



Bucks Fall To Washington • 8

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## Home For Homecoming

### Tom And Meredith Brokaw Set To Return To South Dakota For USD's Homecoming This Weekend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VERMILLION — Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw garners worldwide recognition and admiration. But when it came to a past University of South Dakota homecoming, Meredith Brokaw chose an escort besides her husband as Dakota Days parade marshal. "Instead of inviting me to join her in the convertible, she took along (our pet) Sage, the Wonder Dog, as a tribute to Sage's prize-winning performances in South

Dakota pheasant hunting fields," Tom Brokaw said in an email interview with the Press & Dakotan. History won't repeat itself today (Saturday) when the Brokaws — both Yankton natives — serve as parade marshals at USD, their alma mater. Tom will sit alongside his wife, the former Meredith Auld, when the parade commences at 10 a.m. Thousands of spectators are expected to line the parade route, which runs through downtown Vermillion. The parade begins on the corner of Main Street and High Street, proceeding to the corner of

Plum Street and Clark Street. "Meredith and I are thrilled to be part of Dakota Day activities," Tom said. Brokaw expressed no hard feelings about his wife's slight of him during her last Dakota Days parade. In fact, he wrote affectionately about the family canine. "Sage was ... a phenomenal bird dog and great companion," Tom said. "Meredith made a series of Christmas cards featuring Sage in cowboy hats (and other outfits)." CBS late-night talk show host David Let-



COURTESY PHOTO Yankton natives Meredith and Tom Brokaw will serve as parade marshalls today (Saturday) at the University of South Dakota parade in Vermillion. The parade is set to begin at 10 a.m.

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Freshmen at Yankton High School were presented Friday with a frame and letter as part of a program to motivate their course toward their graduation in 2016. Displaying their letters are, from left: Samantha Straatmeyer, Bradey Sorensen, Jacob Sudbeck, Brady Taggart and Zach Stemper.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

## Framing The Future For YHS Freshman

### Program Aims To Add Motivation For Graduation

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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The Yankton High School (YHS) freshman class gathered in their homerooms on Friday morning and were presented a unique gift. Each freshman was given a picture frame with a note inside that displayed their graduation date in 2016. Students and teachers signed each other's notes and placed them in the frames as a reminder to keep your eyes on the prize and graduate from high school and achieve future dreams. "One of the most important moments in the life of a parent is to see their son or daughter graduate high school with their diploma," said Dr. Wayne Kindle, principal at YHS. "This is a goal and an expectation we share here at Yankton High School."

HEATHER OLSON

The note from Dr. Kindle reads: "Please accept this gift as a small token of my appreciation for your attending Yankton High School. More importantly, I hope this picture frame will serve as a reminder about the importance of graduation. Your high school years will go by very quickly and graduation Sunday will be here soon. "Graduation from Yankton High School is an expectation and is something your family has looked forward to since you entered Kindergarten. We share your goal of graduating with your class. Enjoy the next four years at YHS. Mark your calendar!" It also lists the graduation date of May 22, 2016.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D Ellison Fedders uses the back of fellow YHS freshman Becky Frick to write notes on the back of a letter that will be framed by the students and used as a motivation toward reaching their goals for graduation in 2016.

Amy Miner, one of the freshman homeroom teachers, said she thinks the note is a great idea. "The picture frames should really help students encourage them for what they want," she said. "It will help them accomplish their goals in high school and in the future."

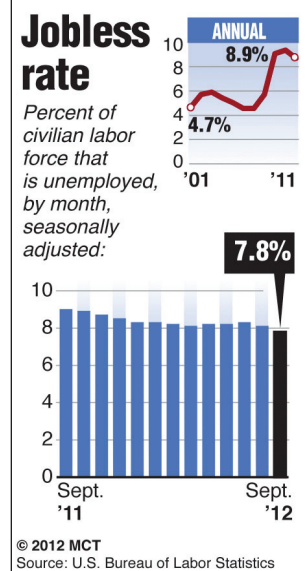
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## Jobless Rate Dips Below 8% For First Time Since 2009

### Number Finding Jobs Sees Big Jump

BY PAUL WISEMAN AND CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. unemployment rate dropped below 8 percent for the first time since the month President Barack Obama took office, a surprising lift for both the economy and his re-election hopes in the final weeks of the campaign. The rate, the most-watched measure of the country's economic health, tumbled to 7.8 percent in September from 8.1 percent in August. It fell because a government survey of households found that 873,000 more people had jobs, the biggest jump since January 2003.



The government's other monthly survey, of employers, showed they added a modest 114,000 jobs in September, but it also showed job growth in July and August was stronger than first thought. Obama, eager to shift attention from a disappointing performance at the first presidential debate, said Friday that the report showed the country "has come too far to turn back now." His Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, countered: "This is not what a real recovery looks like." The drop brought the jobless rate

back to where it was when Obama was sworn in, in January 2009, and snapped a 43-month streak in which unemployment was 8 percent or higher — a run Romney had been emphasizing.

The October jobs report comes out Nov. 2, four days before the election, so Friday's report provided one of the final snapshots of the economy as undecided voters make up their minds. The government calculates the unemployment rate by calling 60,000 households and asking whether the adults have jobs, and whether those who don't are looking for work. Those who do not have jobs and are looking are counted as unemployed. Those who aren't looking are not considered part of the work force and aren't counted as unemployed.

A separate monthly survey seeks information from 140,000 companies and government agencies that together employ about one in three nonfarm workers in the United States. That survey found that the economy added 114,000 jobs in September, the fewest since June. Most of the job growth came in service businesses such as health care and restaurants.

## Yankton Co. Given Fourth Achievement Award In Decade

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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When it comes to notable achievements, no county in the state compares to Yankton County. The county recently received the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners' (SDACC) achievement award for valuable innovations and improvements in county government. It was given for the new county Highway Department maintenance shop. It's the third time Yankton County has received first place in the category in the last 10 years. Additionally, it got one second place in the last decade. No other counties in the state have been able to match that



Jensen

accomplishment. "I think it's great," said Yankton County Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen. He stated that the commission has been very proactive in the last 10 years about addressing capital improvement needs in Yankton County. "Our infrastructure is going to be around for many years as long as we maintain it," Jensen said. "When something goes wrong, you can't let

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