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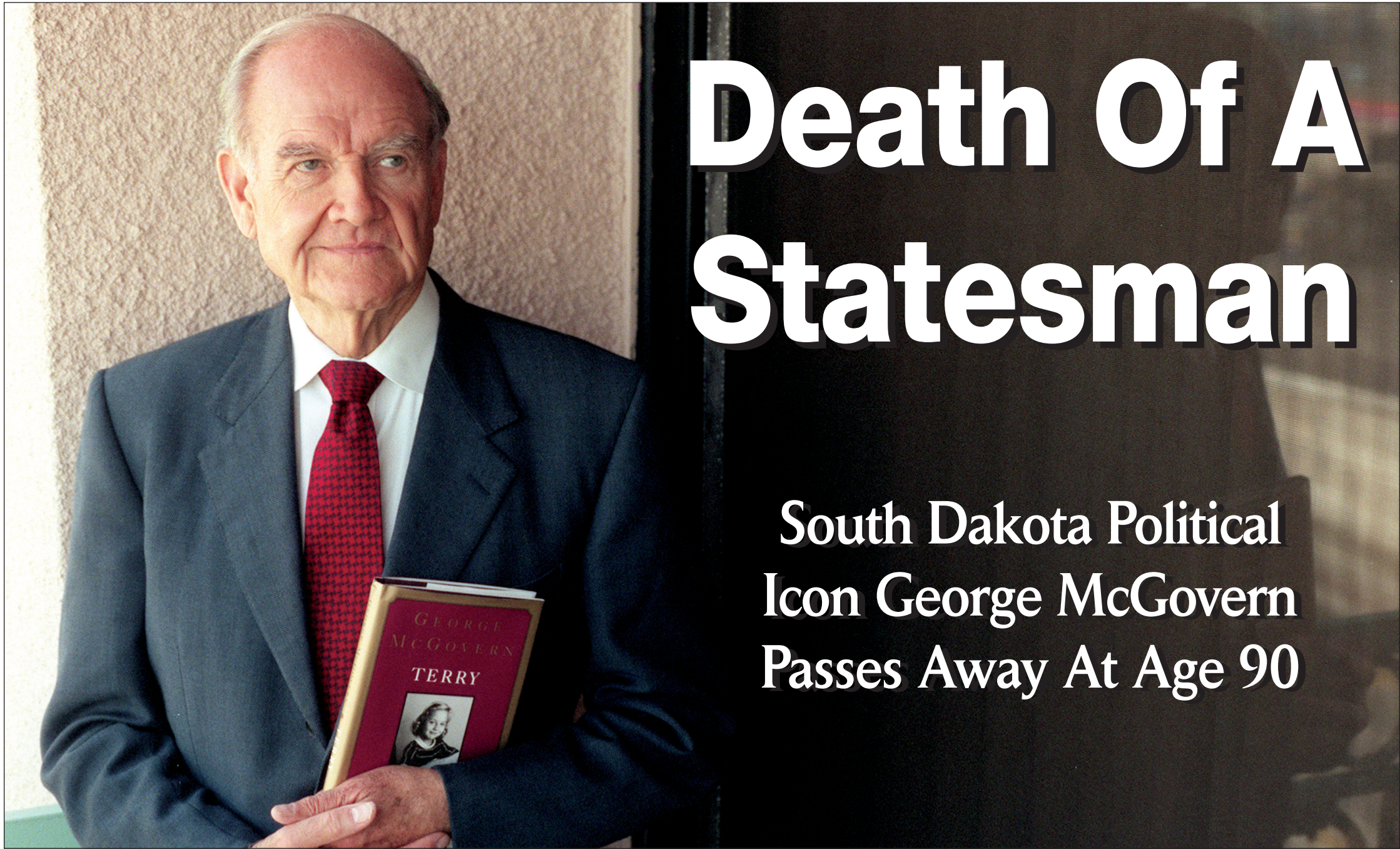
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YANKTON DAILY

PRESS & DAKOTAN



Area Runners Shine At State Cross Country Meet • 8



CLARENCE WILLIAMS/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

George McGovern, pictured in this 1996 file photo, died Sunday. He was 90. McGovern campaigned for the White House against President Richard M. Nixon and the Vietnam War in 1972 but lost in a landslide.

BY KRISTI EATON AND WALTER R. MEARS
Associated Press

George McGovern once joked that he had wanted to run for president in the worst way — and that he had done so.

It was a campaign in 1972 dishonored by Watergate, a scandal that fully unfurled too late to knock Republican President Richard M. Nixon from his place as a commanding favorite for re-election. The South Dakota senator tried to make an issue out of the bungled attempt to wiretap the offices of the Democratic National Committee, calling Nixon the most corrupt president in history.

But the Democrat could not escape the embarrassing missteps of his own campaign. The most torturous was the selection of Missouri Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton as the vice presidential nominee and, 18 days later, following the disclosure that Eagleton had undergone electroshock therapy for depression, the decision to drop him from the ticket despite having pledged to back him “1,000 percent.”

It was at once the most memorable and the most damaging line of his campaign, and called “possibly the most single damaging faux pas ever made by a presidential candidate” by the late political writer Theodore H. White.

After a hard day’s campaigning — Nixon did virtually none — McGovern would complain to those around him that nobody was paying attention. With R. Sargent Shriver as his running mate, he went on to carry only Massachusetts and the District of Columbia, winning just 38 percent of the popular vote in one of the biggest landslides losses in American presidential history.

“Tom and I ran into a little snag back in 1972 that in the light of my much advanced wisdom today, I think was vastly exaggerated,” McGovern said at an event with Eagleton in 2005. Noting that Nixon and his running mate, Spiro Agnew, would both ultimately resign, he joked, “If we had run in ‘74 instead of ‘72, it would have been a piece of cake.”

A proud liberal who had argued fervently against the Vietnam War as a Democratic senator from South Dakota and three-time candidate for president, McGovern died at 5:15 a.m.



P&D FILE PHOTO: RANDY DOCKENDORF
Former Sen. George McGovern is shown speaking at a Democratic rally held at the Riverfront Event Center in Yankton in 2004. The Avon native died this past weekend at age 90. He was a longtime lawmaker, serving in both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, and was the Democratic nominee for president in 1972, when he lost to Richard Nixon. McGovern subsequently became a champion of programs to combat hunger both at home and around the world.

Rally: Healthcare Law Violates Religious Freedom

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With songs, speeches and prepared signs, area residents protested Saturday what they say is an attack on religious freedom by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Stand Up For Religious Freedom Rally at the intersection of Fourth Street and Broadway Avenue in Yankton was one of more than 100 such events held across the nation Saturday.

At issue is the ACA’s requirement that all employers except churches and other houses of worship provide health insurance that covers the costs of contraceptives and sterilization. Included are Christian hospitals and charities, as well as Catholic universities and other entities owned by religious organizations.

Despite the extensive focus Catholic bishops have given to the subject, rally organizer Jan Everson said it should not be mistaken as just a Catholic issue.

“It’s an American issue,” she stated. “If you believe in what the mandate is

McGovern’s Death Uniting People In Praise Of His Life

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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George McGovern had the ability to unite people of different ideologies during his life. Now, the death of the former Democratic South Dakota senator and presidential candidate is uniting people in praise of his lifetime of achievements.

Friends, leaders and political observers across South Dakota and the nation issued sympathetic statements Sunday in reaction to the news of the 90-year-old Avon native’s death in Sioux Falls.

“Despite our political differences, I was always proud to call Sen. McGovern my friend, and he will be deeply missed by those he met and those who were fortunate enough to experience his goodwill through the world,” Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) said.

Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) stated that

McGovern’s leadership inspired many, including himself.

“George was a compassionate man with a truly deep devotion to public service,” he said. “Whether it was serving as a bomber pilot in World War II, as an international leader in fighting hunger, as a talented teacher or as senator, he served with uncompromising values and commitment.”

McGovern was a “South Dakota institution,” according to Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.).

“He has inspired countless Americans to get involved in the political process and will be remembered for his passionate commitment to South Dakota and to the hungry of the world,” she said.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard asked state



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D
A participant in the Stand Up For Religious Freedom Rally held at Fourth Street and Broadway Avenue in Yankton Saturday holds up a sign. The event was one of approximately 140 such rallies held around the nation.

Decision 2012 Freng Looks To Continue Work She Has Started

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the first in a series of profiles on the candidates running for office in Yankton County at both the legislative and county levels. The general election is Nov. 6.

NAME: Donna Freng
IF INCUMBENT, YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: Six years



Freng

1. Why do you want to be a county commissioner?

Six years ago I felt that I could make a difference. I still feel that way today. I care about the future of my community, and I want to continue the work I started.

2. The County Commission has a process under way to re-structure the Highway Department, which includes re-defining the superintendent position as a more administrative role. Do you support this move? Why or why not?

I support the change. We need to find a superintendent that can bring new ideas and new ways of improving our roads. I believe we can do better.