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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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The new water treatment plant for the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, located north of Vermillion on Highway 19, was christened with a ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday morning.

(Photo by David Lias)

"We are declaring victory today, but it's only a partial victory," Sen. John Thune said at Tuesday's open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System's treatment plant, located two miles north of Vermillion. The senator pledged to continue to work at seeing that needed federal dollars continue to flow to the water project.

(Photo by David Lias)

Ceremony celebrates gift of Lewis & Clark water

By David Lias

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"We thank you, Lord, for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh and sustain all life."

The invocation of Rev. Greg Myrmoe of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Beresford, was spoken at the dedication of a wellspring in Clay

County following a summer of record heat and drought.

Myrmoe's audience included state and federal officials and scores of people from a three-state region who gathered to celebrate the completion of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System's new water treatment plant, located two miles north of Vermillion along Highway 19.

"It was nine years ago today that we

held the groundbreaking ceremony for Lewis & Clark along the banks of the Missouri River," said Red Arndt, Luverne, MN, chairman of the Lewis & Clark Board of Directors, at the water plant's dedication ceremony, held outside in the large structure's parking lot. "Here we are, nine years later, finally delivering water.

■ GIFT, Page 14

19th annual Bull-A-Rama events start today in Vermillion

The members of Coyote Country Rodeo Club invite everyone out to enjoy a historical South Dakota tradition and celebrate all that bull riding and rodeo has to offer during the 19th Annual Bull-A-Rama, August 24-26.

Most of the events will be taking place at the Clay County Rodeo Arena, which is two miles west of Vermillion on Timber Road. The one event that doesn't take place at the rodeo arena is the Saturday morning promotional event, which is held at the Hy-Vee parking lot.

The busy weekend starts off Friday evening, Aug. 24, with the "Unloading of the Bulls" at the rodeo grounds at 7 p.m. This is an opportunity for the public to check out the bucking bulls that have been provided by the Double S Bull Company of Sidney, IA. Friday night also features a meal of roasted pork, beans and all of the fixings (\$5 donation for the meal) and an opportunity to relax and socialize under the beautiful South Dakota night sky.

On Saturday morning, Aug. 25, Bull-A-Rama promotional events will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Hy-Vee parking lot. Activities include registration for the Kids Mutton Bustin and Youth Steer Riding, free horse rides and presale of Bull-A-Rama tickets.

It is also a chance to meet bull riders and a rodeo clown, get autographs and get up close and personal to a bucking bull. This year's Miss Extreme, Hannah Hilsabeck from

■ BULLS, Page 09

Efforts made to raise awareness of North Alabama Bend

By Travis Gulbrandson

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The area in Clay County known as North Alabama Bend is open to the public, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to make sure area residents know it.

That is why Corps members met with Vermillion citizens Aug. 8 at the W.H. Over Museum, providing information and taking suggestions on how to develop the site.

"We found we have really good support and really good participation from the public," said Kelly Crane of the Corps' Omaha District. "It sounds like basically they would like to see the site kept in as natural of a condition as it can be."

The site in question consists of 546 acres in Clay County that is located west of Highway 19. The northeast corner of the site is .9 miles south of Highway 50,

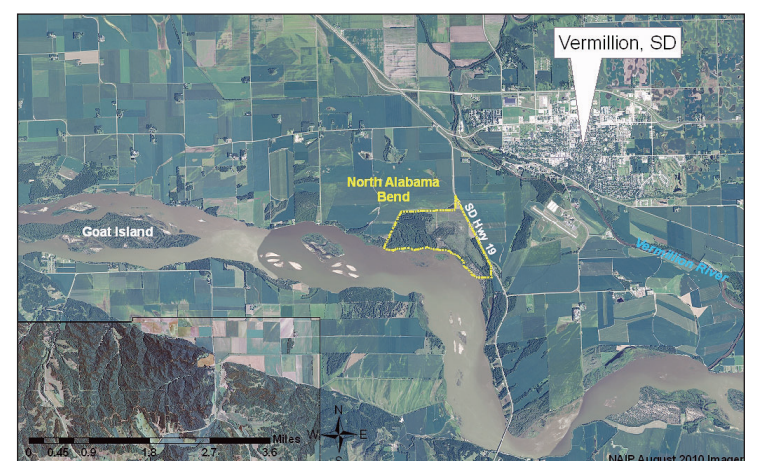
and the southern border of the property runs along approximately 1.5 miles of the Missouri River.

The land was purchased by the Corps in 2009 with funding provided under the Missouri River Recovery Program.

According to Corps data, the site has been used both for cattle grazing and recreation, and parts of the property may also have been tilled in the 1950s and 1960s.

"The property was purchased with the intent of enhancing some of its natural features and ecological functions to provide habitat for native fish and wildlife including threatened and endangered species," Ruth Bentzinger, an environmental resources specialist with the Corps, said via a press release.

Crane said that since the purchase three years ago, "We've just been doing basic maintenance to it - keeping the



weeds down, removing some invasive cedar, some invasive plants that have been in there. We haven't really done much else to it."

While this remains the goal, Bentzinger said, "An enhanced North Alabama Bend will also provide the public with many recreation and educational outreach benefits."

According to Crane, the

Corps presented a couple of different plans during the meeting, and the main enhancement attendees wanted to see is a walking trail along the river.

"That was kind of the main thing that came out of the meeting," she said. "The river is such a wonderful resource

■ BEND, Page 14