

The Press Dakotan

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Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US
PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION
Extension 104
mike.hrycko@yankton.net
CLASSIFIED ADS
Extension 108
tera.schmidt@yankton.net
NEWS DEPT.
Extension 114
news@yankton.net
SPORTS DEPT.
Extension 106
sports@yankton.net
ADVERTISING DEPT.
Extension 122
sales@yankton.net
BUSINESS OFFICE
Extension 119
ar@yankton.net
NEW MEDIA:
Extension 136
beth.rye@yankton.net
COMPOSING DEPT.
Extension 129
kathy.larson@yankton.net

MANAGERS
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Publisher
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We Say

Name Game



THUMBS UP to the official renaming of the baseball field at Yankton's Riverside Park to Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field. The matter was inked Monday, with the field renamed to honor Bob Tereshinski, the longtime Mount Marty baseball coach, former Yankton College baseball star and all-around booster of the sport. The agreement was signed in a ceremony held on the brand new field turf that makes up the infield, which is a great plus and something that a lot of teams and are players already appreciate. The renaming pays tribute to a passionate baseball champion in every sense. Our only quibble may be that the entire name is a bit of a mouthful; perhaps we should just call the facility "The Turk" (which was Tereshinski's nickname) and call it good. But no matter — congratulations to all involved for this splendid name change.

Onward!



THUMBS UP to Onward Yankton's announcement of a contest to find Yankton's next big idea. The contest, announced Wednesday, shows forward thinking by engaging the youth of the community to help develop the area and keep our youth local after graduating high school. The results have already been overwhelming with more than 100 submissions in less than 36 hours. Engaging our youth was a brilliant idea that will show dividends in the future.

Restoration



THUMBS UP to the Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization for its continued progress on a \$2.3 million upgrade to a portion of the Lake Andes Lake. The planned improvements include an education center, playground set, trails and other assets. This project represents just the first of what supporters envision as improvements to the lake's three sections.

Play It Safe



THUMBS DOWN to those who are using the new 80 mph speed limits on South Dakota's interstate highways as a "suggestion." Authorities say they plan strict enforcement of the higher speed limits, particularly with the increased safety concerns such as texting while driving and the need to allow more distance between vehicles traveling higher speeds.

Enjoy your ride but play it safe!

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Who do you think will win the NCAA men's basketball championship?	
Kentucky.....	37%
Wisconsin.....	36%
Duke.....	19%
Michigan State.....	8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	262

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you think the Minnesota Twins will finish above .500 this year?

To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Good Friday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2015. There are 272 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Passover begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 3, 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia.

On this date: In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was executed in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander held responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

In 1965, the United States launched the SNAP-10A nuclear power system into Earth orbit; it was the first nuclear reactor sent into space.

In 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

In 1974, deadly tornadoes began hitting wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted from what became known as the Super Outbreak.

In 1985, the landmark Hollywood Brown Derby restaurant closed after 56 years in business.

In 1990, jazz singer Sarah Vaughan died in suburban Los Angeles at age 66.

In 1995, former United Way of America President William Aramony was convicted in Alexandria, Virginia, of 25 counts of fraud, conspiracy and money laundering for stealing nearly \$600,000 from the charity. (Aramony ended up serving six years of a seven-year prison sentence.)

In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

Ten years ago: A day after the death of Pope John Paul II, the body of the pontiff lay in state. Millions prayed and wept at services across the globe, as the Vatican prepared for the ritual-filled funeral and conclave that would choose a successor.

Five years ago: The leader of the Anglican church, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, said in remarks released

by the BBC that the Roman Catholic church in Ireland had lost all credibility because of its mishandling of abuse by priests. White supremacist Eugene Terre-Blanche, 68, was bludgeoned to death on his South African farm in a dispute with black farm workers over wages. Connecticut senior Tina Charles was the runaway choice as The Associated Press' women's college basketball player of the year. Nebraska's Connie Yori was named The Associated Press' women's college basketball coach of the year.

One year ago: The Associated Press reported that the U.S. government had masterminded the creation of a "Cuban Twitter" designed to undermine the communist government in Havana. Serial killer Tommy Lynn Sells was put to death in Texas after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected his lawyers' demand that the state release information about where it had gotten its lethal injection drug. David Letterman announced during a taping of the "Late Show" on CBS that he was retiring as host in 2015 (Stephen Colbert was named as his replacement a week later). Wichita State coach Gregg Marshall was named the runaway winner of the AP coach of the year award. Creighton star Doug McDermott was a near-unanimous pick as the AP player of the year.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 92. Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is 85. Conservationist Dame Jane Goodall is 81. Actor William Gaunt is 78. Songwriter Jeff Barry is 77. Actor Eric Braeden is 74. Actress Marsha Mason is 73. Singer Wayne Newton is 73. Singer Billy Joe Royal is 73. Singer Tony Orlando is 71. Comedy writer Pat Proft is 68. Folk-rock singer Richard Thompson is 66. Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 65. Blues singer-guitarist John Mooney is 60. Rock musician Mick Mars (Mötley Crüe) is 59. Actor Alec Baldwin is 57. Actor David Hyde Pierce is 56. Rock singer John Thomas Griffith (Cowboy Mouth) is 55. Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 54. Rock singer-musician Mike Ness (Social Distortion) is 53. Rock singer Sebastian Bach is 47. Rock musician James MacDonough is 45. Olympic gold medal ski racer Picabo Street is 44. Actress Jennie Garth is 43. Actor Jamie Bamber is 42. Actor Adam Scott is 42. Christian rock musician Drew Shirley (Switchfoot) is 41. Comedian Aries Spears is 40. Actor Matthew Goode (TV: "The Good Wife"; Film: "The Imitation Game") is 37. Actress Cobie Smulders is 33. Rock-pop singer Leona Lewis is 30. Actress Amanda Bynes is 29.

Thought for Today: "The world is not black and white. More like black and grey." — Graham Greene, English author (born 1904, died this date in 1991).



Our Rural Identity

BY KELLY HERTZ
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

Farming is still the life blood of our Midwestern existence. If you ever have a doubt about that notion, literally every press release from the state Department of Agriculture ends with the boilerplate statement stating that "Agriculture is the state's No. 1 industry" just to remind you. And that, coupled with the sea of farmland spilled all across these plains, should state the case very clearly.

But these are different times, and even something so essential to our rural living as agriculture can struggle with identity issues.

Perhaps that was evident in a program held on a Mission Hill farm earlier this week, in which school children were taken out of their classrooms and brought to the ag operation to get a first-hand look at how the business of farming works.

As Cindy Nelsen, who owns the farm with her husband Chris, pointed out, "We show (the kids that) food doesn't come from the store."

She added that her kids, who attend Yankton's Beadle School, were often among the few kids in the school who were from a farm.

Those statements fascinated me, for they hit me as telling observations about the state of agriculture in the 21st century.

Let's go back briefly to the last century:

When I was growing up in Menno several years ago, there weren't too many mysteries about farming. There was no missing the fact that we were in small rural town nestled in the agricultural heartland. The cattle trucks that rumbled into town each week for sale day at the livestock barn and the trucks hauling grain to the elevators, located just a block off the business district, told the tale.

But perhaps more importantly, every class in our school — and in every school in our region — had a large number of farm kids in them. As a result, many of us town kids visited farms a lot. It was simply part of our interactive lives. Those kinds of personal connections exposed us to agriculture constantly and, for lack of a better word, accidentally.

However, that was back in a day when there were a lot of farmers and farm families around.



Kelly HERTZ

That math dictated that there were also a lot of farm operations across the countryside.

It's different now. While agriculture is still doing big business, there are fewer family farms and, thus, fewer farmers. And there are fewer farm kids and fewer chances for town kids to interact with farming life.

This has been a long time developing. In 1925, there were more than 79,000 farm operations in South Dakota; by 1960, it was down to about 55,000; today, there are about 31,000. That trend says a lot. The land doesn't go away, of course, as indicated by the sprawling big operations. Only the farmers do.

That's why we now find ourselves needing programs like those hosted by the Nelsens: to introduce kids to farming right in their own backyards.

The notion of "understanding where food comes from" used to be an educational mission intended for inner-city kids. Now, it's being done to promote the fact to kids who live just a few moments from a cornfield or a cattle operation.

There is no one really to blame for this, nor is there any reason to pass judgments on those kids who really don't know much about where food originates, why those crops are in the fields or what that smell is in Yankton when there is a wind from certain directions. Instead, it's just a statement of what rural America has become. It's still a big industry, but a sparsely populated people.

Efforts to introduce kids in South Dakota to the nuts and bolts of agriculture are good programs. After all, in a state where farming is a \$25 billion business and there are an estimated five head of beef cattle for each human resident, it's good to understand the industry to some degree.

Getting kids to understand agriculture is fine. Getting them to know it, to experience it and, subsequently, to appreciate it firsthand is becoming harder to do because the everyday opportunities are dwindling. And that may say a lot about the problems that agriculture really face in the years ahead.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Point Of View

Preparing For A Dry Year

BY GOV. DENNIS DAUGAARD
R-South Dakota

It's only April and it's already looking like it will be a dry year.

Right now, 99 percent of the state's ground is abnormally dry. About 13 percent is experiencing moderate drought. The drought area includes northeastern South Dakota and another portion in Meade and Pennington counties, leaving 132,149 South Dakotans who live in an area affected by drought.

Because it's so dry, we're at an elevated risk for fires. The fire danger is currently "very high" for the Black Hills and "extreme" in counties surrounding the Black Hills. Grassland areas throughout the state are under a "red flag warning" from the National Weather Service.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's Wildland Fire Division helps with response to wildfires on forested, state and private lands. Just in the last few days, the Division has reported fires near Fort Pierre, at Custer State Park, in the Palmer Gulch area and in Harding County.

The Sheep Draw Fire in Harding County is the worst we've experienced so far this year. With wind gusts up to 70 mph, the fire grew to 6,430 acres in one day. In response, I ordered two National Guard helicopters to assist those on the



Daugaard

ground in putting out the fire. As I write this, the size of the Sheep Draw Fire is now estimated at almost 14,000 acres, but thanks to local firefighters, the state Division of Wildland Fire and others who are helping, the fire is 85 percent contained.

This could be just the beginning of a difficult fire season. I know some fires are inevitable — we can't prevent lightning strikes or control how much moisture we receive — but there are still ways we can prevent fires.

We need to respect county burn bans when they're in place. Where fires are permitted, never leave a fire unattended, completely extinguish fires before leaving the area and remind others to be cautious. Also, be mindful when operating equipment in dry areas.

Since I've been in office we've experienced floods, droughts, fires, blizzards and tornadoes. South Dakota weather is anything but predictable, but I know from experience that the perseverance and benevolence of South Dakotans are things upon which we can always depend. That being said, we need to do all we can to prevent fires, especially this year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

South Dakota Needs A Plan

Lara Bryan, Yankton
Purple Angel Ambassador

Did you know there is a National Alzheimer's Project Act? On Jan. 4, 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) (Public Law 111-375), requiring the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish the National Alzheimer's Project. Unfortunately, South Dakota is one of the few states that hasn't published a state Alzheimer's plan.

For millions of Americans, the heartbreak of watching a loved one struggle with Alzheimer's disease is a pain they know all too well. Alzheimer's disease burdens an increasing number of our nation's elders and their families, and it's essential that we confront the challenge it poses to our public health.

South Dakota is woefully unprepared for an epidemic of dementia currently affecting 44 million people worldwide and set to more than triple to 135 million people by 2050. It's a global epidemic and it's only getting worse.

We need to contact our state's lawmakers to authorize the creation of an Alzheimer's Plan and find ways to get involved in developing a plan.

South Dakota needs to craft a comprehensive and effective plan to address the dramatic increase in the prevalence of dementia brought upon by the aging population. Achieving the vision of eliminating the burden of Alzheimer's disease starts with concrete goals.

Below are the five that form the foundation of this National Plan:

1. Prevent and Effectively Treat Alzheimer's Disease by 2025.
2. Enhance Care Quality and Efficiency.
3. Expand Supports for People with Alzheimer's disease and Their Families.
4. Enhance Public Awareness and Engagement.

5. Track Progress and Drive Improvement.
By making Alzheimer's a national priority, we have the potential to create the same success that has been demonstrated in the fights against other diseases. NAPA will allow Congress to assess whether the nation is meeting the challenges of this disease for families, communities and the economy. South Dakota should not be one of the seven states that does not have a state plan. If we come together and show our support for actively developing a plan we can make it happen.

FROM THE BIBLE

For if we have been unified with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in resurrection like His. Romans 6:5.
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.