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Four More Years

Barack Obama Wins Re-Election

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama won re-election Tuesday night despite a fierce challenge from Republican Mitt Romney, prevailing in the face of a weak economy and high unemployment that encumbered his first term and crimped the middle class dreams of millions.

"This happened because of you. Thank you" Obama tweeted to supporters as he secured four more years in the White House.

The president sealed his victory in Ohio, Iowa, New Hampshire and Colorado, four of the nine battleground states where the two rivals and their allies spent nearly \$1 billion on dueling television commercials.

Ultimately, the result of the brawl of an election campaign appeared likely to be the political status quo. Democrats won two more years of control of the Senate, and Re-

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District 18

Incumbents Win, While Stevens Will Head To Pierre

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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In the race for South Dakota state Senate, Republican Sen. Jean Hunhoff was on her way to re-election over Democrat David Allen Tuesday night.



J. Hunhoff



B. Hunhoff

At press time, absentee ballots had yet to be counted. In the South Dakota House race, incumbent Democrat Rep. Bernie Hunhoff was ahead with Republican Mike Stevens leading for the second seat. Hunhoff and Stevens were defeating other candidates, Democrat Charlie Gross, who is a college educator and has served for 18 years on the Yankton City Commission and Thomas Stotz, who is a chiropractic physician.

Jean Hunhoff had 3,844 votes, compared to Allen's 2,009.

In the House race, Bernie Hunhoff had 3,433 votes compared to Stevens' 2,748. Stotz tallied 2,304 votes and Gross had 2,172.

Absentee ballots had yet to be counted as of press time Tuesday night.

Two-term Republican Rep. Nick Moser decided not to seek re-election this year.

Bernie Hunhoff has served six years as state senator, from 1993 until 1998, and has also served for the past four years as a state representative. He is also currently serving as the House minority leader.

"It's gratifying to be re-elected knowing we have had a lot of controversial issues to deal with over the past few years," he said of his tentative win. "The support in District 18 really means a lot. In terms

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Area Elections

State Lawmakers Fall In General Election

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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A state lawmaker has seen his time in Pierre end after more than two decades, losing his bid for election to a different chamber of the Legislature.

State Rep. Frank Kloucek (D-Scotland) lost to Republican Bill Van Gerpen of Tyndall, a former state legislator, 7,024-4,677 (about 60-40 percent) in the District 19 Senate race. The district, which was expanded under redistricting, consists of Douglas, Hutchinson, Hanson, McCook and northern Bon

Homme counties.

Kloucek has served in the Legislature since first winning office in 1990, moving between chambers because of term limits. He served in the House during 1991-92, then the Senate from 1993-2000. He returned to the House in 2001-02, then to the Senate in 2003-10 and the House in 2011-12.

VanGerpen is no stranger to the Legislature, as he has served eight years in Pierre.

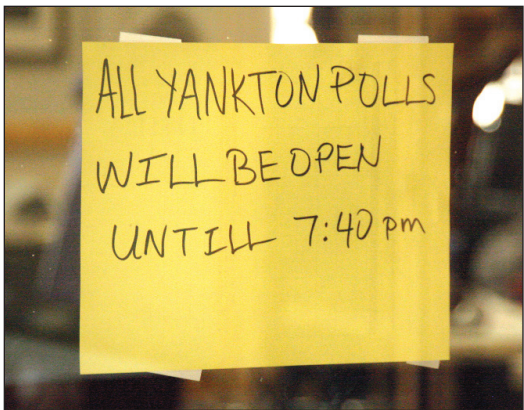
Van Gerpen served in the House of Representatives from 1996-98, from 2000-2004 and from 2008-10. He was a

candidate for State Senate in 1998.

Tuesday's outcome means a complete change, with none of the former District 19 legislators returning to Pierre.

Prior to Kloucek's loss in the general election, State Rep. Ed Van Gerpen (R-Avon) didn't run for re-election when he was placed in a new district. And in the June primary election, State Sen. J.E. "Jim" Putnam (R-Armour) chose to run for the House but didn't advance out of the GOP field to the general election.

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A DAY AT THE POLLS

Election Day finally arrived across the country Tuesday, with voters turning out to cast their ballots in national, state and local elections. Yankton County switched this year to the voting center method of voting, in which residents could cast their votes at any of seven polling centers throughout the county. ABOVE: Voters are shown studying their ballots at JoDean's, a new voting location. LEFT: The process did not go completely without a hitch, however, as one voting station did not come online on time, forcing voting times in all the county's locations to be pushed back to 7:50 p.m. (Early on, it was reported to be extended to 7:40 p.m., as this sign at indicates.) Turnout was brisk both locally and nationally. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Yankton County

Incumbents Leading For Two County Commission Spots

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Two incumbents appeared late Tuesday night to be on their way back to the Yankton County Commission.

With absentee ballots left to be counted at press time, Donna Freng, an independent who has served on the commission for six years, had 3,113 votes. Meanwhile, Mark Johnson, a Republican who has eight years of experience on the commission, was in second place with 3,086 votes. James Van Osdel, a Republican, was trailing behind with 2,484 votes.

The top two vote-getters will earn the two open four-year terms.

Meanwhile, in the race for Yankton County Coroner, Arica Nickles, a Republican who has been the chief deputy coro-

ner for most of her nine years with the office, was leading the current coroner with 3,040 votes. Incumbent Melisa Smith, a Democrat, was behind with 2,350 votes.

The coroner position is a four-year term.

Election Day got off to a shaky start in Yankton County, with one voting center opening 50 minutes late for an undisclosed reason. Consequently, all the voting centers in the county had to stay open until 7:50 p.m. Tuesday, instead of the normal 7 p.m. closing time.

Ballots cast after 7 p.m. were placed in provisional ballot envelopes. County Auditor Paula Jones had not said how those ballots would be counted at press time.

With absentee ballots still to be counted late Tuesday, an estimated one third of the votes were not tallied at press time.

S.D. House

GOP's Noem Wins 2nd Term As Lone S.D. House Member

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Rep. Kristi Noem, who swept into Congress on a Republican wave two years ago, defeated Democratic challenger Matt Varilek on Tuesday to win a second term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House.

Noem, a 40-year-old rancher and former state lawmaker from Castlewood, drew national attention in 2010 when she defeated Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, then considered a rising star in the Democratic Party.

Noem went on to become a leader in the freshman class of Republican House members, and this year's election in many ways became a referendum on the competing policies of Democratic President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans.

Noem argued she deserved a second term because she fought hard to cut federal spending and protect farmers and ranchers from excessive federal regulations. She also said her background as a farmer and small business owner gave her an understanding of the issues facing most



Noem

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Nebraska Senate

Fischer Beats Kerrey For U.S. Senate Seat

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Republican Deb Fischer has been elected to the U.S. Senate, completing a remarkable eight-year journey from little-known state legislator.

Fischer beat Democrat Bob Kerrey, 69, on Tuesday for the seat left open by retiring Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson.

Nebraska voters previously had elected Kerrey as governor and to two U.S. Senate terms, but he only returned to the state in March after a 12-year absence.

After her hard-fought GOP primary race, Fischer, 61, was seen as the favorite for the seat because of the state's decidedly Republican base.

The rancher from Valentine entered the primary race against two more familiar — and better financed — candidates, state Attorney General Jon Bruning and Treasurer Don Stenberg.

Her win was credited to persistent campaigning and anti-Bruning ads funded by super PACs.



Fischer

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