



Inside Today

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Area Teams Shine On
Final Day Of State • 8



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Staring Over The Edge

CBO Warns Of U.S. Falling Off 'Fiscal Cliff'

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new government study released Tuesday says that allowing Bush-era tax cuts to expire and a scheduled round of automatic spending cuts to take effect would probably throw the economy into a recession.

The Congressional Budget Office report says that the economy would shrink by 1.3 percent in the first

half of next year if the government is allowed to fall off this so-called "fiscal cliff" on Jan. 1 — and that the higher tax rates and more than \$100 billion in automatic cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies are kept in place.

There's common agreement that lawmakers will act either late this year or early next year to head off the dramatic shift in the government's financial situation. But if they were left in place, CBO says it would wring hundreds of billions of dollars from the budget

deficit that would "represent an additional drag on the weak economic expansion."

CBO projected that the economy would contract by 1.3 percent in the first half of 2013, which would meet the traditional definition of a recession, which is when the economy shrinks for two consecutive quarters.

"Such a contraction in output in the first half of 2013 would probably be judged to be a recession," CBO said.

The economy would rebound at a 2.3 percent

CBO | PAGE 2



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Nancy Saunders has been named the United Way Volunteer of the Year for her involvement with organizations such as 4H, local nursing homes, soccer, basketball, CASA, Meals on Wheels and Big Friend-Little Friend.

Saunders Honored For Selfless Service

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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When Nancy Saunders began coaching soccer several years ago, the thought came to her that children with disabilities deserved a chance as well. This sparked the beginning of both the TOP soccer program and Saunders' volunteer work in the Yankton community.

After years of volunteer service, Saunders has been recognized as the United Way Volunteer of the Year.

Lois Halbur, another active volunteer member in the Yankton community, nominated Saunders for the award. Halbur got to know Saunders through 4H and said she is deserving of the award.

"Her caring nature extends from people to pets," Halbur said. "She's very musically gifted, family oriented and cares deeply about children and giving them a brighter future. She's what I would consider an outstanding model for high quality, selfless volunteerism."

Halbur also nominated Saunders when she received the United Way Volunteer of the Month Award.

Saunders said she was surprised to receive the Volunteer of the Month award and never dreamed she would be named the Volunteer of the Year.

"When they were announcing who would receive the Volunteer of the Year award, they listed numerous activities that everyone is involved with," Saunders said. "I was shocked to receive the award."

SAUNDERS | PAGE 3

LOOK TO THE SKIES



PHOTO COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

A Blackhawk helicopter, similar to this one shown in Bosnia, will land and remain on display June 14 in Tabor for the evening's events, including the opening ceremonies, amateur baseball game and Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks Display.

Blackhawk Helicopter Landing To Honor Fallen Tabor Soldier

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TABOR — At this year's Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks Display in Tabor, the crowd can expect a special visitor to descend from the sky.

The South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) will land a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter near the Tabor baseball diamond for the June 14 activities honoring all veterans. The Thursday evening event has become the kickoff for the annual Czech Days festival.

The fireworks display, now in its seventh year, was started and named in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Schild, a member of the Yankton-based Charlie Battery at the time of his death. The Tabor resident died in 2005 from roadside bombs while serving in the Baghdad area with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

OUR TOWNS

Bon Homme

"This (event) is dedicated in Rich's name, but we are honoring all of our veterans. We want to show appreciation for everybody who has seen action and protected this country," said fireworks committee member Joe Carda.

Besides the helicopter display, the evening will feature an opening ceremony, the amateur baseball game between the Tabor Bluebirds and Avon Bards, and the fireworks display after the game.

BLACKHAWK | PAGE 11

Douglas County

Officials Ready To Move Ahead With Hospital Expansion

BY ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ
P&D Correspondent

ARMOUR — About 16 months of waiting is getting close to ending.

Funding for the Douglas County Memorial Hospital expansion and remodeling project in Armour has been held up, waiting for federal funds for a low interest loan and grant to again be available after the recent national economic downturn. Now, everything appears to be moving forward again.

Administrator Heath Brouwer said recently he was confident that obtaining a change in wording in a county resolution that turned hospital property over to the county if unused for health care purposes would now be the last hurdle placed before the project. Several months ago, the state had approved a Community Development Block Grant, said Brouwer, and "USDA Rural Development basically obligated their funds right at the same time."

The \$4.5 million project funding is broken down into three parts. The first is the \$3.5 million loan from USDA Rural Development at 3.75 percent interest for 40 years. The second part is the \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant approved by the Governor's Office of Economic Development. And, third, is the hospital's contribution of \$500,000, which Brouwer noted is the majority of the money already spent on the project.

The construction phase is expected to take between 18-24 months. But first there is the pre-bid meeting with interested contractors, the bid letting, the award of bids and turning over that first shovel of dirt.

The expansion portion of the project located in Douglas County's county seat, is

HOSPITAL | PAGE 2

U.S. Home Sales Up Across The Country

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Americans are buying more homes in every region of the country, the latest indication that the housing market could be on the mend.

An increasing portion of those sales are from first-time buyers, who are critical to a housing recovery.

Sales of previously occupied homes rose 3.4 percent in April from March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.62 million, the National Association of Realtors said Tuesday.

That nearly matches January's pace of 4.63 million — the best in two years. It is still well below the nearly 6 million that most economists equate with healthy markets.

A pickup in hiring and cheaper mortgages, combined with lower home prices in most markets, has made home buying more attractive. While many economists acknowledged that the market has a long way to go, most said the April sales report was encouraging.

"The trend in sales is upward, and we think it has a good deal further to go over the next few months as pay-

rolls pick up further and mortgage availability improves," said Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist for High Frequency Economics.

Sales rose last month from March in all regions of the country. They increased 5.1 percent rise in the Northeast, 3.5 percent in the South, 4.4 percent in the West and 1 percent in the Midwest.

And more first-time buyers entered the market. In April, they made up 35 percent of sales. That's up

HOMES | PAGE 2



'HEART AND SOUL'

Performers with Yankton's Academy of Dance are shown rehearsing Tuesday for their annual dance recital, slated for May 25-26 at the Yankton High School/Summit Activities Center theatre. The dancers, ranging in age from 3 to college age, will perform the program "Heart and Soul," which will feature a variety of dance styles and techniques. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday. To see or purchase images from this recital, visit spot-d.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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