

Homeowners Won't Receive FEMA Storm Money

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is working with South Dakota officials on the reimbursement process following an April snow and ice storm, but individual homeowners will be out of luck in receiving any of the federal money.

That's because at least 100 homes must be destroyed or uninhabitable as a result of the storm. Sioux Falls emergency manager Reagan Smith told *The Argus Leader* in a story published Tuesday that that threshold was not met.

"All FEMA programs, whether they be individual assistance or public assistance, they aren't really to help the community or individual become whole again, it's primarily to assist the community or individual in recovery," Smith said. "It isn't like an insurance policy, where we're going to come in and buy everything that you lost, or that type of thing."

The April 9 through 11 storm dumped 2 feet of snow on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. An ice storm in Sioux Falls knocked out power to more than 115,000 people. Downed trees and power lines prompted the city to launch a branch cleanup process that is still ongoing. President Obama approved a disaster declaration for Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Shannon and Turner counties, as well as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The declaration authorizes the federal government to provide recovery assistance for up to 75 percent of eligible costs.

The state will cover 10 percent of the remaining costs while local governments or organizations will cover 15 percent, said Jason Bauder, mitigation and recovery manager for the state Office of Emergency Management.

FEMA officials could be in the area for the next two months, though reimbursements won't come until later. Smith said FEMA will examine the costs of cleaning up debris from the storm, infrastructure repair and overtime costs for emergency personnel during the storm. Preliminary estimates show the storm caused at least \$11.4 million in damages to public and private nonprofit property.

"They'll set up shop here, and they'll have their public assistance directors start working with the city in the various departments, finance, public works, parks, police and fire to start reviewing and capturing the costs that we incurred during the ice storm and the subsequent recovery, primarily the tree branch cleanup that's continuing to go on right now," Smith said.

Leaky Deadwood Library Closed Indefinitely

DEADWOOD (AP) — So many leaks have sprung in the roof of the Deadwood Public Library that officials say they were forced to close it indefinitely.

The dripping began Saturday in the 108-year-old building, library director Jeannette Chaney-Moodie said. Soon, water was squishing underfoot and the plaster started peeling.

Asked where the leaks were, Chaney-Moodie responded: "Where is it not leaking?"

The building is considered a historic treasure in the town because it's one of the last Carnegie libraries in the nation, the *Black Hills Pioneer* reported.

Most of the library's books are protected beneath huge tarps to ward off the wet, but the ceilings, walls, woodwork and carpet are damaged. By Tuesday, drops of water hung from the oak woodwork trimming the doorways. The reading room, both offices on the first floor, and the janitor's closet in the basement all had standing water and soaked carpets.

Chaney-Moodie said she closed down the library when a worker spotted water coming out of a light fixture in the bathroom.

The library was set to get a new \$49,000 roof this summer, but a hail storm that hit Deadwood on Friday weakened the spray-on seal that had been applied as a temporary fix last fall.

"It was dry ever since we applied it in October," Public Works Director J.R. Raysor said. "There were no problems until the hail storm Friday night. Then all hell broke loose and it's coming in from everywhere."

Raysor said there's no point in repairing the plaster until workers tear off the roof and evaluate the full extent of the damage.

Recent Rains Lift Spirits Of S.D. Farmers

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — Rusty Foster already sold some of his cows and may have to sell more because of the yearlong drought that hit much of the state, but recent rains have helped lift his spirits and those of his neighbors in northwestern South Dakota's Perkins County.

Foster said he got more than 2 inches of rain on his ranch 25 miles north of Faith last weekend, the first substantial rain in the area in about a year. That will help grow grass at least for a while, but he said it will take more rain to ensure a hay crop this summer.

"We're thinking it's going to get better," Foster said. "We've got a chance."

Substantial rains fell across much of South Dakota in the past week, adding to moisture from April snowstorms to improve conditions after last summer's drought that cut into crop yields and forced many ranchers to sell cattle in South Dakota and other states.

State Climatologist Dennis Todey said the recent rain has put water in the top layers of the soil in many places, making the grass greener and getting crops to start growing. But in many areas, deeper soil levels have not been recharged, he said.

"If we continue to get precipitation, even if it's not heavy, that will slowly keep us moving in the right direction," Todey said. "But because of that lack of soil moisture, we won't be able to handle very long dry periods during the year, and rangeland just flat out needs precipitation."

And due to the lack of deep soil moisture, "we don't want to say everything is better and everything is great," Todey said.

The U.S. Drought Monitor report last week indicated that all of South Dakota was at least abnormally dry. About two-thirds of the state was rated in severe or extreme drought, but no part was in the highest category of exceptional drought. That's an improvement from three months ago, when 87 percent of the state was in severe, extreme or exceptional drought.

Todey said rangeland was hit so hard last summer that it will recover only slowly, even with additional precipitation.

Foster said many ranchers in his area have sold cattle because little grass or hay grew last year, leaving them short of feed for the winter. He said many ranchers in the area will wind up selling half to all their cattle.

The grass was slow to green up because the spring was so cold and northwestern

South Dakota missed the April snowstorms that helped replenish soil moisture in much of the state, Foster said. The recent rain has added green to the landscape.

"It's going to work for a while. We'll get some grass growing for a while," Foster said.

Bob Wilcox, who raises cattle and crops about 10 miles south of Fort Pierre in central South Dakota, said he will have to plant milo or other crops to replace his winter wheat, which failed to grow because of a lack of moisture after it was planted last fall. He said he used nearly all his cattle feed getting through the winter, so he needs to grow more hay and forage this summer.

However, Wilcox said he and his neighbors are in a much better mood after getting more than two inches of rain, the first significant rainfall since the middle of June last year.

"That's one thing about a drought. It affects your mental attitude. This has helped a lot," Wilcox said.

Laura Edwards, a climate field specialist for South Dakota State University Extension Service, said much of northwestern South Dakota missed out on the April snow that helped replenish topsoil moisture in other parts of the state.

More Neb. Families Could Qualify For Care Subsidy

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A bill (LB507) that would allow more working families in Nebraska to qualify for child care subsidies is headed to a final vote in the Legislature after winning second-round approval Wednesday.

The measure was approved on a voice vote after some lawmakers questioned its cost and the state's broader role in providing the financial aid.

Supporters noted that the child care subsidy includes work requirements and copays for child care services, based on a family's size and ability to pay. Nebraska also ranks 50th among U.S. states, with the most stringent income requirement for families to receive the subsidy, according to state data compiled by the National Women's Law Center. The bill would increase Nebraska's ranking to 44th.

"This program helps people get child care so they can move off of other government support," said Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, of Omaha. "We are at

a time now where we can look to incrementally increase the eligibility for this program. We will still be trailing most of our neighboring states, but I think it's absolutely the right thing to do."

The proposal would ratchet up the income threshold for families to qualify over the next two fiscal years. The maximum income would rise to 125 percent of the federal poverty level in fiscal 2014, and then 130 percent the following year. Current law sets the maximum income at 120 percent of the federal poverty level — roughly \$23,400 for a family of three.

Lawmakers rejected an amendment by Sen. Dan Watermeier, of Syracuse, that would have limited the increase to 125 percent of the poverty level. Watermeier said he viewed child services as important, but he took issue with the expense.

"This, to me, is a fiscal issue," he said. "I know I'm going to look like the bad guy here, but to me that's just what it is."

Increasing the eligibility to 125 percent would cost an estimated \$857,000 in the next fiscal

year, while covering another 173 children. The following year, an additional 173 children would be covered and raise the total price tag to \$1.7 million.

The bill was intended to restore some of the funding that was cut in 2002, under then-Gov. Mike Johanns. The state originally offered a subsidy for families who made 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Sen. Kate Bolz, of Lincoln, said the bill falls in line with other measures the state has passed this year, including increased spending for early childhood education, nursing services, and new insurance requirements for child care providers.

"Nebraskans take seriously our commitment to that Midwestern work ethic," she said.

Supporters argued that the bill would also increase the likelihood that parents are able to place children in care, instead of leaving them at home. The average yearly cost of full-time infant care at a child care center was a little more than \$7,600 in 2012, according to Child Care Aware, an information source for providers and parents.

The cost for home-based care was nearly \$5,800.

The subsidy increase was part of a wide-ranging child care bill that would establish ratings for centers that receive at least \$250,000 per year from the state.

DOC Looking For Missing Inmate In S.D.

RAPID CITY (AP) — Authorities are searching for an inmate who left his work assignment at the Rapid City minimum-security facility.

A release from the South Dakota Department of Corrections says 54-year-old Freddy Lawrence left the Rapid City Minimum Unit Wednesday morning. The department says security cameras show Lawrence left the facility on a bicycle just after 7 a.m.

Lawrence is serving a five-year sentence for possession of a controlled substance out of Minnehaha County and another five-year sentence for possession of a controlled substance out of Pennington County.

Cancer

From Page 1

Sacred Heart Cancer Center in Yankton.

Despite the success of treatments, Willcockson said he will never forget his brush with death in April 2010.

"I was at Mayo Clinic and I knew I would have died," he said. "The tumor lay over on my duodenum (located between the stomach and middle part of the small intestine). The doctor said he might be able to open the duodenum."

After putting Willcockson under anesthesia, the doctor called Willcockson's wife and said he did not know if it would work.

"The doctor told my wife that, if we put the stent in, it could blow out my stomach and I could die," Willcockson said. "My wife made the decision to go ahead with the treatment, and, as it turns out, it didn't blow my stomach out."

In response to the need for more awareness and funding for pancreatic cancer, a group of the late Lori Groetken's relatives is putting together a pancreatic cancer poker run pub crawl, slated for Saturday.

The event will begin with registration at Happy Hour at 3:30 p.m. and features cash prizes for the top two poker hands, as well as the lowest hand. All of the money raised will go to the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University in St. Louis.

Marcy Moser and Deb Weddingfeld, who have been among the people planning the event, said they first got involved with events when Lori Groetken — Moser's aunt and Weddingfeld's sister-in-law — was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2009.

"Pretty much from the minute Lori was diagnosed, she said she's going to fight the cancer and do what it takes to fight for awareness, a test for the cancer and a

cure," Moser said. "She started a grassroots effort by herself. She raised \$25,000 with her first event, and \$100,000 in her second event. She passed away after the second event, right before Christmas in 2011 in Bloomington, Ill."

Moser added that there are a lot of Groetken's extended family in Yankton, and ever since Lori started the events in 2009, Moser and Weddingfeld wanted to do an event with the Groetkens living in Yankton.

"That's really where this all came from, and this is the event we decided to do," she said. "It's different from other fundraisers because we wanted to do something fun and something different."

Willcockson said he is looking forward to this weekend's activities.

fun, too."

So far, around 35 people are pre-registered, and Weddingfeld said she hopes it becomes an event people can attend, communicate, share memories, look for support and bring more awareness to the table.

"Cancer has really become less of a stigma," Weddingfeld said. "However, people do have a hard time talking about the tough times they go through in life, and we hope this event helps them talk about what's going on."

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at twitter.com/andrewatwal

Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 27th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town — Wednesday, May 22
Tuesday, May 28 newspaper — 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 22
Wednesday, May 29 newspaper — 5 p.m., Thursday, May 23
Thursday, May 30 newspaper — 5 p.m., Friday, May 24

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May 27, 2013.

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Thursday, May 23
7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)
8:20 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)
Friday, May 24
7:40 am Press & Dakotan (Nathan Johnson)
8:20 am Welcome Center (Becky Leapley)

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