

RAIN

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it could be much worse."

President Obama has signed a disaster declaration for South Dakota. In all, 37 of the state's 66 counties are listed, including Charles Mix, Douglas, Clay, Gregory, Hutchinson, Turner and Union counties.

Disasters have also hit Nebraska, which has sustained at least \$16 million in damage to public infrastructure across the state. Gov. Dave Heineman sent a letter Tuesday asking for a federal disaster declaration in 53 of Nebraska's 93 counties.

Record flooding occurred along the Elkhorn River in Norfolk as well as upstream in Neligh. A total of 10.71 inches of rain fell in Norfolk during June, which is 6.46 inches above normal and the fourth wettest on record.

Elsewhere in northeast Nebraska, Wakefield received 9.18 inches for the second wettest June behind the record 12.40 inches in 1967. This year's total more than doubled the normal 4.14 inches for the month.

The heavy rainfall continued earlier this week. During a 48-hour period, Verdel received 1.35 inches while Bloomfield received 1.14 inches in Knox County. In neighboring Cedar County, Randolph received 0.82 inches.

Severe storms are possible late Saturday and again Sunday. These storms would be capable of producing strong damaging winds, large hail up to the size of golf balls, and tornados.

Todey noted a pattern in recent years of moving from wet to dry and back to wet conditions.

"Through much of the previous decade, we went from somewhat dry to quite dry," he said. "Now, it's the opposite way for the past couple years and it's been very wet."

Last summer was cool and rainy, followed by above-average precipitation, Todey said. Yankton saw about 20 inches of snowfall during the Christmas blizzard, and this spring produced a quick snowmelt in much of the region.

"We have two things going on," Todey said. "We had repeated excessive rainfall and saturated soil conditions, and then you have (this latest) excessive rainfall. When it's saturated soil, you can't (soak) it up."

This summer may not produce searing heat, Todey said. "I think we won't see extreme heat building up for a long period of time," he said.

However, the July forecast calls for drier weather, Todey said.

"Over the next month, we could average evaporation of up to 7 or 8 inches of standing water," he said. "The hotter and windier it is, the drier it is and the more evaporation."

Drainage also plays a critical role in salvaging crops and property, Todey said.

"Those fields (with good drainage) are in pretty good shape," he said. "On the other side, where it's wet or they didn't get things in, obviously they are losing out in those situations."

The region is moving into a critical time of the year for flood recovery, Todey said.

"On average, it's the warmest time of the year," he said. "The days are getting shorter, but the transition doesn't really start until later (in the month)."

The recent flooding carries a silver lining, Todey said.

"Overall, June was a fairly moderate month for storms. There was the flooding aspect but not considerable severe weather," he said. "We are out of the (main) tornado season. By this time of year, it becomes more hail and high wind events, with a few tornados."

Even if warmer, drier weather arrives, Todey anticipates the James River will flood for a long time to come.

The flood warning continues for the James River near Scotland. The stage was 17.1 feet Wednesday morning, compared to the flood stage of 13 feet.

That situation could worsen, given the water that will move downstream in the coming weeks. Mitchell set a new June record with 9.96 inches of rainfall, compared to its normal 3.52 inches. Huron reported 7.52 inches of rain, which is nearly 230 percent of normal.

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BAPTIST

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Head Start and other programs in the community," said teacher Laurie Hanson, who is developing the curriculum for the preschool after doing the same in the Gayville-Volin School District for the last nine years. "We also know that in the past, children were coming to school to get the basics, learning colors, shapes and so on in kindergarten, now they are learning to read. The demand for quality certified programs is huge."

Hanson, who said she

believes preschool should be the time where you set a foundation for learning and growing, also said that it should be a fun time of learning. She said she is excited to be able to tie in the emotional and spiritual components that she was not able to in a public school setting.

"We are lucky that here, in this area, we can still sing carols and mention Christmas as a term in public schools," Hanson said. "But, I am excited that I am going to be able to use God in all of my daily lessons."

Current plans for the preschool are to offer a 3-year old class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; a 4-year old class Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings; and to offer pre-

kindergarten Monday-Friday afternoons. Class sizes are limited to 16. However, Calvary is already planning for expansion.

"We have two rooms set up and ready for use in the preschool," Kotalik said. "The second room is being used for our youth ministry and youth sermons right now, but if we find we need to expand we have the room ready to go."

Kotalik said she is excited for the community to come in and see the children's area at Calvary Baptist.

"We have set it up so the parents can be very comfortable leaving their children here," she said.

While there are no plans right now to offer daycare or, for that

matter, to offer classes beyond the pre-kindergarten level, Kotalik did not rule them out for the future.

"We know that people in the community are really struggling to find quality daycare right now," she said. "People are having to start searching almost as soon as they find out they are expecting, and even then it is more about lucking onto an opening."

For more information about the preschool, contact Kotalik at 665-5594. Registration information is also available at <http://www.calvarybaptistyanon.org>.

Gov't To Help PTSD Vets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is making it easier for combat veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder to receive disability benefits.

The Veterans Affairs Department is expected to announce the change on Monday. The new regulation, first reported by The New York Times, would no longer require that veterans prove what might have triggered their illness. Instead, they would have to show that they served in combat in a job that could have contributed to their injury.

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