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American Profile



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75¢

State Of The Union

Finishing The Job

Obama: Nation Stronger, GOP Should Back His Plans; Afghanistan Drawdown Announced

BY JULIE PACE AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Uncompromising and politi-cally emboldened, President Barack Obama urged a deeply divided Congress Tuesday night to embrace his plans to use government money to create jobs and strengthen the nation's middle class. He de-clared Republican ideas for reducing the deficit "even worse" than the unpalatable deals Washington had to stomach during his first term.

In his first State of the Union address since winning re-election, Obama conceded economic revival is an "unfinished task," but he claimed clear progress and said he prepared to build on it as he embarks on four more years in office.

We have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and we can say with renewed confidence that the state of our union is strong," Obama said in an hour-long address to a joint session of Congress and a television audience of millions.

Yet with unemployment persistently high and consumer confidence falling, the economy remains a vulnerability for Obama and could disrupt his plans for pursuing a broader agenda, including immigration overhaul, stricter gun laws and climate change legislation.

Obama also announced new steps to reduce the U.S. military footprint abroad, with 34,000 American troops withdrawing from Afghanistan within a year. And he had a sharp rebuke for North Korea, which launched a nuclear test just hours before his remarks, saying, "Provocations of the sort we saw last night will only isolate them further."

In specific proposals for shoring up the economy in his second term, an assertive Obama called for increased federal spending to fix the nation's roads and bridges, the first increase in the minimum wage in six years and expansion of early education to every American 4-year-old. Seeking to appeal for support from Republicans, he promised that none of his proposals would increase the deficit "by a single dime" although he didn't explain how he would pay for his programs or how much they would cost. In the Republican response to Obama's address, rising GOP star Marco Rubio of Florida came right back at the president, saying his solution "to virtu-



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP VIA ABACA PRESS/MCT

President Barack Obama, flanked by Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday.

Officials Say County Tax Figures Ready Thursday

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Yankton County property tax notices are expected to be available Thursday afternoon, according to Yankton County Treasurer Pam Marchand.

The notices were printed Monday and Tuesday, and officials from the South Dakota Department of Revenue will be in Yankton Thursday to give them final approval.

"If people want to come down to the (Treasurer's Office) beginning Thursday afternoon to pay their taxes and get their notices, we welcome them to do that," Marchand stated.



Jensen

For those who do not pick them up, Marchand said she is leaning toward mailing all of the notices out at the same time. If processing the notices takes an extended period of time, she stated that a decision could be made to mail them out as they are ready.

After more than a month of not being able to produce the correct property tax levies, Yankton County Auditor Paula Jones took a medical leave of absence from her office last week.

Candy Holbrook, a spokesperson for the Department of Revenue, said the correct property tax figures were calculated Friday. The Department of Revenue worked with Lincoln County Auditor Paula Feucht and Yankton County Commissioner Mark Johnson to resolve the issue.

Jones had previously claimed that problems with the computer software used to calculate the property taxes were at fault for the delay.

Asked if it was a software issue, Holbrook said the matter is still being reviewed. In addition to double-checking the tax notices Thursday,

ally every problem we face is for Washington to tax more, borrow more and spend more.'

Sen. Rubio, in prepared remarks, said presidents of both parties have recognized that the free enterprise system brings middle-class prosperity.

"But President Obama?" Rubio said. "He believes it's the cause of our problems."

Still, throughout the House chamber there were symbolic displays of bipartisanship. Rep. Tammy

Duckworth, D-Ill., arrived early and sat with Sen. Mark Kirk, R-III., just returned in January nearly a year after suffering a debilitating stroke. As a captain in the National Guard, Duckworth lost both her legs while serving in Iraq in 2004.

the most conservative Supreme Court justices

But as a sign that divisions still remain, three of

UNION | PAGE 3

partiment of Revenue personnel will review the and procedures in place regarding property taxes for the county when they are in Yankton.

At the last Yankton County Commission meeting, a possible extension on paying property taxes for the first half of the year was discussed as an option.

However, Holbrook said that is not under consideration

TAXES | PAGE 5

Drought **Corps Eyes** Lowering **Discharges**

Drought Conditions Expected To Linger Well Into Spring

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Much of southeast South Dakota would need 12 to 16 inches of moisture to make up for the current drought. As a result, the U.S. Årmy Corps of Engineers is prepared to reduce its Missouri River releases to 9,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) later this year.

The Corps made the announcement Tuesday in a national conference call with elected officials, the media and other parties.

"If we have an extended drought beyond the first year, we may get (down) to 9,000 cfs," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management office in Omaha.

The lowering of releases would come following a shorter navigation season and during a period of open water, Farhat said. Municipalities and industrial users would need to look at adjusting their intakes in that situation, she added.

The Corps has already undertaken drought conservation measures such as lower winter releases and reduced service to navigation, Farhat said.

"Even if we have the exact operation (of the system) as last year, we aren't taking near as much water out of the reservoirs," she said.

CORPS | PAGE 3



P&D ARCHIVE PHOTO: RANDY DOCKENDORF Spectators flocked to Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown, pictured here during 2011 flooding, to watch the use of all four flood tunnels for the first time. Fort Randall is undertaking six separate projects related to both routine management and the flood's aftermath.

Ft. Randall Copes With 'Wear And Tear'

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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PICKSTOWN — Successive years of flooding and drought have created additional stress for Fort Randall Dam. However, project manager Tom Curran said the operation has taken it in stride.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began building the dam in 1946 and was completed in 1956. The dam was built under the Pick-Sloan Plan.

Fort Randall is undergoing a series of projects to meet both routine and additional needs, Curran said.

"We've got six major construction contracts going on, from routine management to the aftermath of the flood," he said. "We're looking to have most everything wrapped up and in place by the end of summer 2014.

Fort Randall regularly receives maintenance,



Charles Mix County

Curran said. "You're talking about a (dam) project that's 50 to 60 years old," he said. "Ľike anything else, when

you have operated the system over that length of time, you have wear and

tear on it really hard. Then came 2011, when the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers released 157,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) — more than twice the previous record — because of flooding throughout the Missouri River basin. The releases came to about one million gallons per second.

'That's extra wear and tear, so you go in and as-

DAM | PAGE 3

Local Cancer Events Slated

MMC Hosts 'Think Pink' Awareness Night Tonight Vs. Morningside

BY DEREK BARTOS derek.bartos@yankton.net

The Yankton community will be doing its part to help battle cancer this week as it hosts three events focused on spreading cancer awareness and

assisting two cancer patients. The events kick off tonight (Wednesday) with the Mount Marty College men's and women's basketball teams holding a cancer awareness night during their games against Morningside.

For its 6 p.m. game, the women's team will participate in the "Think Pink" initiative. "Think Pink" is an effort promoted by the

Women's Basketball Coaches Association each year to assist in raising breast cancer awareness on college campuses and in their communities. Schools

nationwide participate in different ways, such as wearing pink uniforms, inviting breast cancer sur-

vivors to games or raffling off pink basketballs. Mount Marty has participated in the promotion for several years, and this year the team will be wearing special "Think Pink" warm-ups to help spread cancer awareness.

Tom Schlimgen, MMC women's basketball coach, said the team has always received a positive response and it is pleased it can make an impact in the community.

"Our players have had family members affected by cancer, and they take it seriously," he said. "It's obviously an outstanding promotion."

CANCER | PAGE 2



COURTESY PHOTO

These Yankton High School students display the "Conrad's Clan" shirts that will be worn Saturday at the YHS-Pierre boys' basketball game in honor of Pierre's Conrad Adam, who is battling cancer.



REGION 2 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | SPORTS 8 | CLASSIFIEDS 10 | WORLD 11 | MIDWEST 12

TOMORROW: Yankton Set For Annual Winter Health Fair

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