

Corps

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tle longer.”

In the meantime, Jody Farhat, chief of the Missouri River Water Management Division, said the spillway is fully operational.

“We don’t have any operating restrictions at Gavins Point at this time,” she said. “We are able to use that spillway if we need to.”

In other news Tuesday, Corps officials announced that additional drought conservation measures will probably be enacted for the Missouri River Mainstem System as the navigation season is set to begin.

Minimum navigation flow support will likely be provided for the first half of the Missouri River navigation season based on the anticipated March 15 storage check results, which are expected to show system storage below levels required for full service navigation flow support.

Gavins Point Dam releases will be stepped up incrementally around March 18 to provide flow support for the 2013 navigation season.

The level of flow support for the second half of the navigation season and the season length will be made following the system storage check on July 1.

Minimum-service flow targets range from 25,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Sioux City, Iowa, to 35,000 cfs at Kansas City, Mo., and are designed to provide a navigation channel that is 8 feet deep by 200 feet wide.

The continuing drought conditions in the upper Missouri River basin indicate less-than-normal runoff in 2013. Based on the current soil moisture and snowpack conditions, runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City is forecast to be 20 million acre feet (MAF), or 81 percent of normal for the calendar year.

Drought conservation measures are enacted based on storage checks included in the Master Manual. The first drought conservation measure — minimum winter releases — was based on the Sept. 1 storage check. In addition to providing only minimum navigation flow support, the Corps will also conserve water throughout the navigation season by not providing flow support in river reaches where there is no commercial navigation traffic, said Farhat.

Gavins Point releases averaged 14,100 cfs during February.

The current release rate of 14,000 cfs will continue until mid-March, when Gavins Point releases will be stepped up. The reservoir behind Gavins Point Dam ended February at an elevation of 1206.5 feet above the mean sea level. The reservoir will be lowered to elevation 1206 in early March and held near that level to make room for potential spring runoff.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](#)

Bully

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school boards and principals, and (discover) how the topic may not have been taken seriously.”

Jacobs said she hopes the film screening allows parents to become more aware of what their children may be going through. She hopes students that are being bullied will have the power to speak up and tell an adult, and she also hopes that students who bully others will see how it affects people and stop doing it.

“I have all kinds of goals for the screening,” Jacobs said. “The movie is appropriate for those in upper elementary grades on through adults. I think everyone that comes to watch the film can take something away from it.”

She hopes that the movie might influence communication opening up between parents and kids about what might be happening with children while they’re in school.

“Our job as a library is to help educate the community,” Jacobs said. “The subject of bullying might not be something everyone will be interested in. Some might have questions about the subject but won’t want to come in to a public viewing, so hearing about the movie might make them check it out on their own.”

In addition to the movie, the library will have the book, that goes along with the film available and will have resources for adults on how to deal with the situation if their child is a bully or being bullied.

“It’s a difficult subject to talk about, and I tend to get very passionate about it, but I just hope that people have the courage to come out to see the film,” Jacobs said. “People can come see the film out of curiosity, or if they feel like they want to learn more about the topic or do something about it.”

For more information, contact the library at 668-5276.

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at [twitter.com/andrewatwal](#)

Firm

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wonderful thing about this employer is that they hire employees directly out of college, unlike most IT (Information Technology) companies that typically require years of service.”

Eagle Creek Software Services, with headquarters in Eden Prairie, Minn., was founded in 1999. The company has project centers in Valley City, N.D., and Pierre, and has targeted Vermillion as the site of a fourth location.

“The addition of 200 jobs in the community the size of Vermillion is significant,” said Pat Costello, commissioner, Governor’s Office of Economic Development. “I couldn’t be more pleased that Eagle Creek Software Services has decided to grow their footprint in South Dakota.”

Eagle Creek provides consulting and technical expertise, focusing on customer relationship management, information management, and applications development.

The company’s mission is to help its clients increase quality and efficiencies while managing price and risk in software development, deployment, and support.

To achieve that mission, it is relying on a unique relationship with state and local government and USD.

“The types of jobs they will be bringing are referred to as IT programming and consulting services. They don’t do traditional programming like writing code from scratch,” Howe said. “Most of the companies that they are dealing with are buying off-the-shelf software. They are adapting that software to their customers’ needs.”

It is envisioned that local employees of Eagle Creek will go to work in a new building in Vermillion, constructed by the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company and leased to the firm.

“The economic impact of this is impressive, and they are initially looking at probably a 30,000-square-foot building,” Howe said.

The building may be constructed in the River Bend Business Park, located near Vermillion’s Walmart.

“We have some hoops that we need to jump through to get the financing and other necessary things, but once that’s complete, we’ll hopefully be turning dirt this summer for the building,” he said.

Eagle Creek’s services are used by a variety of companies, from healthcare, insurance and financial services, to communications, technology, and life sciences.

“What makes Vermillion and this company work so well together is the relationship with USD that we’ve developed,” Howe said. “This is all part of a very in-depth, collaborative partnership involving the company, the community, the university, the Board of Regents, and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development.”

A key component is the Information Technology Consultant Academy, located on the USD campus.

“We created a training program within the university systems that will create a pipeline feeder of the employees that have these base skill sets when they graduate,” Howe said.

Those skilled employees, he said, will significantly reduce the training time and costs usually associated with securing new employees for the firm. Those who complete the academy’s coursework will be workforce ready wherever they seek employment.

“The training and certain coursework that is made available (through the academy) is not just for this company,” Howe said. “That’s the beauty of it. The skill sets that people will learn at this academy, if they don’t go to work for Eagle Creek, are very marketable anywhere else in the state. These are needed skill sets.”

“This is a very exciting project. We’re so thrilled to be involved,” said Laurie J. Becvar, senior associate provost and graduate school dean at USD.

“The university became involved because they wanted that partnership between higher education and business ... in helping to create a workforce for the future.

“We started talking about ideas,” she said, “and that’s when we forged the Information Technology Consultant Academy. It’s really an innovative way to grow our own workforce for South Dakota and specifically for this company.”

The Information Technology Consultant Academy integrates four undergraduate courses with an internship, which will provide participants a unique credential entering an IT-related profession.

Enrollees in the academy will take four undergraduate courses — two in computer sciences and two in business — to earn an undergrad certificate and gain 12 credit hours.

“With those four courses for the undergrad certificate, the tuition and fees are paid fully,” Becvar said. “That is a huge benefit, of course, to the students, because the students could use those 12 credit hours toward their baccalaureate program.”

Participants must also complete a paid internship, and then interview for employment which may lead to employment with Eagle Creek.

Those who seek employment at Eagle Creek may have the opportunity to pursue a sponsored graduate degree, including a mas-

ter of business administration or master of science in administration, both customized for Eagle Creek.

A third option will be a master of science in computer science.

“Having no costs to the students is a wonderful thing,” Howe said. “The costs of the program are going to be supplemented between the company, the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, and our community, with Vermillion Now! and other things of that nature.”

The institute’s courses will be available to prospective students, he said, via traditional delivery methods offered by the Board of Regents.

One class is already underway, and the university has begun recruiting people for the second class.

“It’s going to take a few years before we get a stable pipeline, but we think it’s going to be a good process,” Howe said. “You don’t have to be an IT graduate to be in this program. You’re not required to have an IT degree; you just have to show an aptitude for it, and they (the institute and Eagle Creek) will train you in the rest. It opens it up to anyone; it is not just dependent on one degree program at the university to supply this workforce.”

“Eagle Creek Software Services is putting South Dakota on the map as a hub in the global knowledge economy,” Costello said “Having the largest U.S.-based onshore software services company speaks to both South Dakota’s business environment and skilled workforce.”

“I think this is one of those types of companies and types of arrangements that have the real ability to change what Vermillion is,” Howe said, noting that young people attending USD will have greater reason to make settle in Vermillion to work and raise a family.

Pope

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can bureaucracy, and Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer, favored by Vatican-based insiders who have defended the status quo. Other names included Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who heads the Vatican’s powerful office for bishops, and U.S. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the exuberant archbishop of New York.

Before Tuesday’s conclave a Mass was held at St. Peter’s Basilica for the general public and the cardinals. In an appeal, the dean of the College of Cardinals, retired Cardinal Angelo Sodano, called for unity within the church, asking the cardinal electors to put their differences aside for the good of the church and the future pope.

“Each of us is therefore called to cooperate with the Successor of Peter, the visible foundation of such an ecclesial unity,” Sodano said. He said the job of pope is to be merciful, charitable and “tirelessly promote justice and peace.”

He was interrupted by applause from the pews — not so much from the cardinals — when he referred to the “beloved and venerated” Benedict XVI and his “brilliant” pontificate.

Sitting in the front row was Benedict’s longtime aide, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, who reported that Benedict was watching the proceedings from the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, according to a Vatican spokesman the Rev. Thomas Rosica.

For over a week, the cardinals have met privately to try to figure out who among them has the stuff to be pope and what his priorities should be. But they ended the debate on Monday with questions still unanswered, and many cardinals predicting a drawn-out election that will further expose the church’s divisions. The conclave proceeds in silence, with no formal debate, behind closed doors.

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