



Mostly Sunny And Breezy

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INSIDE TODAY



**American
Profile**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Nov. 28
27 shopping
days to Christmas

U.S. Economy Gets Lift From Consumers, Businesses

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AND MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — American consumers are growing more confident about the job market, companies are ordering more equipment and home prices are rising in most major cities.

The latest batch of government data suggests that the economy is improving just as the holiday shopping season begins. The only threat is a package of huge spending cuts and tax increases, known as the “fiscal cliff,” that will kick in unless Congress strikes a budget deal by year’s end.

Rising home values, more hiring and lower gas prices pushed consumer confidence in November to the highest level in nearly five years. And steady consumer spending appears to have encouraged businesses to invest more in October after pulling back over the summer.

Those trends could boost economic growth slightly in the final three months of the year. But the real payoff could come early next year, if the fiscal cliff is avoided. Businesses that have postponed

ECONOMY | PAGE 9

Senators Seek River Decree

States Along The Mississippi To Ask Obama For Outflow Increase From Gavins Point

BY JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A group of U.S. senators will ask President Barack Obama for an emergency declaration in an effort to keep barges moving on the drought-riddled Mississippi River, a spokesman for Sen. Claire McCaskill told The Associated Press Tuesday.

Senators from Mississippi River states

are seeking an emergency directive that would increase the flow of water from an upper Missouri River dam and expedite removal of rock formations in the middle Mississippi River that impede barge traffic during periods of low water. McCaskill spokesman Drew Pusateri did not yet have a complete list of senators involved in the request.

Pusateri said McCaskill also will write to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon asking him to

formally request a disaster designation. He said a gubernatorial request could move through bureaucratic channels more quickly than the request from senators.

The Army Corps of Engineers on Friday began reducing the outflow from the Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota. The flow, originally 37,500 cubic feet per second, will gradually be cut to 12,000 cubic feet per second by Dec. 11.

That means less water coming down the Missouri and into the Mississippi River. The already-low Mississippi River level is dropping as a result and could get so low that barge traffic will be severely restricted or even halted by mid-December.

Corps officials in Omaha, Neb., have

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Man Arrested In Marty Shooting Death

From P&D and AP reports

MARTY — A 23-year-old man was arrested Tuesday in connection with the shooting death of another male at a Marty trailer home.

According to court documents, Dancing Bull Fischer is alleged to have shot and killed 47-year-old Tony Fischer Sr. at approximately 1 a.m. Tuesday morning on the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation. Dancing Bull is charged with second-degree murder.

Ace Crawford, the public information officer at the South Dakota U.S. Attorney’s Office, said she could not confirm whether the two men were related. However, a Sioux Falls media outlet reported that Dancing Bull was Tony’s nephew.

Also shot and injured was Tony’s son, Dominic Fischer. His condition was not immediately known.

FBI agents were told by a witness who had been trying to sleep at the trailer home that he heard four or five gunshots in the living room. When he walked out into the area, he saw Dancing Bull holding an assault rifle downward.

Tony had been shot in the head and died at the scene.

The witness told agents he took the rifle from Dancing Bull Fischer, who then left the residence.

The men had been drinking together at the residence earlier in the day, according to the witness. He said he was in a back bedroom with his girlfriend when he heard Dancing Bull Fischer yelling through the bedroom door that someone was “messing with Dad.”

It’s not clear if the suspect has an attorney yet.

A GOOD READ



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Kristin Lambert (left), Clarissa Rahn (center) and Sydney Knutson of the Centerville II ensemble imagine the possibilities of a reality television show for teen girls in their performance of “The Young and the Soapless,” part of the reader’s theater competition at the Mount Marty College Oral Interp Contest in Yankton. More than 250 students from 20 regional schools competed in the event, which MMC has hosted for more than 40 years. Results will be published in an upcoming edition of the Press & Dakotan.

Yankton Poised To Host State Oral Interpretation Festival

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Students from across South Dakota are set to converge on Yankton for the 2012 South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) State’s Oral Interpretation Festival, which will take place at Yankton High School Friday and Saturday.

Individual awards will be given out to students or groups at the end of each session. Team excellence awards will be presented following the conclusion of the final session. All three classes in the state will be competing here.

“Oral interpretation basically is public speaking,” said YHS oral interp. co-coach Teri Mandel. “There are different categories of types of speech at the festival this weekend.”

This is Mandel’s first year coaching the YHS team, made up of about 30 students.

“I was a competitive speaker in high school, which made me want to coach the team here,” she said. “Public speaking is a skill that is good to practice. It allows you to think on your feet and feel comfortable speaking to a crowd. When I was a competitive speaker, I didn’t know I

wanted to be a teacher, but I definitely think the public speaking helped.”

The competitive categories include duet interpretation, non-original oratory, interpretation of serious prose, humorous reading, poetry reading, interpretation of serious plays and readers theater.

Leo Kallis, who had served as YHS’s oral interp. coach in the past and is the co-coach with Mandel this year, said Yankton hosts not only the state festival every seven years but also the state debate contest every seven years. This school year, YHS is hosting both — something that only occurs once every 42 years.

“It’s a big deal to host a state event, no matter what it is,” he said.

Garrett Adam, a member of the YHS oral interpretation team, said he enjoys the art of public speaking.

“I like being able to express myself through the piece and getting to read a piece of paper in a different way,” he said. “You just get the words, you can express the piece whichever way you want.”

Adam added he not only enjoys going to different places around the state but

FESTIVAL | PAGE 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This is a photo of 2011-12 Wausa students who received the Blue Star Award for financial responsibility, front from left: Keesha McQuay, Kaitlyn Rischmueller, Faith Nelson and Kyle Shimer; back row: Matt Wamberg, Sarah Banks, Mallory Pryor, Carrie Buhsman, Dakota Cunningham, Jeff Bloomquist, Nate Story and Jon Molina.

Area Students Honored For Grasp On Finance

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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WAUSA, Neb. — For a group of Wausa High School students, the buck stops here.

So do credit cards, loans and every other kind of financial situation.

For the second straight year, Wausa Public School was designated a Blue Star School for its students’ outstanding financial literacy. The students took the 50-question national online test during the 2011-12 school year. They excelled on sections dealing with banking, credit, insurance and investments.

Blue Star schools were recognized this month in New York City and will receive a Blue Star Banner.

OUR TOWNS

Knox County

The banner becomes a source of pride, but the students’ real prize comes in their financial knowledge, said Wausa business teacher Dawn Friedrich.

“I have students who come into my classroom and don’t like to think about things like setting a budget for themselves,” she said. “But these students are already 17 or 18 years old. They aren’t far away from making financial decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.”

The group Working In Support of Education (WISE) offers the national program and test for more than 50,000 students na-

tionally. WISE aims to promote financial literacy among the nation’s young people.

“Most students drop out of college not because of academic failure but because of personal debt,” a WISE statement said. “The fastest growing group filing personal bankruptcy is young people ages 18 to 25.”

When it comes to teaching good financial sense at Wausa, Friedrich credits the small class size, individual attention and continuity of the business program.

“I am the only business teacher at Wausa, so the students and I move from one class to the next,” she said. “I have been teaching these courses for more than 20 years.”

AWARD | PAGE 2

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 1st
1:00pm-4:00pm
LilyCrest 211 W. 3rd, Downtown Yankton