

FLOOD

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sandbagging operations on Sunday, May 29, and 500 South Dakota National Guard members have been activated, and all available SDNG units in the state have been put on alert.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Governor Dennis Daugaard announced Tuesday that Clay County and three other South Dakota counties dealing with Missouri River flooding will receive direct federal assistance for emergency protective measures.

Stanley, Yankton, Clay and Union counties face serious flooding because of record high flows on the Missouri River through South Dakota. The direct federal assistance approved on Tuesday will allow FEMA to provide federal resources that might not otherwise be available to the counties.

"We appreciate the quick action on our request to help these four counties as their communities fight to protect their citizens and property from this record river flooding," Gov. Daugaard said. "These counties will be able to receive from FEMA essential resources in this flood fight."

GUARDSMEN PITCH IN

The South Dakota National Guard mobilized approximately 200 airmen and soldiers to the Dakota Dunes community Tuesday to supplement efforts in thwarting rising floodwaters.

They will be heavily involved in sandbagging operations much like they remain in the Pierre/Fort Pierre communities.

"We will be showing up at the locations where the communities and volunteers have already been working," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. "Much the same as Pierre and Fort Pierre the community has already been sandbagging for a number of days."

Gov. Daugaard advised residents to have their possessions moved, homes secured and be out of those homes by late Thursday, June 2. They should expect to be away from their homes for as much as two months because elevated releases of water from the mainstem dams will continue for several weeks.

"Every property owner in Dakota Dunes should assume the worst – that protective measures will be impossible or will fail – and should act now to remove their possessions and secure their homes," said Daugaard.

Over the past several days, the Corps of Engineers dramatically increased its calculation of water releases required from the mainstem dams on the Missouri River. The Corps believes that this increased water release is

necessary to avoid overtopping of the spillways.

The South Dakota National Guard continues to work flooding operations in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area.

"We had a great day yesterday (Monday)," said Reisch in a press release issued by the South Dakota National Guard. "The output of the Guard has been noticeably increased to its highest level. The influx of more than 200 airmen has an impact on what we are able to accomplish in Pierre and Fort Pierre."

The Guard continues filling sandbags for the community to utilize in protecting their property. Construction of a levee near the Ramkota in Pierre began Monday and was completed Wednesday.

"I am very proud of the way the National Guard has responded to this emergency and particularly happy with the way the Air Guard and Army Guard have been working shoulder to shoulder," Reisch said. "That's what the people of South Dakota expect."

FLOODING IMPACTS RECREATION

Record releases of water from Oahe Dam have impacted boating and other outdoor recreation in several areas along the Missouri River.

The following portions of the Missouri River within South Dakota have been declared as No Wake Zones:

- From the Bad River to Oahe

Dam, near Pierre.

- Below Gavins Point Dam, from Paddlewheel Point upstream to a line stretching from the electronic sign placed near the boat ramp in at the Nebraska Tailwaters Recreation Area to a similar sign on the Training Dike Recreation Area. At the point of the electronic signs, the river is closed to boating.

- A 15-mile portion of the lower reach of the Missouri River near Dakota Dunes, beginning at the confluence of Big Sioux River (River Mile Marker 734) then upstream to the Rosenbaum Boat Landing (River Mile Marker 749).

The No Wake Zone orders will be in effect until rescinded by the governor.

Boaters are being asked to use extreme caution when out on the water. Even if a posted no wake zone area is not present, boaters need to operate their vessels in a manner that is reasonable for the time, place and rapidly changing conditions. Even if debris is not visible, other dangers may be present.

Boaters, campers and others who plan to use the Missouri River for recreation are advised to call ahead to check the status of campgrounds, boat ramps and other facilities at their planned destination.

Information on individual parks can be found on each park's webpage on www.gfp.sd.gov.

65TH

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reminder of the event's anniversary – a poster featuring the names, and the faces, where possible, of the past Girls State governors.

Girls State offers girls from all parts of South Dakota an opportunity to learn about every aspect of government in the United States, from local and state level to the federal and executive branches.

They also will have the chance to learn firsthand from a number of South Dakota politicians, including Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who will participate in a state of South Dakota Q&A session Friday morning.

U.S. Sen. John Thune, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, Dustin Johnson, chief of staff to Daugaard, S.D. Attorney General Marty Jackley and state Sen. Jean Hunhoff spoke at various points during the week, as well.

The 436 participants are selected by the American Legion Auxiliary, and are divided into 14 groups that are classified by the names of major U.S. cities, along with Journalism City, which produces the Girls State newspaper.

"They're involved in things all week," Hovorka said. "For example, they start out in city government. ... So basically, Tuesday is centered around city government. They actually elect their mayor and city councilman and they meet and talk about city government."

Later in the week, the girls have an opportunity to take a judicial class or law enforcement class, building toward a mock trial to take place Saturday.

"I've had girls tell me they never ever thought of going to law school, but once they participated here and got excited about law, that's what they decided to do," Hovorka said.

The girls are divided into Federalist and Nationalist parties and vote for Senate and House reps, as well as state officers.

"All the girls vote except Journalism City. They don't actually branch into the city

and county government part of it. But they do vote overall in the primary and the state election," Hovorka said.

One year, the girls had trouble deciding between the two gubernatorial candidates.

"They were both outstanding candidates, and the girls didn't know who to pick," Hovorka said. "At that point, we encourage them to vote party. The American Legion Auxiliary is totally non-partisan. We can't support one party or the other. But here, we just try to encourage them either Federalist or Nationalist. If you can't decide between one party or the other, then normally you would just kind of support your party."

Held for its first years in Mitchell, Girls State moved to Brookings in 1985 before coming to Vermillion in 2002.

USD is a good venue for Girls State, Hovorka said.

"The campus is fantastic," she said. "They roll out the red carpet and Girls State pretty much takes over. We have support from everybody from top administration down to the custodians who are amazing. We have everybody willing to help."

The USD School of Law, the Beacom School of Business and the Al Neuharth Media Center are among the biggest helpers, she said.

The Clay County Sheriff's Department offers assistance, as well.

"For several years now, we've had a forensic investigation team," Hovorka said. "We take 14 girls that rank the top 14 of the law enforcement test, and they're part of a CSI team. The sheriff's department works with them and teaches them how to do fingerprinting and that sort of thing."

This year also marks an anniversary for Hovorka – her 10th as Girls State coordinator.

It's gotten easier each year, she said.

"It's a lot of work, but yet it's not," she said. "People are so great about volunteering and helping out. Just working with the kids, it really doesn't seem like work."

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is hosted by the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership.

NOEM

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Noem, South Dakota's freshman member of the U.S. House of Representatives, speak.

Before Cassidy's birth, friends and family held a baby shower for Noem, and at one point, participants were asked to share words of helpful advice to the mother-to-be.

"My grandma said, 'The only advice that I would have for Kristi would be to say yes as much as you possibly can, because as a mom, so many times you have to say no.' I have applied that to my entire life since then."

"All of you have so many opportunities in front of you ... I hope that when you see an opportunity in front of you, that you say 'yes.' There are so many other times in life when you won't have the opportunity to say yes," Noem said. "You'll find that amazing things will happen to you if you just will say to yourself 'I'm going to say yes before I say no.'"

At one point during her childhood,

Noem knew what she wanted to do with her life.

All she ever wanted was to work side-by-side with her dad on the family's ranch near Castlewood.

"When my dad was killed in accident when I was going to college, everything in my life changed," Noem said.

Two older siblings were living out-of-state, established in their own careers. Her younger brother was still in high school.

"It was really left up to me to come back, and bring the family together and try to make our farming operation a success following that tragedy," Noem said. "That's when I really started to get involved in government, because we were trying to run a business and my dad was only 49 years old when he was killed, and we had a problem right away in paying estate taxes."

The experience, she said, made her begin to question the role that government should play in serving people.

"I hope that this week, as you go through all of your activities, you'll say, 'What is the role of government? What is my role in the city, in the county, within my state, and how

can I step up and make sure that this really works for the people?'" Noem said.

Besides ranching, Noem was involved in her family's other business ventures, which include a hunting lodge and a restaurant. Noem also served four years in the South Dakota Legislature before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives last November.

"Serving in this role, as your representative in Washington, DC, is extremely humbling for me," she said. "This job is extremely rewarding."

The role of all levels of government, Noem said, is to serve people, and people "truly need leaders who are willing to say 'yes' when it is right, who are willing to look for opportunities and to work hard and find the answers that are needed."

"No matter what challenges you are facing," she said to the young women, "no matter what's going to come up in your life, if you can stay positive and approach the situation from that direction, it will serve you much better and I know you will be a huge success in life."

CIVIC

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based on a recommendation of United States senators whose parties are in power.

Jackley was appointed by then-President George W. Bush, and was elected South Dakota's attorney general last year.

"As an attorney, I really like what a prosecutor does – helping people, working with people, working with problems," he said.

During a question-and-answer session, Jackley said that internal conflicts regarding the law arise "all the time" for he and his staff, but that they always remember that they aren't working to validate their own opinions, but to interpret the law as it is written.

"Certainly, there were some lawyers on my staff who weren't supportive of the concept that we join the health care lawsuit, with respect to federal health care," he said. "So, the challenge of the attorney general is knowing that you're going to have a staff that on many of these controversial political issues on both sides of the fence is to always be open and explain ... why we're going a certain route."

"I always give the lawyers in my office the opportunity to weigh in on particular issues. At the end of the day, we certainly do make decisions in the office that are not really popular among the entire staff," he said.

Jackley said one of the best ways people can stay involved and enact change for the better is through voting.

"Whether you're Republican, Democrat or independent, I encourage you to vote and put people in office who can do good things," he said.

Vermillion mayor Jack Powell agreed, pointing to the ongoing conflicts in countries like Egypt.

"I'm sure that you are aware of the many conflicts in other parts of the world – notably in the Middle East – where people are fighting in the streets for rights guaranteed to us by our constitution. This is especially true for women," he said. "Among these rights is the

responsibility for each of us to participate in our government. We can do this by exercising our right to vote and run for public office. Don't sit back and let others decide for you. I think it's a poor commentary that only 4.2 percent of eligible voters voted last week in the Sioux Falls public school election."

Powell encouraged the attendees of Girls State to utilize the lessons they learn this week in their future careers, whether or not they ever hold public office.

One former Girls State participant he cited as an example was former Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, who served as Girls State governor in

1988.

"You are the future leaders of our communities, our state, and yes, our nation," Powell said.

"Your unprecedented opportunity to make your voices heard in all areas of government. Set your goals high, and strive to achieve them through your continuing involvement in your schools and communities."

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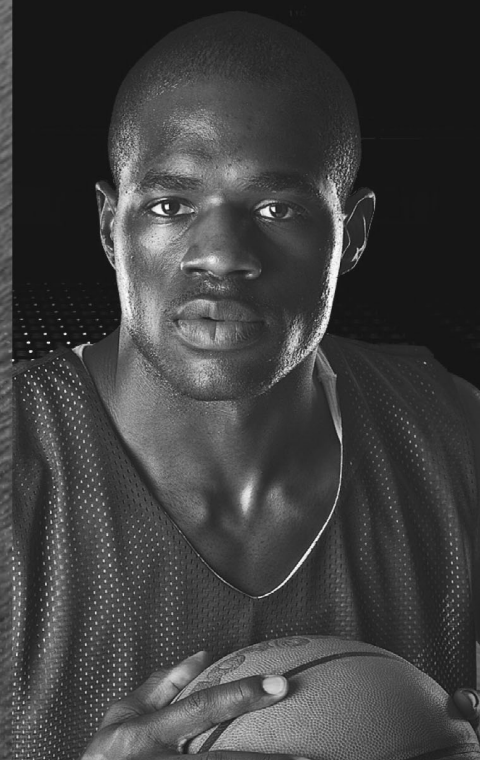
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