

### Corps: Spillway Remains Option At Oahe Dam

PIERRE (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers says it doesn't want to use the emergency spillway at the Oahe Dam but will do so if necessary. Releases from the dam north of Pierre have been dropped to 150,000 cubic feet per second because of runoff from the Bad River downstream. KCCR radio reports that discharges are expected to be increased back to 160,000 cfs sometime this weekend. The corps' Col. Bob Ruch (rook) says the spillway would be used if Lake Oahe rises above the top of the flood gates or releases are increased to 167,000 cubic feet or more. The emergency spillway at Oahe is an earthen channel instead of concrete. Ruch says using it would cause erosion and mean repairs and costs that the corps hopes to avoid.

### NRC Chairman To Tour Neb. Nuclear Plants

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will visit Nebraska's two nuclear power plants to check out the measures they've taken to battle flooding along the Missouri River. The commission says Gregory Jaczko will visit Cooper nuclear power plant near Brownville on Sunday, and then tour Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant near Blair on Monday. He will also take a helicopter tour of flooding on the river. Fort Calhoun remains shut down because of concern about floodwaters, but a series of barriers have stopped the water's advance. It is run by the Omaha Public Power District. Cooper continues to operate at full capacity, but the Nebraska Public Power District is monitoring the river closely.

### Neb. Firework Sales May Boom Due To Flood

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Firework sales in Nebraska could be booming heading in the Fourth of July because of road and bridge closures along the flooding Missouri River. The Lincoln Journal Star on Friday says local firework stands expect business to take off because flooding will prevent many people from going to Rock Port, Mo., known for its low prices and selection of fireworks. Flooding has closed stretches of Interstate 29, Iowa 2 from the interstate to Nebraska City also is closed, and drivers can't use bridges to Missouri at Brownville and Rulo. People who buy fireworks in Missouri can run into checkpoints by the Nebraska State Patrol. It's legal to buy fireworks in Missouri, but illegal to bring them into Nebraska. The patrol hasn't decided if it'll have checkpoints because of the flooding.

### Value Of S.D. Ag Land Rises 16.5 Percent

BROOKINGS (AP) — University economists report a 16.5 percent jump in the value of agricultural land in South Dakota the past year. That's the third largest increase since economists at South Dakota State University began tracking the farm real estate market in 1991. Highest values were \$3,332 per acre in the east central region and \$2,900 per acre in the southeast. Professor Larry Janssen said three-fourths of the respondents in the survey expect land values to keep climbing. The rest expect no change. The survey attributes the rise last year to high commodity prices. The economists say rising cash rental rates and relatively low interest rates the past 20 years helped drive up demand for farm land from investors and farmers looking to expand.

### S.D. Website Maps Broadband Availability

PIERRE (AP) — A new state government website allows South Dakotans to help document high-speed internet accessibility around the state and participate in the State Broadband Initiative. The first phase of the initiative was creating, verifying, and updating a comprehensive statewide map of broadband availability. The interactive website allows people to enter specific addresses and determine which broadband services are available at those locations. Gov. Dennis Daugaard compared the availability of broadband now to the availability of electricity more than a century ago as the foundation for economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness and a better way of life. "High-speed broadband is very important to the future of South Dakota," he said in a statement. "Individuals and businesses alike have a vested interest in expanding the South Dakota economy, and I believe that high-speed technology will be an important part of that success." People who visit the website will find information about the initiative and the benefits of broadband, they can test the speed of their internet connections, take a survey, and report public Wi-Fi "hot spots" or areas where broadband is not available.

### Recall Petitions Filed In Huron

HURON (AP) — A group in Huron has filed petitions to recall Mayor David McGirr. The city finance office will have 10 days to certify the petitions. If there are enough valid signatures, the City Commission will set an election date. KOKK radio reported that recall supporters will have to find someone to run on the ballot against McGirr. The recall group is upset at what happened after the city's police chief testified before the Legislature about an illegal immigration bill. The chief was put on administrative leave and then retired.

# Daugaard Takes Lead Role In Flood Fight

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — As the tall man clad in brown shirt, blue jeans and work boots strolled down the levee built to protect nearby homes from the swollen Missouri River, two National Guard soldiers on patrol rolled up in an all-terrain vehicle to check out the intruder. They found their boss, Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

In the late afternoon sun, the governor talked with the Guard members about water levels and how the levee was holding up.

Daugaard says the frequent strolls on the levees in Pierre, Fort Pierre and Dakota Dunes helped him see for himself what was being done early in the flood fight to protect the cities. He said the on-site inspections of levees and threatened neighborhoods helped him take part in decisions made by state, federal and local officials.

"I could understand when they talked about problems," Daugaard said. "I could be a participant rather than an observer."

In the first two weeks of the flood fight, Daugaard abandoned his office in the state Capitol to spend nearly all his time in flood-threatened neighborhoods or at the state's Emergency Operations Center in Pierre, where officials from dozens of state, federal and local agencies worked to prevent flooding.

He has since scaled back time spent on the flood effort so he could attend to normal duties that had been put on hold.

The emergency started in late May, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it would have to drastically increase releases from

the Missouri River dams to get rid of water from record rains upstream in Montana. The agency delayed ramping up the releases about a week to provide time for building levees and to give people a chance to put sandbags around their houses and move their possessions to higher grounds.

Daugaard, who had been governor just five months, took the lead in daily briefings for news organizations and the public, telling people what was being done and repeatedly urging them not to risk their lives trying to save property.

The levees so far have held, though some neighborhoods could not be protected by the structures. Some houses have been damaged by rising groundwater.

Larry Adams, 66, who lives in a low-lying area of Pierre, said the agencies did a good job getting levees built. He said he appreciated the governor's effort to tell people what was going on and warn them of the peril.

"There was no ifs, ands or buts about it. This is what he wanted, and he got it done," Adams said.

Daugaard said it didn't always seem like an easy job.

"The hardest part is probably knowing what to do all the time ... worrying that you're not acting correctly or timely, that you don't ask questions of people to the degree that helps them see what needs to be done," the governor said.

"As it turned out, in most cases we were able to see what needed to be done, when it needed to be done, and soon enough that the work got done. That's because I had a lot of help," Daugaard said, crediting his staff and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, who was sent to Dakota Dunes to coordi-

nate the work there.

Daugaard said he was uncertain about how many guard troops to activate, but decided to call many to active duty and then release them once they were no longer needed.

He never regretted urging people in threatened areas to leave their homes. No one knew whether the levees would be built on time or would withstand the high water, he said.

"I didn't feel that was difficult because it reflected something that I would do myself. I was just asking people to take care of themselves and be safe," Daugaard said.

The governor said getting close to the scene has made a difference at times.

He said, for example, he noticed one day that traffic was slowing up trucks hauling dirt to build a levee in Dakota Dunes. By the next day, regular traffic had been diverted so the trucks could move faster.

Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill said the governor played a prominent role in discussions with city officials on building levees and protecting utilities. The state provided technical

help when the city decided to build levees in addition to what the Corps of Engineers had already built, but those decisions were left up to the city, she said.

"That kept us moving, kept us focused," she said.

Fort Pierre Mayor Sam Tidball also credited the governor for help in building extra levees, getting water pumps and arranging a state loan to help the city pay its bills. Daugaard also got contractors whatever they needed to build those levees, the mayor said.

"He didn't try to tell them how to do it," Tidball said.

However, the governor often got a close look at how the levees were being built. Several times, he rode in trucks as they dumped dirt to shape the structures.

Daugaard and his wife, Linda, also let two of his staff members stay in the governor's mansion after rising water forced them out of their apartment.

"We've got a pretty big nice house, with extra bedrooms," he joked.

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### Live Bullets Fired At Old West Show

CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — One of the participants in a mock Old West gun battle in South Dakota fired live ammunition instead of using blanks, wounding three tourists, authorities announced Friday.

More than 100 people attended the show a week ago staged by the Dakota Wild Bunch re-enactors, who perform several times a week in Hill City, a tourist town in the Black Hills.

The ammunition shot tared a 65-year-old Minnesota woman's fibula, a bone in the lower leg. A 48-year-old Pennsylvania man and a 52-year-old Nebraska man were also wounded.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom was to release a statement with more details later Friday.

There was no immediate comment from re-enactors.

On its Facebook page, the group has said their members are not allowed to bring live rounds to performances.

Carrol Knutson of Birchwood, Minn., said earlier that she was sure her leg injury was caused by a live bullet. She said the hospital determined that a bullet hit her fibula, and lead residue was found in the wound.

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