



Cooler And Breezy At Times

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HARRY E. WALKER/MCT
President Barack Obama speaks to the delegation at the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Times Warner Cable Arena Thursday, September 6, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Obama:

Recovery Path Hard, Challenge 'Can Be Met'

BY DAVID ESPO AND ROBERT FURLOW
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — His re-election in doubt, President Barack Obama conceded only halting progress Thursday night toward fixing the nation's stubborn economic woes, but vowed in a Democratic National Convention finale, "Our problems can be solved, our challenges can be met."

"Yes, our path is harder — but it leads to a better place," he declared in a prime-time speech to convention delegates and the nation that blended resolve about the challenges ahead with stinging criticism of Republican rival Mitt Romney's proposals to repair the economy.

He acknowledged "my own failings" as he asked for a second term, four years after taking office as the nation's first black president.

"Four more years," delegates chanted over and over as the 51-year-old Obama stepped to the podium, noticeably grayer than four years ago when he was a history-making candidate for the White House.

The president's speech was the final act of a pair of highly scripted national political conventions in as many weeks, and the opening salvo of a two-month drive toward Election Day that pits Obama against Republican rival Romney. The contest is ever tighter for the White House in a dreary season of economic struggle for millions.

Vice President Joe Biden preceded Obama at the convention podium and proclaimed, "America has turned the corner" after experiencing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Obama didn't go that far in his own remarks, but he said firmly, "We are not going back, we are moving forward, America."

With unemployment at 8.3 percent, the president said the task of recovering from the economic disaster of 2008 is exceeded in American history only by the challenge Franklin Delano Roosevelt faced when he took office in 1933.

"It will require common effort, shared responsibility and the kind of bold persistent experimentation" that FDR employed, Obama said.

In an appeal to independent voters who might be considering a vote for Romney, he added that those who carry on Roosevelt's legacy "should remember that not every problem can be remedied with another government program or dictate from Washington."

He said, "The truth is, it will take more than a

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An Exceptional Situation

SE South Dakota, NE Nebraska Placed In Most Extreme Drought Category

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Just when area residents thought the drought couldn't get any worse, it has.

Deteriorating conditions during the past week led to the Exceptional Drought (D4) designation — the most extreme category — for southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska. The U.S. Drought Monitor announced Thursday the region has become one of the hardest-hit areas of the nation.

In South Dakota, this category includes Bon

Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union counties and parts of Lincoln, Turner, Hutchinson and Charles Mix counties. The category has also been designated for northeast Nebraska, including Knox and Cedar counties.

The drought has now reached historic proportions, according to Laura Edwards, an Extension climate field specialist at South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings.

"This is a significant change in the depiction of drought on the U.S. Drought Monitor," she said. "D4, or Exceptional Drought, is reflecting drought conditions that typically occur only once every 50 years or so."

Changes in drought conditions statewide led to large-scale degradations, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. In addition to the new Exceptional Drought area, regions of three other categories expanded as well.

"The area of Extreme Drought also grew by nearly 20 percent this week," Edwards said. "Over the last three weeks, the southern half of the state has been steadily accumulating rainfall deficits and more impacts are being reported."

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A SPECIAL ADDITION



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dr. David Abbott (holding microphone) speaks to the crowd Thursday afternoon during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the approximately 26,100 square-foot Medical Plaza on the Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital campus.

Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital Celebrates 10th Year, Expansion

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital of Yankton celebrated its 10th anniversary Thursday by holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony for an approximately 26,100 square-foot addition.

The new \$4.9 million Medical Plaza, which is a separate building located near the Specialty Hospital, is utilized by Lewis & Clark Family Medicine; Lewis & Clark Physical Therapy; Ear, Nose and Throat Associates, PC; Yankton Surgical Associates, PC; Shindler Foot Clinic; Lewis & Clark Urology, Ltd; and the Lewis & Clark full-service laboratory.

"It's a great time in the history of the hospital," said Dr. David J. Abbott, who moved his practice to the facility approximately a month ago. "It's the 10-year anniversary of the hospital itself, and we're all very proud of what we've accomplished together here. As a natural progression for the hospital, we decided several years ago that it would be natural for us to move our practices out here."

Founded in 2002 by area physicians, the mission of Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital is to provide quality surgical care in a comfortable and family-oriented environment.

Michelle J. Weidner-Jordan, the administrator of the hospital, said the new facility gives patients access to more efficient medical treatment by bringing multiple services together. It is approximately 85 percent filled already.

"For consumers, it makes for a one-stop shop," she stated. "We have full-service imaging in the hospital and a full-service lab in the office building. We couldn't be happier to add the services we have to the community."

Weidner-Jordan said the hospital started with approximately 25 employees and now has about 70, of which she estimates three-quarters are full-time. The expansion itself led to 12 new employees, she stated.

"It's a great place to work and provides employment for a lot of people,"

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Yankton Co. To Hold Disaster Drill On Sat.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Yankton County first responders are glad to be back to doing disaster drills.

Last year, Yankton County was given a pass by state officials on holding its annual Full-Scale Disaster Exercise because first responders were dealing with a real disaster scenario: the Missouri River flood.

On Saturday morning at approximately 7 a.m., the Yankton County Emergency Management disaster planning team will hold its first drill since 2010. It is expected to last about four hours.

"I've never participated in this before, so I have a mixture of terror and excitement about it," said Cherie Hoffman, the lead planner for the exercise.

During her day job, Hoffman works in technical support at the First National Service Center in Yankton. However, as the mayor of Utica, she participated in Yankton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings and got involved with the planning for the drill.

"It's been quite a learning curve for me, but my team is full of firefighters, an ambulance department employee, a hospital official and police officers, so they have taught me a lot," Hoffman said.

Planning for the exercise began in March, and the organizers want to make the scenario as realistic as possible.

However, at this point little can be divulged about the exercise except when it will occur. Hoffman said the goal is for the county's emergency responders to deal with the scenario as it unfolds without any advance knowledge.

Law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, emergency room officials and other first responders from within Yankton County will be involved. Boy Scouts have also volunteered to take part in the scenario as victims.

"We want this as close to real life as we can get it," Hoffman said.

"We're looking at testing incident command to make sure it runs the way it should," she added.

Communication and public safety are two other criteria that will be judged.

"We will have a debriefing that day at the fire station (along 23rd Street) to run over what we saw," Hoffman stated.

In the 2010 disaster exercise scenario, a semi tractor collided with a school bus full of kids on a rural Yankton County in-

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INSIDE TODAY



< YCTC Has A Case Of The 'Bedbugs'

RIVER CITY

> Richard Gere Lays Out His Life's Priorities

USA WEEKEND



NBC's Brokaw Leaves N.C. Hospital

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News special correspondent Tom Brokaw has been discharged from a Charlotte, N.C., hospital and pronounced "in great health" after feeling light-headed during a TV appearance Thursday morning.

"After medical evaluation and a round of tests, Tom was pronounced in great health and has been discharged," NBC News President Steve Capus said in a statement released Thursday afternoon.

Capus expressed gratitude to the Carolinas Medical Center for Brokaw's excellent care.

Hours earlier, the network had re-

ported that Brokaw felt "light-headed" on the set of the news-talk program "Morning Joe," which originated this week from Charlotte, where the Democratic National Convention is taking place.

"Out of an abundance of caution," the network said, Brokaw was taken to the hospital for examination.

At about 10 a.m., Brokaw offered his own diagnosis with this Twitter post: "All is well Early AM I mistakenly took a half dose of Ambien and made less sense than usual. Made a better come-back than Giants..." Ambien is a brand name for a sleep-inducer.