

2 S.D. Towns Get Flood Loans From State

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has approved \$5 million flood loans to Fort Pierre and Dakota Dunes.

State Budget Director Jason Dilges said the two communities need cash to pay bills related to flood protection on the rising Missouri River.

KCCR radio reported that the loans carry no interest for 18 months and must be repaid in five years.

Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill said Pierre did not request a loan because it is able to pay operating expenses and flood costs with money on hand.

Rain Tests Pierre Levees

PIERRE (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers say discharges from the Oahe Dam and runoff from the Bad River pushed the Missouri River to within one foot from the top of the levees at Pierre. The corps reduced discharges from the dam when the Bad River began rising from heavy rain earlier in the week. The Bad River drains into the Missouri River at Fort Pierre.

The corps' Col. Robert Ruch (rook) tells South Dakota Public Broadcasting that the extra runoff gives officials an idea of the capacity of the levees at Pierre and Fort Pierre.

Releases through the Missouri River dams are a record high to handle upstream runoff from rain and snowmelt.

No Injuries Reported In Huron Natural Gas Leak

HURON (AP) — NorthWestern Energy says no one was hurt in a natural gas leak in Huron.

Spokesman Tom Glanzer told KOKK radio that crews were working on a school expansion project and digging up a gas main when the leak happened Thursday morning.

He says old technology on the line was to blame for the leak. People left the school building and residents were asked to stay away from a nearby city park.

Glanzer said the leak was stopped by early afternoon.

Man Uses Butcher Knife To Try To Rob Casino

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls police are searching for a man they say tried to rob a casino with a butcher knife.

Authorities say the male entered Jackson's Casino on Tuesday morning, showed the knife to a clerk and demanded money.

Police tell the *Argus Leader* newspaper that a person working on a machine picked up a stool or a chair and threatened the suspect, who ran away with no money.

Officer Investigated For Being At Bar Off Force

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Cedar Rapids police say a K-9 officer who was being investigated for driving his squad car to a bar in Marion is no longer on the force.

The officer, who was off-duty at the time, was seen at the VIP Lounge on May 5. Witnesses said the officer was intoxicated. Someone at the bar took the officer's picture.

Sgt. Cristy Hamblin said the officer, who wasn't identified, didn't face criminal charges, but would face an internal investigation.

KGAN-TV in Cedar Rapids says Thursday that Hamblin says the investigation is complete. She says the officer is no longer with the police department. She declined to say whether the officer quit or was fired.

Minot Flood Outlook Worsens

BY DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

MINOT, N.D. — The flood outlook for North Dakota's fourth-largest city worsened Thursday, as accelerated releases from an upstream dam into the Souris River led officials to order more evacuations and close a major bridge.

As many as 10,000 residents were evacuated a day earlier from neighborhoods nearest the Souris, which cuts through the heart of Minot. It wasn't immediately clear how many more people were affected by Thursday's order.

National Guard Capt. Dan Murphy said officials were examining maps and planned to release more information at an afternoon news conference.

"The bottom line is they're just trying to get everybody out of the area where they think the property is going to be inundated," Murphy said.

Swollen by heavy rains and snowmelt far upstream, the Souris has risen rapidly since the weekend. On Thursday, officials accelerated the release of water from the Lake Darling dam and said that could raise the river 2 to 3 feet higher than earlier projections.

Officials also announced the closure of the Broadway Bridge, shutting down a key north-south artery in the city.

A major concern was protecting the sewer and water systems in Minot, an Air Force town of about 40,000 people. A failure could require the city to evacuate even more people.

"We're very concerned, especially with the backups in the sewer system. We've had several areas where we've had crushed sewer lines," Mayor Curt Zimbelman said. "With those types of things happening, it's at the top of our minds all the time."

National Guard members were checking pumps and adding sandbags Thursday to the levee that protects the sewer and water treatment plant on the southwest side of the city.

The Souris had been expected to peak Sunday or Monday several feet above its historic high in 1881. On Thursday, that estimate was moved higher and earlier — to about 6 1/2 feet above the record, with the peak sometime Saturday or Sunday and lingering for several days.

The river, which begins in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan and flows for a short distance through North Dakota, was all but certain to inundate thousands of homes and businesses during the coming week. Yet crews had not entirely given up.

Earlier Thursday, trucks and loaders carried clay and dirt to waiting Bobcats that sped to and fro, spreading and tamping the material atop riverside levees that already

reached some 15 feet high. The workers and Guard members were the only people to be seen in the area.

Parts of the city were already flooding. One trailer park near the river was under several feet of water.

Besides raising levees, Lt. Col. Kendal Bergmann said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is letting more water out from Lake Darling now so that later releases don't have to be as big.

"To protect the city from the water that is coming down, well, we can't get to it in time," Bergmann said. "People will be flooded."

Before the Broadway Bridge closed, many people were using it as a sightseeing perch — some to check on their own homes.

Jodine Blake, 45, watched as water approached her two-story house, which stood out among others with its orange paint. She had moved some belongings to the second story in the hope they would be safe there.

"It just makes you cry. You lose everything," she said.

Dave Vander Vorste, 55, helped residents in two of his rental houses move out of the evacuation zone. He said he went through the historic flood of 1969 — which was eclipsed Thursday — and knows what lies ahead.

"It's going to be five days of shock followed by reality," he said.

Martin Hospital, Indian Health Service At Odds

MARTIN (AP) — The director of a hospital in Martin warned it will have to close if the Indian Health Service doesn't pay at least some of the nearly \$1 million in emergency room bills for American Indians who choose the community hospital over an IHS hospital.

George Minder, chief executive officer for Bennett County Hospital and Nursing Home, said he has asked the Aberdeen Area IHS to pay at least \$425,000 in past due bills, or about half of what he says is owed by the IHS since 2009 for care for residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota.

"If we don't get Indian Health Service reimbursements, this facility will close," Minder told the

Rapid City Journal. "We'll try to keep the nursing home open, but the hospital will close."

Minder, who took over as hospital CEO in October 2010, said the situation went unaddressed for years but the money is needed to help meet a \$135,000 bi-weekly payroll.

The director of the Aberdeen Area IHS, Charlene Red Thunder, said her agency is not responsible for those bills because they do not meet IHS guidelines to pay only for priority emergency care at non-IHS facilities.

Minder said the hospital is required under federal law to treat anyone who seeks emergency care and sees about 200 emergency room patients each month. He estimated at least 80 percent

of them qualify for medical care from IHS.

When billed for those visits, IHS's practice has been to deny all but Medical Priority I care claims under a policy of paying for emergency room charges at non-IHS facilities only for those typically defined as "threatening to life, limb or senses." In denying other claims, the IHS said those patients could have sought care at the IHS hospital at Pine Ridge.

Minder said many residents of the reservation live closer to Martin than they do to Pine Ridge and some don't have transportation to Pine Ridge, which is about 50 miles away.

In a prepared statement to the *Journal*, Red Thunder said IHS

must ration its contract health service funds, which are used to pay for referrals or private sector medical care.

"If a patient goes to an outside provider without having a referral that is authorized and approved for payment by the CHS (contract health service) program, the patient is responsible for payment for those services and IHS is not liable," she said. "By law, IHS is the payer of last resort, so patients and outside providers must use alternate resources first."

Red Thunder said her agency has paid all of the Bennett County bills it owes but will continue to "provide education and technical assistance about its payment procedures."

Randall

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signed to handle 600,000 cfs."

The dam will also set a new elevation mark, Curran said. "The previous record level was 1372.2 (feet) in 1977, and it's a sure thing that we will set a new record this year. We're now at 1,369.5 and climbing," he said.

Gradual increases are planned at Fort Randall for the next five days, said Jody Farhat, Chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Office in Omaha.

"We plan to go to 145,000 cfs (Friday) and hold that on Saturday. We will step up to 152,000 Sunday and 157,000 Monday," she said.

"That come-up is very subject to change. We are watching the reservoir levels at Gavins Point very closely, and we may adjust that as conditions dictate. Gavins Point is at 160,000 cfs and holding. We have no plans to go higher."

However, those plans can change, Farhat said. She pointed to the impact of recent heavy rainfall across the entire Missouri River basin.

"Last weekend, the system was filled nearly to capacity at all the reservoirs. Any additional rain, the normal half-inch to inch, we could handle that, but a heavy rain causes us to increase the releases," she said.

"Once a reservoir is down a foot or two, we can handle large events. But at the current time, we are very limited at our ability to respond to rainfall events without increasing the releases."

Monday night's flash flooding dumped 6 to 9 inches of rainfall upstream from Fort Randall, Curran said.

"They had a huge amount of rain at Chamberlain and Platte. The reservoir came up so fast," he said. "Tuesday, (the lake level) was coming up about 1/10 of a foot an hour after the rains Monday night."

Lake Francis Case continued its steady climb Thursday, registering an elevation of 1,369.5 feet in the morning and 1,369.8 feet in the afternoon.

On a positive note, the mountain



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Crews continue their work to stabilize the south shoreline of the Missouri River just below Gavins Point Dam. Truckloads of riprap were hauled and dumped in an effort to prevent more erosion of the area.

snowpack continues to go down in the basin, Farhat said.

Fort Peck snowpack peaked at 141 percent of normal and now stands at 51 percent of normal, she said. The reach between Fort Peck to Garrison peaked at 136 percent of normal and currently stands at 55 percent of normal.

Flood control takes priority in the operation of Fort Randall Dam, Curran said.

On Thursday, Fort Randall ran 110,000 cfs through the flood tunnels with the other 28,000 cfs running through the power plant, the project manager said. "The 28,000 cfs out of the power plant produces 250 megawatts, enough power to serve tens of thousands of homes," he said.

Fort Randall serves as a valve between neighboring dams, Curran said.

"We make adjustments within individual reservoirs and between the reservoirs," he said.

Big Bend releases 160,000 cfs from upstream, but Fort Randall receives an inflow of 205,000 cfs, meaning 45,000 cfs comes into the system from other sources, Curran said.

Meanwhile, Fort Randall was releasing 138,000 cfs while Gavins Point downstream at Yankton was

releasing 160,000 cfs, he said.

"We have to take into account the Lewis and Clark Lake and Gavins Point inflows," Curran said. "We have a fair amount of flood control storage here (at Pickstown). Rather than ramp up the releases a lot at Gavins Point, we are able to store the water at Fort Randall."

"Once Lewis and Clark gets in the 1,206.5 to 1,207 range, we bump up our releases."

Fort Randall uses its power plant, spillway and outlet tunnels for releasing water, Curran said.

"We like to put it out of the spillway," he said. "We have a smoother operation and less erosion out of the spillway. It's a quieter operation. There is a lot of energy surging downstream."

This year's flooding will exert a profound impact on the Missouri River, Curran predicted.

"The river is constantly changing," he said. "Its channels are moving, and events like this (flooding) significantly change the river."

The flooding carries a heavy personal toll for people living along the river, Curran said. He told of the anger and frustration expressed during a Fort Randall visit by a man from Hamburg, Iowa, where a levee breach resulted in massive flooding.

"The man from Hamburg was vis-

iting to see what was going on," Curran said. "The man said, 'I can't believe you people in South Dakota are conducting business as usual while we are suffering in Hamburg.'"

"He thought we were just driving around and having a good ole' time. But the people around here know that's not true. They're suffering from the flooding, too. We're all impacted by this event."

The Hamburg man, understandably, had a narrow perspective of the flooding problems, the project manager said.

"I asked a group at Wagner for their perspective (on flooding). I asked them, 'Do you understand the Corps' perspective?'" Curran said.

"We have a 1,200-mile-long perspective with all of our authorized purposes and all the development along the river."

Those demands are many, and people up and down the river are all in it together, Curran said.

"We have 1,200 miles of river, reservoirs and towns — and power plants, and navigation, and recreation, and water supply, and fish and wildlife, and irrigation and flood control," he said.

"I don't minimize the impacts to (flood victims) and their perspective, but we've got to see the whole big river."

Flows Of 160,000 cfs Threaten More Yankton-Area Homes

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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As releases from Gavins Point Dam west of Yankton increased to 160,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) Thursday, so did the level of misery inflicted on property owners downstream from the structure.

"There are several more homes in the Larson's Landing and Riverside Acres areas that are being threatened by water or have water against them," said Lee Rettig, the public information officer for the Yankton County Office of Emergency Management. "We also expect more people in Riverside Acres will start seeing water in their basements."

A levy built by homeowners in the River Aspen community was still holding out flood water, he stated.

A stockpile of sandbags at the south end of Deer Boulevard in Riverside Acres is being depleted, according to Rettig.

"Quite a few people, when they heard the releases were going up, began sandbagging," he said. "People who weren't doing it before are doing it now."

The county still has filled

sandbags stockpiled that could be moved to Riverside Acres if needed, Rettig said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers put to rest a rumor that it is holding off higher releases at Gavins Point Dam until after the College World Series is finished in Omaha.

"That is not true," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Water Management Division in Omaha, during a conference call Thursday afternoon. "We are planning on 160,000 cfs releases, and we have no plans to go any higher."

Those plans will change only if a heavy precipitation event occurred like the one that evolved earlier this week.

Mild events of one to two inches of rain could be absorbed, she stated.

"The reservoir system is very full and nearly to capacity at all the reservoirs," Farhat said. "Any additional heavy rain can certainly cause us to increase releases at this point in the game. Once we've evacuated a little bit of water out of the reservoirs and they all get down a foot or two, we'll be able to handle a little bit larger events."

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Stacey Lickteig and Joey Matzke announce their engagement.
Parents of the couple are Moe and Grace Lickteig of Dell Rapids, SD; and Doug Matzke and Betty Granflaten, both of Yankton, SD.
Stacey is a 2004 graduate of Dell Rapids High School and a 2008 graduate of Mount Marty College. She is an RN at Sanford Hospital.
Joey is a 2003 graduate of Yankton High School and a 2008 graduate of Mount Marty College. He is currently attending USD pursuing his master's in school counseling. He is a graduate assistant at USD.
The couple is planning a July 23, 2011, wedding.

Lickteig-Matzke

Ronna Brown of Farley, Iowa. Chris is the son of Laverne and Kathleen Schieffer of Tabor, SD.
Lindsey graduated from Clarke University with a bachelor's degree in communication and earned a master's degree in organizational management from Concordia University, St. Paul. She is the assistant director of communication at Concordia University, St. Paul.
Chris graduated with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate degree in physical therapy from the University of South Dakota. Chris is a physical therapist at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis and an adjunct faculty member at the University of South Dakota.
The couple will marry and host a reception on August 13, 2011, at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

Brown-Schieffer
Lindsey Brown and Chris Schieffer, both of Minneapolis, MN, are pleased to announce their upcoming marriage. Lindsey is the daughter of Glen and

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