



Partly Cloudy

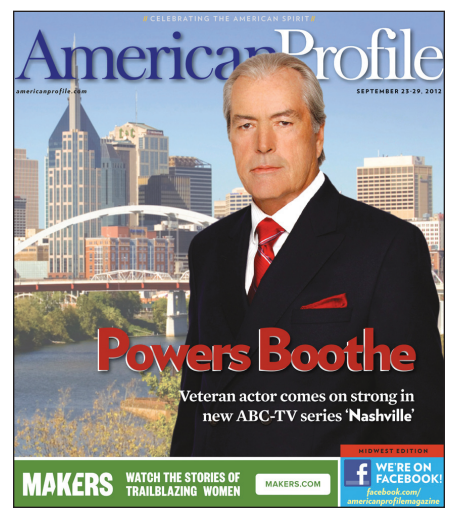
9 a.m.: 54 | 3 p.m.: 72 | DETAILS: PAGE 2

WEDNESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 26, 2012



Yankton Sweeps Brookings In Volleyball • 8

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Inside Today

VOLUME 138 NUMBER 129

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 12 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢ 8 38894 00002 4

Upward Bound

University Of South Dakota Reports Record Enrollment After Healthy Increase

BY ANDREW ATWAL
andrew.atwal@yankton.net

Total enrollment at the University of South Dakota soared to an all-time high this fall, exceeding more than 10,200 students, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced at a meeting on Tuesday.

start of the fall semester is at 10,284, which is an increase of more than 3 percent from 2011.

This year's freshman class is the largest ever at USD. The 1,251 students in the class is an 11 percent increase from 2011's class.

Since 2007, USD's enrollment has grown from 9,243 students to 10,284

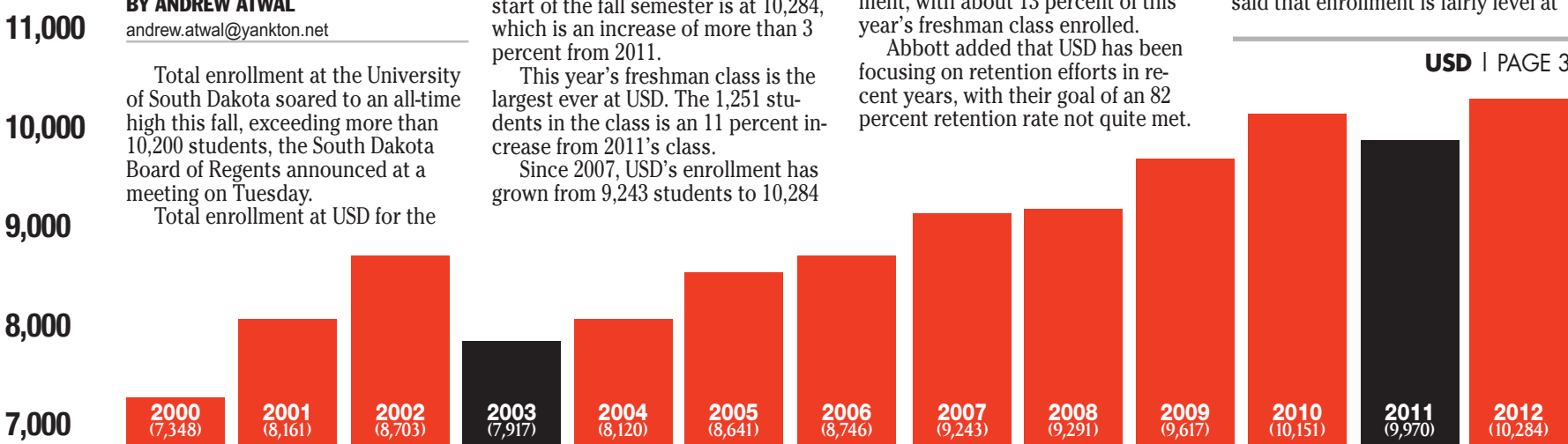
this year — an increase of more than 11 percent.

USD President Jim Abbott said that the honors college program at USD is also seeing a record enrollment, with about 13 percent of this year's freshman class enrolled.

Abbott added that USD has been focusing on retention efforts in recent years, with their goal of an 82 percent retention rate not quite met.

"Once we admit a student we want to make sure they stay for four years and graduate," he said.

Jack Warner, executive director and CEO of the Board of Regents, said that enrollment is fairly level at



This bar graph shows the rate of student enrollment at the University of South Dakota since 2000. The black bars show years in which enrollment declined from the previous year.



Yankton Leads In Sales Tax Revenue Increase

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

According to the latest data, the City of Yankton leads South Dakota's largest cities in the increase in sales tax revenue over 2011.

Taxable sales and sales tax receipts due to Yankton through August was up a cumulative 10.3 percent compared to the first eight months of 2011.

Total taxes due were \$5.7 million so far this year, which is approximately \$535,000 more than last year.

For August alone, the figure was 10.5 percent higher compared to the previous year. Compared to the other 10 largest cities, that number trailed only Mitchell, which had an 11.8 percent increase in August.

"We had another good bump up again," Interim City Manager Al Viereck told the City Commission this week. "Through the eight months to date, we have the number one increase among first-class cities. That's a very good trend that we see continuing."

From January through July, sales tax revenue for Yankton was up 10.8 percent, 6.8 percent, 4.3 percent, 17.7 percent, 13.3 percent, 14.3 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively.

In 2011, City of Yankton sales tax revenue was up more than 8 percent compared to 2010.

Yankton has also seen a slight decrease in unemployment compared to a year ago.

In July, which is the last month for which statistics are available, the unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. That compares to 4.8 percent in July 2011. However, it should be noted that the size of the labor force shrunk from 7,825 in 2011 to 7,740 in 2012.

Accumulated sales tax figures through August for other South



Viereck

Springfield Continues Bid To Fund Vets Memorial

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Veterans Memorial Committee is making another push to raise the money needed to break ground on the project.

"We are still in the fundraising mode. We won't be putting the first shovel in the ground until we're halfway done with our fundraising," said committee treasurer Don Irish.

"We are about halfway toward that (50 percent) goal. We estimate the cost will be about \$160,000, and we have got about \$45,000 in the bank so far. We would like to hit \$80,000 before breaking ground."

Besides soliciting donations, the committee has conducted fundraisers, such as serving lunch at golf tournaments, Irish said. Upcoming fundraisers include taking part in the Oct. 13 fall bazaar and the Veteran's Day pancake breakfast, both in the Springfield Community Center.

"These fundraisers are the last ones planned for this year," he said. "Then, in early spring, we plan to do some raffles and continue serving meals."

While the road ahead may seem long, committee secretary Carol Hagen actually sees it as major progress.

"We are really encouraged," she said. "When you first start something like this, everybody has the impression that all of the money will be raised in one year. Realistically, the timeline for what we are pursuing now amounts to a four-year project. We started this Memorial Day, May 2011, and so to have 25 percent raised at this point, we feel we are right on target."



This sign shows visitors the site of the proposed Springfield Veterans Memorial at Terrace Park, with its cannon in the background. The organizing committee has raised about one-fourth of the estimated \$160,000 cost for the project, which will overlook the Missouri River and feature the names of Springfield area veterans.

Corps Off The Hook For Katrina Flooding

BY CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A surprise ruling by a federal appeals court that lets the Army Corps of Engineers off the hook for paying compensation for Hurricane Katrina's catastrophic flooding isn't going over well on the streets of New Orleans.

People in southern Louisiana have long taken for granted that the flooding in the wake of the 2005 storm was a manmade disaster — one caused specifically by the corps — and they have wanted the agency to pay up for lost homes and property.

But on Monday, a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit

Court of Appeals reversed its earlier opinion and shot down the only argument that had succeeded so far in holding the corps accountable. The ruling also could make it extremely difficult to force the government to pay damages for future mishaps.

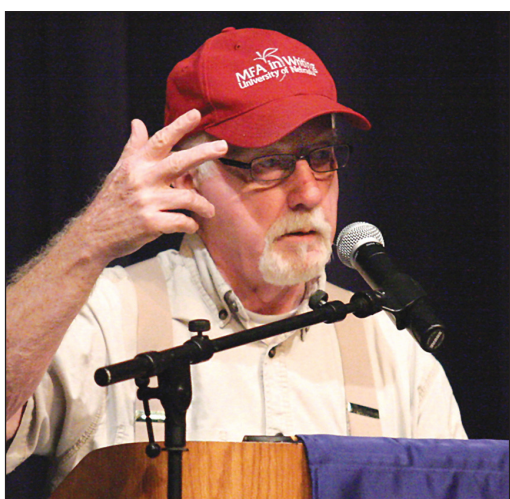
In March, the appellate court panel upheld a 2009 ruling by U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval that had found the corps liable for the flooding of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward neighborhood and St. Bernard Parish because the agency failed to properly maintain a shipping channel. That channel, dug in the 1960s, funneled Katrina's storm surge into the city. Thousands of homes

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

CORPS | PAGE 11

TOUR TIME

Mount Marty College's Great Plains Writers' Tour kicked off a new season Tuesday night when William Trowbridge, poet laureate of Missouri, was the featured presenter at Marian Auditorium. Trowbridge's work has been published in numerous publications and in five full collections, most recently the book "Ship of Fool." MMC's next Writers' Tour event is set for Nov. 13. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Consumer Confidence Could Help Obama

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — Americans are growing more confident in the economy, an encouraging sign for President Barack Obama's prospects on the most pivotal issue in the presidential race.

A new survey of consumer confidence rose to a seven-month high Tuesday on expectations that hiring will soon pick up. And a separate report showed home values rising steadily, signaling sustained improvement in housing.

"This is like an opinion poll on the economy without the political parties attached," said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics, a consulting firm. The confidence survey "says people are feeling better. If so, they are less likely to vote for change."

The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence shot up in September to the highest level since February. The jump surprised many economists because the most recent hiring and retail sales figures have been sluggish.

The increased confidence could help explain recent polls that show Obama

with a widening lead over Mitt Romney in some battleground states.

The consumer confidence index is closely watched because consumer spending drives nearly 70 percent of economic activity. The index jumped from 61.3 for August to 70.3 for September. It remains well below 90, the level that is thought to signify a healthy economy.

Among those feeling more optimistic about the economy is Darlene Johnson of Silver Spring, Md., who works for the

CONFIDENCE | PAGE 11



REGION 2-3 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | MIDWEST 7 | SPORTS 8-9 | CLASSIFIEDS 10-11 | WORLD 12

TOMORROW: Thune Speaks To Local Students

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET