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DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
Tim Cowman, director of the Missouri River Institute at the University of South Dakota, answers questions about this year's epic Missouri River flooding following his presentation Tuesday night at the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion.

2011 Flood Offers Valuable Lessons

BY DAVID LIAS
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VERMILLION — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is projecting that Missouri River levels next year will likely be about average to above average, and not exceed flood stages as they did last summer.

However, Corps officials believed that would be the case earlier this year as they prepared to control water levels in the reservoirs behind the six mainstem dams that exist on the Missouri from South Dakota up to Montana as part of the Pick-Sloan plan.

Water levels of the Missouri next year aren't easy to predict, even when following the Corps' Master Water Control Manual, which is tweaked every year to keep up with trends on the river.

Cowman spoke Tuesday night before a small audience in the W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion to discuss the causes and impacts of this year's flooding on the Missouri, and policy decisions that are being considered now that the flooding has "officially" ended.

"According to what they (the Corps) are predicting in 2012, we will not get anywhere close to having to get into the exclusive flood control zone," he said. "They're basing that on predicted models for precipitation and snow pack, and

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Romney Touts Abilities In S.F.

Video Rips Perry's Readiness To Lead

THOMAS BEAUMONT
 Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Wednesday America can only overcome its economic woes with a leader who "knows how to lead," on the same day he released a scathing Web video calling into question rival Rick Perry's readiness to be president.

Romney's speech to the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce banquet in South Dakota was upbeat and

patriotic, a sharp turn from the GOP presidential debate in Las Vegas Tuesday, when Perry and Romney tangled over policy, but also over integrity and honesty.

But the former Massachusetts governor closed his 20-minute talk with a theme now emerging in the increasingly bitter campaign against Perry, his top rival for the nomination.

"The great challenges we have we will over-



Romney

come," Romney told the audience of about 2,000 at the Sioux Falls convention center, "if we have leaders that will tell the truth, and live with integrity, and who, by virtue of their life experience, know how to lead."

It was a far cry from the pointed accusations Romney and Perry traded during the Tuesday debate.

The squabbling began over the substance of economic development and immigration.

But the back-and-forth devolved into both men, at times, shouting over each other and glaring at

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'REQUIEM FOR EMILY'



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D
 Ryan Wuestewald (from left), Michelle Hurtubise, Yana Alliata, Amy Miner and Emily King are seen here in a room at Jim and Celia Miner's home that served as one of the locations for the short film, "Requiem for Emily." Alliata, the director, hopes to have a Yankton premiere of the film once it is finished.

Yankton Talent Recruited For Film

'Requiem For Emily' Inspired By Greek Mythology

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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When it came time to direct a 15-minute film for her senior project, Yana Alliata knew she had to shoot it in Yankton.

It probably surprises no one to hear that the 21-year old film student's decision was met with consternation by her peers at Loyola Marymount University's School of Film and Television in Los Angeles.

"Everyone is asking, 'Wait, where are you going?

Arkansas? Where in the middle (of the United States)?" Alliata told the *Press & Dakotan* only hours after her film had wrapped at 5:45 a.m. Sunday.

But the decision makes sense when Yankton native Amy Miner, the co-writer of "Requiem for Emily," enters the picture. Not to mention actors Ryan Wuestewald, Emily King and Michelle Hurtubise — all of whom grew up in Yankton. Other Yankton talent was also recruited to be a part of the film crew.

So besides the fact that it was the native home of many of the people involved, why Yankton?

"Why not Yankton, actually?" Alliata responded.

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NEBRASKA

Flood Against Session For XL-Pipeline

BY GRANT SCHULTE
 Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A proposal intended to reroute the controversial Keystone XL pipeline in Nebraska would not likely survive a court challenge if passed, the Legislature's top senator said Wednesday as he announced his opposition to a special session.

Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood said he has serious concerns about a proposal aimed at the \$7 billion project, which would run an oil line from Canada to Texas refineries. Flood, a Norfolk lawyer, released a legal analysis that concludes federal law supersedes state law when it comes to pipeline safety.

"I would like nothing better than to see the route of the pipeline redirected under the authority of our state government," Flood said in a statement. "But after careful analysis, it would be both reckless and disingenuous for me to suggest that siting legislation, if enacted in special session, would redirect the proposed route and be vindicated in court."

Pipeline opponents in the Legislature are trying to rally enough support for lawmakers to call themselves into special session to address concerns about the route. The 36-inch pipeline would cut through part of the Ogallala aquifer, a massive water supply in Nebraska and seven other states.

Flood said he has no doubt that lawmakers should adopt so-called siting legislation when they convene for their regular session in January, after the U.S. State Department has decided whether to grant or deny a federal permit for the project. But he said addressing the Keystone XL pipeline in a special session would likely open the state to a costly lawsuit.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, a Republican, has cited similar concerns in his opposition to a

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MMC Presents 'Hildegard Of Bingen And The Living Light'

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Prophetess. Healer. Composer.

In many ways, Hildegard of Bingen was ahead of her time. In a male-dominated world, the 12th century monastic nun challenged the established authority of the Church through both her philosophy and her music.

In an effort to share Hildegard's timeless message, Mount Marty College will host Linn Maxwell's performance of "Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light" as this year's Benedictine Lecture. The one-woman musical play will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at the

college's Marian Auditorium.

"What she was saying in the 12th century is even more urgent today," said Maxwell, who also wrote the play. "She talked about salvation. She talked about corruption in the Church. She talked about people who need to be in touch with the living light of God."

While times may be different now, one thing that has remained unchanged is the power of money, the international mezzo soprano/actress said.

"In the 12th century, the Church was the strongest element. Today, it is the government.

MAXWELL | PAGE 11



COURTESY PHOTO
 International mezzo soprano/actress Linn Maxwell will present her play, "Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light," Thursday, Oct. 27, at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium.

Federal Court To Hear Niobrara Man's Appeal

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VERMILLION — A Niobrara, Neb., man's appeal of his first-degree murder conviction will be heard next week in a federal court in Vermillion.

Next Wednesday, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear the case of 34-year-old Shanon R. Thomas. He was found guilty last December in the shooting death of his former girlfriend, 46-year-old Dawn Starlin of Santee, Neb.

The three-judge panel will

hear the appeal in the courtroom at the University of South Dakota School of Law.

Thomas is serving a life sentence. Beside first-degree murder, he was found guilty of the discharge of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

At his trial, Thomas moved for a judgment of acquittal at the end of the government's case and again at the close of his defense. Both motions were denied.

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