#### 2010 **Legal and Public**

tion 11-41, recommending that November 12, 2012, be established as the date for a public hearing on the special assessment roll for removal of noxious vegetation and abatement.

Roll Call: All members present voting "Aye;" voting "Nay:"

Motion adopted.

Action 12-241 This was the time and place for the public hearing on the application for a Special Events Malt Beverage (on-sale) Retailers License and a Special (on-sale) Wine Retailers License for one day, December 31, 2012, from The Center (Christy Hauer, Executive Director), 900 Whiting Drive, Yankton, South Dakota. (Memorandum 12-172) No one was present to speak for or against approval of the license application. Moved by Commissioner Lowrie, seconded by Commissioner Akland, to approve the li-

Roll Call: All members present voting "Aye;" voting None

Motion adopted.

Mike Coleman and Steve Quail, from HDR Engineering, presented a Yankton Water Treatment Facility Plan Update. Commissioners directed staff to explore funding options and bring information back to a future meeting.

Action 12-242

Moved by Commissioner Woerner, seconded by Commissioner Sommer, to approve Change Order Number 1 from Masonry Components, an increase of \$1.857.32 for a new contract total of \$5,367.02, to accept the project as complete, and to authorize the City Finance Officer to issue a manual check in the amount of \$5,367.02 to Masonry Components, Yankton, South Dakota, as final payment for the Douglas Avenue Reconstruction Project. (Memorandum 12-170)

Roll Call: All members present "Aye;" voting voting None.

Motion adopted.

Action 12-243

Moved by Commissioner Akland, seconded by Commissioner Gross, to accept utility and street improvements for the Preakness Avenue Extension between Applewood Drive and 29th Street, located in front of property described as Lots 10-12, Block 6, and Lots 2-4, Block 7, all in Ridgeway North Subdivision. (Memorandum 12-171)

Roll Call: All members present voting "Aye;" voting None.

Motion adopted.

Action 12-244

Moved by Commissioner Woerner, seconded by Commissioner Gross, to authorize the Police Department to use Highway Safety Grant Funds to off-set the costs of department equipment as outlined in Memorandum 12-167.

Roll Call: All members present voting "Aye;" voting None.

Motion adopted.

Motion adopted

Action 12-245 Moved by Commissioner Woerner, seconded by Commissioner Sommer, to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Roll Call: All members present voting "Aye;" voting "Nay:" None.

> Nancy Wenande Mayor

ATTEST:

Ann L. Clough Deputy Finance Officer

#### Mich. 'Batman' Says He Has **Good Intentions**

PETOSKEY, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan man is facing charges for his effort to keep an eye on his community while wearing a Bat-

Mark Wayne Williams tells the Petoskey News-Review (http://bit.ly/T8i0ax) that dressing in costume is his way of saying "it's not up to the government to save us.'

He's due in court Thursday. State troopers arrested the 33year-old Sept. 29 because they say he refused to leave them alone while they searched for a driver who fled an accident. Williams was charged with resisting and obstructing police in an investigation.

It's not Williams' first brush with the law as the caped crusader. He was arrested last year after police received a report of a man dressed as Batman on the roof of a Petoskey business.

www.yankton.net

### **Debate**

reduce the deficit, energy, pay equity for women and health care as well as foreign policy across 90 minutes of a town-hall style

Immigration prompted yet another clash, Romney saying Obama had failed to pursue the comprehensive legislation he promised at the dawn of his administration, and the president saying Republican obstinacy made a deal impossible.

Romney gave as good as he got. You'll get your chance in a moment. I'm still speaking," the former Massachusetts governor said at one point while Obama was midsentence, drawing a gasp from the audience. He said the president's policies had failed to jumpstart the economy and had cramped energy production.

The open-stage format left the two men free to stroll freely across a red-carpeted stage, and they did. Their clashes crackled with energy and tension, and the crowd watched raptly as the two sparred while struggling to appear calm

and affable before a national television audience.

While most of the debate was focused on policy differences, there was one more-personal moment, when Obama said Romney had investments in China.

"Mr. President, have you looked at your pension?" Romney interrupted.

"You know, I don't look at my pension. It's not as big as yours," shot back Obama to his wealthier

Under the format agreed to in advance, members of an audience of 82 uncommitted voters posed questions to the president and his challenger.

Nearly all of them concerned domestic policy until one raised the subject of the recent death of the U.S. ambassador to Libya in a terrorist attack at an American post in Benghazi. Romney said it took Obama a long time to admit the episode had been a terrorist attack, but Obama said he had said so the day after in an appearance in the Rose Garden outside the White House.

When moderator Candy Crowley of CNN said the president had in fact done so, Obama, prompted, Say that a little louder, Candy."

Secretary of State Hillary Clin-

ton has taken responsibility for the death of Ambassador L. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans, but Obama said bluntly, "I'm the president, and I'm

always responsible." Romney said it was "troubling" that Obama continued with a campaign event in Las Vegas on the day after the attack in Libya, an event the Republican said had "symbolic significance and perhaps even material significance."

Obama seemed to bristle. He said it was offensive for anyone to allege that he or anyone in his administration had used the incident for political purposes. "That's not what I do."

One intense exchange focused on competing claims about whether energy production is increasing or slowing. Obama accused Romney of misrepresenting what has happened — a theme he returned to time and again. Romney strode across the stage to confront Obama face to face, just feet from the audience.

Both men pledged a better economic future to a young man who asked the first question, a member of a pre-selected audience of 82 uncommitted voters.

Then the president's determination to show a more aggressive side became evident.

Rebutting his rival's claim to a five-point plan to create 12 million jobs, Obama said, "Gov. Romney says he's got a five-point plan. Gov. Romney doesn't have a five-point plan. He has a one-point plan. And that plan is to make sure that folks at the top play by a different set of

rules." "That's been his philosophy in the private sector," Obama said of his rival. "That's been his philosophy as governor. That's been his philosophy as a presidential candidate. You can make a lot of money and pay lower tax rates than somebody who makes a lot less."
"You can ship jobs overseas

and get tax breaks for it. You can invest in a country, bankrupt it, lay off the workers, strip away their pensions and you still make money. That's exactly the philosophy that we've seen in place for the last decade," the president said in a scorching summation.

Unable to respond at length because of the debate's rules, Romney said the accusations were way off the mark.'

But moments later, he reminded the national television audience of the nation's painfully slow recovery from the worst recession in decades.

There are "23 million people struggling to find a job. ... The president's policies have been exercised over the last four years and they haven't put America back to work," he said. "We have fewer people working today than when he took office.'

Economic growth has been slow throughout Obama's term in office, and unemployment only recently dipped below 8 percent for the first time since he moved into the White House. Romney noted that if out-of-work Americans who no longer look for jobs were counted, the unemployment rate would be 10.7 percent.

Both men had rehearsed extensively for the encounter, a turnabout for Obama.

"I had a bad night," the president conceded, days after he and Romney shared a stage for the first time, in Denver. His aides made it known he didn't intend to be as deferential to his challenger this time, and the presidential party decamped for a resort in Williamsburg, Va., for rehearsals that consumed the better part of three

Romney rehearsed in Massachusetts and again after arriving on Long Island on debate day, with less to make up for.

## **Economy**

From Page 1

builder sentiment rose to a reading of 41 this month, the highest level since June 2006. The index is still below 50, which indicates negative sentiment about the market. But it has steadily climbed over the past year from a reading of 17, further evidence of a slow but steady housing recovery.

— The Federal Reserve said that output at factories, mines and utilities rose 0.4 percent in September after a sharp decline in August. Factory output, the most important component of industrial production, edged up only 0.2 percent last month. The report also noted that factory out fell in the July-September quarter. That marked the first

quarterly decline since the spring of 2009, when the country was still in recession.

The report on low inflation contributed to a second straight day of strong gains on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 127 points to close at 13,551, its biggest gain since Sept. 13. Broader indexes also

Modest inflation leaves consumers with more money to spend. Consumer spending drives roughly 70 percent of economic activity.

The small increase in prices prompted the government to raise Social Security benefits 1.7 percent next year for 56 million recipients. The government increases benefits each year if prices rise. The boost was one of the smallest since automatic adjustments began in 1975.

Still, elderly Americans and other recipients will have a little more buying power next year. So-

Boulevard south of Highway 52.

highway and at each point of

tion Commission has chosen to

so in person at the hearing or by

way Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501.

Custer, and near Lennox.

cial Security payments for retired workers average \$1,237 a month, or about \$14,800 a year. The increase is equal to roughly \$21 more a month.

Consumers may also be inclined to step up spending if their home values keep rising.

The homebuilder survey showed that sales and builders' outlook over the next six months remained unchanged from September's improved levels. And a measure of buyer traffic rose to its highest level since April 2006.

Americans are buying homes again, pushing up sales and prices after a six-year slump. The recovery has been modest and housing has a long way back to full health. But the steady increases suggest housing is no longer weighing on growth.

The same can't be said for manufacturing, which has slumped since spring.

Europe's debt crisis and slower growth in China and other

emerging markets have hurt demand for American exports. Many companies have also held back on purchases of equipment and machinery. They are waiting to see if Congress can reach a deal before the end of the year to avert sharp tax increases and spending cuts.

The September growth in factory output was an encouraging sign that manufacturing may be starting to rebound. A separate survey from the Institute for Supply Management also showed manufacturing activity expanded for the first time since May, buoyed by new orders and hiring.

A more confident consumer could help revitalize sluggish factory growth.

Consumer sentiment rose to a five-year high in October, according to a survey by the University of Michigan. And Americans stepping up their spending at retail businesses in September for the

second straight month, buying more cars and iPhones.

Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays, said the increase in consumer spending should translate into more factory orders and stronger production in the coming months.

Still, most economists said the weak overseas growth should drag on U.S. manufacturing for some time.

"There is still little evidence to suggest that a sustained upturn in the manufacturing sector is just around the corner," Erik Johnson, U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, said in a note to

AP Economics Writer Martin Crutsinger contributed to this report. AP Real Estate Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

"In this case, I think it's probably a few users who are ruining it for the rest that aren't a problem," he added. "We just don't have any other good way to control it except

to close it to that type of usage. According to the SDDOT, off-road vehicles have damaged vegetation and caused ditch erosion in the aforementioned stretches. The proosed closures were initiated by a local request and have the concurrence of the Department of Transportation.

Ditch closures do not apply to snowmobiles, off-road vehicles used in normal agricultural operations and service vehicles in the line of duty for utility companies.

State law gives the Transportation Commission or a board of county commissioners the authority to prohibit the operation of off-road vehicles in a highway ditch along any section of highway under its

The Yankton County Commission is currently working toward banning off-road vehicles along Deer

# **County**

From Page 1

more newspapers;

 agreed to look into the need for a new six-foot by 40-foot culvert several miles northwest of the

• approved an emergency services billing schedule that will be used as a guideline when county equipment is used to respond to such incidents as a motor vehicle accident or hazardous material spill; and

• ordered that a trailer placed without a permit along Chris Road near the James River must be removed by Oct. 31 or legal actions will be taken against the property





