

Evacuated Pierre Residents Get I.D. Cards

PIERRE (AP) — Residents of Pierre and Fort Pierre who have been displaced by Missouri River flooding began picking up identification cards Sunday.
The cards will identify the holder as a resident of an evacuation zone, and will eventually allow residents to escort other persons into the area.
Police say that even though the card distribution has started, residents will not be allowed to return to their homes until officials believe conditions are safe.

Evac. Delayed In Bismarck Neighborhoods

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A mandatory evacuation of some Bismarck neighborhoods next to the Missouri River has been delayed.
Bismarck Police Chief Keith Witt says things appeared stable Sunday in the Southport and Whispering Bay areas. Both are near the Missouri's east bank in southwestern Bismarck. They include several dozen homes.
The Missouri River was at 17.3 feet at Bismarck on Sunday. Flood stage is 16 feet.
The Army Corps of Engineers said it will increase water releases from the Garrison Dam by 4 percent on Monday.
The river dam forms Lake Sakakawea about 75 miles northwest of Bismarck. The corps is letting more water out of the lake because it's almost full.
Bismarck Mayor John Warford says Sunday the cities of Bismarck and Mandan are prepared for a "marathon" with the river.

Retired Teachers Under Fire For Retire/Rehire

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — As school districts in Minnesota have allowed retirees to return to work, some say they are getting a deal, while others wonder if the educators are double-dipping — by collecting both a salary and a pension.
Bob Lowe of the Minnesota School Board Association says districts began rehiring retirees for full- or part-time jobs roughly four or five years ago.
The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reports Sunday that the issue has come under scrutiny in many states, as employees face charges of using pensions to boost their incomes.
But the newspaper reports the small number of retirees in public school jobs has little financial impact. And school districts are often desperate to use them in positions that are hard to fill.

Officials Paying For Pine Cone Collectors

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) — Officials with the Superior National Forest are paying members of the public to collect native jack pine cones.
U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Kris Reichenbach tells the *Duluth News Tribune* the jack pine cones are needed because seed banks are low at tree nurseries used to reforest the area.
Officials will pay from \$50 to \$70 for bushels of the pine cones from now until July 1.
Collectors must go to a Superior National Forest District office for instructions on what officials need and where cones can be found. Registration is required to get paid.
The Forest Service pays more for bushels of brown, tighter cones, which usually still have seeds in them. Foresters will review each collection to see if the cones are viable.

Levee Breach Prompts Iowa Evacuation

BY TIMBERLY ROSS
Associated Press

Six hundred residents in southwest Iowa were ordered Sunday to evacuate their homes after the Missouri River breached a levee across the border in Missouri.
The evacuation covers nearly half of the town of Hamburg, said Stefanie Bond, spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Residents, most of them on the south side of the city of 1,141, are being told to get out within 24 hours.
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported a levee was breached Sunday morning south of Hamburg in Missouri's Atchison County. The corps' Col. Robert Ruch said crews had been working Saturday on another issue near the breach and all workers were evacuated. The corps declined to release further details.
Rhonda Wiley, emergency management di-

rector for Atchison County, Mo., said a "trickle" of water has been running through the levee south of the Iowa border since Saturday night.
Another nearby levee had a similar break Saturday, but Wiley said crews were able to repair it. She said levees along the Missouri River have been weakened by the river's recent high water levels.
"We anticipate these compromises rearing their ugly heads all up and down the levee system throughout this event," Wiley said Sunday. "It's not a pretty picture. But today nobody appears to be in imminent danger at this moment."
Bond described the water coming through the breach affecting Hamburg as being between the spray of a garden hose and a fire hose. She said officials were working on a repair plan and the evacuations were ordered in case repairs fail.
Mike Creelius, emergency management coordinator for Fremont County, said no one

really knows what's going to happen in Hamburg or where the incoming water will go.
"The situation down there is really unstable," he said.
Last week, Bond said Hamburg residents were told not to rely on the levee to protect the city. Fremont County officials requested 130,000 sandbags from the corps.
This year could be one of the wettest on record in the Missouri River basin, according to the corps. Officials are predicting record river flows and large releases from reservoirs in the Dakotas because of steady spring rain and above-normal snowpack. The corps has warned that the overflowing river isn't likely to crest until mid- to late June and water will remain high for weeks or even months.
The corps predicts the river will crest at 27 feet or higher in Nebraska City, Neb., which is across the river from Hamburg. Flood stage is 18 feet. As of Sunday afternoon, the river was at 23.14 feet at Nebraska City, according to the National Weather Service.

Iowa Man Arrested In S.D. After Killing

BY TIMBERLY ROSS
Associated Press

A northern Iowa man was arrested Sunday in South Dakota after his wife was found dead in their home and their 2-year-old boy was reported missing.
Thomas Petersen, 39, of Greene, was being transferred Sunday to the Pennington County jail after a police chase. His son, Jacob, was found safe with him and an Amber Alert issued for the boy earlier Sunday was cancelled, authorities said.
It wasn't immediately clear what charges Petersen was being held on or when he would appear in court. Jackson County sheriff's deputy Tim Nutley said that was still being sorted out.
The Butler County, Iowa, sheriff's office called Petersen a suspect in the killing of his wife, Judy Petersen, 36. Her body was found about 9 p.m. Saturday in their home in Greene. Details of the slaying were not released, and a receptionist in the sheriff's office said no one was available Sunday to comment.

Iowa authorities issued an Amber Alert for the missing boy about 12:40 a.m. Sunday. The alert said the boy was likely with his "armed and dangerous" father and provided a description of Thomas Petersen's pickup.
Nutley said a National Park Service ranger Badlands National Park spotted the truck hours later in western South Dakota, about 500 miles from the Petersens' home, and contacted authorities. Nutley said a chase ensued and two officers were hurt in a crash.
Petersen rammed a patrol car driven by Jackson County Sheriff Ray Clements, then collided with an oncoming vehicle driven by Haakon County Sheriff Mel Smith, according to the South Dakota Department of Public Safety. Clements suffered non-life-threatening injuries when his car rolled; Smith had cuts and bruises.
Petersen was arrested about 8:20 a.m. Sunday a few miles south of Philip after being subdued with a Taser, authorities said. His son was taken into custody by the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

Nebraska Agency Looks To Boost Pallid Sturgeon Numbers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission recently collected broodstock to help in the recovery of the endangered pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River.
Eggs collected from captured pallid sturgeon were to be fertilized in hatcheries. The young pallid sturgeon produced will be stocked into the Missouri.
Game and Parks and several volunteers sampled pallid sturgeon in April in a section of the Missouri from near the confluence with the Platte River for 52 river miles downstream.
There were nearly 4,700 sturgeon captured using trotlines baited with nightcrawlers. Of those, only 212 were pallid sturgeon, and only 23 of them were found to be in reproductive condition.
The endangered fish has struggled since the river was straightened and dammed a half-century ago.

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