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Inside Today



Corps Looks To Conserve More Water

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

With dry conditions persisting in the Missouri River basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Tuesday that it will continue to focus on water conservation measures.

"We're beginning this run-off season with the reservoirs drawn down significantly due to the drought, which began last year," said Jody Farhat, the chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Office, during a monthly Corps conference call to keep basin stakeholders informed about reservoir operations, basin forecasts and weather conditions. "As a result, we're implementing measures to conserve water in the mainstem reservoir system."

"The risk of snowmelt flooding is low this year, but the risk of rainfall-induced flooding is normal, as is the risk of ice-induced flooding," she added.

Based on the current soil moisture and snowpack conditions, 2013 runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa, is forecast to be 20.5 million acre feet, which is 82 percent of normal. Runoff during 2012 totaled 19.8 million acre feet, which was 80 percent of normal.

The Corps said that at the start of the 2013 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 below the top of the carryover multiple use zone. That zone, which is often referred to as the reservoir system's "bank account for drought," contains 38.9 million acre feet 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. Those purposes are: flood control, navigation, water supply, irrigation, hydropower, recreation, water quality control and fish and wildlife.

More than 20 percent of the drought storage was used to serve the authorized project purposes during 2012. Reducing service to the authorized purposes in future years will conserve water in the reservoir system if the drought persists. Examples of reductions in services may include reduced hydropower generation, reduced flow support to navigation and lower lake levels. Flood control is the only author-

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PHOTO: CHAD COPPES, S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
Gov. Dennis Daugaard is shown filing criminal justice reform legislation in the South Dakota Senate Tuesday. Pictured are, from left: Sen. Majority Leader Russell Olson, House Majority Leader David Lust, Daugaard, Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Deb Peters, and House Speaker Brian Gosch. In the foreground, is Carolyn Riter, assistant to the secretary of the Senate.

Daugaard Eyes Changes In S.D. Justice System

Governor Delivers 'State Of State' Address

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota needs to cut prison costs and improve the rehabilitation of criminal offenders by treating more of those convicted of nonviolent crimes outside prison walls, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Tuesday in his State of the State address to start the 2013 legislative session.

Daugaard urged state lawmakers to approve a set of proposals that include expansion of programs that keep drug and alcohol offenders out of prison by placing them in intensive treatment programs. Other recommendations would change sentencing laws and put more nonviolent offenders on probation.

Intensive probation and parole will do a better job of preventing convicts from committing new crimes while also saving the state about \$200 million in the next decade, Daugaard said. Without the changes, South Dakota would have to build a new men's prison and a new women's prison in the next 10 years, he said.

"This set of proposals is not about being soft on crime. This is about being smart on crime," the Republican governor said. "More importantly, these recommendations will hold offenders more accountable and make our state safer."

The proposed changes in South Dakota's criminal justice system were recommended by a study panel appointed by Daugaard, Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson and legislative leaders. After a 50-minute speech to a joint session of the South Dakota House and Senate, Daugaard joined Gilbertson and legislative leaders from both parties to introduce a 33-page bill that includes the proposed changes.

Legislative leaders from both parties praised Daugaard for pushing the criminal justice reform measure.

"This is the way to start off a legislative session, with a joint effort by all three branches of government that is totally nonpartisan," said Senate Republican Leader Russell Olson of

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Area Lawmakers Find Positives In 'State of State'

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Area legislators say they like Gov. Dennis Daugaard's plans for overhauling the state's prison system and caring for buildings at the Human Services Center (HSC) in Yankton.

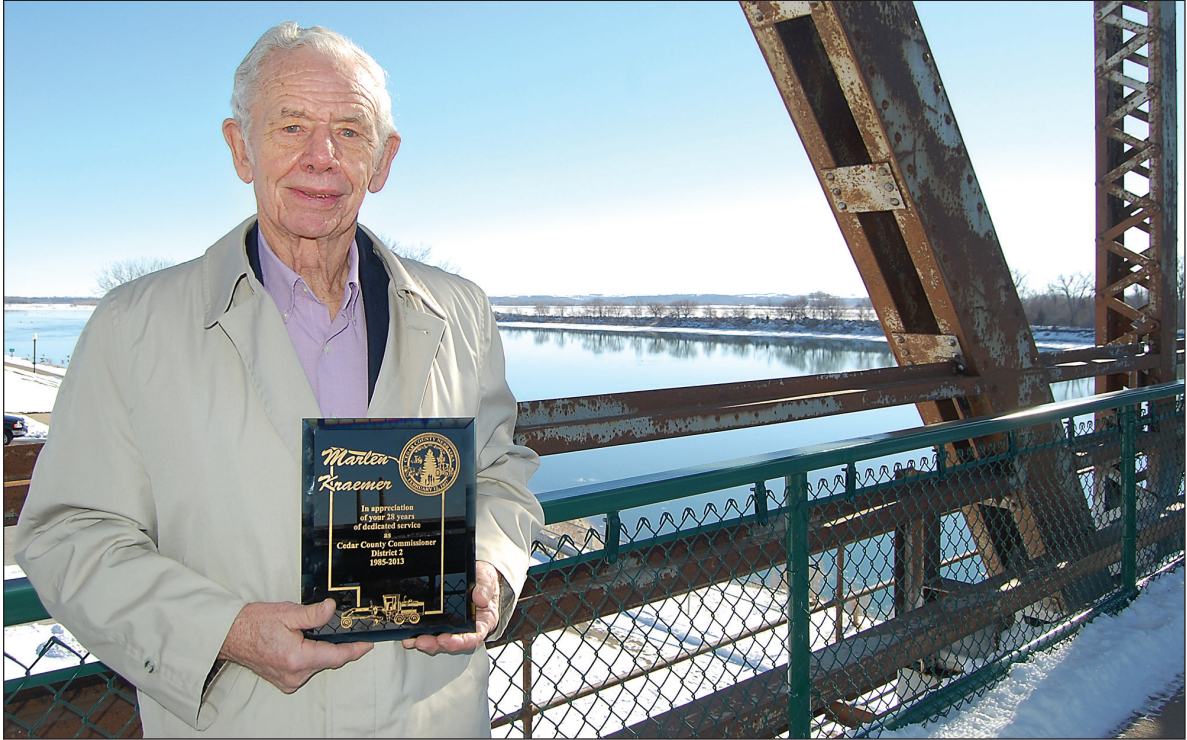
The District 18 (Yankton County) delegation sees possibilities for improving HSC buildings and the overall campus.

"It fits with (Daugaard's) stewardship theme, and I appreciate that a governor is taking a personal interest," said Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton). "He wants to spend perhaps (up to) \$6 million on restoring some of the buildings — including the grand old dairy barn — and demolishing others."

However, some lawmakers, including Democrats like Hunhoff, said they heard little or no mention about education and Medicaid funding in Tuesday's "State of the State" address.

"It left me wondering whether we're being good stewards of the most important factor in our future — namely our 130,000 youth in public schools whose education is being jeopardized by the extreme budget cuts of the last two years," he said. The biggest public policy issue

AREA | PAGE 2



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Marlen Kraemer of Laurel, Neb., stands on the Meridian Bridge at Yankton, with the Discovery Bridge in the background, marking two major achievements in his 28-year career as a Cedar County, Neb., commissioner. Kraemer ended his last term Jan. 2 with the longest service of any commissioner in Cedar County history.

Outgoing County Commissioner Reflects On 28 Years Of Service

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

LAUREL, Neb. — Marlen Kraemer didn't intend to run for the Cedar County, Neb., commission in the 1980s. However, an incumbent — looking to leave the board — encouraged Kraemer to pursue the seat.

Kraemer won the race and took office in January 1985 as District II county commissioner.

Seven terms and 28 years later, he has left office as the longest-serving commissioner in Cedar County history. He lost the Republican primary last spring by nine votes and completed his term Jan. 2.

A reluctant candidate at first, Kraemer nearly didn't run for office three decades ago.

At the time, he held more than 30 years of experience as owner of Logan Valley Construction with offices in Laurel, Neb., and Stanton, Neb.

"I had large projects that I was working on," he said. "I wanted to finish those jobs before I even thought of anything like running for County Commission."

OUR TOWNS

Cedar County

Then, Kraemer suffered a major blow — he learned he had cancer.

"I went to Greece for treatment, where they specialized in working with lymphoma," he said. "They caught (my cancer) early and gave me a serum the doctor created himself. I went for shots every day for three weeks."

With both his business and health in good order, Kraemer ran for District II county commissioner and won a spot on the three-member board. The district, covering the southern part of the county, includes Coleridge, Laurel, Randolph, Belden and Magnet.

Upon taking office, he sold his firm and equipment to focus on commission duties and to avoid any conflict of

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Big Crowd, Big Hopes

30th Annual Dakota Farm Show Opens In Vermillion

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — It's a big anniversary for the Dakota Farm Show, and exhibitors say Tuesday may have been their biggest opening ever.

The 30th annual show opened Tuesday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion and will be open today (Wednesday) from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

John Riles, president of Midwest Shows Inc., producer of the show, said he expects approximately 25,000-30,000 farmers to visit the nearly 300 exhibitors.

"It's been a tremendous crowd," he said.

The exhibitors agreed. Jason Dieckers, precision ag specialist with the Farmers Coop Society, said his booth had been visited by approximately 100 people by the early afternoon.

"It's probably the best first day we've seen," added Bill Christensen, former owner of Christensen Well & Irrigation Inc. of Hartington, Neb.

Dallas Harkness, area sales manager in South Dakota for Curry Seed, said there was a "huge amount" of visitors that tapered off as the day went on.

"I would say we were busier in the first

SHOW | PAGE 12



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
A farmer can never have too many tools. A number of them gathered at this colorful display at the Dakota Farm Show Tuesday, shopping for new wrenches to add to their tool boxes.