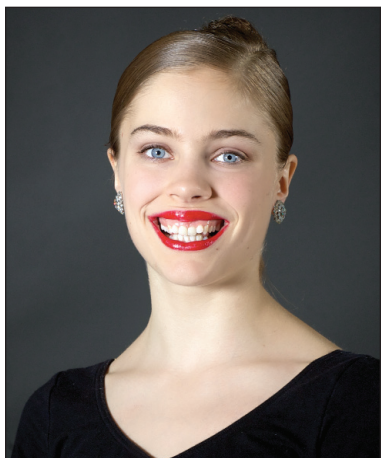




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INSIDE TODAY



USA Weekend

CORRECTION

The Ash Wednesday photo in Thursday's *Press & Dakotan* incorrectly credited the photo. The photo was actually taken by Mount Marty College staff photographer Amy Majeres. We apologize for the error.

* * *

Kindle Is Finalist For Norfolk Job

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Yankton High School (YHS) principal Dr. Wayne Kindle has been named a finalist for the superintendent opening at the Norfolk (Neb.) Public School District.



Kindle

Norfolk Public Schools cover nearly 69 miles in Madison, Pierce, Stanton and Wayne counties in Nebraska. The district has seven elementary schools, a middle school (grades five and six), junior high (grades seven and eight) and a high school. It also has an alternative school, Montessori school and an early childhood center. The district has an enrollment of about 4,000 students.

"A professional goal of mine has been to have an opportunity to lead a school district as a superintendent. It is a real honor to be selected as a candidate to interview for the superintendent position of the Norfolk Public Schools," Kindle said. "I appreciate the leadership and personal qualities the search committee saw in me as a candidate. I am looking forward to meeting the committee, as well as other patrons of their school district."

Norfolk will interview candidates for the position next week, and the school board will have a discussion the interviews on Feb. 23. The district will no longer accept applications for the position after March 8, and officials hope to have their superintendent hired by April.

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at twitter.com/andrewatwal

Yankton Co. Taxes Ready

Notices Expected To Be Mailed Out Soon

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Yankton County property tax figures are now available to the public.

As expected, the numbers received approval from the South Dakota Department of Revenue Thursday morning and, by that afternoon, some taxpayers were settling their bills.

Treasurer Pam Marchand said that, after more than a month of uncertainty, it was a relief to have the figures

available to the public.

"It feels like a mountain lifted off my shoulders," she stated.

Marchand had been waiting for the correct tax notices to be produced by the Yankton County Auditor's Office so her staff could process and mail them to property owners.

Auditor Paula Jones took a medical leave of absence from her office beginning Feb. 4 after weeks of failed attempts to calculate the tax figures.

The Department of Revenue worked with Lincoln County Auditor Paula Feucht and Yankton County Commissioner

Mark Johnson to resolve the issue last Friday.

Colleen Skinner and Wendy Semmler visited the Yankton County Government Center Thursday to double-check the tax notices and to go over other procedures related to property taxes.

"We spent over an hour going through some of the taxes, checking the figures and making sure the figures on the computer came out to the figures we were sending to the customers," Marchand said. "Then they sat down and talked with me about the reports I need to look at and the figures I need to look at to make sure the amount of taxes I'm being asked to collect by the auditor is correct."

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A FADING DREAM?



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton High School wrestlers celebrate with Royce Reisner, center, after he scored a victory in the 285-pound match on Jan. 18 in Yankton's ESD dual win over Brandon Valley at the Summit Center. Area wrestling fans are shocked at the decision by the IOC to drop the sport from the 2020 Olympic Games.

Wrestling Community Questions Removal Of Sport From Olympics

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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The International Olympic Committee (IOC) decision Tuesday to drop wrestling from the 2020 Olympics is hitting home for many local wrestlers, wrestling officials and other members of the wrestling community.

At the IOC's meeting, the committee was expected to drop the modern pentathlon, but instead decided to remove wrestling from the games based on various criteria, which included the sports popularity and how many people participate in the sport worldwide.

Dave Cornemann, who started wrestling in elementary school and went on to be a two-time state champion for Gregory High School, a two-time All-American at South Dakota State University, a national champion while in col-

lege, a wrestling coach and an official, said he was shocked when he heard about the IOC's decision.

"I don't think it's a good idea for them to have dropped wrestling out of the Olympics," he said. "The sport is popular among high school students across the country and it ranks among the most participated sport among high school students."

Cornemann, a former Yankton High School coach, added that when schools went through the Title IX crunch years ago, a lot of high schools and colleges were forced to drop wrestling programs as a result of the law, but wrestling was able to weather that storm. He hopes it can weather this one too.

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Senate GOP Blocks Hagel Vote For Now

BY RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans on Thursday stalled the nomination of former GOP senator Chuck Hagel as the nation's next defense secretary over unrelated questions about President Barack Obama's actions in the aftermath of the deadly raid on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya. Democrats called the vote "tragic" and vowed to revive the nomination after Congress' weeklong break.

By 58-40, with one abstention, the Senate fell short of the 60-vote threshold required to advance Hagel's nomination to a final, up-or-down vote on his confirmation. Four Republicans voted with Democrats to end the debate and proceed to a final vote: Sens. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine and Mike Johanns of Nebraska.

Obama reacted immediately, accusing Republicans of playing politics with the nation at war.

At the last minute, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., switched his vote from yes to no, a procedural move that allows him to revive the nomination after the break. He set the vote for Feb. 26.

"Just when you thought things couldn't get worse, it gets worse," the Democratic leader lamented of the chamber's bitter partisanship.

The successful Republican effort to block a vote on Hagel leaves one of the most contentious nominations of the Obama presidency in limbo, although the White House expressed confidence that the former Republican senator would eventually win Senate confirmation.

Republicans had been blocking the confirmation of their former colleague and Vietnam veteran until they received information from the White House on when Obama contacted Libyan officials after the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi last September in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed.

The White House responded to that request earlier Thursday, saying Obama spoke with Libyans a day after the attack.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona led the opposition to Hagel's confirmation, but he said he would not object to the test vote, called cloture.



Hagel

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YHS Grads Get Special Seats For State Of Union

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Yankton was well-represented in Washington, D.C., this week during the State of the Union address. Two Yankton High School graduates were in privileged positions for the event.

Sadie Stevens, a sophomore at American University and an intern for Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.), attended the State of the Union address as a guest of the congresswoman.

Meanwhile, Stacie Hunhoff, a law clerk for the Honorable Carol L. Van Horn of the Court of Common Pleas in Chambersburg, Pa., watched the speech from the White House after being se-

lected to take part in a White House Social.

Stevens said she couldn't believe it when Noem invited her to attend President Barack Obama's address.

"I never thought I would ever have this experience in my entire life," she wrote in an email interview with the *Press & Dakotan*. "Earlier that morning, when I was sent to pick up the ticket from the Sergeant-at-Arm's office, I thought to myself, 'This is the only time in my life I will ever get to hold tickets for the State of the Union Address.'"

It wasn't until after picking up the tickets that Stevens was told she could go as Noem's guest.

"I am truly blessed," she said. "There

was no good reason for my superiors to give me the ticket; I'm just an intern. However, that's just the personality of Rep. Noem and her staff. They constantly think of others before themselves. I see evidence of this every time I am at the Capitol."

Stevens was seated on President Obama's right-hand side, directly in line with Vice President Joe Biden. On her right was one of President Obama's campaign aides, and on her left was the father of Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-Fla.).

Despite attempts to do so, Stevens said she hadn't accurately imagined what it would be like to sit in the House

ADDRESS | PAGE 5A



LEFT: Stacie Hunhoff was invited to watch the State of the Union address from the White House after being selected to take part in a White House Social. RIGHT: Sadie Stevens, a sophomore at American University and an intern for Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.), took a photo with the congresswoman before they both attended the State of the Union address Tuesday. (Courtesy Photos)

