



Fall back

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

ELECTION Join the PRESS & DAKOTAN Tuesday for an online Election Night chat on local, state and national races. To join in, go to: www.yankton.net



Andes Central freshman Madison Dion works on his welding technique with RTEC's new welding simulator. The simulator has been stationed at the school for the past several weeks as part of an effort to expose the students to new careers.

New Virtual Reality Welding Simulator Visits Lake Andes

BY DEREK BARTOS derek.bartos@yankton.net

LAKE ANDES — Andes Central High School junior Zach Cournoyer stood on an Army base Wednesday afternoon, attempting to practice his welding technique while avoiding the distractions of nearby trucks and humvees.

"Getting better," he said. Cournoyer was one of several Andes Central students this week who got a chance to use the Regional Technical Education Center's (RTEC) new Lincoln Electric VRTEX 360 Virtual Reality welding simulator, which allows users to experience welding without the sparks and the fumes.

purchased this summer with the help of a grant, can simulate the visuals and sounds of various types of welding, such as wire welding, stick welding and aluminum welding. Students can weld on pipe and different types of joints at a variety of virtual locations, as well as prepare for American Welding Society tests.

"It shows you what you're doing wrong, and it helps you get better every time you weld," junior Aaron Swanson said. The simulator has been stationed at the school for the past several weeks as part of a cooperative effort between Andes Central and RTEC to introduce the students to new career fields.

WELDING | PAGE 12

Noem And Varilek Tangle Over Gridlock

In Final Debate Before Election, Candidates Disagree On Many Issues

BY CHET BROKAW Associated Press

PIERRE — Republican Rep. Kristi Noem defended her record as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House during a fast-paced and contentious debate Friday night, while Democratic challenger Matt Varilek accused her of being part of a dysfunctional Congress that has accomplished little because of politicians who refuse to compromise.

In their fourth and final debate before Tuesday's election, Noem and Varilek tangled on taxes, Medicare and other issues that have dominated the campaign. The two frequently interrupted each other, sometimes accusing each other of not telling the truth.

Noem said she has lived up to her pledge to fix problems in Congress. She said Congress previously worried only about how to spend more money, but it has cut federal spending by \$2.2 trillion since she was first elected two years ago.

"We've changed that now to how much do we cut, how much do we need to tighten our belts to make sure we don't continue the deficit spending and accumulating debt our kids and our grandkids are going to have to pay off," Noem said in a one-hour debate televised statewide on KELO-TV.

Varilek said Congress has not improved the

DEBATE | PAGE 16



Students at Yankton Middle School (YMS) got a taste of what voting is like on Friday when they participated in a mock election.

YMS Students Participate In Mock Election

BY ANDREW ATWAL andrew.atwal@yankton.net

Barack Obama has won the election. With about 500 Yankton Middle School (YMS) students voting in a mock election on Friday, Obama narrowly defeated Mitt Romney by just eight votes.

Sixth grade students chose Obama over Romney 97 votes to 85, while seventh graders chose Obama 88 votes to 70. However, eighth graders overwhelmingly supported Mitt Romney 88 votes to Obama's 66.

Students were given just a taste of what the actual voting process is like during the mock election.

"It's important to give students an idea of what happens during the election," said YMS social studies teacher Amy Long.

Students at Yankton School District (YSD) get United States government curriculum during their eighth-grade year, then again as seniors — which means there will be two elections students are a part of, the one next week, then again as seniors in 2016.

"Among young people, voter apathy is a problem so this mock election is a way for students to talk to their parents about voting and the election," Long said. "We sent home some information and some teachers had an activity where students got online to a Time magazine children's election website which showed what each candidate and political party stands for."

She added that when she asks her stu-

STUDENTS | PAGE 12



Yankton County coroner candidates Arica Nickles (left) and Melisa Smith (right) are seen answering questions during an October forum held at Mount Marty College. Smith is seeking a second four-year term. Nickles has been the chief deputy coroner under Smith.

Coroner Candidates Offer New Ideas

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Although the two candidates for Yankton County coroner have worked alongside each other for nine years, they have differing views on how to address the challenges the office faces.

Melisa Smith, a Democrat, is the current coroner and was a deputy coroner for five years prior to that. She is being challenged for a second four-year term Nov. 6 by Arica Nickles, a Republican who has been the chief deputy coroner for most of her nine years with the office.

The job of the coroner is generally to investigate "unattended deaths," where the deceased was not under the care of a physician, physician's assistant or nurse. This includes cases where an individual died at home, in some kind of accident or as the result of a criminal act.

The coroner may take pictures if necessary, interview relevant sources and generally document the

scene. If an autopsy is necessary, the coroner will arrange for one. Otherwise, the body will be released to a funeral home.

Although there are no knowledge requirements to be elected coroner in South Dakota, both women say they would bring a long history of medical experience to the office.

Smith has been an EMT for 18 years, is a member of the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners, has taken the required state training program for county coroners and has also attended several classes to further her knowledge in responding to death calls.

"Some different types of training I have taken include forensics, anatomy and crime scene investigation," she stated.

Nickles has been a registered nurse for 16 years, an EMT for 14 years and is a member of the International

CORONER | PAGE 12

Officials Counter Benghazi Reports

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon provided more details Friday of the military response to the assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, as questions continue to swirl ahead of the presidential election about the government's response to the attack, detailing the troops that were dispatched to the region, even though most arrived after the fighting was over.

Although two teams of special operations forces were deployed from central Europe and the United States, the attack, which

began after 9 p.m. local time and ended by about 6 a.m., was over before they arrived at Sigonella Naval Air Station in Sicily, Italy, across the Mediterranean from Libya.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said that after the attack began, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta quickly met with his senior military advisers, including the top U.S. commander for Africa Command who was in Washington for meetings. Little said that within a few hours Panetta had ordered units to move to Libya.

"The entire U.S. government was operating from a cold start,"

Little said.

He said the military units were prepared to respond to any number of contingencies, including a potential hostage situation.

The military also immediately moved an unarmed Predator surveillance drone to Benghazi airspace to provide real-time intelligence on the situation for the CIA officers on the ground who were fighting the militants.

The Pentagon comments came a day after senior U.S. intelligence officials detailed the CIA's rescue efforts, striking back at al-

LIBYA | PAGE 16



STRIKE UP THE BAND

These trombonists from the University of South Dakota Sound Bytes jazz up the proceedings while performing at the Summit Activities Center Friday night as part of the 16th annual Yankton High School Band Aid indoor concert, featuring the YHS marching band. The Yankton Middle School band also performed during the traditional final concert of the marching season. The YHS band performed its marching show "Celebration" during Friday's performance. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)