

The Press & Dakotan

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We Say

Going Away



THUMBS DOWN to word that the downtown branch of Yankton's Ace Hardware Store is closing, with operations consolidating at the North Broadway branch. To be honest, we understand why this is being done, as it would seem more prudent financially to have one store operating than two. However, speaking from our downtown perspective, we can tell you that the closure will deprive those of us who work (and live) down here easy access to the many items Ace sells. We frequently went there for batteries and other items that might be needed at a moment's notice. But so it goes. It's a smart decision and one that was not made easily. The store will be missed.

Lesson Learned?



While this week's diversity training ahead of June's World Archery Youth Tournament in Yankton was beneficial, a **THUMBS DOWN** has to be presented to an unfortunate incident that occurred during a Tuesday lunch break. Most of the international panelists had ordered salads with just one request: No pork, since some of the religions observed by the panelists prohibited the consumption of pork. However, when the meals were served, they discovered that the salads were covered in bacon. One panelist mumbled, "I guess it's OK. We are in America," but another disagreed and said, "No. It's not OK. It's rude." They proceeded in picking out all this little pieces of bacon from their salads. An estimated 600 competitors from 60 countries are expected to come to Yankton in June for the World Archery Youth Tournament. This does not even include coaches and family member. As a community, we need understand the needs of our guests. Hopefully, this was a lesson learned.

Pollinating



THUMBS UP to the Tabor elementary students for taking part in the "Pollinator Project" sponsored by the Yankton area chapter of Pheasants Forever. As part of the project, the 44 students at the K-5 school spread cupsful of wildflower and other pollinator plant seeds by hand over Game, Fish and Parks property northwest of Tabor. Pheasant Forever and GF&P officials pointed out the students can show their work to family and friends, taking pride as the results show up in future years.

Great Shot!



THUMBS UP to Avera St. Benedict Hospital nurse Kerri Lutjens of Parkston for receiving the national 2015 Childhood Immunization Champion award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prior to Lutjens' visits, 87 percent of children in seven Hutterite colonies had never been vaccinated or were not up to date on their vaccinations. Since implementing the visiting nurse program, Lutjens has administered more than 600 childhood vaccinations. In addition, the high immunization level she's worked to achieve helped prevent an outbreak of whooping cough when a case was diagnosed in one of the colonies.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think Adrian Peterson will be playing for the Minnesota Vikings next season?	
No.....	44%
Not sure/don't care.....	29%
Yes.....	27%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	311

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:

Should businesses have the right to fire an employee because of his/her sexual orientation?
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 Friday, April 24, the 114th day of 2015. There are 251 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On April 24, 1915, what's regarded as the start of the Armenian genocide began as the Ottoman Empire rounded up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.
On this date: In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise," was composed by Captain Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.
In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.
In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States. (The United States responded in kind the next day.)
In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces almost a week later.)
In 1932, in the Free State of Prussia, the Nazi Party gained a plurality of seats in parliamentary elections.
In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.
In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, using NASA's Echo 1 balloon satellite to bounce a video image from Camp Parks, California, to Westford, Massachusetts.
In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East Is Red."
In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.
In 1986, Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, for whom King Edward VIII had given up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89.
In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the \$15 billion Hubble Space Telescope.
In 1995, the final bomb linked to the Unabomber exploded inside the Sacramento, California, offices of a lobbying group for the wood products industry, killing chief lobbyist Gilbert B. Murray. (Theodore Kaczynski was later sentenced to four lifetimes in prison for a series of bombings that killed three men and injured 29 others.)
Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI formally began his stewardship of the Roman Catholic Church; the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said in his installation homily that as pontiff he would listen to the will of God in governing the world's 1.1 billion Catholics. South Korean scientists succeeded in cloning a dog as an Afghan hound puppy named "Snuppy" was born. Former Israeli president Ezer Weizman died in Caesarea, Israel, at age 80.
Five years ago: The policy-setting panel

of the International Monetary Fund, with a nervous eye on Greece, pledged during a meeting in Washington to address the risks posed to the global recovery from high government debt. A dozen people were killed by a tornado system that bumped down in Louisiana before plowing into Mississippi and then Alabama. Etiquette expert Elizabeth Post (granddaughter-in-law of Emily Post) died in Naples, Florida, at 89.
One year ago: An Afghan government security guard opened fire on foreign doctors at a Kabul hospital, killing three Americans in the latest of a deadly string of attacks on Western civilians in the capital. The tiny Pacific nation of the Marshall Islands took on the United States and the world's eight other nuclear-armed nations with an unprecedented lawsuit demanding they meet their obligations toward disarmament and accusing them of "flagrant violations" of international law.
Today's Birthdays: Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 85. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 81. Author Sue Grafton is 75. Actor-singer Michael Parks is 75. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 73. Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 73. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 72. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 70. Rock singer-musician Rob Hyman is 65. The Taoiseach (prime minister) of Ireland, Enda Kenny, is 64. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 62. Rock singer-musician Jack Blades (Night Ranger) is 61. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 60. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 58. Actress Rebecca Mader is 58. Country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard is 36. Country singer Danny Gokey is 35. Actor Austin Nichols is 35. Actress Sasha Barrese is 34. Contemporary Christian musician Jaseen Rauch (Red) is 34. Singer Kelly Clarkson is 33. Rock singer-musician Tyson Ritter (The All-American Rejects) is 31. Actor Doc Shaw is 23. Goller Lydia Ko is 18.
Thought for Today: "The door to the past is a strange door. It swings open and things pass through it, but they pass in one direction only. No man can return across that threshold, though he can look down still and see the green light waver in the water weeds." — Loren Eiseley, American anthropologist (1907-1977).

FROM THE BIBLE

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you. *Isaiah 30:18*. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



The Biggest Idea?

BY KELLY HERTZ
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With Yankton literally searching for big ideas these days, this week was a perfect time for a guy whose life has turned into a big and really good idea to come to town to offer some advice.
That would be Mike Huether, better known now as the mayor of Sioux Falls but once a member of Yankton High School's class of 1980. He's a charismatic dynamo and a believer, a guy who's built his career on not taking no for an answer.
Not surprisingly, he loves the current "big idea" campaign being promoted by Onward Yankton. Speaking at Wednesday's 1 Million Cups meeting, he even offered a couple of ideas of his own for the town's future. Even though he's the mayor of Sioux Falls, Huether wants to see his old hometown thrive.
And that, surely, is the motivation behind Onward Yankton's contest to find the city's "next big idea." It's not some gimmicky effort to stir up local pride, even if the mystery-cloaked kickoff event seemed a little like an overcaffeinated pep rally; rather, it's the search for a fresh vision that will take this town in a new direction.



Kelly HERTZ

Of course, there have been a few jokes made about the effort. (Two people have suggested to me that Yankton should pursue a monorail, which is a reference to one of the greatest "Simpsons" episodes ever.) This was no surprise and something the organizers of the contest probably anticipated but figured, hey, at least people are *talking* about it.
However, it's the people who dismiss the whole idea of "big ideas" and want nothing to do with change that should be the real concern.
Ironically, such people point to what may arguably be the "biggest idea" of all on Yankton's plate: doing nothing. It's certainly the easiest thing to do and the most cost-effective in the short term. However, it IS a "big idea," although not in a good way. In the long term, it's a big idea because it points to all the potential that may be missed, all the opportunities that would be lost, all the money that won't be made, all the things Yankton won't be and all the reasons not to live here. And that really is a big, awful

idea to contemplate.
Actually, truly big ideas — at least that ones that look forward — don't begin with the word "no."
Setting for less is never smart, which is something Huether can tell you all about.
His story, which I've heard a number of times, is quite compelling. He came from a humble background and a broken home, and he could have settled for a meager existence. But as he told the kids at Yankton Middle School this week, he wanted much more from life. He dreamed his dreams, he followed them and he shaped his own destiny. He exhorted the kids to do the same Wednesday afternoon during an assembly at YMS; he basically did the same thing speaking to local residents and leaders at 1 Million Cups.
Maybe in formulating big ideas for this community, the first trick is to truly care about the community. It's something that many local residents who have already submitted ideas to the contest probably do. It's certainly a trait Huether wears passionately on his sleeve, even though he doesn't live here anymore.
But Huether also embodies the second step in the process: following your heart and not listening to the corrosive criticisms of others. Such people will tell you things can't be done because, well, they just can't. Had such anti-wisdom prevailed, the city never would have built the Meridian Bridge in the early 1920s, for example; or the Sacred Heart Benedictine Sisters never would have built Bede Hall or started a junior college in the middle of the Great Depression. And for that matter, Mike Huether might not have been elected mayor of Sioux Falls.
That's why "big ideas" should be cherished things. They simply must have a durable skin to withstand dismissive doubters and pessimists who seem drawn like moths to the feeble flames of what can't be, not what could be.
That determination also demonstrates another plain truth that must be embraced when pursuing any vision for this community's future.
Big ideas don't stop with the word "no," either.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

Michelle Malkin

Menendez's 36DD Visa Program

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
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America has an alphabet soup of visa programs for foreigners to choose from: B-1 for business visitors, B-2 for tourists, EB-5 for investors, F-1 for students and so on. All are overwhelmed, loosely monitored and riddled with fraud and corruption. According to the recently unsealed federal indictment against him, sleazy Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., took it upon himself to add his own very special, crooked path to the U.S.
Call it the 36DD Visa.
The *New York Post* recounted this weekend how Menendez and his staff pressured the State Department to expedite the foreign tourist and student visa approval processes for a bevy of buxom foreign beauties. One of them, Brazilian actress and nudie model Juliana Lopes Leite (a.k.a. "Girlfriend 1"), had her F-1 student visa application moved to the top of the Mount Everest-high heap in 2008 as a favor to Menendez's now-indicted donor pal and accused Medicare fraudster Salomon Melgen.
A senior Menendez staffer emailed a State Department staffer that Girlfriend 1 "has her visa application appointment in Brasilia, Brazil, tomorrow. ... Sen. Menendez would like to advocate unconditionally for Dr. Melgen and encourage careful consideration of (Girlfriend 1)'s visa application."
Oba! "The State Department responded within hours, and the woman got her visa the following day," the *Post* reported. Sugar daddy Melgen set up a shady nonprofit to help fund Lopes Leite's education, according to the indictment. The IRS-approved "foundation" for "helping with the educational needs of disadvantaged persons" also subsidized college costs for a second woman "romantically linked to Menendez."
Here's my question: Menendez played visa-fixer in 2008. Lopes Leite graduated with a law degree from the University of Miami in 2010, but spent most of her time jet-setting around the world with Melgen. According to the *Post*, she is still here and now practicing law in Miami — seven years after obtaining her 36DD visa. *Why and how is she still here?*
The F-1 is supposed to be a temporary visa. Applicants have to prove to consular officials that they plan to go back home after their studies as a condition of getting into our country and availing themselves of our educational system. The deal was that they'd gain a positive attitude about the U.S. and serve as ambassadors of our values

and principles when they returned to their native lands. Aside from the extreme abuse and corruption involved in the Menendez scheme, this case spotlights the wider everyday systemic failures to enforce the original intent and rules of the program.
Nearly 500,000 F-1 foreign students come to the U.S. every year. Despite repeated warning flags involving foreign students on F-1 visas who slipped through the cracks — the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 9/11 plot, the Times Square bombing plot, the Boston Marathon bombing — Washington refuses to hit the pause button and get the program under control. By the federal government's own admission in multiple independent audits and inspector general reports, officials at the Departments of Homeland Security and State cannot efficiently police and monitor the flood.
Those assessments show that we have failed to carefully vet the student applicants overseas; failed to screen out the fly-by-night "schools" certified to enroll them in the U.S.; failed to keep tabs on the "designated school officials" entrusted to track their compliance; failed to verify that the employers who are approved to sponsor F-1s for education-related "job training" are not exploiting the program as a pipeline for cheap foreign labor undercutting American workers; failed to ensure that F-1s go home when their visas expire; and failed to track and eject overstayers and violators who break the rules.
Under federal corruption law, it is a crime to trade "things of value" with politicians to influence official acts or commit fraud. Yet, for decades, America has recklessly traded away one of its most precious "things of value": entry into this country. It's clear what Menendez and Melgen got out of F-1. But what about the rest of the country? Each and every temporary visa program is supposed to enhance the national interest — not just the naked demands and desires of universities, corporations and dirty old men.
Instead of stemming the tide and making enforcement a priority, politicians in both parties are pushing forward with various schemes to radically expand and extend the foreign student visa racket. It's proof positive that Brazil's got nothing on the biggest boobs in Washington.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Roses Just Because'

Avera Sacred Heart Foundation and Avera@Home Staff
On behalf of Avera@Home and the Avera Sacred Heart Foundation, we would like to thank everyone who supported this year's "Roses Just Because" sales. More than 1,000 dozen roses were sold benefiting hospice patients in the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital region. Many chose to donate their roses, further brightening the lives of those we serve.
Avera@Home offers compassionate, state

of the art in-home care and support to patients and families faced with a terminal illness. Soon, a new six-room Hospice House being built at Avera Majestic Bluffs will offer a residential care option, as well. Hundreds of people have been cared for by our team of hospice professionals and volunteers through in-home care since 1988. Your generosity helps support this important work.
Special thanks to the businesses and individual sellers that worked hard to support "Roses Just Because." You have made a huge difference in many lives with your efforts.