

Penn State's head football coach Joe Paterno is fired after 46 seasons, along with the university president over their handling of a child sex abuse allegations against former coach Jerry Sandusky. Two other university officials also stepped down following grand jury indictments.

November 14
Kaiser Heating & Cooling and KPH Heating & Air Conditioning have merged. Chris Frick and Doug Dykstra are the owners. The new business will work with heating, cooling, geothermal, fireplaces, residential and commercial services, air quality and other

products.
November 21
Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the middle school celebrated the expansion of their new \$5.8 million project. Bishop Paul Swain of Sioux Falls blessed the facility during a dedication ceremony yesterday.

November 23
Avon elementary school has received the National Blue Ribbon School award for 2011. Avon teachers Tina Cameron and Loretta Knodel made a trip to Washington, DC to receive the awards. Only 3 schools in South Dakota and 305 in the nation qualified in 2011 for the



The new 200 foot Gurney Building Boardwalk featuring portions of the iron railing that once lined the top deck of the Meridian Bridge was recently completed.

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honor that denotes academic excellence or success in closing achievement gaps.

December 2011

December 3
One time GOP Republican front-runner for president Herman Cain suspended his campaign amid allegations of sexual improprieties, which he denies.

Area native Matt Varilek, a Democrat, entered the 2012 race for South Dakota's lone U.S. House seat. He has been Senator Tim Johnson's economic development director for the last seven years.

December 6

The new 200 foot Gurney Building Boardwalk featuring portions of the iron railing that once lined the top deck of the Meridian Bridge was recently completed. Paul Lowrie, a managing member of the Gurney Redevelopment Group said he and his partners felt the railing in the appropriate place since D.B. Gurney played a huge role in getting the Meridian Bridge built.

December 9

The Yankton Rotary Club is 90 years old. The Yankton Rotary Club still continues the same goals that were part of the club's formation- promotion of friendship, business development, personal growth, leadership growth and citizenship to the community. One of the current members J. Charles Levinger is the descendant of William Fantle on of the founder members of the club.

December 13

Yankton Chiropractor, Larry Jones, 63, plead guilty to Medicare and Medicaid fraud and was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine. Jones recently admitted to making false claims to Medicare and Medicaid from 2005 to 2011.

December 14

Gladys Merkwon, 89, of Yankton died from injuries she sustained in a mobile home fire yesterday, neighbors who alerted authorities spotted the fire.

December 15

The flag flow by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered at the Baghdad airport ceremony marking the official end of the war that left 4,500 Americans and 110,000 Iraqis dead and cost more than \$800 billion.

December 17

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital is hoping to win the official bid for a 50 bed Veterans Home to be built here in Yankton. Currently the only facility in South Dakota is located in Hot Springs.

December 18

The last convoy of armored U.S. troops left Iraq crossing into Kuwait in darkness, the final moments of a nine-year war.

December 19

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has died, he was 69. He inherited power from his father 17 years ago. North Korea has been grooming Kim's third son to take over power from his father. South Korea put its military on "high alert".

December 21

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers did what they could with the record flooding that occurred on the Missouri River this year. Experts say climate changes are happening more frequently and are larger. The Corp said the flooding cost over \$630 million in damages to the levees, dams and channels built to control the river.

The Vermillion Guard unit has received its orders for deployment to Afghanistan in 2012. They have been on alert since last month.

Trey and Jenny Krier who were married this summer are the new coaching duo at Gayville-Volin for the girls' basketball team. Both Jenny and Trey played basketball for Mount Marty College in Yankton. The two met at O'Gorman High School and attended Mount Marty College together.

December 26

The Press & Dakotan made Newseum's Top Ten pages for today for the 2011: The Year of the flood front-page article.

December 27

A change in the state law will allow people to buy and shoot fireworks form December 28-31st.

The Yankton County EMS and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital will be working together and have hired Dr. Scott Hiltunen as the new Yankton County EMS Director.

Hundreds of people have been taking advantage of the unseasonably warm conditions to take holiday strolls across Meridian Bridge, Yankton flirted with a record high Monday, temperature at 54 degrees, three degrees short of the record of 57 degrees reached in 1963.

December 29

A structure fire east of Yankton caused more than \$100,000 in damages. Firefighters responded to a call at a shop along Ellis Road, east of Yankton. Lost in the fire were tractors, cars and tools.

Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson has decided not to run for a third term. His decision not to run will automatically makes people think his seat will automatically go to the Republicans, who already hold the other four seats in Nebraska's congressional delegation.

Rush-Co. of Springfield, SD will begin expanding their operation by the use of a new 19,000 square foot building. Joel Humpal of Rush-Co. said it would help with the production of the company's larger tarps. More room is needed to make them.

December 30

The Yankton Sack Pack Program received a generous donation from the Huether Family-Mike, Cindy and Kylie. Mike Huether, who is mayor of Sioux Falls, and his wife Cindy are originally from Yankton and went to school in the Yankton community. Several other groups also made donations including Christ The King Church, the Yankton High School "YankTon" Challenge Team and many more who have donated funds to keep the program going.