recently coauthored a book on using social media: "Navigating Social Media: A Field Guide." Learn more and join his band of digital homesteaders at www.9clouds.com/blog. Meyer's will present "Creating Action and Revenue with Digital Media."

Fairholm will give the presentation, "Becoming The Leader Others Want to Follow." Fairholm, is associate professor in public administration and the W. O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at the University of South Dakota. His published works include "Understanding Leadership Perspectives: Theoretical and Practical Applications" and numerous articles in public administration and leadership journals. Fairholm holds a doctorate in public administration from The George Washington University.

For more information, contact United Way & Volunteer Services at 605-665-6766 or visit yanktonunitedway.org. Early registration by Feb. 26 is asked.

Nominations Sought For Volunteerism

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem is seeking nominations through Nebraska's volunteer service commission, ServeNebraska, for the 2014 First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards. The awards are presented annually to recognize distinguished volunteer service throughout the state.

"I am pleased to work with ServeNebraska to recognize Nebraskans who have made extraordinary efforts and generous contributions to our great state," said First Lady Ganem. "Nebraskans are special people. We invest our time and talents into our communities, to help keep Nebraska great. Each year, 500,000 Nebraskans volunteer and have a huge, positive impact. The First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards is an opportunity to say 'thank you' to our friends and neighbors who volunteer."

First Lady Ganem serves as honorary chair of ServeNebraska, and is a champion of volunteering and service. As a former elementary school principal, she has a particular affection for students, educators and service-learning projects. Given her lifelong interest and passion for education, the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards have been designed to reflect her commitment to learning.

First Lady Ganem will oversee the awards and recognize significant contributions of Nebraska groups and individuals. There are 11 awards in total with two categories including education and outstanding volunteerism. Categories for awards include individuals, groups, businesses, service organizations, faith-based organizations, youth and national service members.

The First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards will be presented at an awards ceremony luncheon on Friday, April 11, at the Thompson Alumni Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Nationally, Nebraska has recently been recognized for their commitment to volunteerism. Nebraska has risen to the top five states for volunteerism according to the annual Volunteering and Civic Life in America, with more than one in three residents volunteering in 2012.

The First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards have been annually awarded since 2001. Past recipients of the awards include the Sacred Circle Learning Project of Omaha where projects are focused on mentoring that promotes American Indian culture; the Students Free Enterprise from the University of Nebraska Kearney where outreach service is related to youth entrepreneurship education and community development; and many more.

A full list of previous awards can be found on ServeNebraska's website. The nomination deadline for the awards is Saturday, Feb. 15. To submit a nomination and to learn more about ServeNebraska, visit www.serve.nebraska.gov/.


Soup Kitchen
Saturday, February 8, from 5-8 p.m.
Riverview Reformed Church • 1700 Burleigh Street




Menu: Chili, chicken noodle soup, potato soup, cornbread and rolls, pies and ice cream.
FREE-WILL DONATION.
Proceeds to benefit
Missouri Valley Christian Academy.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Beverly Y. Christensen
10:30 AM, Monday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Yankton



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