



Inside Today

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

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**3:30 P.M. TODAY:** USD Athletic Director  
David Saylor On P&D Sports Chat

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## State Mulls Off-Road Ban

Ditches Along East Highway 50, Highway 52 Would Be Impacted By Proposal

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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The South Dakota Transportation Commission will consider the closure next week of several ditches in Yankton County to off-road vehicles.

An official with the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) said the closures were recommended due to damage to the right-of-ways and safety concerns.

The areas that may be affected are:

- Highway 50 from Ferdig Avenue to Belair Road, from near mile marker 385 to near mile marker 388 in the north ditch; and
- Highway 52 from Highway 50 to West City Limits Road, from near mile marker 332 to near mile marker 342 in both the north and south ditches.

The commission will consider the proposed ditch closures at its Thursday, Oct. 25, meeting, beginning at 9 a.m. in Room 200 of the Becker Hanson Building, 700 East

Broadway Avenue, in Pierre.

"Both roads have generated calls to my office and people stopping in to say that safety has become a major issue," said Ron Peterson, the Yankton-area engineer for the SDDOT. "ATVs are jumping over right-of-ways. There have been near-misses involving people coming in and out of the driveways. Along with the damage to our right-of-way, safety is our number one concern."

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Our Towns | Hutchinson Co.

## Financial Counselors Offer Help For Farmers

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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PARKSTON — Glenn Harnisch wants to provide a lifeline to farmers and ranchers in financial distress.

He can't offer them money, but he can provide something perhaps even better in the long run — advice.

The Parkston farmer serves as an agriculture finance counselor. In his role, he works as a private contractor with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, in the Division of Ag Development. He answers to Jodi Bechard, the director of ag mediation and financial counseling in Pierre.

Harnisch predicts a surge in the number of producers — particularly in the drought-stricken southeast region — seeking his services.

"I think I'll be busy this winter with the fall-out from the drought," he said. "I see people struggling financially. There is crop insurance and some other safety nets, but what do you do when the income isn't there?"

Bechard agrees that more producers may turn to financial counseling.

"We are expecting, in the next couple of years, to see the drought cause some issues," she said. "We need to be pro-active."

In promoting the counselors' work, Harnisch took his message to the top.



Harnisch

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## PROMOTING SCIENCE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Hartington Public students Michaela Derickson, left, and Kaitlyn Traxler, center, listen to Sandy Mosel of the Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park near Royal, Neb., explain details on a replica skull of a Siberian tiger during Tuesday's annual Women in Science conference at Mount Marty College. Approximately 275 eighth grade girls from 14 schools attended the event, which aimed to stimulate and promote interests in science and technology careers.

## U.S. Prices, Confident Builders Aid Growth

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The outlook for the U.S. economy brightened a little Tuesday after reports that consumer prices stayed tame and homebuilder confidence rose to the highest level in six years.

A third report showed factory output grew only modestly in September, a reminder that the economy is still weak.

Low inflation could give consumers even more incentive to

spend at a time when their confidence is at a five-year high. That could boost growth and help lift American manufacturers out from their slump.

The economy remains the top issues for voters with just three weeks left before Election Day. It will be front and center Tuesday night when President Barack Obama and GOP challenger Mitt Romney meet at New York's Hofstra University for the second of three debates.

Tuesday's data showed:

— The consumer price index rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6 percent in September, the Labor Department said. The increase was driven by higher gas prices. When excluding gas and food costs, prices rose just 0.1 percent. Overall prices have risen just 2 percent in the 12 months that ended in September, in line with the Federal Reserve's inflation target.

— The National Association of Home Builders said its survey of

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WANGLEI/XINHUA/ZUMA PRESS/MCT  
U.S. President Barack Obama, right, shakes hands with Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney prior to their second presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, on Tuesday.

Presidential Debate

## Obama Gets Aggressive; Romney Pushes Back

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND DAVID ESPO  
Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — An aggressive President Barack Obama accused challenger Mitt Romney of favoring a "one-point plan" to help the rich in America and playing politics with the recent deadly terrorist attack in Libya in a Tuesday night debate crackling with energy and emotion just three weeks before the election.

Romney pushed back hard, saying the middle class "has been crushed over the last four years," that 23 million Americans are struggling to find work and that the death of the U.S. ambassador to Libya was part of an unraveling of the administration's foreign policy.

The president was feistier from the outset than he had been in their initial encounter two weeks ago, when he turned in a listless performance that sent shudders through his supporters and helped fuel a rise by Romney in opinion polls nationally and in some battleground states.

Obama and Romney disagreed, forcefully and repeatedly — about taxes, measures to



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## THE PINK RANGER

This Yankton High School student couldn't mask her support for the annual YHS "Dig Pink" volleyball event, which took place Tuesday at the Summit Activities Center. As part of their volleyball match with Sioux Falls Roosevelt, the Gazelles and many of their fans wore pink to show support for breast cancer survivors and awareness of the disease. The event was also a fundraiser, with proceeds being donated to two Yankton School District teachers who are battling breast cancer. The money will be used to help cover some of their medical and transportation costs. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Yankton County Commission

## Surveyor Hired For Highway Shop Property

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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The Yankton County Commission hired a firm Tuesday to survey its former highway maintenance shop property in the 400 block of West 11th Street.

"We hope to have the survey back in two or three weeks, so then we can put (the property) up for auction," Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said. "I'm around a lot of groups, and I've not had one person come up to me and say, 'Keep it.'"

He added that a public auction will probably be conducted rather than a



Jensen

The commission hired Arens Engineering of Yankton to do a boundary/property size survey at a cost of \$1,630.

It was the lowest bidder among three firms.

sealed bid process.

"I think we'll be better off with a public auction," Jensen said.

Commissioner Garry Moore has argued that the property should be kept for storage purposes, but he has not found support among the rest of the commission.

Also in the running was the Johnson Engineering Company with a bid of \$3,100, as well as Eisenbraun & Associates with a bid of \$3,800.

Commissioner Mark Johnson abstained from the survey discussion and the vote to hire Arens Engineering, because he is an employee of Eisenbraun & Associates.

In other business Tuesday, the commission:

- authorized an expenditure to expand the advertising for the administrative highway superintendent position into

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