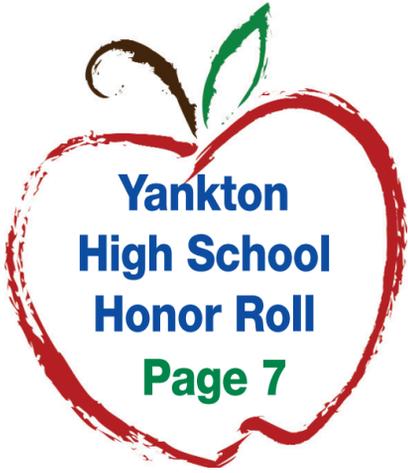




Partly Cloudy

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LIGHTING UP DOWNTOWN



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

John Norman, an employee with the Riverfront Event Center, wraps holiday lights around a tree branch in front of the Yankton County Government Center Tuesday afternoon. Norman is working with a project to light up downtown Yankton during the holiday season, with many trees in the district having their trunks wrapped in festive lighting. The project is being spearheaded by Historic Downtown Yankton and the Event Center.

School Officials Weigh In On Ballot Issues

With Election Over, Eyes Turn To Pierre For 2013 Legislature

OUR TOWNS Bon Homme County

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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The Bon Homme County school superintendents aren't surprised two education issues failed last week on the South Dakota ballot.

However, they see parts of both measures possibly resurfacing during the 2013 Legislature in Pierre.

South Dakota voters rejected both a one-cent increase in the state sales tax — split between K-12 education and Medicaid — and Gov. Dennis Daugaard's package of education reforms.

Superintendents Tom Culver of Avon, Damon Alvey of Scotland and Bryce Knudson of Bon Homme are sorting out the election results. School officials meet later this month at Oacoma to discuss the 2013 Legislature in Pierre.

The sales-tax defeat shouldn't be seen as voter opposition to increased school funding, the Bon Homme County trio told the *Press & Dakotan*.

Knudson called the sales-tax defeat "a disappointment."

"The reasons given by the public (for its defeat) consisted of the tough ag year that South Dakota faced with the drought and the hardship when items like food are taxed," he said. "With that defeat, the Legislature will likely promote the fact that South Dakota voters do not see a need for additional funding."

Alvey knew the sales-tax increase

would be difficult to pass, but he had hoped for a closer vote.

The additional sales tax would have made a major difference in the Scotland school budget, he said. The district could have reduced or even ended the amount it exceeds the state property-tax freeze.

Scotland remains authorized to "opt out" for an additional \$350,000 annually, with two years remaining on the five-year period, Alvey said. However, the district has reduced its actual opt-out to less than \$100,000 annually.

"We're working in the right direction, and this (increased sales) tax would have put the cherry on the top," he said.

Of the 10 school districts in the former legislative District 19, Avon and Parkston are the only ones that haven't enacted an opt-out, Culver said. However, Avon has already made cuts and may be forced to look at an opt-out in the future, he said.

"We are using \$100,000 of our capital outlay fund to meet our general fund budget (for everyday needs), but that can't go on forever," he said. "We would like to buy laptops for our high school kids. Instead, we are using \$100,000 for our general fund."

Alvey hopes a dedicated sales tax for education remains under discussion. He would like to see a three-month increase in the sales tax enacted during the summer months.

"We would gain some benefits strictly geared toward education, and we would

ISSUES | PAGE 11

S. Dakota Health Care Providers Urge Medicaid Expansion

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — Now that President Barack Obama's re-election has cleared the way for the full implementation of his health care law, doctors and hospitals in South Dakota are urging the state to expand its Medicaid program so thousands of additional low-income residents can receive coverage.

But Gov. Dennis Daugaard says any expansion of coverage is unlikely for at

least several years while the potential costs are examined.

The South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations said about 48,000 uninsured residents will be left behind if South Dakota doesn't ease its eligibility requirements for Medicaid, the government health care program for the poor.

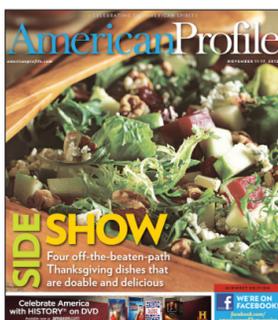
"If we're left out of the benefits that can come from the Affordable Care Act, how do we take care of the people of South Dakota who are below the federal

poverty level?" said Dr. Rob Allison, of Pierre, president of the South Dakota State Medical Association.

The federal law seeks to reduce the number of uninsured by requiring those who can afford coverage to obtain it. But the Supreme Court ruled that states cannot be required to expand Medicaid to cover more of those who can't afford policies.

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INSIDE TODAY



American Profile



Mount Marty Sweeps Grace In BB Action • 8

Returning The Compliment

Veteran Visits Area To Pay Tribute To Past

BY LINDA WUEBEN
P&D Correspondent

CROFTON, Neb. — "He was the best captain we ever had," said Steve Keiser of Crofton, Neb. "And it was probably due to the fact that he was an enlisted man like us before he went to Officer Training School. He knew what needed to be done in the trenches because he had been there."

Keiser praised his houseguest, retired Major Kay Moon, a former comrade in arms from the Vietnam War where both men served together in Company D, Fifth Battalion, 12th Infantry, 197th Infantry Brigade in Georgia.

Moon spent time in the area recently with the Keiser family while speaking to Crofton High School students at the Veterans Day program last week and also meeting with other members of the Company D at the Keiser home.

"I have to return the compliment to those soldiers," said Moon. "I survived because I had good people who made sure I came back alive."

He remembered the soldiers as being a good mix of draftees and regular army who were able to pull together and follow through with orders. Moon had served in



PHOTO: LINDA WUEBEN

Retired Major Kay Moon, left, was the recent guest of Crofton resident Steve Keiser. The two veterans shared their Vietnam-era experiences, and Moon talked to students at Crofton High School in conjunction with veterans Day.

the Army since the 1950s as a Green Beret and a member of Special Forces.

The two former soldiers shared stories of their service together, both being able to laugh about those experiences today. Moon said reuniting with former comrades serves several good purposes; one being the idea of remembering the bad also brings out the good in the situation.

Keiser reminded Moon of a tense situation members of Company D laugh about today when they have their reunions. The company was located in a small Vietnamese village one night, not expecting any action. Suddenly at 1 a.m., all hell broke loose. The Company received heavy fire until 6 a.m. At one

VETERAN | PAGE 2

County To Make Offer For Highway Superintendent

BY KELLY HERTZ
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

The Yankton County Commission agreed Tuesday to make an offer to an applicant for the highway superintendent job. However, the decision was made after the commissioners disagreed on the process for making the decision.

The commission convened in a special meeting Tuesday, with the only item on the agenda being an executive, or closed, session in which the commissioners would discuss the applicants. Personnel matters are one legal criteria for a public board to convene in a closed session.

But after a motion was made and seconded to go into executive session, Commissioner Allen Sinclair questioned the need for such a move.

"Why have this discussion (in executive session)? We've seen the resumes and done the interviews," he said.



Sinclair

COUNTY | PAGE 3

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TOMORROW: Bloomfield Church Honors Late Pastor With Living Nativity

