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75¢



## INSIDE TODAY



## YHS Woksape

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 10  
15 shopping days to Christmas  
\* \* \*

## Obama, Boehner Discuss 'Fiscal Cliff'

BY ANNE FLAHERTY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met Sunday at the White House to discuss the ongoing negotiations over the impending "fiscal cliff," the first meeting between just the two leaders since Election Day.

Spokesmen for both Obama and Boehner said they agreed to not release details of the conversation, but emphasized that the lines of communication remain open.

The meeting comes as the White House and Congress try to break an impasse over finding a way to stop a combination of automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to kick in at the beginning of next year.

Obama met in November with Boehner, as well as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The president spoke separately by telephone with Reid and Pelosi on Friday.

Obama has been pushing higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans as one way to reduce the deficit — a position Boehner and other House Republicans have been steadfastly against. Republicans are demanding steeper cuts in costly government entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

One GOP senator said Sunday that Senate Republicans would probably agree to higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans if it meant getting a chance to overhaul entitlement programs.

The comments by Bob Corker of Tennessee — a fiscal conservative who has been gaining stature in the Senate as a pragmatic deal broker — puts new pressure on Boehner and other Republican leaders to rethink their long-held assertion that even the very rich shouldn't see their rates go up next year. GOP leaders have argued that the revenue gained by hiking the top two tax rates would be trivial to the deficit, and that any tax hike hurts job creation.

But Corker said insisting on that red line — especially since Obama won re-election after campaigning on

CLIFF | PAGE 3

# Blizzard Pounds Parts Of Midwest

## Storm Dumps Heavy Snow Across Upper Plains

From P&D and AP Reports

MINNEAPOLIS — The heaviest snowstorm to hit the region in two winters dumped heavy snow across a broad belt of Minnesota including the Twin Cities area Sunday, as well as parts of western Wisconsin.

Forecasters said up to 15 inches of snow were possible in the Twin Cities by Sunday night. The slow-moving storm caused difficult driving and scores of mostly minor traffic accidents across much of Minnesota, highway closures in eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, and flight cancellations and delays at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The Twin Cities' heaviest snowfall last winter was 4.2

inches on Dec. 3. The heaviest snows of the winter of 2010-11 were 11.8 inches on Feb. 20, 2011, and 16.3 inches on Dec. 11, 2010.

That last storm caused the Metrodome to collapse — forcing the Vikings to play the final two games of the season elsewhere. The project to restore the inflatable roof cost \$22.7 million, and officials there weren't taking chances on a repeat Sunday.

A blizzard warning was out for much of eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, while a winter storm warning was out for much of central and eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

The National Weather Service reported at 17.3 inches at Sacred Heart and 15.5 inches at Granite Falls in south-



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI/MCT  
In Minneapolis on the Stone Arch Bridge, Adam Womersley and his English Springer Spaniel, Stella, took to the snow with relish Sunday.

western Minnesota and more than 8 inches in Aberdeen, S.D. Reports of 7 to 9 inches were common across the Twin Cities area around Sunday afternoon. Rochester's 292-day streak of days without at least an inch of snow fell around 6 a.m. Sunday when its airport recorded 1.1 inches.

In Wisconsin, 7 inches were recorded near Grantsburg

STORM | PAGE 2

## COURTSIDE SEATING



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Members of the Yankton wrestling team watch some of the action Saturday during the Yankton Invitational Wrestling Tournament at the YHS/Summit Activities Center gym. Canton won the title in the five-team tournament. For details on the tournament, see page 10. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).

# USDA To Modify School Lunch Regs

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department is responding to criticism over new school lunch rules by allowing more grains and meat in kids' meals.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told members of Congress in a letter Friday that the department will do away with daily and weekly maximums of meats and grains. Several lawmakers wrote the department after the new rules went into effect in September saying kids aren't getting enough to eat.

School administrators also complained, saying set maximums on grains and meats are too limiting as they try to plan daily meals.

"This flexibility is being provided to allow more time for the development of products that fit within the new standards

while granting schools additional weekly menu planning options to help ensure that children receive a wholesome, nutritious meal every day of the week," Vilsack said in a letter to Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D.

The new guidelines were intended to address increasing childhood obesity levels. They set limits on calories and salt and phase in whole grains. Schools must offer at least one vegetable or fruit per meal. The department also dictated how much of certain food groups could be served.

While nutritionists and some parents have praised the new school lunch standards, others, including many conservative lawmakers, refer to them as government



Vilsack

overreach. Yet many of those same lawmakers also have complained about hearing from constituents who say their kids are hungry at school.

Though broader calorie limits are still in place, the rules tweak will allow school lunch planners to use as many grains and as much meat as they want. In comments to USDA, many had said grains shouldn't be limited because they are a part of so many meals, and that it was difficult to always find the right size of meat.

The new tweak doesn't upset nutritionists who fought for the school lunch overhaul.

Margo Wootan, a nutrition lobbyist for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, says the change is minor and the new guid-

LUNCH | PAGE 2

# BBB Warns Of Holiday Gift Card Scams

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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While gift cards are often a popular Christmas present, potential buyers should be cautious when making purchases this holiday season, according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of South Dakota.

Surveys have shown that 60 percent of people enjoy receiving gift cards, said BBB state director Jessie Schmidt. Businesses also enjoy selling gift cards, as between 10 and 20 percent of the cards go unredeemed.

"All around, gift cards are a great idea, but there have been scams associated with them in recent years," Schmidt said.

She said one scam emerging as of late involves scammers removing gift cards from the large racks featured at many stores. They then take photos of the backs of the cards, which display the activation codes and a customer service number to call to check the card's balance. The scammers will then replace the cards on the rack, which are later sold to unsuspecting customers.

"They'll call every day and ask what the balance is on the gift card," Schmidt said. "Once they tell them there is a balance of, say \$100, on that gift card, they know they will have money from that day typically until Christmas to spend whatever that balance is."

While not in possession of the actual

SCAM | PAGE 2

# Pearl Harbor: What Happened?

## During Anniversary Event, SDSU Professor Discusses 1941 Attack

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

When Japan launched an attack on Dec. 7, 1941, at the United States naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, it did so with very little warning, causing tremendous shock to many Americans.

"Witnesses were seeing these planes, and people were saying, 'Those are the greatest drills they've ever done,'" said Dr. Thomas Agostini, military professor at South Dakota State University. "People were genuinely shocked by it."

Agostini was the featured speaker Saturday at the third annual "Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" held at the Yankton Elks Lodge. The event was sponsored by the Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses Honor Society of U.S. Veterans.

During his presentation, Agostini discussed Japan's reasons for the attack.

"What could motivate the Japanese to become so aggressive?" he asked.

While Japan was a democratic country during the 1920s, the country underwent a transformation both politically and economically in the 1930s, Agostini said.

"Japanese schoolchildren had their books rewritten for them," he said. "They were taught they were the superior race of people. They were taught not to question their teachers, and they were taught to memorize their text rather than learn it."

"So you have a generation that was brought up prior to World War II to obey without question, to do as they were told, and that their nation was the greatest nation on earth. And all of those things helped justify Japanese aggression politically."

ATTACK | PAGE 2

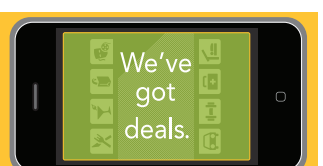


DEREK BARTOS/P&D  
Dr. Thomas Agostini, military professor at South Dakota State University, discusses Japan's motives for the attack on Pearl Harbor. Agostini was the featured speaker at Yankton's third annual "Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day," held Saturday at the Yankton Elks Lodge.

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TOMORROW: Yankton School Board To Consider Gertsema Resignation

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET