

TBI Bike Ride raises nearly \$5K

The first Annual TBI Bike Ride was held on Saturday, Aug. 13 in Irene. A silent auction was also held throughout the week prior to the ride. We want to recognize and give a huge thank you to the sponsors of the TBI Bike Ride who were the Barking Dog Cycling Club, Vermillion, Sunset Manor Avera, Irene, and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

The Sunrise Villa Avera TBI (traumatic brain injury) unit in Irene opened its doors on Aug. 18 of 2008. Sunrise Villa continues to be the first and only of its kind in South Dakota today. Our goal was to raise funds to purchase a computer system with content for cognitive/brain fitness, education, virtual travel, spirituality, memory exercises and much more. The therapeutic use of this system will enhance our Villa and

Manor residents independent cognitive functioning, socialization, stimulation and communication with family.

The first Annual TBI Bike Ride exceeded all expectations! The bike ride had 25 riders who registered and rode either the 15 mile or 30 mile route. This is a tremendous turnout for the first TBI bike ride ever held. The silent auction, which was held throughout the week prior to the race, was also very successful. There were also generous donations from other companies and businesses. Special thanks to all those who rode in the bike ride and to the individual businesses and companies who donated money.

Also thanks to the businesses who donated items for the silent auction. Your generosity overwhelmed us and we are so thankful. Also thank you to the committee from Sunset Manor



The Barking Dog Cycling Club, Vermillion, Sunset Manor Avera, Irene, and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton sponsored the first Annual TBI Bike Ride in Irene Aug. 13.

and Sunrise Villa who organized the event! We are so happy to announce the 1st Annual TBI Bike Ride and

silent auction raised approximately \$4,700. We look forward to another successful bike ride/ auction next year.

Welcome Week kicks off with Convocation

The University of South Dakota will welcome new students to campus on Saturday, Aug. 27 with a Convocation Ceremony and Move in Day activities.

As part of Move in Day for new students, Convocation begins with a procession at 3:30 p.m. from the North Complex to the DakotaDome. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Chuck Staben, Dean of Students James Parker and USD President James W. Abbott will lead the students in the official matriculation statement.

"Convocation is an invitation of membership to the university's academic community," noted Parker. "It's a celebratory event symbolic of graduation and serves as a reminder to our faculty and staff of the duty to educate our students, not just until they graduate, but to assist them in their journey to become better citizens and contributing members of society."

Students coming to campus for the new school year will also see the new "SD" logo. Adorning everything from signage to stationery as well as clothing and apparel, the new logo gives the campus a

new look. The state's initials will also be featured prominently in athletics, including USD's football helmet and a new basketball court at the DakotaDome, which also serves as the check-in location for Move in Day.

Move in Day begins at 8 a.m. and continues throughout the day until 2 p.m. During the check-in process at the Dome, all students will receive their information packets, residence hall keys and instructions on driving to the residence halls - all without having to leave their vehicles. This process, implemented in 2008 for efficiency purposes, eliminates long lines and avoids potential traffic congestion.

Convocation and Move in Day are part of Welcome Week 2011 festivities. Additional activities include a Provost's Picnic, Hall Programs, movies, games, fraternity and sorority recruitment activities, a bonfire and fireworks. For more information about new student orientation and Welcome Week, including a full schedule of events, please visit www.usd.edu/orientation.

S.D. long-term care providers face Medicare reduction

South Dakota long-term care providers are facing a \$10.2 million reduction to their Medicare payments due to a recently issued final rule by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS issued its skilled nursing facility prospective payment system (SNF PPS) final rule for FY 2012 reducing Medicare payments by 11.1 percent starting Oct. 1. This equates to a \$3.87 billion reduction in Medicare rates for skilled nursing facilities across the nation.

Mark B. Deak, executive director of the South Dakota Health Care Association said, "Every day, South Dakota's nursing facilities provide quality care for seniors who need it most. A reduction of this magnitude will severely impact providers across our state."

Governor cautions against complacency as river releases fall

As water releases from Missouri River dams begin to drop, Gov. Dennis Daugaard is reminding residents to respect the still-record flows and stay away from levees protecting communities.

"This is not the time to become complacent," Gov. Daugaard said. "We've come this far by putting safety first. As the releases begin to decline, the river level will gradually fall. However, the river will remain above its banks through the month of August and perhaps longer."

The governor said levees will continue to be essential protective measures for riverside communities, and he urges citizens to stay away from the levees as river levels drop.

"If there's going to be a

catastrophic failure of the levees, it probably would occur during this rapid draw down in water levels," Gov. Daugaard said. "I know people are anxious to return home and begin the cleanup process that will get things back to normal. There is an end in sight, but I urge patience for a while longer."

Releases from Oahe Dam north of Pierre recently had been at 130,000 cubic feet per second for several days. That rate is more than twice the previous record rate from 1997. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Friday, Aug. 19, began a slow reduction of the release rates. The current schedule calls for releases from Oahe to be at 85,000 cfs by Aug. 27. The Corps says that's the flow rate at which

the Missouri River should return to its banks.

At Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, a similar gradual reduction in release rates started Friday. The current schedule calls for a reduction in releases of 5,000 cfs per day through the month of August, when the releases should be at 90,000 cfs.

Officials have enforced no-trespassing restrictions on and near the levees since they were constructed nearly three months ago. As the river water against the temporary earthen structures recedes, there could be shifting and sloughing, creating conditions dangerous to public safety.

AID

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Coordinating Officer Mark Neveau.

After FEMA initially denied a state request for Individual assistance, the governor ordered a call center to be opened from July 27-29 and an online survey to be posted in order to gather more flood-damage information from homeowners in 11 counties hardest hit by high water. That information was used by the state to appeal FEMA's earlier denial.

"It is because of that additional damage information that our appeal was successful," Gov. Daugaard said. "I want to thank all homeowners and businesses with flood damage for their extra effort."

State and federal officials encourage those affected by the disaster to register for assistance by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), TTY 800-462-7585, or online at www.disasterassistance.gov. The toll-free line will be in operation from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT seven days a week until further notice.

Persons affected by the floods can also apply for federal assistance through a web-enabled mobile device or

Smartphone by going to m.fema.gov and following the link to apply online for federal assistance and other recovery help.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program includes a wide range of aid, such as, home repair, temporary housing, grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.

Officials remind affected residents they must register with FEMA at the above numbers or online to be eligible for all forms of federal assistance. Filing damage reports with state or county emergency managers or voluntary agencies will not start the federal disaster assistance process.

Officials advise applicants to have the following information available when applying for

assistance:

- Current telephone number
- Address at the time of the disaster and current address
- Social Security number
- A general list of damages and losses
- If insured, the name of the company, agent, and policy number
- Bank account and routing number for direct deposit of funds if you become eligible

FEMA disaster assistance covers basic needs only and does not normally compensate eligible applicants for the entire loss. FEMA disaster aid is generally offered as grants that do not have to be paid back.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) makes low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations to repair or

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