

### Mo. River To Return To Normal Flow In Oct.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers predicts the Missouri River will return to normal levels in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri sometime in October, and put an end to flooding that began in June.

The Corps' Jody Farhat said Tuesday the plan to gradually reduce the amount of water released into the river has been going well so far.

The Corps already cut the amount released from Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota from 160,000 to 90,000 cubic feet per second. Officials will wait until Sept. 16 to resume reductions, so there's time to check levees and make sure they're stable.

The Corps estimates that 37.5 million acre feet of water flowed down the Missouri River from May to August. That's significantly more than the normal runoff of 24.8 million acre feet.

### S.D. Getting \$3 Million For Pine Beetle Work

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota is getting \$3 million in federal grants to help in the battle against the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

The U.S. Forest Service and Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced the grants on Tuesday. Daugaard says they complement a recent commitment of \$1 million annually in state funds over the next three years for pine beetle control.

Daugaard and Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Jerome Thomas say the federal grants will help address the health and safety threats that result from dead and dying beetle-infested trees.

### USDA Says Neb. Crops Making Good Progress

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Agriculture Department says recent warm weather is helping Nebraska's crops mature.

The USDA released its weekly report on crop conditions on Tuesday. It said temperatures last week averaged 5 degrees above normal, which helped the state's crops.

About 75 percent of Nebraska's corn crop rated in good or excellent condition. That's a little behind last year's 81 percent good or excellent at the same time, but it's close to the average of 74 percent.

Roughly 79 percent of the soybean crop is in good or excellent shape. That's better than last year's 78 percent good or excellent and the average of 72 percent at this time of year.

### S.D. Highway Patrol Officer Shoots, Kills Man

CUSTER (AP) — The South Dakota attorney general's office says it's investigating the fatal shooting of a man in Custer by a Highway Patrol officer.

Attorney General Marty Jackley confirmed the shooting of the 22-year-old suspect Tuesday morning. He identified the officer as Todd Albertson but did not identify the suspect.

Mayor Gary Lipp tells the *Rapid City Journal* (<http://bit.ly/pK6ny5>) that the man died in a shootout with officers on Main Street after causing damage around town. He says the man had gone on a "rampage," running his vehicle into buildings and other vehicles and over mailboxes. Jackley says the suspect rammed the Custer County Sheriff's Office after a short chase.

### \$5,000 Wild Card 2 Ticket Sold In Mitchell

MITCHELL (AP) — A ticket sold in Mitchell is worth \$5,000 in Saturday's Wild Card 2 lottery drawing.

South Dakota lottery officials say the winning ticket matched all five white ball numbers but not the Wild Card to win the game's second prize. The odds of winning it are about one in 90,600, but it was the second \$5,000 Wild Card 2 winner sold in Mitchell in a week's time.

Wild Card 2 is played in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho.

## Oversight Increased At Ft. Calhoun Nuke Plant

BY JOSH FUNK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A federal agency has ordered additional oversight for the Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant because of regulatory violations found last year at the site north of Omaha.

Fort Calhoun will be subject to additional inspections and public meetings, and the Omaha Public Power District must submit a detailed improvement plan, according to a letter released Tuesday from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The NRC and OPPD both said none of the problems identified at Fort Calhoun represented a public safety threat. Regulators say a key electrical part failed during a test and deficiencies in flood planning were found last year.

OPPD officials promised improvement at Fort Calhoun, which sits about 20 miles north of Omaha on the west bank of the Missouri River.

"We take this situation very seriously," OPPD CEO Gary Gates said. "We will work to

find ways to improve and we will seek assistance from other high performing power plants as well."

Besides the regulatory violations already on the books at the NRC, a small fire at Fort Calhoun briefly knocked out the cooling system for used fuel in June. Temperatures at the plant never exceeded safe levels and power was quickly restored.

That fire is still being investigated and the NRC has not determined the severity of the problem under its regulations.

A team of OPPD officials started looking for ways to improve Fort Calhoun's operations earlier this year. Dave Bannister, OPPD's chief nuclear officer, said some of those changes have already been made, but some measures have been delayed while the plant was shut down this summer because of flooding.

"We need to improve our performance. We know that," Bannister said. "We feel we have a very good picture of what we need to go after."

The violations found at Fort Calhoun are not related to this summer's flooding along the Missouri River.

At the height of the flooding, the Missouri

River rose about two feet above the elevation of the base of the plant. That forced OPPD to erect a network of barriers and set up an assortment of pumps to help protect its buildings. But the plant remained dry inside, and officials said Fort Calhoun could withstand flooding as much as seven or eight feet higher.

Workers have already begun removing some flood barriers and disassembling the elevated catwalks workers used to cross the flooded parking lot.

Fort Calhoun has been shut down since April because it was being refueled before the flooding began. It's not clear when it will restart because officials haven't been able to complete their damage assessment, but OPPD officials hope they'll be able to resume operations sometime this fall.

Nebraska's other nuclear power plant, Cooper nuclear, which is run by the Nebraska Public Power District, also received a mid-year performance update Tuesday. The NRC said Cooper had one finding involving a low-level safety risk, so that plant in the southeast corner of the state near Brownville will also receive some additional oversight.

## Case Tests Limits On Where South Dakota Doctors Can Work

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A case that could determine whether South Dakota hospitals and clinics have the right to restrict where departing doctors work might soon land before the state Supreme Court.

Minnehaha County Judge Doug Hoffman ruled in late July that non-compete clauses in Sanford Health's standard physician contracts have the potential to interfere with doctor-patient relationships.

The ruling was part of a wrongful termination lawsuit. Sanford wants to separate the non-compete clause portion of the ruling so the health system can appeal it to the state Supreme Court, the Argus Leader reported (<http://bit.ly/oeN1j>).

Many health systems use non-compete agreements to prevent physicians from setting up their own operations and taking patients with them after they quit or get fired. In South Dakota, the agreements can legally restrict departing doctors from working within 20 miles of their previous office for two years after their employment ends.

Hoffman wrote that such a set-up has the potential to force patients who want to keep their doctor following an abrupt termination to see that doctor miles from a former office, which could create an undue burden for some patients.

Michael Myers, a University of South Dakota law professor who specializes in health care, said non-compete clauses also can lead to intimidation for doctors who raise concerns about their employer or fellow employees.

"If you do complain or you do argue ... your career, for all practical purposes, is over in that community," he said.

Sanford Health argued in court filings last week that non-compete agreements are so widely used that Hoffman's ruling "has wide-reaching ramifications for clinics, health care facilities and physicians throughout this state."

The South Dakota State Medical Association has not taken a position on the case, but its members have discussed the issue of non-compete agreements since Hoffman's ruling.

## Branstad: No Conflict In Ownership Of Post Offices

BY MIKE GLOVER  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Gov. Terry Branstad said Tuesday that his ownership of about a dozen buildings that house rural post offices in Iowa poses no conflict of interest with his criticism of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to close many rural post offices.

Branstad said only one of the 178 rural post offices slated for closure in Iowa is owned by him and his wife, Chris. That's a post office in Lohrville.

"Of the 178 post offices that are threatened there's only one that my wife and I have that are on that list," Branstad said Tuesday at his weekly news conference. "The impact on us is very minimal; the impact on those communities is very significant."

The governor says he wants to see a comprehensive plan from the Postal Service about how it plans to deal with its

budget troubles, and he says closing a handful of rural offices won't make a significant difference.

Critics have cited as similar Branstad's order to close about 37 Iowa Workforce Development offices around the state because of budget woes, saying it was done without regard to the impact that would have on job training and placement programs.

He rejected those comparisons, saying the Workforce Development services were still being offered. He argued the Postal Service needs to develop a realistic plan for how it would deal with its budget problems, something he hasn't seen.

"The difference is we have 178 offices, many of them in very small rural communities that don't have those services available," said Branstad. "I think we have with Workforce development a plan that's going to increase access."

## The Decline Of Civility In Public

BY VAL FARMER  
[www.valfarmer.com](http://www.valfarmer.com)



Val FARMER

What ever happened to respect and civility in public life? Everyday we are confronted with rudeness and coarseness that tells us that decency and consideration for others is declining.

Even worse, mindless public mayhem, looting and mob violence by middle class youth and young adults have shocked authorities and citizens of Vancouver, Canada and Great Britain. Flash mobs specifically organized through social media for the purpose of looting have created chaos and violence in such U.S. cities as Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Washington D.C.

Call-in talk shows are filled with political bashing. Rabid fans in public stadiums reign profanity on referees and opposing players. Violence spills over into the stands and after the contests as rabid fans confront others in the colors of the opposite team.

Athletes throw disgraceful temper tantrums when officials rule against them. School administrators and teachers complain about the lack of respect students have for them as adults and authority figures as well as for each other.

Drivers cut each other off and retaliate with menacing driving and obscene gestures. People jockey to gain unfair position in lines at stores and entertainment events. The elderly no longer feel treated with dignity and respect. Bureaucrats can be grumpy and insensitive. Competition among professionals erodes collegiality.

Television shows and movies routinely show edgy characters with an "in-your-face" attitude and a willingness to break the rules. "Get out of my way or I'll blast you into next week," or "Go ahead, sue me and may the most expensive lawyer win."

Sarcasm, cynicism and put-down humor are staples of TV sitcoms. Egos preen as respected talk show commentators interrupt each other and don't allow each other to finish their thoughts.

Have I hit enough hot buttons? **What is the cause and what is the solution?** One factor is the decline of manners and civility. Manners and civility are society's common language of behavior. Manners help protect the dignity of everyone, especially society's less powerful members.

Good manners are a form of morality. Manners may not be as important as moral courage and standing up for justice and fairness, but manners show morality in the everyday events of life. They

are signs of a willingness to take the feelings and welfare of others into consideration by our small actions as well as our big ones. Manners imply order, compassion, respect, courtesy and

consideration. Good manners require paying attention to what situation you are in and going by the rules. Tradition counts. Manners prevent big problems by small actions.

The public is winning a few battles. Smokers are forced to consider the rights of non-smokers. Public sensitivity to littering and the environment is increasing.

**Why the decline in manners?** There are many answers. It could be the rise of permissive parenting and the lack of teaching mutual respect in the home. It could be the lack of respect parents show children which translates to aggressive behavior with their peers and in the public.

It could be the corrosive modeling of violence, aggression and profane dialogue in our popular media and music. It could be the rise of selfishness and individuality in our society where there is less emphasis on the concerns for the feelings of others and community life. It could be a reflection of how self-important we feel we are and how our own needs are paramount over others.

It could be that the time-crunched lives we lead and the hurry we are in to do too much leaves little time at the margins to pay attention to the needs of those around us. It could be the super-competitive and materialistic environment we are in promotes a "me first" attitude to get what we need or what we have been taught to want.

It could be overcrowding in cities where people's more loutish behavior can be expressed in anonymity. It could be mob psychology overwhelming personal morality.

**What can be done?** Personally, we can individually be examples of concern, kindness and respect in society. If we all made it a point to be more considerate, it would improve the social environment as surely as not littering improves the physical environment.

The concept of random acts of

kindness is appealing. The good we do multiplies as others follow our lead. A smile is contagious. Please, thank you and other expressions of appreciation and concern give a needed lift to a world too short on kindness. We can unclutter and slow down our lives enough so we can be aware of the needs of people around us.

**Schools and churches.** Besides filling their role in educating children, schools need to teach respect for authority and fellow students as a basic right. Church attendance and family worship make a huge difference in promoting moral behavior.

A teenager who learns polite language and has good manners with adults creates favorable impressions in interviews for jobs and school applications. They also have learned the basics for having good friendships, marriages and pleasant relationships in the workplace.

**Most of all, it starts at home.** Parents need to be loving and respectful of each other and their children. Children learn respect for authority in the home. Training a child in manners, morality, respect, and concern for others starts in late infancy and is an unending job until they are age 18 and beyond.

*Val Farmer is a clinical psychologist specializing in family business consultation and mediation with farm families. He lives in Wildwood, Missouri and can be contacted through his website.*

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### MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of Sept. 6-9. Menus are subject to change without notice. All meals are served with milk.

#### Sacred Heart Schools

Wednesday — Taco In A Bag  
Thursday — Roast Beef Sandwich  
Friday — Hamburger

### SOCIAL SECURITY

## It's No Labor To Apply Online For Benefits

BY JENNIFER HLADKY  
Social Security Claims Representative in Yankton

If you're like most workers, you've labored hard throughout the year.

This Labor Day weekend, it's nice to be able to kick back and take a rest from all of your hard work. But it may also be a good time to take a look at your retirement plans.

The best starting point is to visit Social Security's Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator). The Retirement Estimator is an easy way to get an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits. The Estimator uses your actual earnings history to compute a benefit estimate. However, for privacy purposes, we do not display your earnings. You can enter a variety of scenarios, such as different earnings amounts and retirement dates, to find out how they will change your benefit amount.

If the picture looks better than you anticipated, you might decide it's time to punch your last time card and leave the labor force for retirement sooner than you expected. If that's the case, the easiest way to apply for retirement is online.

It used to be a labor to apply for benefits. It used to mean making a trip to a Social Security of-



Jennifer HLADKY

ice and then being required to fill out paperwork. Now, you can visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline) to find out everything you need to know about applying online for retirement benefits — and to proceed with filing the application online in as little as 15 minutes.

In most cases, once you submit your online application electronically, that's it. There are no additional forms to sign or paperwork

to complete. In rare cases where we need additional information, a representative will contact you.

This Labor Day, picnics, family, and friends are all part of the fun you've earned on a holiday set aside to celebrate the fruit of your labor. But spend a few moments considering what your labor has earned you through Social Security protection for you and your family.

Learn more about Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## Meet Dr. Barnes, Internal Medicine

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF **Clarissa Barnes, M.D.**  
*Board Eligible Internal Medicine*

Dr. Barnes is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Additionally, Dr. Barnes completed internships with the Global AIDS Alliance, the Center for Biosecurity, and the Department of Health and Human Services during her years in medical school.

Please join with us in welcoming Dr. Barnes to the Yankton area. The Clinic is pleased to bring her into our medical community as well as to the many patients she will serve.

**Dr. Barnes began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. on Sept. 1, 2011. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-1152.**



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