



Sunny

9 a.m.: **66** | 3 p.m.: **81** | DETAILS: PAGE 2



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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The discharges at Gavins Point Dam were halted Wednesday so officials from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers could inspect the structure for any damage caused by the record flooding last summer. Some repair work was also done on a dock and other structures. **LEFT:** The lack of releases dropped the tailwater level dramatically, exposing sandbars and other formations in the channel. This man walked out to one of the sandbars, which appeared to be composed more of gravel and other rocks. **ABOVE:** Among the things construction crews did Wednesday was use ground-penetrating radar to explore how much gravel base is missing from below the concrete of the Gavins Point Dam spillway. Cameras revealed the absent gravel during an assessment done earlier this year. To see images of Wednesday's drawdown, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Area Crop Planting Rolls Along

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Thanks to a dry spring, area planting continues to roll along and didn't suffer any serious setbacks with last weekend's storms, a local ag official said Wednesday.

In fact, corn planting is nearly completed in the immediate area, according to Rich Schwartz, county executive director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Yankton.

"In Yankton County, we have 90 to 95 percent of the corn planted," he said. "They probably don't have as much (completed) over in Bon Homme County or in Nebraska, but they have gotten close to it."

Soybean planting is also moving along well, Schwartz said.

"We put down (in our report) on Monday that 35 percent of the beans were planted in Yankton County," he said. "Those guys were planting (Tuesday), so they are probably 50 percent done on beans as of right now."

According to the weekly state crop report, South Dakota crops continue to look good with the help of recent rains. There were four days suitable for field work this past week. The southeast part of South Dakota recorded some of the state's warmest temperatures.

The dry spring has made for some ideal planting conditions, Schwartz said.

"We have farmers who have never gotten to any big areas before (because of wet conditions and other challenges)," he said. "Now they are getting 100 percent planted. They are planting in areas that they haven't gotten through in the last 10 years."

The region also was spared storm damage

CROPS | PAGE 10

Low Tide

Releases Stopped For Damage Assessment Of Spillway



KELLY HERTZ/P&D



PHOTO: JOE RICHEY

ABOVE: The river bottom at Riverside Acres was exposed for much of Wednesday. **LEFT:** U.S. Army Corps workers attempt to extract a submerged boat from the tailwater Wednesday. The loader became stuck in the process and had to be pulled out.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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As people streamed into the area below the Gavins Point Dam Wednesday, many were struck by what a difference a year can make.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers incrementally reduced water releases at the dam from 25,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to zero Wednesday morning in order to do a damage assessment of the spillway. Flows resumed in the afternoon as the Corps had planned.

In the meantime, many onlookers could be seen along the Missouri River between Gavins Point Dam and Yankton, scoping out the effects of the reduced flows.

It was just before Memorial Day weekend last year that the Corps began warning of high flows along the river that would eventually lead to record releases of 160,000 cfs from Gavins Point Dam.

"It's probably once in a lifetime that you will see record flows to no flow," Yankton County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt said as he visited the spillway during the lunch hour Wednesday. "It is pretty remarkable."

Instead of moving at the frantic pace required to deal with the flooding last year, Scherschligt was able to leisurely take in the effects of having no flow from the dam.

"I just wanted to see what it looked like and get an idea of the erosion that has occurred," he said. "I'm going to go downstream to see different sandbars and the lay of the land to see how things have changed."

From the county's perspective, it has more or less recovered from last year's historic flooding, according to Scherschligt.

However, some of its residents are still coping with the aftermath.

"We still have some residents dealing with shore stabilization, especially east of Larson's Landing," Scherschligt said.

THEY FOUND A VOID

On the concrete slab below the spillway gates, workers were busy running ground-penetrating radar over its surface, as well as drilling some holes.

"They are assessing the concrete and gravel base at the upper end of the spillway," explained Gavins Point Operations Project Manager Dave Becker from the viewing deck above the spillway. "In January, we were running a couple of our south spillway gates. We saw water coming up out of the drain on the north end and thought something was out of whack."

The spillway has approximately 350 drains, some of which had their covers knocked off during last year's flood.

"About three weeks ago, we had a contractor looking at some of these drains where the covers had been blown off," Becker said. "They ran a camera down the drain and found there was a void."

The concrete of the spillway is approximately 1 1/2 feet thick, and below that is about four feet of gravel.

"The concrete was fine, but the gravel wasn't there,"

INSIDE TODAY



Hartington Sweeps District D-3 Track Meet ■ 7

Search Continues To Fill JRWDD Board Seat

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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The search continues to fill the vacant Yankton County seat on the James River Water Development District (JRWDD) board. However, officials are hopeful they can appoint a new member at the July meeting in Yankton.

The seat has remained vacant since Jim Lane of Yankton resigned earlier this year. Lane had been serving as board chairman for about a month at the time of his resignation.

The JRWDD board met Tuesday in Mitchell, and the Area 8 board vacancy was on its agenda.

The district received no response when it advertised the open seat and sought applications by April 30, said JRWDD administrative assistant Judy Smoyer.

"Nobody turned in a petition or contacted the office, so we will have to run the ad again," she said. "Hopefully, in July, we will have a whole line-up of people who

want to sign up."

The Area 8 director on the board represents the Southeast Yankton Unorganized Territory in Yankton County and Yankton voting districts 2, 3, 4, and 5. Anyone interested in filling this vacancy should contact the JRWDD office at (605) 352-0600.

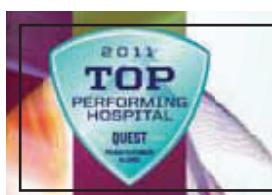
If more than one person applies for the open director seat, the board would likely schedule interviews, Smoyer said. If only one person applies by the deadline, that person would likely be appointed to the board, she said.

"If someone were to turn in a petition in time for the July meeting, they could be appointed and begin serving immediately at that meeting," Smoyer said. "Normally, it's a four-year term, and the person filling the vacancy would serve until the next election in 2014."

The board has made filling the vacancy a priority because the seat represents a large population, said

SEARCH | PAGE 10

GAVINS | PAGE 12



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TOMORROW: Collin Raye To Perform Sunday

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET