



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 137
NUMBER 230

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

75¢



CHRISTOPHER GARDNER/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
Former Penn State head coach Joe Paterno, seen in this 2008 file photo, died Sunday. He was 85.

Passing Of A Legend

Amid Scandal,
Revered Penn State
Football Coach Dies

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Happy Valley was perfect for Joe Paterno, a place where “JoePa” knew best, where he not only won more football games than any other major college coach, but won them the right way: with integrity and sportsmanship. A place where character came first, championships second.

Behind it all, however, was an ugly secret that ran counter to everything the revered coach stood for.

Paterno, a sainted figure at Penn State for almost half a century but scarred forever by the child sex abuse scandal that led to his stunning dismissal, died Sunday at age 85.

His death came just 65 days after his son Scott said his father had been diagnosed with a treatable form of lung cancer. The cancer was found during a follow-up visit for a bronchial illness. A few weeks later, Paterno broke his pelvis after a fall but did not need surgery.

Mount Nittany Medical Center said in a statement that Paterno died at 9:25 a.m. of “metastatic small cell carcinoma of the lung.” Metastatic indicates an illness that has spread from one part of the body to an unrelated area.

The hospital says Paterno was surrounded by family members, who have requested privacy.

Paterno had been in the hospital since Jan. 13 for observation after what his family called minor complications from his cancer treatments. Not long before that, he conducted his only interview since losing his job, with The Washington Post. Paterno was described as frail then, speaking mostly in a whisper and wearing a wig. The second half of the two-day interview was conducted at his bedside.

His family released a statement Sunday morning to announce his death: “His loss leaves a void in our lives that will never be filled.”

“He died as he lived,” the statement said. “He fought hard until the end, stayed positive, thought only of others and constantly reminded everyone of how blessed his life had been. His ambitions were far reaching, but he never believed he had to leave this Happy Valley to achieve them. He was a man devoted to his family, his university, his players and his community.”

Paterno’s death just under three months following his last victory called to mind another coaching great, Alabama’s Paul “Bear” Bryant, who died less than a month after retiring.

LEGEND | PAGE 14



ABBY DREY/CENTRE DAILY TIMES
Penn State students and fans leave candles around the Joe Paterno statue at Penn State in State College, Pa., Saturday. Paterno died on Sunday.

Nebraska GOP Ads Target Kerrey Early

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — In the last two weeks, Nebraska’s airwaves have been crowded with radio and television ads by conservative groups attacking Bob Kerrey, who finds himself in a tug-of-war between Democrats desperate for him to run for Nebraska’s open U.S. Senate seat this year and Republicans just as eager for him to stay out.

The former one-term Nebraska governor and two-term U.S. senator is mulling a run to replace U.S. Sen. Ben

Nelson, who announced last month that he would not seek a third term this year. Both Democrats and Republicans have acknowledged that Kerrey is the Democrats’ best hope for retaining the seat.

Democrats say conservative groups have dropped more than \$130,000 in recent weeks on ads accusing Kerrey of everything from supporting taxpayer-funded abortion to backing a more liberal version of health care reform than President Barack Obama’s overhaul that passed — with the help of Nelson — in 2010.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee released a web video this week dubbing Kerrey, who has lived in New York for the past 10 years, “Big Apple Bob,” and American Crossroads, the conservative outfit tied to former George W. Bush political adviser Karl Rove, called Kerrey a “carpetbagger.” That group ran a radio ad criticizing Kerrey for voting for the Clinton administration’s 1993 tax increase and heading the “liberal haven” New School University in New York for a decade.

KERREY | PAGE 5

INSIDE TODAY



YHS Woksape
Page 8

FACING THEIR CONSTITUENTS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The first District 18 legislative cracker barrel of the 2012 session was held Saturday at the Technical Education Center in Yankton. From left: Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D), Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R) and Rep. Nick Moser (R) answered numerous questions from the large crowd on hand concerning education funding and the proposed merit-pay plan put forth by Gov. Daugaard in his recent State of the State address.

Education Funding Takes Center Stage

Dist. 18 Legislators Face Tough Questions On Merit Pay

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@yankton.net

The 2012 South Dakota Legislative session is very young, yet one thing became clear at the first District 18 cracker barrel of the season: Yankton residents are concerned with education funding.

“I think every question I have received so far has pertained to education,” said Kevin Watt, a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce who facilitated the event Saturday at the Regional Technical Education Center.

Throughout the more than hour-long session, question after question ranging from how the Legislature will fund education, to the cost of educating a child, to Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s proposed merit-based reward system was raised.

“It is good that we are focusing on education,” said Rep. Bernie Hunhoff. “You can see what happens when the state fails in its obligations. It divides the community on property taxes. I believe property taxes are too high, especially in our tax system where we don’t give breaks for low-income people. Property taxes are a legitimate concern, and that is why the state has

to do a better job of meeting its obligations. It says right in our constitution that the state has an obligation to educate our students, and we need to do a better job at that.”

Earlier this month, Daugaard proposed a merit-based reward system for teachers where the top 20 percent of teachers at each district would receive a \$5,000 per year bonus. In addition, he suggested that every science and math teacher in the state receive a \$3,500 per year bonus for teaching in a high need area.

“It is a case of, ‘Show me the money,’” said Sen. Jean Hunhoff. “I want to see what is out there to show

me what are the outcomes of what we are doing. We haven’t heard the details of the plan yet. I am looking more for the devil in the details and figuring out how we determine achievement. I think that is what everyone is looking at here.”

Rep. Nick Moser said he is still processing the information to determine if it is a plan he can support.

“There is a lot of research out there, and I have spent a lot of time going through it and I know I have many, many hours ahead,” he said. “At the end of the day, it is going to be very simple. Either I am going to believe that this will improve the

FUNDING | PAGE 2

Calvary Kids Preschool Enjoying New Smart Board

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@yankton.net

For the students of Calvary Baptist preschool and junior kindergarten, a new interactive tool reflects not only on their efforts in the classroom but also their hearts.

This fall, the Calvary Kids Preschool raised funds for a new Smart Board to be used in the classroom. Laurie Hansen, the teacher at Calvary Kid’s, said the results were overwhelming.

“The Mexican fundraiser (in September) was fantastic,” Hansen said. “We had originally planned to serve around 300 and we ended up serving more than 400 that night. The kids all dressed up in their (Mexican outfits) and the parents all worked so hard to help prepare the meal. Every time I looked, the line was way out the door. We raised about \$3,800. So we got enough to purchase the Smart Board and all the



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Teacher Laurie Hansen assists one of her Calvary Kids Preschool students at a newly installed Smart Board.

cords that go along with it. It was really great.”

Because the students were involved with the fundraiser directly, they have since taken ownership of the board.

“They are very proud of it,” Hansen said. “It is kind of like, who is going to get to touch it first? We have used it a lot.”

Because the board is interactive with both touch and

BOARD | PAGE 7

Herseth Sandlin Says She Won’t Run In 2012

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Former U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin announced Saturday that she won’t seek office in 2012.

The South Dakota Democrat was defeated by Republican Kristi Noem in 2010. Noem got 48 percent of the vote and Herseth Sandlin 46 percent.

Herseth Sandlin wrote on her Facebook account that she would “always give serious consideration” to running for office in the future. But for now, Herseth Sandlin says she has enjoyed being a mom “first and foremost.”

Herseth Sandlin lost her first run for Congress in 2002 but won a special election in June 2004. She was re-elected in November 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Matt Varilek, a former member of U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson’s staff, and Minnehaha County Commissioner Jeff Barth are seeking the Democratic endorsement to run against Noem this year.



Herseth Sandlin