

Sediment

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"I think the meeting will be scripted and avoid any of the real challenges of sedimentation," he said. "On a positive note, the study will confirm that sediment can be transported below (Gavins Point) Dam."

For Spellman, the primary question would be if the study establishes, with adequate funding, that sediment can be transported below Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown. He is interested if the study has analyzed the sediment movement created by this year's historic flooding.

He would also like to hear responses on a number of areas:

- What are the consequences to this Missouri River region of doing nothing?

- What are the economic consequences of doing nothing affecting Yankton and the other Missouri River communities such as the Santee Sioux Reservation, Springfield, Niobrara, Niobrara State Park, Lazy River Acres, etc.?

- What are the alternatives of redesigning or reconfiguring Gavins Point Dam to allow sediment to move below the dam? What are the alternative costs?

- Have mechanical methods of disrupting and suspending sediment been considered?

Sediment presents a major problem for the Missouri River, according to Corps officials. At Lewis and Clark Lake alone, the Corps estimates that 2,400 acre-feet of water storage is lost each year due to sedimentation.

"Loss of storage capacity impacts private property, a number of fish and wildlife species and their habitat, recreation, and infrastructure of both Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River," said Paul Boyd, hydraulic engineer for the Corps' Omaha District.

During Wednesday's meeting, the informal open house will allow the public to meet one-on-one with experts and ask questions about the study, Boyd said. The hour-long presentation will cover the results of the study, showing the practicality of moving sediment with river flow through Fort Randall and Gavins Point dams.

The study is part of the Corps' efforts to comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) biological opinion, Boyd said. Sediment moved past the dam could be beneficial for fish and wildlife habitat in the sediment-starved reach below the dam, he said.

LOST RESOURCES

Spellman has called for an overhaul of the Corps' master manual and its authorized purposes for operating the Missouri River. That overhaul, he said, must include a sediment management system to maintain the storage and channel capacities of the Missouri River.

Since its creation, the Missouri River reservoir system has lost more than 5 million acre-feet of storage — out of a storage capacity of 73.1 million acre feet — because of accumulating sediment.

This lost storage is the equivalent of a flood 100 miles long, 10 miles wide, with an average depth of more than seven feet, according to the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (MSAC).

The problem will only worsen without sediment management, according to MSAC executive director Sandy Korkow of Springfield.

"All the Missouri River reservoirs are facing challenges brought on by accumulating sediment," she said. "The availability to store water decreases. Hydropower production has been impacted. Recreational opportunities are lost. Water treatment costs increase. Rising ground water in the upper reaches of reservoirs damages personal property."

Lewis and Clark Lake offers the appropriate starting point for

Corps' sediment study, Korkow said.

"Lewis and Clark Lake is the smallest reservoir on the system and will fill up first if we don't work to manage sediment proactively," she said.

"Already, Lewis and Clark Lake has lost an estimated 22 to 25 percent of its design volume. It is projected to be half-full by the year 2045. Lake Francis Case is not far behind; it is projected to be half-full by the year 2100."

The LCLSMS study could have far-reaching implications, depending on how the findings are implemented, Korkow said.

"Reservoirs all over the world face sedimentation problems," she said.

Sediment control efforts may be costly at first, but they provide a valuable long-term investment, Korkow said.

"We're not doing everything we can to reduce the amount of sediment entering the reservoirs," she said. "We cannot eliminate sediment entering Lewis and Clark Lake. But, reducing sediment is one step toward extending the lifespans of the reservoirs and the benefits they produce."

Korkow noted the LCLSMS's examination of sediment and habitat.

"This Corps' study looks at whether flows are a viable tool for pushing sediment past Gavins Point Dam for the benefit of fish and wildlife habitat," she said. "That's doubtful, but we hope information gathered will assist the Corps in finding the right tool to manage sediment for the future of Lewis and Clark Lake and the people living upstream and downstream along with promoting habitat."

HIGH STAKES

The stakes are too high not to tackle sediment, Spellman said, noting a number of consequences:

- Lewis and Clark Lake fills up with sediment, losing all its economic and other benefits;
- the channels of the Missouri River and tributaries continue to

fill with sediment and reduce capacity, increasing flood risks;

- backwaters above the reservoir turn into dead waters and bogs;

- the Niobrara delta continues to grow and threaten increased flooding;

- degradation below the dam will continue erosion;

- dredging for endangered species habitat will continue at an annual cost of \$5 million and increasing.

And that doesn't include other environmental and financial issues, he said.

While some may question whether Wednesday's meeting will produce results, Korkow urges the public to attend and make its voice heard.

"Public participation is crucial to encouraging the Corps and federal government to maintain the Missouri River reservoirs and dams so that they can continue to accomplish their authorized purposes. Accumulating sediment only diminishes the benefits," she said.

"After a summer of high, prolonged flows, the sedimentation accumulation has only increased and accelerated. The evidence of sediment movement is all around us."

Wednesday's hearing is just part of an ongoing process, Korkow said. The Corps' decisions and action will play a crucial role in flood control and other river purposes, she said.

"Federal agencies will continue to gather data in coming months to assess water-storage capacities," she said. "Many would argue that we haven't had a shortage of studies. However, we do need to keep up with the changing reservoir and the source of sediment."

The alternative of taking no action remains unacceptable, Korkow said, calling for bold action.

"We need to find some answers," she said. "We cannot stop time, but we can manage sediment."

Sobriety Checkpoints Planned In December

PIERRE — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has sobriety checkpoints scheduled in December in the following counties: Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, Clay, Codington, Edmunds, Grant, Hughes, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Mellette, Pennington, Spink, Stanley, Tripp and Yankton.

For sobriety checkpoint text message alerts, visit actcivilized.com.

Yankton Parade Of Lights Set For Friday

Join Historic Downtown Yankton and the Gurney Landing in celebrating the wonders of the holiday season by participating in the 11th annual Parade of Lights on Friday, Dec. 2.

You can light up a float vehicle, golf cart, or any piece of equipment — anything that moves. Walking floats are welcome.

For more information and to register your float, go to www.historicdowntownyankton.com or contact Hanna Sitting Crow 605-760-4696.

Meridian Bridge Now Open To Pedestrians

The Department of Parks and Recreation announces the Historic Double-Decker Meridian Bridge is now open for pedestrian traffic. Bicycles are welcome but NO motorized vehicles are allowed.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 668-5231.

Crop Management Seminar In Yankton Friday

An Iowa State University farm and ag business management specialist will speak at seminar in Yankton at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the National Field Archery Headquarters on E. Highway 81.

Steve Johnson will be the featured speaker at GrowingOn 2012 sponsored by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) and Farm Credit Services of America (FCSA).

Johnson's presentation, titled "Managing Crop Risks in Volatile Times," will include an outlook on crop market prices and input costs; the impact of U.S. and global economies; use of crop insurance with marketing strategies and tools; prospects for the 2012 farm bill; and the influence of outside markets and commodity fund investors.

FCSA specialists also will discuss crop insurance changes and their effects. Each program will include a meal. To register, go to www.cropinsurancespecialists.com or call the South Dakota Corn Growers office at 605-334-0100 or FCSA at 800-884-3276.

'Shop Yankton/Play Yankton' Events Slated

Have Christmas shopping you need to complete? Let the kids have fun while you shop. The Services Center Federal Credit Union is hosting its annual Shop Yankton/Play Yankton with the play portion at the Summit Activities Center on Sunday, Dec. 4, running from 1-5 p.m.

Parents may pick up a ticket at any branch of the Services Center Federal Credit Union through Dec. 3, present the ticket at the Summit Activities Center on Dec. 4 and receive free admittance. Enjoy the waterslide, a coin dive and more fun activities, all at no cost.

Children 6 years and younger must be supervised by someone at least 14 years of age.

For further information, call the Services Center Federal Credit Union at 665-4314 or the Summit Activities Center at 668-5234.

Vermillion Museum To Host Holiday Festival

VERMILLION — W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion will host its annual Holiday Festival on Sunday, Dec. 4, running from 1-4:30 p.m.

Vendors will be on hand, and there will be food and a bake sale. Also, Santa is scheduled to make an appearance.

For more information, contact Maxine Johnson at 605-677-5228 or whover@usd.edu.

Clay County Tour Of Homes Saturday

VERMILLION — The Clay County Historical Society's annual Tour of Homes begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, and participants will be able to visit five beautifully decorated homes until 7 p.m.

The traditional reception will be held at the Austin-Whittemore House, 15 Austin Street, beginning at 4 p.m. The Austin-Whittemore House is one of the homes on the tour and it has been decorated to show off its lovely Victorian characteristics. Each of the homes will be decorated for the holidays and one of the hostesses will display her extensive collection of handmade quilts. Tickets are available at the Vermillion Beauty Shop, Davis Drug, and the Nook'n Cranny.

The following Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the annual Sweets and Treats bake sale will be held. Once again, the Austin Whittemore House will be the site of this function. There will be a wide selection of Christmas specialties for sale. Coffee will be provided and guests will be able to sample the baked goods that didn't stay intact.

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OBITUARIES

Rex Harty

MENNO — Rex Thomas Harty, age 74 of rural Menno, passed away Sunday, November 27, 2011 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, officiated by Manny Greer. Burial will be in Yankton Cemetery.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Rex Harty was born December 5, 1936 in Aberdeen, SD to Frank and Stella (Kocer) Harty. While he was young the family moved to Omaha, NE. At the age of 7, his family moved to Yankton where he attended rural Yankton schools and graduated from Yankton High School in 1954. Rex was baptized January 5, 1957 as one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Rex married Shirley Oswald on February 8, 1958 in Sioux Falls, SD. The couple farmed for many years and Rex started trucking in the mid-1970s. He retired in 2009, still living on their farm near Menno, SD.

Rex was an active member of the Yankton Congregation of Jehovah Witnesses. He enjoyed yard working and occasionally some fishing.

He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley Harty of Menno, SD; brothers, Jerome Harty of Kenyon, MN, Kenneth Harty and LeRoy Harty, both of Yankton, along with several nieces and nephews.

Rex was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Joanne.

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OPSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Leona Konfrst

Leona E. Konfrst, 89, of Yankton died Monday, Nov. 28, 2011, at Prairie Homes Assisted Living Center, Yankton.

In accordance with Leona's wishes, her ashes will be spread at the Bonesteel Cemetery, Bonesteel.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Alice Goehring

MENNO — Alice F. Goehring, 96, of Menno died Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m.

Thursday at Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, with the Rev. Michael Hecht officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery, Menno.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the chapel.

Alvin Brandt

AVON — Alvin Brandt, 90, of Avon died Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Society in Tyndall.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Zion Lutheran Church, Avon. Burial is in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, rural Avon.

Visitation is 4-7 p.m. Thursday followed by a 7 p.m. prayer service at the church.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Chapel, Avon, is in charge of arrangements.

Toys

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"We're pretty excited about it," said Jennifer Adamson, director of the Contact Center.

Members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program helped collect the toys and will also be on hand to assist in dispersing them.

Mary Robb, the public services assistant for the City of Yankton, said the event was positive on several fronts.

"Recycling isn't just plastic bottles and milk jugs. You can do toys," she said. "A lot of these toys probably would have ended up in the landfill, and they're all in excellent condition. We're meeting the three R's of recycling: reducing waste, re-using items and recycling them back into life. Plus, we're giving kids who might not have a whole lot for Christmas something to make their day better."

The Yankton Contact Center is taking applications for the 2011 Holiday Food/Fruit Baskets through Dec. 13. Families and individuals wishing to participate must complete a simple application, providing proof of address, number in the household and an active SNAP card.

For those who missed the Nov. 12 drive, items may still be left at the Keep Yankton Beautiful office at 324 Walnut through mid-December.

Parakslis and Robb agreed that the toy drive will likely become an annual event.

"We want to give a big thank you to everyone who participated," Robb said. "They did a great job."

Owner

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Moore said one of the girls reported the alleged rapes on Nov. 11, and the girls were then examined by Child's Voice, a Sioux Falls organization that conducts examinations and interviews of children in such cases. No testing could be done to determine if the girls had been drugged because

too much time had passed since the alleged attacks, he said.

Fajardo is charged with first-degree rape for the alleged attack on the younger girl, and two counts of third-degree rape for the alleged attacks on the 14-year-old girls. If convicted of first-degree rape, he could be sentenced to up to life in prison.

He also faces lesser charges, including furnishing alcohol to those younger than 18, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and serving alcohol after hours.

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7:30pm
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The evening will include special readings, Christmas singing, a candle lighting ceremony and decorating of the SHARE memory tree. In memory of your child you may bring a personalized ornament to place on the tree, or you may use one of the ornaments that will be available that evening.
The SHARE memory tree will remain in the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion through the Christmas season in remembrance of the gift of our children.
Refreshments and a time for sharing with others will follow the candlelight ceremony.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

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