



Shows Developing Late

9 a.m.: **59** | 3 p.m.: **58** | DETAILS: PAGE 2



THURSDAY ■ APRIL 26, 2012



**USD Linemen
Awaits Call During
NFL Draft This
Weekend ■ 8**

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Immigration Battle Heats Up ■ 12

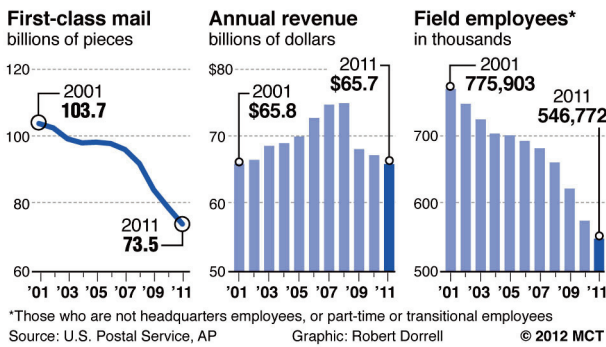
VOLUME 138
NUMBER 1

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **12 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢
8 38894 0002 4

Postal pressures

Congress is considering a bill passed by the Senate crafted to ward off bankruptcy of the U.S. Postal Service through an infusion of \$11 billion and retirement incentives for 100,000 employees, but halting plans to close low-revenue post offices.



A Postal Reprieve? Senate Votes To Slow Closing Of Post Offices

BY HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate offered a lifeline to the nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service on Wednesday, voting to give the struggling agency an \$11 billion cash infusion while delaying controversial decisions on closing post offices and ending Saturday delivery.

By a 62-37 vote, senators approved a measure which had divided mostly along rural-urban lines. Over the past several weeks, the bill was

modified more than a dozen times, adding new restrictions on closings and cuts to service that rural-state senators said would hurt their communities the most.

The issue now goes to the House, which has yet to consider a separate version of the bill.

"The Postal Service is an iconic American institution that still delivers 500 million pieces of mail a day and sustains 8 million jobs," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., a bill co-sponsor. "This legislation will change the USPS so it can stay alive throughout the 21st century."

The Senate bill would halt the immediate closing of up to 252 mail-processing centers and 3,700 post offices, part of a postal cost-cutting plan to save some \$6.5 billion a year. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe previously said he would begin making cuts after May 15 if Congress didn't act, warning that the agency could run out of money this fall.

The measure would save about half the mail processing centers the Postal Service wants to

REPRIEVE | PAGE 11

Student Loan Rates Vote Set For Friday

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an escalating election-year clash, the House will vote Friday on a \$5.9 billion Republican bill preventing interest rates on federal student loans from doubling this summer, paid for by cutting money from President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law.

Thursday's abrupt announcement by House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, came with Obama and Democrats clamoring daily for congressional action to prevent the current 3.4 percent interest rate on subsidized Stafford student loans from automatically increasing to 6.8 percent on July 1.

That increase, set by law unless Congress blocks it, would affect 7.4 million students at a time when both parties are competing for the votes of young adults and their parents who must foot college tuitions. Each is also trying to show voters that it knows best how to shield people from pain inflicted by the weak economy.

With Obama engaged in a series of campaign-style speeches in recent days about the need to block the interest rate boost, Republicans came under even greater pressure when Mitt Romney, the GOP's presumptive presidential nominee, announced

LOANS | PAGE 11

SHOWING OF THEIR SKILLS



Members of Crofton's SkillsUSA team that recently brought home the state title include, from left: Derek Van Heek, Bridget Arens, Alison Arens and Maria Wortmann.

Crofton Quad Tops In Neb. Skills Competition

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

CROFTON, Neb. — Four industrial technology students from Crofton High School recently got an opportunity to show their building skills.

Derek Van Heek, Bridget Arens, Alison Arens and Maria Wortmann won first place in their team event at the Nebraska SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held April 12-14 at Central Community College in Hastings, Neb. With the top-place finish, the team qualified for the national SkillsUSA competition this summer.

"The students are pretty fired up," said Wil Sanger, industrial technology teacher and SkillsUSA advisor at Crofton High School. "That's the contest that we hang our hat on."

The students participated in the TeamWorks competition, which entailed building a scaled-down house, Sanger said. This included framing, masonry, electrical work and plumbing.

PHOTO: WIL SANGER

"The hard part is they incorporate all the modern technologies," he said. "It isn't like we showed up down there and we're still nailing two-by-fours to two-by-fours."

While the students practiced each week leading up to the event, Sanger said some of the most crucial preparation took place at an unlikely location the day before the competition.

"The kids are given a set of plans and then given time with their advisor. Since the motel rooms were so small, we actually went and sat in McDonald's to create a timeline and a planned procedure on how we were going to get this done," he said. "I think that was what won the contest for them. They did a pretty good job with demonstrating they could plan and follow that plan to get their objectives done."

The school has won the competition several times before, but Sanger said he was especially proud of the students this year considering the makeup of the group.

SKILLS | PAGE 3

Hamiel To Be Inducted Into S.D. Newspaper Hall Of Fame

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Noel Hamiel's career took a sharp turn from the classroom to the newsroom.

Hamiel attended Northern State College (now Northern State University) in Aberdeen, planning a career as an English and literature teacher. He even taught in Arizona for a year after graduation, but he returned to South Dakota and entered the journalism profession.

That decision took him on a 35-year career with newspapers, including publisher of the *Press & Dakotan* from 1983-89.

In recognition of his lifetime achievements, Hamiel will be inducted Friday into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame at Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma.

In a recent interview with the *Press & Dakotan*, Hamiel said he looks back fondly on his years with the newspaper, community and region.

"It was an exciting time and a great time. My wife and I look back on those Yankton years as some of the best years of our lives," he said. "Our kids feel the same way. Whenever we passed through Yankton (following our move), they wanted to go past the old house where we lived."

As the newest Hall of Fame inductee, Hamiel will be honored during the 130th convention of the South Dakota Newspaper Association (SDNA). He becomes the 103rd member of the Newspaper Hall of Fame.

A committee of SDNA and South Dakota State University (SDSU) journalism members select the honoree annually from nominations submitted by any SDNA member.

While holding a storied career, Hamiel said he was still stunned to learn of his Hall of Fame career.

"(SDNA President) Lucy Halverson called out of



Hamiel

HAMIEL | PAGE 3

Students Fired Up To Learn Welding, Fill Local Demand

BY DAVID LIAS
david.lias@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — "We're going to want to start welding in a circular motion."

After hearing that advice from their instructor, Mark Pier, six members of a welding class in Vermillion got fired up - literally - and made sparks fly.

The class, formally titled "Welding in Industry," is designed to help fill a growing employee demand in the Vermillion area.

Steps had already been taken earlier this year to make the 35-hour adult course a reality, thanks to a joining of forces of the Vermillion School District, the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company, and Masaba Mining

Equipment of Vermillion.

The state made local officials aware last month that it could possibly provide some funding to help the local efforts move forward. The city applied in March for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) revenue toward meeting that goal.

"What the governor is trying to do is get more educated workers in the state, and so this is kind of a statewide effort to get more training programs," SECOG planner Janice Graving explained to the city council last month.

In the meantime, local support has enabled the start-up of the workforce training program that focuses on teaching adults basic welding skills.

The welding program itself was implemented

earlier this year, with its first section concluding Feb. 28.

Another round of the course began April 10, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from 6:30-8 p.m. twice a week through May 24 at Vermillion High School.

"This course is designed for the novice welder or the welder who wants to improve on their skills so that they can go in industry and work," said Pier, who instructs the evening class. During the day, he is the career and technical education teacher at Vermillion High School. "I've got some people here who have never welded before, and I've got some people who do have some welding experience."

WELDERS | PAGE 7



PHOTO BY DAVID LIAS

Sparks fly as a student in Vermillion's "Welding in Industry" class masters basic techniques taught by instructor Mark Pier. The second 35-hour session of the welding class began earlier this month.



Leading another healthy race to the top.
2011 Top Performing Hospital for providing reliable, efficient and safe care.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital looks forward to continuing to provide high-quality health care to your community.



REGION 2 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | MIDWEST 7 | SPORTS 8 | CLASSIFIEDS 10 | WORLD 12

TOMORROW: Three To Enter Yankton High School Fine Arts Hall Of Fame

