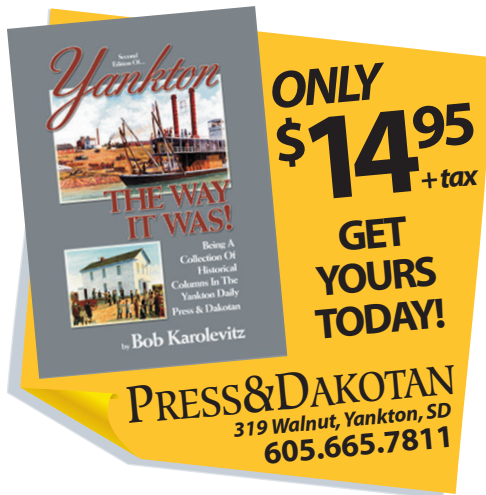


# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



## A Heroic 30th Riverboat Days



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Heroes were everywhere during the 30th annual Riverboat Days celebration and Summer Arts Festival. This year featured the theme "Comic Book Heroes," and there were certainly plenty of heroes to be found, especially during Saturday's parade. LEFT: These masked marvels stood tall while traveling through the downtown portion of the parade route. ABOVE: This masked duo (aka, Jerry Diekmann of Yankton and his 5-year-old grandson Jackson Diekmann) were part of the Tri-State Old Iron Association entry in the parade. BELOW: The Hulk made his presence known on the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital float. To see more Riverboat Days photos, see pages 14-14. To see or purchase images from Riverboat Days, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).



## Congress Divided On Egypt Funding Violence Continues To Spread In Middle East Ally

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress are split over whether the U.S. should cut off military aid to Egypt, highlighting the difficult choices facing the Obama administration amid spiraling violence on the streets of an important Middle East ally.



Ellison

Democratic leaders have generally supported the president's approach. But on Sunday, Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., said he would end aid to Egypt. Ellison is the first Muslim elected to Congress and is co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

"I would cut off aid but engage in intense diplomacy in Egypt and in the region to try to say, look, we will restore aid when you stop the bloodshed in the street and set up a path towards democracy that you were on before," Ellison said. "In my mind, there's no way to say that this was not a coup. It is. We should say so. And then follow our own law, which says we cannot fund the coup leaders."

Among Republicans, there were

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## AP-NORC Poll: Parents Back High- Stakes Testing

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT AND  
JENNIFER AGIESTA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Often criticized as too prescriptive and all-consuming, standardized tests have support among parents, who view them as a useful way to measure both students' and schools' performances, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll.

Most parents also say their own children are given about the right number of standardized tests, according to the AP-NORC poll.

They'd like to see student performance on statewide exams used in evaluating teachers, and almost three-quarters said they favored

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## Bureau Battle Buddy Honored At Rodeo

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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Ashton Keller wandered out into the middle of the Yankton Rodeo Arena in Yankton on Saturday, not quite sure of what was happening.

The 7-year-old from Yankton had a slightly perplexed look on his face as the crowd at the Extreme Bull Riding Tour event cheered him on.

The child's eyes soon lit up when he was presented with a U.S. flag on behalf of his father, Sgt. Brett Keller, who is a member of the South Dakota National Guard and is currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Keller, the re-entry coordinator at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp, sent a combat-flown flag and combat-worn patch to his son with assistance from the prison.

"The Yankton Rodeo Association, in

conjunction with the Federal Prison Camp, thank and salute all of our nation's former and active armed forces members," the event's announcer said as Ashton was handed the flag. "Their dedication to this great nation and Americans all around the world in combating terrorism is highly commendable. Their unflinching heroism and many personal sacrifices ensure we continue to enjoy our freedoms every day."

The presentation was part of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' "Bureau Battle Buddy" program, which features local volunteer support to employees who have been deployed for military combat, and also assists with reintegration back into the civilian workforce.

"This was reason the Federal Prison Camp implemented the program — to provide recognition to family members during times like this, and to give a connection to an employee

overseas and help them carry it out," said the prison's public information officer, Todd Cowman.

Sgt. Keller is currently with the 235th Military Police Company at Parwan Province and is expected to be deployed until sometime next year. He was recently awarded the Task Force Renegade Hero of the Week for helping wounded soldiers and assisting hospital staff at the Crag Joint Theater Hospital in Bagram in preparing for a mass casualty event as the result of a plane crash.

Keller has received a Distinguished Service Award from Gov. Dennis Daugaard for his volunteer work in helping the wounded soldiers at the hospital. He also served in Romania and Germany, and assisted at Dakota Dunes during the Missouri River floods of 2011.

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## Mobile Ranger Station A Hit At Riverboat Days

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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Sydney Kaiser reached up and spun the wheel with all her might.

When it stopped spinning, it landed on the question, "What is the longest river in North America?"

By giving the correct answer, "Missouri," the 8-year-old from Yankton won a prize.

Kaiser was one of numerous children who took advantage of the National Park Service's (NPS) mobile ranger station at Riverside Park this past weekend. Officials from the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) made the

station available during Riverboat Days to provide information about the park to the public and to offer educational activities to children.

"We want to let people know about what we have to offer here at the park," said park ranger John Rokosz. "And we want to get the kids involved, because that's our next generation."

In addition to the prize wheel full of trivia, the station also included a crafts table where children could make bookmarks, as well as informational material about the park.

"It taught you about all the stuff around here," Kaiser said.



DEREK BARTOS/P&D  
National Park Service (NPS) Ranger John Rokosz asks Sydney Kaiser of Yankton a question Saturday at the mobile ranger station that the NPS set up during Riverboat Days. The station offered information about the Missouri National Recreational River and provided educational activities for children.

Nine-year-old Abby Schmidt of Yankton, who also stopped by the ranger station on Saturday, said she too enjoyed learning about the river. She said she now hopes to visit the park with her family so

she can enjoy the scenery. "I'd like to go so I can just look around," Schmidt said. Park officials unveiled the

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