



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District will rededicate Kingsley Dam on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its completion. A series of events and activities for the public and planned in cooperation with the Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce and the Keith County Visitors Bureau will be held at Lake McConaughy on July 22 and 23.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2016

Contact: Jeff Buettner
Public Relations Coordinator
Office: (308) 995-8601
E-mail: jbuettner@cnppid.com

Events on Friday morning include a welcome coffee at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center at 10 a.m., and activities for the kids from 11 a.m., to 1 p.m., at the Lake McConaughy Water Interpretive Center inside the visitors center.

On Sat., July 23 events for the public include a bicycle ride around Lake McConaughy; the 8th annual dam run; a volleyball tournament on the shore of Lake Ogallala; kayaking and paddleboard expositions; pontoon rides; a boat parade and much more.

A rededication ceremony will be held at the south end of Kingsley Dam at 11:30 a.m., on Saturday with remarks by Central General Manager Don Kraus, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Director Jeff Fassett and State Senator Ken Schilz. The ceremony will include a flyover by vintage aircraft.

At noon, Central is sponsoring a free barbequed pork and hot dog lunch at the Lake Ogallala campground. Local volunteers will serve enough sandwiches to feed the first 1,500 people at the event.

Kingsley Dam was originally dedicated on July 23, 1941 when more than 2,000 people gathered under a scorching sun to celebrate the completion of the dam. The crowd consisted of many Keith County residents, but also included state and federal dignitaries, politicians and a large contingent from the media.

A recorded message from President Franklin Roosevelt was delivered to the crowd and K. Sewell Wingfield, the chief of the Public Works Administration's Power Division, gave a stirring speech about the construction of the dam that was the cornerstone for Central's huge hydro-irrigation project.

Almost 1,100 people worked at the dam site during the peak construction period. Their labor produced one of the largest public works projects in Nebraska's history, a project that drew upon the initiative and foresight of those irrigation pioneers who saw a prosperous future for Nebraska in the development and beneficial use of the state's water resources.

Today, 75 years later, the project continues to benefit the Platte River Valley and Nebraska, providing irrigation, hydroelectric power, recreational opportunities, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat.

(###)