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**YANKTON DAILY**  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**



Volume 139  
Number 90

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **16 PAGES** | [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

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**Steve "Chopper" Johnson and Cliff Madson have volunteered for Riverboat Days since its inaugural event 30 years ago. After this year, with 25 and 20 years on the Riverboat Days board of directors, respectively, they plan to step down and make way for younger members. However, both men say they still plan to volunteer their time for the event.**

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

# One Last Voyage

## Two Longtime RBD Board Members Calling It Quits

**BY NATHAN JOHNSON**

[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

With the 30th anniversary of Riverboat Days less than a week away, a couple of its long-time architects have announced this will be their last year in that role.

Steve "Chopper" Johnson and Cliff Madson say they will be involved with the event for the foreseeable future, but they feel it is time to step off the Riverboat Days board of directors to make way

for younger members.

Johnson, 62, has served on the board for 25 years and been a volunteer since the inaugural Riverboat Days. Madson, 66, has been on the board for approximately 20 years and has also volunteered since the beginning.

The two men have worked closely during the last couple decades maintaining equipment and attending to other duties.

"We were both going to quit earlier, but then there were other board mem-

bers who had other things they needed to get off the board to do," Madson stated. "We said we'd stay and help another year. It turned out to be a deal where the time has come."

"It's bittersweet," Johnson said of the prospect of turning in his resignation letter next month. "I'll still take care of a lot of equipment and help them set up. I'd love to stay, but it's time to let the

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# Online Studies Put Pressure On SD College Enrollments

## Drops Showing Up In Recent Years

**BY BOB MERCER**

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Enrollments at South Dakota's public universities rose in recent years because more people took off-campus courses, while the numbers of students physically attending classes declined system-wide in 2011 and again in 2012, according to a new report prepared for the state Board of Regents.

The regents, who govern the state's higher education system, plan to discuss the enrollment trends Wednesday and Thursday when they meet in Sioux Falls for their annual planning retreat.

The report was prepared by the regents' central office. It is the first deep look at the numbers behind the record enrollments that have been reported for the system in recent years.

The data show a 42 percent increase since 2007 in students seeking degrees via off-campus courses and a 44 percent gain in other students who took off-campus courses without specific degrees as their targets. Off-campus courses can be on-line or at another location such as the university centers in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Pierre.

During the same six-year period, on-campus enrollments in total went up just 2 percent. The only significant gain in on-campus students came at South Dakota School of Mines and

Technology, which climbed more than 16 percent to 2,365 students in 2012.

The 2012 enrollments at three campuses — Black Hills State 2,445; Northern State 1,894; and South Dakota State 9,777 — were at the lowest since 2009. The University of South Dakota at 6,116 last year was below where it stood in 2007, while Dakota State 1,277 was up slightly.

Meanwhile off-campus courses intensified in popularity each of the six years in the analysis, reaching records in 2012 of 6,474 degree-seeking students and 6,081 non-degree seeking.

Jack Warner, the regents' executive director, said the off-campus growth is a mixture of adults who don't or can't make the trips to traditional campuses and students who are on campuses but take on-line courses so they don't have to go to classes at specific times.

"What this means is there are implications for how we invest our resources," Warner said in an interview Friday.

On one hand are traditional considerations such as residence halls, dining facilities and other student amenities on campuses.

On the other hand are technology issues such as sufficient bandwidth to handle streaming video and large data batches, computing power, storage and students' access to devices.

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## Let The Chips Fall



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

**Karla Cotton of Sioux Falls chips onto the No. 10 green during the first round of the SDGA Women's Amateur Championships on Friday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course. Cotton, a two-time champion in this event, shares the first-round lead with Maggie Leland of Sioux Falls, each at even-par 72. See more coverage from the event on Page 6. The tournament runs through Sunday.**

**LOANS | PAGE 3**

# White House And GOP Agree On Prayer Lawsuit

**BY DAVID G. SAVAGE**

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WASHINGTON — The Obama administration and congressional Republicans have found something to agree on: Town councils should be allowed to open their meetings with a Christian prayer.

Lawyers for the administration and two groups of lawmakers from the House and Senate, nearly all Republicans, separately made that argument in briefs to the Supreme Court this week. The high court should relax the constitutional limits on religious invocations at government meetings, they argued.

The case could lead to a major change in the law on religion that would go well beyond prayers at council meetings.

Last year, a federal appeals court ruled that the town of Greece, N.Y., near Rochester, had crossed the line and violated the First Amendment's ban on an "establishment of religion." For years, the town supervisor had invited a local minister to deliver an opening prayer at the council's monthly meeting. Members of the audience were encouraged to join in the prayers.

Two residents, one Jewish and one an atheist, had complained for several years that the prayers were offensive and inappropriate. Until they sued in 2008, only Christians had been invited to lead the prayers.

Looked at through the eyes of a "reasonable observer," the town's prayer policy "must be viewed as an endorsement of ... a Christian viewpoint," the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in ruling against the town.

The justices agreed in May to hear the town's appeal this fall.

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# Obama Inks Student Loan Deal, Says Job Isn't Done

**BY JOSH LEDERMAN AND PHILIP ELLIOTT**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama signed into law Friday a measure restoring lower interest rates for student loans, pledging the hard-fought compromise would be just the first step in a broader, concerted fight to rein in the costs of a college education.

Encircled by lawmakers from both parties in the Oval Office, Obama praised Democrats and Republicans alike for agreeing — finally — on

what he called a sensible, reasonable approach to student loans even as he cautioned that "our job is not done."

"Feels good signing bills. I haven't done this in a while," Obama said, alluding to the difficulty he's faced getting Congress, particularly the Republican-controlled House, to approve his legislative priorities, such as gun control and budget deals.

"Hint, hint," he added to laughter.

But even the feel-good moment at the White House came with reminders of the bitter parti-

sanship that still makes future deals incredibly difficult for Obama. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, called the law part of the "Republican jobs plan," while House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said it "stands in stark contrast to the House Republicans' plan to saddle families with billions more in student debt."

The rare compromise emerged only after a frenzy of summer negotiations, with lawmakers

# Cramer-Kenyon Home Gets Deadwood Grant

## Money Will Go Toward Work On Carriage House Cupola

**BY DEREK BARTOS**

[derek.bartos@yankton.net](mailto:derek.bartos@yankton.net)

The Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home in Yankton is about to get a little brighter.

The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission has awarded the home a \$3,000 Outside of Deadwood Grant to replace the metal tiles on the cupola of the home's carriage house.

"It's wonderful," said Doug Sall, vice president of the home's board of directors. "We were very pleased to get the grant. This is a small project, but nonetheless important."

The Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home, located at 509 Pine Street, was built in 1886

and was first opened to the public in 1974 as a bicentennial project to commemorate Yankton as the first capital of the Dakota territory. The property remains historically accurate and is open to the public for guided tours each summer.

"The carriage house is an important part of the main property," Sall said. "It's open to the public, but we use it for storage and as a workshop on a daily basis."

He said the repairs have been needed for some time, as water has been leaking into the carriage house through the tiles.

"It also got a little unsightly as some tiles were damaged or missing," he said.

Sall said the project should begin later this month and is expected to be com-

pleted within 90 days. The work likely will be done by board members, he said, but the board might request help from outside the organization.

The grant and matching funds will cover the cost of the project, which is expected to exceed \$5,000.

The Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home is one of 14 projects in South Dakota to be awarded Outside of Deadwood Grants during the latest funding cycle. Each year, the Deadwood program awards up to \$250,000 for historic preservation projects across the state.

This is the second such grant the historic Yankton home has received in the past four years, previously utilizing a simi-

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