

Snowpack Not Likely To Cause River Flooding

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The snowpack in the northern Rocky Mountains is running slightly above average this winter, but South Dakota Climatologist Dennis Todey says there's little chance that snow could cause a repeat of the Missouri River flooding of 2011. In 2011, the ground was saturated with rain from the previous autumn. A deep mountain snowpack and heavy spring rains caused the Army Corps of Engineers to release record amounts of water through the Missouri River dams, leading to several months of flooding. But Todey tells the *Argus Leader* that the drought of 2012 has left the ground in much of South Dakota extremely dry, so it could absorb a lot of moisture. The amount of water held in the Missouri River's three largest reservoirs is lower than two years ago.

Pierre Boy Charged In Shooting Set For Court

PIERRE (AP) — A 16-year-old Pierre boy charged in the fatal shooting of a classmate is scheduled to be arraigned in court Friday. Braiden K. McCahren was indicted by a Hughes County grand jury on charges of first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and aggravated assault. McCahren is accused in the Dec. 18 fatal shooting of 16-year-old Dalton Williams. McCahren also is accused of pointing a gun at a third 16-year-old boy who also was in the house at the time of the shooting. KCCR Radio reports that McCahren is scheduled to appear in court at 10:30 a.m. Friday before Circuit Judge John Brown. McCahren is being held in jail without bond.

Police: Man Killed In Standoff Was Armed

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a man killed during a police standoff in northeast Omaha was armed with a shotgun, making suicidal and threatening statements, and holding a child. Omaha police said Tuesday that 31-year-old Tyree Bell, of Omaha, was shot by officers at 6:20 a.m. Tuesday, after more than two hours of negotiations. Police say they were called to the scene shortly after 4 a.m. Authorities say negotiators tried to calm Bell, but the situation deteriorated to the point where they believed he posed an immediate threat to officers and the child. At least four officers fired their weapons. Police say Bell was shot multiple times. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital. The department has launched an internal investigation. The officers will be placed on paid, administrative leave.

Omaha Man Rang In 2013 By Firing A Gun

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have arrested a man who allegedly fired a gun into the air at midnight while Omaha police officers watched. Omaha television station KETV reports that 46-year-old Eugene King was charged Tuesday with discharging a firearm in city limits and possession of an unregistered firearm. Police say members of the department's gang unit watched King as he fired the gun in front of an Omaha home. As officers approached him, King and 42-year-old Marc Snoddy allegedly ran into the house. Police arrested both men. Snoddy was booked on charges of resisting arrest and obstructing police.

Activists: Whiteclay Protest Ended Peacefully

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Activists say a New Year's Eve protest of beer sales in Whiteclay ended peacefully, with three of the Nebraska town's four alcohol stores closing early and making very few late-night sales to Native Americans. Native American activist Olowan Martinez said Tuesday that two of the four stores had already shut their doors when protesters arrived at 9 p.m., and a third closed around 10 p.m. The stores usually close at midnight. Martinez credited the Oglala Sioux Tribe's police department for setting up an alcohol checkpoint between Whiteclay and South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where alcohol is banned. In August, several activists were arrested after they locked arms and blocked the main road through town.

USDA Says SD Hog And Pig Inventory Down

SIoux FALLS AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says South Dakota's Dec. 1 inventory of all hogs and pigs was 1.2 million head, down 14 percent from a year ago and down 7 percent from Sept. 1. The South Dakota office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says market hogs totaled 1.035 million head, down 16 percent from last year and down 7 percent from September. Breeding stock totaled 165,000 head, down 3 percent from December 2011 and down 6 percent from September. The September through November pig crop was 936,000 head, unchanged from last year, but down 3 percent from the previous quarter.

Nebraska

Suit Against Pipeline Law May Proceed

By The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Lancaster County district judge has refused to block a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Nebraska's new pipeline siting law. Judge Stephanie Stacy on Monday denied a state request to dismiss the lawsuit that was filed in May by three people who own land along the proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline. In the lawsuit, the three — Randy Thompson, of Martell; Susan Dunavan, of McCool Junction; and Susan Luebbe, of Stuart — say the law that established the review process is unconstitutional because it doesn't allow for judicial review and doesn't spell out what criteria should be considered when a pipeline project is being evaluated. They also object to a provision of the new law that puts the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Gov. Dave Heineman in charge of reviewing the pipeline project instead of the state's Public Service Commission, which is an independently elected group that regulates utilities. The plaintiffs say they are concerned that a pipeline company could use the state power of eminent domain to obtain land for a project. And the lawsuit argues that the bill is unconstitutional special legislation because it can be applied only

to the Keystone XL project. TransCanada's pipeline is designed to carry tar sands oil from Canada across Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The company also has proposed connecting it to the Bakken oil field in Montana and North Dakota. At a September hearing on the lawsuit, Assistant Nebraska Attorney General Katie Spohn said the landowners could not claim taxpayer rights in the dispute because no tax money is being spent. The Legislature required TransCanada to reimburse the state for the cost of the pipeline review. "Since there is no cost and no expenditure of public funds," Spohn said, "there are no tax dollars to protect." Spohn also said Thompson, Dunavan and Luebbe couldn't claim any damages because they don't know whether they will be on the final route. But in Monday's order, Stacy said the issues were neither hypothetical nor contingent on future decisions by DEQ or the governor, so they were legitimate issues to be adjudicated in court. Stacy also said public money time already was being spent by DEQ in implementing the legislation, LB1161. A spokeswoman for Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning said his office is reviewing the judge's ruling.

Environmentalists and other opponents have said the \$7 billion project could contaminate groundwater reserves and threaten ecologically sensitive areas in Nebraska and other states along its 1,700-mile path. TransCanada has altered the pipeline's path through Nebraska to avoid the environmentally sensitive Sandhills region and a couple towns' water wells. Those favoring the Keystone XL project, including such organizations as Americans for Prosperity, the Consumer Energy Alliance and Nebraskans for Jobs and Energy Independence, have cited the nation's need for more oil and praised its potential economic impact. TransCanada first proposed the project in 2008. President Barack Obama in January rejected TransCanada's original application for a federal permit to build the pipeline. Since then, TransCanada has split the project into two pieces. The company began construction in August on the southern section of the pipeline between Oklahoma and the Gulf Coast. The southern section of the pipeline didn't need presidential approval because it won't cross an international border. After Nebraska officials finish their process, the U.S. State Department will review the project again before Obama has the final say.

SD Casino Closes At Least Temporarily In Deadwood

DEADWOOD (AP) — After New Year's Eve festivities Monday night, the Gold Dust casino closed down — at least temporarily — leaving 52 people unemployed and uncertain about what comes next. A lawyer for the Dunham Co. of Sioux Falls, which owns the Gold Dust, said the casino is closed for renovations, although he said it isn't known yet what that will entail. "We plan to reopen in the near future. We can't give you a time or date," Dunham lawyer John Archer told the *Rapid City Journal*. "We're just exploring different things." Archer said he does not know whether former employees will be rehired after the renovation. Gold Dust employees said they were told last week that their last shifts would be on New Year's Eve. They said they received no information about the casino's future or the future of their jobs. Craig Ordahl, a maintenance employee, said he received the news after he had been released from the hospital for treatment of pancreatitis. "I'm going to have to hit the pavement again and hope for the best," said Ordahl, who had worked at the Gold Dust since October 2011. Chuck Turbiville, director of the Deadwood Economic Development Corp., said he has been working with state agencies and other

Deadwood casinos to help Gold Dust employees find jobs quickly. "This is the worst time to be unemployed if you're a casino worker," Turbiville said. "Traditionally, there are very few, if any, job openings this time of year." The Gold Dust has operated in the historic Black Hills town since gambling was legalized in 1989. It has changed hands several times in the past six years. It was sold in 2009 in a complex agreement involving separate real estate and casino operation contracts. That agreement included the Dunham Co., a firm that deals with construction, real estate brokerage and property management.

Honor

From Page 1

"These responsibilities demanded so much time away from practice that I chose not to continue as mayor and retired from the responsibility in 1965," Brooks said. Unless he was out of town attending a meeting, Brooks stated that he was available to his patients 24 hours a day. "I think the patients appreciated this OB/GYN care," he said. Living in a smaller community like Yankton allowed Brooks to have a full life while still maintaining his professional duties. He could attend activities with his children or go sailboat racing on Sundays, for example. "If I was out on a sailboat and one of my patients came into the

hospital, (staff) could call the marina and have them send a boat out for me," Brooks said. "I could do that because I lived in a small place." Brooks retired at age 80 and will turn 98 this month. While walking down the street to this day, he said it's not uncommon to be stopped by former patients. "It's nice to see them," Brooks stated. "It's nice to have been helpful when they needed it." Vi grew up on a farm between Tyndall and Scotland and began working at First Dakota National Bank in 1963. After commuting from Scotland for 13 years, she moved to Yankton and joined the officer ranks at the bank. In 1981, Vi married Brooks. Early in their marriage, the couple traveled a lot as part of Brooks' involvement with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. When that ended, Vi took on a

fundraising position with the March of Dimes. She also became involved with the Lewis and Clark Theatre Co. and the Yankton Concert Association. In 1987, the couple escorted their first travel group together. "I had been in Europe during World War II, and I knew it well," Brooks said. "We set up the tour so people could see a lot of things and made it very tight. Those people who thought they were going to loaf around on a tour didn't quite fit in. In general, we gave them a darn good tour." For medical reasons, Brooks doesn't travel much anymore. However, it hasn't slowed down Vi, who said she has a passion for traveling and enjoys her reputation for designing action-packed tours. "The 'Vi Ranney Tour' is a new term in the dictionary," she said. "It's a tour that has more stuff in it than you can possibly do, but we always do it. I always wanted people to get their dollar's worth when they traveled with us." Through Rupiper Travel, Vi will be escorting five international tours in 2013. "A lot of people will make one trip to Europe and think they've seen the world," she said. "I've been to Europe at least 75 times, and every time I go, I see something I've never seen before." Vi will lead her 20th World War II tour through France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany in August. She attracts people from around the nation for the trip, and Vi said it is her favorite travel

group to escort. "It has been my humble honor to escort these brave World War II veterans back to the battlefields where they served and the cemeteries where their comrades lie," she stated. "The stories I have heard, the memories they have shared and the tears we have shed together (will never be forgotten)." The Ranneys have both been active with the United Church of Christ Congregational, too. "They were instrumental in steering church committees in the recent renovation of the church," wrote Bill and Jane Bobzin in nominating the couple for the Citizen of the Year Award. "Brooks and Vi have been members of many committees and boards of the church, as well as actively participating in the adult church choir." Brooks and Vi said they've stayed in Yankton despite opportunities to move elsewhere because this is their home. "This is a good town," Brooks said. Looking back on their lives, the two say they are content with what they've accomplished. "If God comes tonight and says, 'I have to take you home,' I have to say, 'It's OK. I've done it all,'" Vi said. Added Brooks, "I've had a good life, too. I've been able to take care of people." A reception for the Ranneys will be announced at a future date. You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/Anhland-Voyage

OBITUARIES

Michael McDonald

Michael J. McDonald, age 21 of Bloomfield, Nebraska, died Sunday, December 23, 2012, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Private family graveside services will be held at a later date in Hampton, Virginia. Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of local arrangements. Michael John McDonald, son of Candace (Schager) (McDonald) Carey and David McDonald, was born July 2, 1991, at Newport News, Virginia, 59 minutes after his twin brother, David Matthew McDonald. Michael grew up and attended school in Newport News, and later graduated from Bloomfield High School after he moved with his family to Bloomfield, Nebraska. After graduation, Michael continued to call Bloomfield home, where he enjoyed working on his computers and spending time with his family. Michael dearly loved his sisters and loved his dogs. While visiting his father in Corpus Christi, Texas, Michael was called to his Heavenly Home on December 23, 2012, and was welcomed by the loving embrace of his dear sisters, Jennifer and Jessica. For the first time in the years after their passing, Jennifer, Jessica, and now Michael, were able to spend Christmas with their Lord together. Michael's memory and life in this world will be forever cherished until we are all reunited in the eternal paradise beyond, by



McDonald

his mother, Candace Carey of Bloomfield, Nebraska; step-father, Tony Carey of Bloomfield; father, David McDonald of Corpus Christi, Texas; brother, David McDonald of Bloomfield, Nebraska; and grandparents, Dale and Margaret Schager of Bloomfield, and Walt and Carol McDonald of Lubbock, Texas. In addition to his sisters, Michael was welcomed to Heaven by his great-grandparents, and many other generations of relatives he is now getting acquainted with. Yankton Press & Dakotan January 2, 2013

Patricia Wells

A memorial service for Patricia Lynn (Albrecht) Wells will be held at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Sioux Falls, at noon on Friday, Jan. 4, 2013. There will be a memorial mass at 1 p.m.



Wells

Ruth Carpenter

Ruth Louise Carpenter, 82 of Bloomfield, Neb., and formerly of Kentucky, died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, at the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Center, Bloomfield. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, at the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Nursing Home with the Rev. Tim Koester officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington, Neb.

Rev. James Schatz

Funeral services for Rev. James M. Schatz, 77, of Tripp will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 4 at Frieden's Reformed Church in Tripp with Pastors Greg Way, Ted Bader and Fred Springer officiating. Interment will follow in Frieden's Reformed Cemetery, Tripp. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. until a 7:00 p.m. prayer service at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp. Rev. Schatz passed away on Monday, December 31, 2012 at

Avera St. Benedict Health Center in Parkston. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin Funeral Home

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Smith Jandreau

Smith Jandreau, 86, of Omaha, Neb., and formerly of Wagner, died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, at the Creighton Medical Center, Omaha. Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, 2013, at the YST South Housing Gym, Wagner. Burial is in the Hill Church Presbyterian Cemetery, rural Dante, with military honors. Wake services began Tuesday at the gym. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

Gert (Konz) Vonderheide

Gertrude (Konz) Vonderheide, 86, of Hartington, Nebraska died on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton. Funeral services are pending at Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.

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