

### Mount Marty To Hold All School Reunion

The Mount Marty College All School Reunion will be held June 29-July 1. During that weekend, the school will be unveiling scrapbooks from each year the four schools have been in session. Alumni from around the region are being personally invited each week to help put these scrapbooks together. Old photos, programs, etc., are needed. Alumni are asked to collect what you can and invite others to do the same. Each Tuesday from 1-8 p.m. through June, school personnel will be creating scrapbooks in the Advancement Office/Roncalli Room 102. Stop by and have a cookie and coffee with those gathered, reminisce and help put the pieces of school history together. Invite others to join as well.

### Interem Rules Com. To Meet Tuesday In Pierre

PIERRE — The Interim Rules Review Committee, chaired by Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R-Yankton), will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 3, in Room 414 of the State Capitol in Pierre and via the Dakota Digital Network at the Department of Transportation office, 1306 W. 31st St., Yankton. The committee will review the rules proposed by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks; Department of Health; Board of Dentistry and Board of Massage Therapy; Department of Revenue; Commission on Gaming; and the Department of Transportation. The agenda is available on the South Dakota Legislature's website at <http://legis.state.sd.us/interim/2012/meetings.aspx>. Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained without charge by contacting the department, board, or commission. In addition to Sen. Hunhoff, committee members are Rep. R. Shawn Tornow, Vice Chair, (R-Sioux Falls); Sens. Angie Buhl (D-Sioux Falls) and Mike Vehle (R-Mitchell); and Representatives Peggy Gibson (D-Huron) and Roger Hunt (R-Brandon). The public is invited to attend.

### Match Day Reveals USD Med. Residencies

VERMILION — Fourth-year medical students at the Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota learned where they will complete their residency training. Match Day ceremonies were recently held across the country, including in Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Yankton. Envelopes were handed to each student with their residency acceptance letters inside. This year's Sanford School of Medicine graduating class has 52 students. They chose 19 different specialties and will train in 24 different states. Eleven students will train in residencies in South Dakota at least for their first year. "The competition for positions in residencies is increasingly difficult with a national total of 31,355 active applicants competing for 24,034 residency positions this year," said Paul Bunker, Ph.D., dean of medical student affairs for the Sanford School of Medicine. "The simultaneous Match Day celebrations in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Yankton were well attended by faculty, staff and families of the students, and there was great cause for celebration as they opened their envelopes to reveal their training sites." For the first two years, medical students are taught on the Vermillion campus. Third- and fourth-year students are trained in Rapid City, Sioux Falls or Yankton.

### Campaign Signs Don't Belong On Nebraska's Right-of-Way

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) is reminding people it is against the law to erect political campaign signs, or any signs, on state highway right-of-way. Various sizes of signs usually appear along roadsides around election time. Maintenance crews of the NDOR will remove signs that are improperly placed within the state highway rights-of-way. These signs will be stored for a brief period of time in State Roads Department maintenance yards across the state, where they can be reclaimed by the owners. This state right-of-way reminder applies to any errant plantings or harvesting operations, parked equipment or salvage items; commercial sales or private business stands, and debris. Those needing further information concerning the boundaries of right-of-way corridors, or seeking permit information should contact their NDOR district office, or their nearest NDOR staffed office.

### Referral

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Owen admitted that the TransCanada project was not the best use of incentives but still defended it. "Keystone is not a total loss to me, but I have to concede that the pipeline was going to go where it was going to go regardless of the incentive," he said. "We gained an awful lot because of that incentive." In the past, the incentive program has helped the ethanol industry, the wind energy industry

and has expanded the state's tax base, according to Owen. "I think we are obligated to show there has been a good return for the refund program that is there," he said. "I think if we could put the refunds in context of the growth in tax base, jobs and making South Dakota's economy grow, that's going to be the first line of defense." Owen said South Dakota has a competitive tax environment except when it comes to the contractors' excise tax coupled with sales and use taxes. "We've used refunds for a long time to kind of soften that blow, because people spending \$500 million pay a tax of \$40-plus million and can spend those dollars in other places," he stated. "I think some kind of incentive that addresses that issue is going to be essential." Should House Bill 1234 be referred to the November ballot, Owen said he does not know if the Chamber will take a position. When Daugaard's education bill made its way through the Legislature, Owen said the organization testified in favor of the merit and bonus pay components of it. "I think the governor deserves credit for trying to bring some reform to education that matches it up with things that succeed in the economy elsewhere," he stated.

Owen said he is surprised that the South Dakota Education Association is determined to refer the law. "Given the changes in the bill (between the time it was introduced and passed), the late implementation date and the fact that schools are trying to be part of a partnership to increase taxes, I was surprised they wanted to divide their focus and effort by putting this on the ballot. But they are very, very upset at these reforms." As far as the aforementioned Initiated Measure 15, which would raise the state sales tax by 1 percent to fund schools and Medicaid, Owen said the Chamber is skeptical. "We are concerned about the part of the law that would sequester 20 percent of the general fund to be used for schools on top of growth that would come given the law that says we increase the state aid formula for schools by inflation or 3 percent, whichever is less," he stated. "Sequestering that much of the general fund long term, I think, is going to cause problems. We would probably caution people that, if not the year after this passes, at some point you're going to have to look at loosening some of those restrictions. It's too much money to be set aside."

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