

# ■ GOV.

From Page 01

what he thought were the biggest accomplishments of his term as governor.

One of those he listed was the state's response to flooding along the Missouri River two years ago.

"That was so dramatic and so quickly upon us without much warning that it was a mad scramble to get levees built downstream of Gavins Point, where we are here, and downstream from the Oahe Dam near Pierre and Fort Pierre," Daugaard said. "There

were hundreds of homes damaged, and some destroyed, but there were thousands of homes that did get protected successfully by our response to build those levees."

The governor added that the response was not only received from the state itself, but from ordinary people who got involved to help each other during a time of crisis.

"As the water was rising, South Dakotans rose higher, and I was very proud to be governor of our state and see the volunteer work, neighbor helping neighbor and the strangers helping citizens," Daugaard said.

# USD announces academic honors

University of South Dakota students receiving academic honors for the 2013 Spring Semester have been announced.

Students achieving Dean's List honors total 1,641 full-time students while 459 part-time students have been cited with Academic Recognition honors.

Students earn Dean's List distinction by achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 while maintaining a course load of 12 or more credit hours with no incomplete or failing grades. Part-time students are eligible for Academic Recognition by completing at least 12 hours prior to the current semester earning a minimum of three and up to 11 credit hours during the term and achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 with no failing or incomplete grades.

Additionally, 21 students enrolled at the University of South Dakota School of Law attained Dean's List recognition this spring. To be named to the School of Law Dean's List, law students must achieve either a GPA of 85.00 or greater for that semester or rate in the top 10 percent of their class for that semester, whichever group is smaller. The list is not based on cumulative grade point average, and first semester, first-year law students are not eligible for the law school's Dean's List.

The South Dakota Board of Regents sets the policy for Dean's List eligibility. For more information on the Board of Regents policy, see [www.ris.sdbor.edu/policy/2-Academic\\_Affairs/documents/2-10.pdf](http://www.ris.sdbor.edu/policy/2-Academic_Affairs/documents/2-10.pdf).

Students receiving academic honors for the 2013 spring semester from the Vermillion area include:

**Beresford** – Anna M. Limoges, Zach Orr, Andrew J. Dolan, Jessica Olson, Daniel A. Frieberg, Lennea M. Clark, Leah M. Akland, Kyle M. DeLay, Brittany Wastell (Academic Recognition); **Burbank** – Brittany J. Sudbeck, Todd E. Stephens, Riley M. Braun, Stacey L. Allen (Academic Recognition); **Centerville** – Matt Laska, Tucker J. Tornberg, Joshua Rahn, Tessa M. Goehring, Molly M. Pingrey, Tim Norling, Nicole K. Steadman, Jennifer J. Berg (Academic Recognition); **Jodi L. Tieman** (Academic Recognition); **Dakota Dunes** – Chandler A. Hunt, Kendall W. Martin, Mary K. Okine, Molly E. Long, Nicole J. Funck, Nicole J. Funck, Mary Dick, Jade A. Hofer, John L. Sandman (Academic Recognition); **Elk Point** – Courtney J. Thorpe, Isaiah N. Cloud, Michelle L. Corio, Kelsie J. Paulsen, Ben Staum, Seth E. Cloud, Sean M. Cox, Jordan Flynn, Hillary A. Howard, Cassie L. Hilbrands, Casey A. North, Marica Rupp, Kelsie J. Paulsen, Adrian P. Ries, Emily B. Zeller, Sandra A. Miller (Academic Recognition), Amanda Connelly (Academic Recognition); **Gayville** – David J. Floyd, Katie Hirsch, Stacy A. Hirsch; **Hurley** – Alex R. Rasmussen; **Christopher Dabney** (School of Law); **Ipswich** – Maria T. Howard; **Irene** – Carly J. Wilson, Brittney **Jefferson** – Nicholas R. Spilger, Steven N. Harding, Masha H. Fehr, Luke C. Frankl, Ellie J. Dailey, Stephanie L. Petersen, Paige S. Norton, Brittany

J. Miller, Lanie M. Florke, Amber Nearman, Lori A. Hixson (Academic Recognition); **North Sioux City** – Tammy Ho, Gary D. Christiansen, Bradley A. Halverson, Adam J. Brand, Alyssa Limke; **Vermillion** – Alexis M. Oskolkoff, Mikey J. Smith, Audrey M. Smetter, Jake McBride, Tyler W. Jones, Cassie R. Donahoe, Cheyenne H. Hoelsing, Gabe Mambo, Melissa A. Schmidt, Joni L. Moos, Tiffany M. Eide, Benedict S. Gombocz, Anna Lindrooth, Shaydie Engel, Sonia Hernandez, McKenzie M. Huska, Vicki Rasmussen, Lindsay M. Strong, Ashley L. Daughters, Daniel R. Davies, Daniel T. Roberts, Eva L. Soluk, Erica L. Geerdes, Donica J. Crichton, Laci L. Paul, Rachel L. Roth, Krissy Zalud, Leonardo Silva, Cassie A. Schleisman, Ashley Fast, Chelsea R. Albus, Sadie K. Winckler, Elizabeth A. Szymonski, Gina M. Plotz, Christina A. Huckfeldt, Mallory A. Zweber, Alissa J. Olson, Lacey A. Leichtnam, Steffani E. Donahoe, Eric A. Roach, Andrew J. Kost, Scott J. Cichos, Clint A. Hubert, Long Zhou, Vanesa Salgado Perez, Lucy F. Keith, Maxwell F. Swanson, Kimberly C. Sjurson, Reanna L. Bertram, Jessica L. Johnson, Erik M. Ustad, Aaron R. Steele, Vonda Cotton, Kanaka L. Rao, Karissa S. Martin, Stacie H. Kjelden, Jake Evenson, Heidi Suter, Cassie C. Kleihauer, Amy L. Myron, Lauren M. Fink, Teramie Hill, Bobbi A. Greenfield, Ernie Schmidt, Gina M. Plotz, Liz Moyer, Erica P. Wergin, Amy M. Gehling, Aaron Packard, Brian T. Muldoon, Jordan D. Hoffman, Paula J. Krier, Amanda K. Beynon, Christen R. Smith, Megan L. Nedved, Jamie A. Turgeon, Rachel L. Roth, Jennifer Bye, Christina Johnson, Trisha A. Callaghan, Emma L. Solberg, Alicia E. Ray, Sadie K. Winckler, Elly J. Melby, Lauren A. Leichtnam, Amber J. Walker, Leanna M. Maxson, Lindsay M. Robinet, Will E. Sullivan, Sarah M. Cowles (Academic Recognition), Jason Thiel (Academic Recognition), Greg Kerkman (Academic Recognition), Dustin J. Kempton (Academic Recognition), John Christopherson (Academic Recognition), Jillissa E. Richey (Academic Recognition), Kyle D. Jorgensen (Academic Recognition), Tim D. Goodman (Academic Recognition), Melissa J. Lee (Academic Recognition), Robin Miskimins (Academic Recognition), Kara M. Rasmussen (Academic Recognition), Jerry R. Prentice (Academic Recognition), Greg Kerkman (Academic Recognition), Nick Willan (Academic Recognition), Jerrid L. Van Sloten (Academic Recognition), Alyssa D. Hendrickson (Academic Recognition), Sara Bartscher (Academic Recognition), Erica R. Richey (Academic Recognition), Ronda J. Mayrose (Academic Recognition), Alicia A. Harms (Academic Recognition), Patricia J. Carr (Academic Recognition), Amy J. Dekok (Academic Recognition), Amanuel Okubatsion-Estifanos (Academic Recognition), Sara Hansman (Academic Recognition); **Viborg** – Rebecca K. Anderson, Katie L. Huber, Dana L. Mach, Barb J. Hardwick, Rebecca Vanbeek (Academic Recognition); **Wakonda** – Melissa Hessman, Cody A. Wagner, Melissa Hessman, Nancy Andresen (Academic Recognition)

# Daugaard expects approval of extra spending for vets

By David Lias  
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South Dakota's economy is improving, meaning the state should end its fiscal year at the end of June with anywhere from \$14 million to \$20 million in unspent revenue.

Turns out there's a need for those extra funds. Gov. Dennis Daugaard will call the South Dakota Legislature into a special session on June 22 to deal with cost overruns in the construction of a new State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

"Some of that (revenue) I'm going to ask the Legislature to look at spending on the State Veterans Home, which came in over budget," the governor told local reporters after addressing Friday's session of Girls State on the University of South Dakota campus at Vermillion.

The Legislature earlier this year approved a bill authorizing the spending of \$41.3 million in state and federal money to build the new home. But Daugaard says when bids from contractors were opened recently, the lowest bid was considerably above projections. He says that will lead to a total project cost of \$51.3 million.

Daugaard says the state can't wait until the next legislative session in January to deal with the issue.

The governor said he believes he and members of the Legislature share the same concerns regarding this issue: "... frustration that our projections were so far off, and they (lawmakers) want to dive into the details of that, and understand what caused that. I think in some cases our architect and engineers just misjudged the competition for contractors and if we would have been able to bid this a year ago, we would have had better bids."

"I think the Legislature will, as I do, grouse about it, feel kind of irritated about it," Daugaard said, but ultimately will approve appropriating the needed funds for the project.

An improving economy means the demand for contractors has grown, he said. That growing demand means construction firms are bidding projects hoping to make a profit instead of merely breaking even.

"I think also, in some areas, some of our engineers or our architects just forgot this or that," Daugaard said. "One other benchmark against which I judge this is Nebraska just announced they will be seeking bids for an over 200-bed nursing home for veterans, same as us. Their costs per bed are projected to be higher than what our bids came in at."

He said veterans' nursing homes are more costly to build because they must meet higher standards than typical nursing homes.

The governor said he spent Thursday morning with the architect, the engineer, the state engineer, the lieutenant governor and other officials "working through every possible way we could drive the cost down, and so we are working toward that."

A recent development that makes investing such a large appropriation for veterans' care in one location is Medicaid certification for the Hot Springs facility.

"We had been operating, essentially, a nursing home without Medicaid eligibility in the past, and that was a mistake," Daugaard said. "In the last two years now, we've been certified Medicaid-eligible, which allows us to cover our operating costs a lot better than we used to."

"When you combine that with the fact that this is a facility solely for veterans, then you get some veterans'

income from the federal VA (Veterans Administration) income stream, so operating a facility like this is very doable for the state," he said. "In fact, it's more doable in some ways than a private facility, even though we have a lot of capital costs into it. We have to remember, also, that of the \$50 million that we're going to spending on this if the Legislature agrees, \$23 million of that is from the federal government in the form of a grant."

The facility may be more expensive than a typical nursing home, but the federal government covering nearly half the costs means "it's not so hard a pill to swallow," the governor said.

After the Hot Springs facility is complete, Daugaard said there likely may be an attempt to explore the idea of building a similar veterans home in East River South Dakota. That project could be a challenge, however, because it is unclear whether federal funding would be available to help cover costs.

The governor noted that most veterans in South Dakota who need care don't want to move to Hot Springs, and opt to seek care in the closest nursing home to them and their family.

"There are some veterans who are homeless, or who don't have family who are looking for a kind of family, and the family that they've known the best is their military family," Daugaard said. "If they can find a facility like our veterans home where they have the camaraderie and the common background of others who have served, that's a family of sorts. We want to continue to offer that kind of family to the people who have sacrificed so much for our country."

**Smithfield purchase**  
Daugaard said Friday he is confident that the recent sale

of Smithfield Foods, Inc., to a China-based company will boost job numbers in South Dakota.

Smithfield, one of the biggest pork producers in the U.S., on Wednesday agreed to be bought by Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd., the majority shareholder in China's largest meat processor, for about \$4.72 billion.

Smithfield Foods owns John Morrell & Co., a major employer in Sioux Falls.

"I think the Smithfield sale offers a much better opportunity to export to Chinese consumers," the governor said. "The buyer is a Hong Kong-based company, which I think is good because Hong Kong, unlike the rest of China, has freedom of speech, a more democratic-type of government, and they have some protections that we enjoy in America and want our businesses protected by."

"Hong Kong is still a gateway to China, and our meat exports will have a great opportunity here with this very good gateway into China," Daugaard said.

He added that during his two trade missions to China, officials raised the topic of food safety.

"Chinese consumers want safe food ... they want a food product from America, because they trust the American brands," Daugaard said. "Having a consumer product that's created by a company that's as vertically integrated as Smithfield – they own their hogs, they raise their hogs, they slaughter and package and sell to a finished product – there is a confidence in that product because you see it from inception to the table."

"I really think this is a good news situation (with this purchase)," the governor said. "Time will tell – maybe I'm wrong, but I'm hopeful."

## OBITUARIES

### Roberta Bensen

Roberta Jean Bensen, 84, of Vermillion, passed away Saturday, June 1, 2013, at the Morningside Care Center in Alcester.

Roberta Hood was born Sept. 5, 1928 in Wakonda, to John and Elmira (Nelson) Hood. She graduated from the Vermillion High School in 1946 and married Donald Bensen on Feb. 20, 1948, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton. They moved to Vermillion in 1949 where she worked as the secretary for the Vermillion Trinity Lutheran Church and then as a Program Assistant for the US Department of Agriculture, ASCS for 24 years, retiring in 1990.

She was baptized in the Lutheran faith at the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, and was a member of the Trinity



BENSEN

Don; two sons, David and Scott; and three sisters, Gaile Shelby, Mary "Katie" Stewart and Marjorie Moore.

She is survived by her two daughters, Susan (Alan) Ruedebusch of Port Orchard, WA, Carol Bensen of Tacoma, WA; and a daughter-in-law, Anne Bensen of Sioux Falls; her sister, Glennis Stewart of Vermillion; and her brother, Bob (Jewell) Hood of

Phoenix, AZ. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jason Bensen, Vanessa Ruedebusch, Jessica Ruedebusch; and a great-grandson, Bryson Allen Bensen; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion. Visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com).

### Elizabeth McCullough

Elizabeth W. "Betty" McCullough, 92, passed away Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in Gardnerville, NV.

Betty Wilson was born Jan. 2, 1921, in Pittsburgh, PA to Irwin

and Leah Wilson. She grew up in Columbus, OH and received her bachelor's degree from Ohio State University.

Betty married Don McCullough on June 30, 1941, and they had 68 wonderful years together. Betty was a 50-year member of P.E.O. and an avid bridge player. She and Don enjoyed travelling and made new friends wherever they went. Betty's greatest joys were her family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Jim (Kathryn Mayer) McCullough and Betsy (Todd) Connelly; grandchildren Brian Connelly and Kelly (Kris) Garry; great-grandchildren Ashlynn and Kinzlee Garry.

A memorial service is being planned.

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