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## Obama Takes The Oath



President Barack Obama takes the oath of office as first lady Michelle Obama holds the Bible during the official swearing-in ceremony at the White House in Washington on Sunday.

DOUG MILLS/ZUMA PRESS/MCT

### President Obama Sworn Into Office To Begin Second Term

BY DAVID ESPO  
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama was sworn in for four more years Sunday in a simple ceremony at the White House, embarking on a second-term quest to restore a still-shaky economy and combat terrorists overseas while swearing an age-old oath to “preserve, protect and defend” the Constitution.

“I did it,” a smiling president said to his daughter Sasha seconds after following Chief Justice John Roberts in reciting the oath of office. First lady Michelle Obama and the couple’s other daughter, Malia, were among relatives who bore witness.

The quiet moments were prelude to Monday’s public inaugural events when Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will be sworn in on the steps of the U.S. Capitol before a crowd expected to reach into the hundreds of thousands and a television audience counted in the millions.

The trappings were in place — the flag-draped stands ready outside the Capitol and the tables set inside for a traditional lunch with lawmakers. Across town, a specially made reviewing stand rested outside the White House gates for the president and guests to watch the traditional parade down Pennsylvania Avenue.

A crowd of perhaps 800,000 was forecast, less than the million-plus that thronged to the nation’s capital four years ago to witness the inauguration of the first black president in American history.

The weather forecast was encouraging, to a point. High temperatures were predicted for the lower 40s during the day, with scattered snow showers during the evening, when two inaugural balls closed out the official proceedings.

The 44th chief executive is only the 17th to win re-election, and his second-term goals are ambitious for a country where sharp political differences have produced gridlocked government in recent years.

Restoration of the economy to full strength and pressing the worldwide campaign against terrorists sit atop the agenda. He also wants to reduce federal deficits and win immigration and gun control legislation from Congress, where Republicans control the House.

If he needed a reminder of the challenges he faces, he got one from half-way around the globe. An Algerian security official disclosed the discovery of 25 additional bodies at a gas plant where radical Islamists last week took dozens of foreign workers hostage.

In Washington, tourists strolled leisurely on an unseasonably warm day.

“I’m very proud of him and what he’s trying to do for immigration, women’s rights, what they call ‘Obamacare,’ and concerns for the middle class,” said Patricia Merritt, a retired educator from San Antonio, in town with her daughter and granddaughter to see the inauguration and parade as well as historic sites. “I think he’s more disrespected than any other president,” she added, referring to his critics.

Sean Payton, an operations analyst from Highland Ranch, Colo., said he hoped to hear “a nice eloquent speech that makes people feel good about being an American.”

Republicans lent a touch of bipartisanship to the weekend.

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#### Yankton City Commission

### Future Recycling Options Considered

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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The Yankton City Commission has a consensus to move to a single-stream recycling program that it expects would greatly raise participation.

Ultimately, however, the decision will be up to the Vermillion/Yankton Joint Powers solid waste management system.

Last week, the commission reviewed a study from HDR, Inc., regarding the future of recycling in Vermillion and Yankton. The city’s representatives on the Joint Powers board will take the commission’s thoughts on the matter back for consideration.

Four recycling options are presented in the study, three of which would include single-stream recycling.

It is estimated that a single-stream collection method would increase recycling by 170 percent.

Single-stream recycling is where users put everything in one container and it is later sorted at the collection center.

Yankton and Vermillion currently use a curbside method wherein residents are asked to sort materials before they are put out for collection.

“What would have to be done (in option one) is the Vermillion recycling center would have to be upgraded,” Bob Iverson, director of the solid waste management system, told the City Commission. “Right now, it is a little bit small. There is room to upgrade it by remodeling the east part of it.”

Currently, the bulk of recyclable materials from Yankton are transferred to Vermillion for processing and marketing.

The HDR report estimates that the additional costs to the system under option one would be about \$170,000 per year, or \$1.89 per household per month. Under this scenario, the Joint Powers would not have single-stream collection.

“Option two is adopting a single-stream collection for both cities,” Iverson said. “This would be done by the cities,

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#### South Dakota Legislature

### Guns In Schools, Funding Take Center Stage

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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With the South Dakota legislative session two weeks old, residents had their first chance to ask questions of their representatives Saturday morning, and naturally, the conversation touched on many issues.

Guns in schools and funding for a handful of areas took center stage during the District 18 cracker barrel at the Avera Professional Pavilion.

Each of the three legislators — Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R-Yankton), Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) and Rep. Mike Stevens (R-Yankton) — expressed concern over the hotly-contested issue of guns in schools after the Newtown, Conn., shooting.

House Bill 1087, due for an appearance Wednesday before the House education committee, would allow school districts the option of arming teachers and administrators inside a school building in so-called “sentinel programs.”

“It doesn’t make a lot of sense to me. We shouldn’t overreact,” Bernie Hunhoff told a near capacity crowd. “The Newtown situation is very sad. (But do you know) where the safest place for a kid is? The school’s the safest place. If we look at the evidence, I can’t imagine this thing passing.”

For those schools that don’t have readily accessible law enforcement in the area, an armed official inside the building could alleviate those worries, Stevens said.

“From that standpoint, I can under-



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

District 18 State Sen. Jean Hunhoff answers a question that was submitted from the audience while, in the background, Reps. Bernie Hunhoff (left) and Mike Stevens look on during Saturday’s legislative Cracker Barrel, held at the Avera Professional Pavilion. The event was sponsored by the Yankton Chamber of Commerce.

stand their concern,” he said.

The entire issue should be left up to “local control,” Jean Hunhoff said.

“I don’t think the state should mandate it,” she said. “It’s (the schools’) choice to put in what they need for security.”

Education funding, once again, was a hot topic Saturday, following a report earlier this month by “Education Weekly” that South Dakota ranks last

in a broad study of many categories.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed a 3 percent increase in education funding, and though it’s a start, it still comes up short, Bernie Hunhoff said.

“If you show where we’re at in actual inflation-adjusted dollars, it’s really very sad where South Dakota’s

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## Heineman’s Tax Plan Questioned By Some Neb. Farmer Groups

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Some of Nebraska’s powerful farm interests are skeptical about Gov. Dave Heineman’s proposed income-tax overhaul, arguing that the state should focus instead on reducing property taxes.

The governor unveiled two plans Friday that would eliminate \$395 million to \$2.4 billion in sales breaks, including hundreds of millions of dollars in exemptions for commercial seed, farm chemicals, machinery and fuel used by farmers.

Heineman, a Republican, told lawmakers in his State of the State address that he has spent months visiting with farmers and ranchers, many of whom are willing to discuss a tax system that would be simpler and more efficient.

But Steve Nelson, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, said eliminating the sales tax exemptions would increase the tax burden on farmers. The more modest of the governor’s two plans would still eliminate about \$211 million in sales tax breaks used by farmers.



Heineman

Nelson said the exemptions help many farmers stay in business, and eliminating the income tax wouldn’t benefit them as much as the sales tax breaks. Farmer incomes rise and fall each year depending on how much they produce, so they pay less in taxes in years when they aren’t as successful.

If the tax plan was enacted, farmers would pay more in sales taxes in both good and bad years — whereas the income tax allows them to pay less when they aren’t as successful.

“We’re very open to a conversation about Nebraska policy and the tax system,” said Nelson, a farmer from Axtell. “We’re all for job growth and growing the economy, just like everyone else. But from our perspective, the discussion also needs to include issues related to property taxes.

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