

SD Peace & Justice Center honors Diane Nesselhuf

The SD Peace and Justice Center presented Diane Nesselhuf of Burbank with the Doris Hodge Reconciliation Award at their annual conference, Oct. 7, in Rapid City. Diane was recognized for her work with indigenous people in Guatemala as founder and director of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.

In 1996 Diane spent a month visiting women's groups in Guatemala. The women she talked with told her they would be able to feed, clothe and educate their children if they had a way to market their crafts. When she returned to South Dakota, Diane established Sharing the Dream in Guatemala to create such a market.

The non-profit corporation Friends of Sharing the Dream is a volunteer-based fair trade

organization that reduces poverty through collaborative partnerships with Guatemalans. Working with over 45 artisan groups, Sharing the Dream supports projects in most of the communities where cooperatives are based. Their projects include The Juanita Elder Center in Santiago Atitlan (which provides meals and health care for elders in the community). Most of the elders assisted by this project are Tz'tujil Maya.

Sharing the Dream sells products all over the United States through their network and website. Those who enter the Sharing the Dream store in Vermillion will find books about Guatemala, along with a wide variety of crafts made by people in villages all across that country. They can purchase coffee and coffee beans

grown in Guatemala and roasted in Parker.

They can also donate to scholarships so village children can attend school or help support an elder. Sharing the Dream operates a Hostel in Santiago Atitlan, employs two Guatemalan staff people to carry on their work in that country, conducts educational tours of Guatemala so that U.S. citizens can experience life in Guatemala, and employs a doctor to provide medical care needed in a Guatemalan village and orphanage.



Diane Nesselhuf (right) receives the Doris Hodge Reconciliation Award from SD P&J Center President Norma Wilson.

RIVER

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and agriculture, in Montana when a drought hits.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Monday declared the Missouri River flood officially over, saying the river has fallen below flood stages from Fort Peck in Montana to near St. Louis and water is off the levee system.

"What this means is that we are at a point where we can carefully examine the damages to the levee system and the dams," said Col Anthony Hofmann, commander of the Kansas City District. He expected a report by

mid-November.

So far, \$27.7 million has been set aside for repairs. The corps is waiting on funding by Congress for the rest. Early estimates show repairs could top \$1 billion.

Schweitzer, who allowed reporters in his office for what was expected to be a private meeting, phoned into the Omaha conference in which governors from Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota took part. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon was in the meeting by phone, and Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead sent representatives. The host, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, clashed several times with Schweitzer during the meeting.

Cowman chose to stick to hard data in his presentation. Scientific research

seems to indicate that flooding may be more likely in the near future on the river.

Climate data presented by Cowman shows that the Midwest is entering a "wet cycle."

"If we're having to predict what our basin runoff is going to be, we need to take this into account so that we're not just working off of averages," he said.

"We need to take into account the fact that the odds are going to be in our favor that next year and probably the year are going to be wet years with pretty high runoffs that are above normal. I think if we plan for that way, and adjust the system that way, we'll be much better prepared to handle these types of high runoff events."

Solutions to make sure a repeat of

the damage to personal property and public infrastructure from this year's flooding doesn't occur range from changes to local zoning regulations to broadening the channelized portion of the Missouri below Sioux City, IA, Cowman said.

"I also think the debate has to happen about lowland flooding downstream, and how much weight should that hold in terms of how we manage our reservoirs," he said.

Some local zoning regulations considered for the construction of housing along the river state that dwellings must be setback 500 feet from the river's edge.

"That doesn't make a lot of sense," Cowman said, "because we have the technology these days, and the data

and information to build much better types of setbacks."

Zoning officials should encourage homes to be built in areas that would not be heavily inundated with water should flooding occur, he said.

"I think there can be a solution that can be acceptable to most people ... we can predict which areas are and are not going to be inundated with water. There are areas that sit pretty low topographically, and those are the areas one would expect local zoning to deal with," he said. "These kinds of things make more sense to most people rather than drawing a straight line at some distance from the river and saying you can't build there."

PUGH

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makes a statement about you," said Pauline Rhoades, a friend of Pugh who is also involved with the Race for the Cure.

"He's dedicated. He champions the cause for breast cancer, and he's an inspiration to all of us."

Pugh, who has participated in the race for the past three years, first got involved through a family connection.

"I became interested because my wife Jane was chairman of the volunteers and my daughter, Colette Abbott, Vermillion, is chairman of the race," he said. "And I also have five daughters, one daughter-in-law, nine

granddaughters and three great-granddaughters. So needless to say, I was willing to do whatever I could."

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Series is the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, according to the race's website. It raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivorship and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease.

This is the fourth year the Komen South Dakota Affiliate has hosted the race, which was held at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Up to 75 percent of the funds raised at the race remain in South Dakota to provide breast health research, diagnostics, screening,

treatment, services and education for uninsured or underinsured women. The remaining 25 percent goes to fund national research to discover the causes of breast cancer and, ultimately, its cures.

"It's really a good thing," Pugh said. "They raise a lot of money, and most of it stays in South Dakota."

The event also does an incredible job of raising breast cancer awareness, he said.

"The Komen effort is outstanding," he said. "You have 2,000 to 2,500 participating in the race, and many volunteers assisting. It's quite a production."

Pugh added that he was impressed with the amount of work done by those involved with the race.

"I think it's very well put together, even though I admit that I'm prejudiced because my wife and my daughter have a lot to do with it," he said with a laugh. "There's so much more to it than you would think. They honor the survivors of breast cancer, they have to go out and get sponsors, and so on. There's a lot of work involved."

To get ready for the race, Pugh put in some work as well.

"I go to the wellness center daily. I've been going since about two months prior to this race," he said. "I didn't want to embarrass myself, so I went up there to walk the treadmill. I guess I had my own health in mind, too."

That health was in question in 1995 when Pugh was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

He underwent surgery at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, and doctors were able to find and remove all the cancer.

"I was very fortunate," he said. "A lot of people don't make it with that kind of cancer."


Pugh said his experience gave him empathy for others battling similar diseases, something that was constantly on his mind as he participated in the Race for the Cure.

"You look around you and see people you personally know

who are in recovery, and you see all the survivors walking," he said. "I defy anyone not to be moved greatly by seeing that."

While Pugh was satisfied with his performance in this year's event, he didn't rule out racing again.




"At my age, you never know how many races you're going to be in," he said. "But if my health lets me, I definitely will participate again."



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