



USD Women Topple Omaha In Dome • 8



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FLOOR PERFORMANCE



Wagner head coach Lorie Walery, squatting, watches as the Red Raiders' Adrian Weber competes on the floor exercise during the Winter Wonderland gymnastics meet on Saturday in Vermillion. Wagner finished third in the meet. For details, see page 8.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

YAPG Plans New Industrial Spec Building In 2013

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Hoping to encourage economic development in the city, Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) decided recently to move ahead with constructing a speculation building in 2013.

It's been seven years since YAPG and the City of Yankton collaborated to build a 40,000-square-foot "spec" building on the southeast corner of 23rd St. and West City Limits Road. That structure was leased to L&M Radiator shortly after it was completed and even had to be expanded to accommodate the company's growing needs.



Dellinger

YAPG is a non-profit development corporation for the city of Yankton.

"YAPG has built several spec buildings in the past," said the organization's president, Mike Dellinger. "They are occupied by companies like L&M Radiator, Truxedo and Lewis and Clark Hydraulics. We're looking to do our part to further the incremental growth of the industrial sector."

BUILDING | PAGE 2

Dangling On The Fiscal Cliff

Talks Hit Snag In Senate As Deadline Looms; Lieberman Describes Mood As 'Discouraged'

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Capitol Hill deal to avert the "fiscal cliff" was proving elusive Sunday as a deadline to avert tax hikes on virtually every American worker and block sweeping spending cuts set to strike the Pentagon and other federal agencies grew perilously near.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell remained at odds on such key issues as the income threshold for higher tax rates and how to deal with inheritance taxes, among other issues. McConnell complained that Reid had yet to respond to a GOP offer made Saturday evening and reached out to Vice President Joe Biden, a longtime friend, in hopes of breaking the impasse.

One sign of progress came as Republicans withdrew a long-discussed proposal to slow future cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients as part of a compromise to avoid the cliff. Democrats said earlier Sunday that proposal had put a damper on the talks, and Republican senators emerging from a closed-door GOP meeting said it is no longer part of the equation.

"I was really gratified to hear that Republicans have taken their demand for Social Security benefit cuts off the table. The truth is they should never have been on the table to begin with," Reid said late Sunday afternoon. "There is still significant distance between the two sides, but negotiations continue."

At stake are sweeping tax hikes and across-the-board spending cuts set to take effect at the turn of the year. Taken together, they've been dubbed the fiscal cliff, and economists warn the one-two punch — which leaders in both parties have said they want to avoid — could send the still-fragile economy back into recession. Tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 expire at midnight Monday, and \$109 billion in across-the-board cuts in federal spending this year would also begin this week.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said the two sides remained at odds over the income threshold for higher tax rates and tax levels on large estates. Republicans said that Democratic demands for new money to prevent a cut in Medicare payments to doctors and renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed should be financed with cuts elsewhere in the budget. Republicans also balked at a Democratic proposal to use new tax revenues to shut off the across-the-board spending cuts, known as a sequester in Washington-speak.

President Barack Obama, in a televised interview, blamed Republicans for putting the nation's shaky economy at risk.

"We have been talking to the Republicans ever since the election was over," Obama said in the interview that



CAGLE CARTOONS

Thune: Still Hoping For 'Fiscal Cliff' Aversion



Thune

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune says he's frustrated that it's taking lawmakers so long to inch toward a deal before the so-called "fiscal cliff" prompts a variety of tax hikes in the new year, but he's still hopeful.

The South Dakota senator on Sunday night told The Associated Press that "every day, we get closer." He says that it's difficult for Democrats and Republicans to reach a compromise because the parties are deeply divided in how to approach financial issues.

Thune is among the lawmakers in Washington waiting for party leaders to come up with a new deal on which to vote. On Sunday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, and Senate Republican Mitch McConnell remained at odds.

Thune says everyone will return Monday — hopefully for a vote.

CLIFF | PAGE 14

Hartington Library Earns Top Rating For Fifth Straight Year

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Earning a five-star rating for five consecutive years is not an easy task, but it's a goal the staff of the Hartington Library takes very seriously.

The Library Journal Index of Public Library Service starting the rating service for public libraries nationwide five years ago and Hartington has been in the upper echelon every year.

There are only three libraries in Nebraska who have earned this distinction — Central City Public Library and Atkinson Library also claim the high ranking.

"It's kind of like rating a five-star hotel, so yes, we are very pleased," Library Director Tami Anderson said. "Many factors contribute to the five-star rating. We pride ourselves on good customer service and meeting the needs of its patrons, while keeping up with the latest in library trends."

But the Library Board firmly believes it's community pride that is the most important factor in this library's success. Last year, the library started a campaign for the installation of new carpet throughout the building by selling carpet squares, at \$30 apiece to local patrons and businesses. The board managed to raise more than \$20,000 in just four months time and completed the project without

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Yankton Man's Prized Car Featured In Calendar

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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Ever since he was in high school, Gregg Hanson has loved Buicks. Now he will be sharing that passion with others throughout the New Year.

Owner of Gregg's Automotive of Yankton, Hanson's Sherwood green 1970 Buick GS Stage I is featured in the 2013 edition of the Snap-On Snap-Shots calendar.

Snap-Shots calendars were created in 1995 by Snap-On Tools for those who use its products. The calendars feature custom and classic vehicles that have been created, restored or maintained.

Snap-On customers submit photos of custom or classic vehicles they own, and then Snap-On representatives select entries for each calendar.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gregg Hanson's Sherwood green 1970 Buick GS Stage I is featured in the 2013 Snap-On Snap-Shots calendar, published by Snap-On Tools. Hanson owns and operated Gregg's Automotive in Yankton.

"I bought a Buick for my first car back in high school in 1975," Hanson said. "There's just something about the first car you get, and this model is a higher quality muscle car."

Hanson has submitted entries before, but said this was the first time he sent in a photo of his 1970 Buick.

"I restored the car to brand new and took a photo of it down by the river and sent those photos in," he said. "They must have liked the color of the car and

where the photo was taken.

"This is not your average car — it's restored to Concours quality, meaning it's a brand new car."

Hanson has also taken the car to the Buick GS Nationals in Bowling Green, Ky.

"I got a Concours class gold award, where they inspected the car to see if everything was done properly," he said. "There are numerous cars there that get gold,

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