



Mount Marty Women Upend #24 Dakota Wesleyan ■ 8

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



## S.D. Legislature

### House Panel Delays Vote On Arming Teachers

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota school districts should be allowed to arm certain teachers and administrators with guns to protect against attacks like last month's school shooting in Connecticut, lawmakers sponsoring a bill told a state legislative panel Wednesday.

"If a school feels defenseless and vulnerable ... we support their right to defend themselves however they choose to do so," said Rep. Scott Craig, R-Rapid City, the measure's main sponsor.

But representatives of teachers and school boards told the House Education Committee that they believe putting guns in schools could lead to accidental shootings or other problems if students get their hands on teachers' guns.

"Putting guns in the hands of teachers and principals makes school less safe," said Wade Pogany, executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota.

The Education Committee heard more than an hour of testimony on the bill Wednesday, but delayed a vote until Friday after running out of time for committee debate.

The bill would allow individual school boards to create so-called sentinel programs by authorizing the arming of school employees, hired security officers or volunteers. A school board would first have to consult with local law enforcement agencies, and school employees could not be forced to carry guns.

Craig said he was working on the bill even before the Dec. 14 elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn., that left 20 children and six adults dead. He said the

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## A MONUMENTAL BIRTHDAY



COURTESY PHOTO

Eleanor Wrede Nielsen, formerly of Bloomfield, Neb., marks yet another milestone Saturday when she celebrates her 110th birthday. Nielsen now resides in a Norfolk, Neb., nursing home and is the second oldest Nebraska resident.

### Nielsen Marks 110th Birthday

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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NORFOLK, Neb. — As a young girl, Eleanor Wrede Nielsen knew how to get out of doing unpleasant farm chores.

"We didn't have indoor toilets, so I went to the outdoor toilet and started reading the Sears and Roebuck catalogue," she said with a laugh.

The lack of indoor plumbing wasn't too unusual at the time, considering that Nielsen grew up just after the turn of the century — the 20th century.

Nielsen was born Jan. 26, 1903, in West Point, Neb., to John and Anna Wrede. She will celebrate her 110th birthday this Saturday at the Norfolk, Neb., nursing home where she currently resides.

Nielsen lived in Bloomfield, Neb., most of her life. She lived on her own until she was 106, when she fell and broke her hip. She then lived in a Bloomfield assisted living facility until moving in 2010 to the Heritage of Bel Air in Norfolk.

Nielsen holds the distinction of second oldest Nebraska resident behind Mabel Steiner Ragan of Albion in Boone County, born Feb. 1, 1901.

"It's ironic, that the oldest and second oldest Nebraskans live close to each other instead of different parts of the state," said Michelle Schommer, the Bel Air life enrichment coordinator.

Saturday's birthday party includes a family dinner at noon and an open house from 2-4 p.m. at the nursing home, Schommer said.

"We're planning a big party. We have several cakes because we're not sure how many people are coming. We invited the Norfolk mayor, our current state senator from Norfolk and the senator before him," she said. "For entertainment, we're having a good friend of Eleanor's who has a Christian gospel band known as the Glory Land Band."

A long life has run in Nielsen's family. Her

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## Yankton County

### Property Taxes In Limbo

Dept. Of Revenue Not Satisfied With Auditor's 2012 Calculations; Taxpayers Unable To Pay Bills

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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When a woman recently went to the Yankton County Treasurer's Office and was told she could not pay her property taxes, her response reflected understandable incredulity: "Is this a joke?"

As she and many other Yankton County taxpayers have found out in the last three weeks, it is not a joke.

According to state law, property taxes are due Jan. 1 of each year. However, they are not considered delinquent if one half is paid before May 1 and the other half paid before Nov. 1.

It's not unusual for taxpayers to settle their bills on Jan. 1.

However, the Yankton County Auditor's Office has not yet calculated the 2012 property taxes payable in 2013 to the satisfaction of the South Dakota Department of Revenue. According to that department, Yankton County is the only county in South Dakota not to have its tax levies finalized.

Additionally, it is almost unheard of that a county wouldn't have the process completed this far into a new year, Colleen Skinner, program manager for the Department of Revenue's property tax division, told the *Press & Dakotan*.

What does this mean for Yankton County taxpayers?

It means the Treasurer's Office cannot file property taxes and send

out notices to taxpayers, the Department of Equalization cannot process mobile home registrations, and the Planning and Zoning Office cannot approve new plats.

The lack of tax information also makes it difficult to complete real estate transactions in the county. Treasurer Pam Marchand said the lack of revenue creates a money flow issue for the county.

"In the month of January, we have collected no new taxes," she said. "The only taxes we've collected are back-year taxes, which are significant. But, last year in January, we collected almost \$1 million in current taxes. Not only the county but also the school systems will notice a difference in their February apportioning check. There isn't a whole lot to apportion."

Attempts by the *Press & Dakotan* to reach Auditor Paula Jones at the office and her home this week were unsuccessful. No official notification of this unusual situation has been issued to

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## USD Speaker Stresses Importance Of Inclusion, Diversity

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
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Before a college campus can truly call itself diverse, its students, faculty and administrators must have a conversation with each other regarding their racial, cultural and social differences, along with their similarities.

"That's the nature of higher education — it's about asking questions and trying to find answers. But, if we don't ask the questions we'll never find the answer," said Dr. Alma Clayton-Pedersen, senior scholar with the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U).

Clayton-Pedersen was the keynote speaker for the University of South Dakota's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service events. The speech took place Tuesday night in the Muenster University Center Ballroom.

Among other issues, she discussed the role and importance of

the AAC&U's idea of "inclusive excellence" in higher education.

"We define inclusion as the engagement with diversity for learning and knowledge development throughout the educational experience and by all members of the campus community," she said. "It doesn't take many campus leaders long to recognize that they and their institutions are ill-equipped to connect their diversity and educational quality efforts. ..."

"Making academics inclusive seeks to create a reinvigorated 21st century educational process that has diversity and inclusion at its core," she said.

In the United States, there are a lot of diversity initiatives and outreach programs, but Clayton-Pedersen said they are too often poorly linked to the core academic mission of their respective universities, or inadequately coordinated between each other.

Part of the issue is that diversity is so nuanced, she said. In addition

to different ethnic, cultural and social groups, there is diversity within the groups themselves.

"There are both group things that need to occur, but even within that group we need to think in more nuanced ways about what's happening with individuals within those groups," she said.

A beginning solution is for all the varied campus groups to come together for a conversation so they can begin to understand each other.

"I'm not talking about learning just from our differences — our similarities are what bring us together," Clayton-Pedersen said. "But it's in talking about those differences that we begin to understand the similarities. ... It is there that the learning occurs."

This learning process will then encourage members of the different groups to become engaged on all levels of campus life.

"AAC&U has been promoting a

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TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK  
Dr. Alma Clayton-Pedersen, senior scholar with the Association of American Colleges & Universities, spoke at the University of South Dakota Tuesday night as part of the school's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service activities.

## Debt Crisis Averted, Fight Still Ahead

BY DAVID ESPO  
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Retreating with a purpose, Republicans sped legislation through the House on Wednesday to avert the imminent threat of a government default but pointing the way to a springtime budget struggle with President Barack Obama over Medicare, farm subsidies and other benefit programs.

The current legislation, which cleared the House on a bipartisan vote of 285-144, would permit Treasury borrowing to exceed the limit of \$16.4 trillion through May 18. As it passed, Speaker John Boehner pledged that Republicans would quickly draft a budget that would wipe out deficits in a decade, and he challenged Democrats to do the same.

The Democratic-controlled Senate is expected to approve the debt bill as early as Friday or perhaps next week. The White House welcomed the legislation rather than face the threat of a first-ever default at the dawn of the president's second term in the White House, and spokesman Jay Carney pointedly noted a "fundamental change"

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