



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



MMC Lancers Fall To #4 Morningside 54-65 ■ 8

VOLUME 138
NUMBER 247

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢
8 38894 00002 4



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Mount Marty College head softball coach Albert Fernandez shares a laugh during a practice session.

MMC Coach's Cancer Battle Becomes A Team Effort

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

The clock was nearly striking midnight, but Albert Fernandez remained intense while coaching his Mount Marty College softball team through practice.

"Good job, ladies!" he yelled after one successful drill at Cimpl Arena.

Fernandez's schedule can turn grueling. He works in the MMC admissions office during the day, and the softball team holds late-night practices when the gym becomes available.

But for Fernandez, it's great to be home.

Last fall, the 39-year-old man was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. After undergoing neurosurgery in Sioux Falls, he received radiation treatment through the renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

His children — 13-year-old A.J. and 10-year-old Mya — joined him in Texas for Christmas, and he returned home last month.

"It's good to get back to Yankton," he said. "We are back somewhat to near normalcy. We are getting back in the groove."

Fernandez has begun a chemotherapy regimen of two pills daily to target the ALK cancer mutations. He also meets monthly with a Yankton oncologist.

Fernandez has received an outpouring of support from area residents.

"That goes back to why I came back to live in Yankton (after a time in Arizona)," he said. "It's the community. They step up in time of need."

The area support includes a raffle sponsored by the MMC athletic department. The effort began with a large-screen television but has grown to include a number of prizes.

Tickets can be purchased at Saturday's home basketball games, the MMC bookstore, Hy-Vee in Yankton and radio station KYNT-AM.

FERNANDEZ | PAGE 13

A S.D. Medicaid Expansion?

Lawmakers Explore Pros, Cons Of Adding Thousands To Program

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota lawmakers, including leaders from both parties, announced Wednesday they are continuing to seek more information about the possible expansion of Medicaid.

A group of 19 lawmakers said they have formed a committee to learn more about the advantages and

drawbacks of expanding Medicaid. The committee, which includes the Republican and Democratic leaders of both legislative chambers, requested that a special hearing be held by a joint meeting of the House and Senate committees on Health and Human Services.

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard wants the state to delay a decision on whether to add thousands of



Hunhoff

people to the state-federal program that pays medical bills for low-income people. He has said he is uncertain the federal government can keep its promise to pick up most of the cost of the expansion, which is part of the national health care overhaul.

House Democratic Leader Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton said the group's goal is to make sure lawmakers hold a thorough discussion on the Medicaid issue. Lawmakers need to explore whether it makes sense to take steps now to expand Medicaid or wait a year, he said.

"It will be expanded at some point. The only real

MEDICAID | PAGE 2

City Of Yankton

Vehicle Accidents Increased In 2012

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

When looking back on 2012, Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen said he would have liked to see more speed enforcement efforts.

However, due to a shortage of staff because of injuries and other issues, that was not possible.

Paulsen believes that fact played a role in why vehicle accidents were up slightly last year.



Paulsen

Reportable accidents, which are sent to state authorities based on the value of the damage involved, increased from 177 in 2011 to 183 in 2012. Non-reportable accidents went up to 145, compared to 133 the previous year.

Of those accidents, 54 resulted in injuries during 2012, compared to 41 in 2011. A total of 60 people were injured in those accidents, which is up from 47 during 2011. However, no fatalities were reported.

In addition, there were five accidents last year involving pedestrians, compared to one in 2011.

Ten of the accidents involved alcohol, while nine accidents involved alcohol in 2011.

"There is a provable correlation between speed and accidents," Paulsen said. "I think we need to somehow step up our speed enforcement, which will reduce our accidents and the seriousness of them."

Paulsen said it may be difficult to pick up speed enforcement efforts in the near future due to continued staffing issues.

Reports of domestic violence were down slightly in 2012 to 55, compared to 60 in 2011. Sexual contact/sex offenses were up from zero in 2011 to two in 2012.

Paulsen said he hopes the numbers are a reflection of the Yankton Sexual Assault Response Team, which involves a variety of local agencies, having the desired effect on such crimes. It was created a couple years ago.

"We expected the sexual assault and domestic violence reports to go up because of our response team and how it is working to increase awareness of these issues," Paulsen stated. "If people know there are

POLICE | PAGE 13

LENTEN ASHES



PHOTO: KRISTI TACKE/MMC

Mount Marty College senior Daniel Filsinger, marks an ash cross on the forehead of an Ash Wednesday worshiper in Yankton. The All Campus Mass, to commemorate the beginning of Lent, was held in the Bishop Marty Chapel. More than 350 people attended the mass, including staff, faculty, students, members of the monastery and the public. The MMC Chamber Choir provided special music.

Calls To Yankton Co. Sheriff's Office Up In 2012

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The Yankton County Sheriff's Office experienced an increase in calls for service during 2012.

It had 2,021 calls last year, an increase of 276 compared to 2011.

Besides the increase in calls, Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said 2012

was a typical year for him.

"There were no big surprises," he said. "It was a good year. Yankton County is still a very safe place to live."

In the sheriff's jurisdiction, there was/were:

- 112 thefts in 2012, compared to 97 in 2011;
- 28 burglaries in 2012, compared to 26 in 2011;

- one robbery in 2012, compared to none in 2011;
- 31 assaults in 2012, compared to 42 in 2011;
- no forcible rapes either year;
- no murders either year;
- no fatal accidents in 2012,

SHERIFF | PAGE 13

Ex-WNBA Star Featured At Winter Festival

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Don't be afraid of success.

That was the message former Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star Olympia Scott related to her players when she took over the women's basketball program at small William Smith College in New York eight years ago.

"I think they were afraid that I'd expect too much; that they couldn't win," Scott said this week by phone from Sioux Falls. "I let them know that whatever it is I'm teaching, they can do it with hard work. It was possible."

The team, with a young roster of mostly freshmen, not only won 20 games that season, 2004-05, but advanced all the way to the NCAA Division III Sweet Sixteen.

Scott, who won WNBA titles with Sacramento (2005) and Phoenix (2007), will share

that message to Yankton audiences as the headliner for the Healthy Yankton Winter Festival and the Summit Activities Center's "Get Up & Play" Weekend.

The Los Angeles native will be making two appearances in Yankton on Friday and will be conducting free youth basketball clinics on Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon at the Summit Center.

Scott, who retired from professional basketball in 2011 after playing in Turkey, will be speaking to Yankton Middle School students on Friday afternoon and will later give a free public presentation — entitled "I Can, I Must, I Will!" — at 7 p.m. at the Mount Marty College Cyber Cafe.

Her message of setting a lofty goal and working toward it is especially important in a small town like Yankton, she said.

"When you are somewhere like that, it's sometimes hard to dream big," said Scott, who

is the president and CEO of an online parenting education company called Super Parenting, LLC.

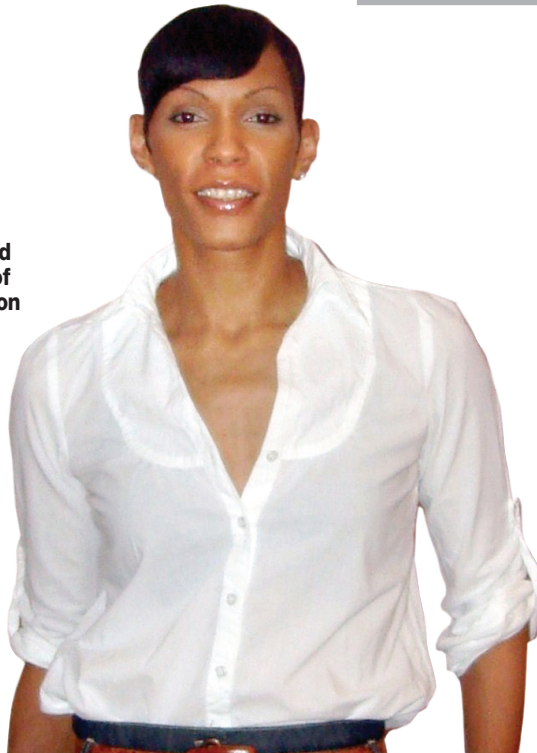
"But that's also part of it; it's OK to dream big. You have to conceive it in order to achieve it."

The four-day weekend, which features events across town and serves to encourage active lifestyles, sought to attract a well-known former athlete like Scott or related professional, according to Healthy Yankton chairperson Angie O'Connor.

"It's good to bring someone like her who has name recognition and can also bring such a positive message," O'Connor said. "The things she talks about, staying active in a busy world, can all be applied to everyday life. People can really relate to that."

SCOTT | PAGE 13

Former WNBA basketball player Olympia Scott will make several appearances in Yankton Friday and Saturday as part of the Healthy Yankton Winter Festival. (Courtesy photo)





Put Your Heart Health in Our Hands.
www.AveraSacredHeart.org (605) 668-8000



Avera
Sacred Heart Hospital