



THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | WE SAY

Slow Going



THUMBS DOWN to what seems to us like the slow pace of Yankton's city manager search. While we appreciate the fact that the City Commission and other officials have been busy with other issues — and management of city affairs, led by interim City Manager Al Viereck, has gone along smoothly — the fact is that it's approaching five months since previous City Manager Doug Russell first announced he was leaving and two months since he departed. As of this week, the search was labeled as going slowly by Mayor Nancy Wenande, with the recruiter hired to spearhead the search still only in the survey stages about what city staff and the public might want in the next manager. More than once, we've heard the comment that certain decisions on a future course will be dictated by the new city manager, so not filling the position in a timely manner ultimately looms as a problem. We need to see a more urgent forward momentum in this area soon.

Job Opportunities



On the other hand, THUMBS UP to a budget discussion the City Commission held this week about retail recruitment and quality of life issues. Commissioners first discussed the possibility of hiring an events coordinator that could oversee regular events, such as a concert in Memorial Park in June and expanding the Fourth of July celebration. They also discussed the need to formalize retail recruitment efforts and put more of a focus on that front. Ultimately, the commission decided that it may try to address both roles in a future assistant to the city manager. That bodes well for the people of Yankton, who we believe would benefit greatly from work in both areas. Now, if we could just make more progress on infrastructure improvements for the east side of Yankton that could facilitate future industrial growth and, thus, primary jobs ...

Dry Times



THUMBS DOWN to what can only be viewed as a discouraging drought outlook issued Thursday by South Dakota State University climatologist Dennis Today. During a webinar briefing with reporters, Today said drought conditions are expected to hang on in the region through November. If true, that would deprive the region of much-needed autumn rains that could start replenishing the moisture levels in our parched region. (After that time frame, the soil begins to freeze and is unable to take on more moisture until the spring thaw.) Long-range forecasts are always subject to change, so we hope this one heads down a different path in the weeks to come.

Rock On!



THUMBS UP to the efforts by the Milltown Island Park Association for restoring the park to its past beauty. The Island Park ballroom, which attracted some of the nation's top bands during the 1940s through the early 1980s, was destroyed by 1984 James River flooding and eventually razed in 1995. However, the ballroom's induction this spring into the South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Fame led Milltown supporters to take another look at the park, acquire the land from the Our Home youth treatment facility and launch a massive restoration effort in just a few weeks. Now, articles of incorporation have been filed and an interim board of directors put in place. A grand opening has been planned for the park next month, with area residents hoping to make even more improvements and start a museum in coming years. The ballroom may be history, but the future looks bright for the park.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Table with poll results: Are you ready for school to start? Yes 44%, No 30%, TOTAL VOTES CAST 400.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Which political party do think would do a better job with the Medicare issue? To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Aug. 17, the 230th day of 2012. There are 136 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 17, 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's 'The Visitors,' were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany. On this date: In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany. In 1912, the second movie inspired by the Titanic disaster, a German production titled 'In Nacht und Eis' (In Night and Ice), was released. (Unlike the first, 'Saved From the Titanic,' 'In Nacht und Eis' still exists.) In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Ga., lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.) In 1942, during World War II, U.S. 8th Air Force bombers attacked German forces in Rouen, France. U.S. Marines raided a Japanese seaplane base on Makin Island. In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina. In 1960, the newly renamed Beatles (formerly the Silver Beetles) began their first gig in Hamburg, West Germany, at the Indra Club. The West African country of Gabon became independent of France. In 1961, the United States and 19 Latin American countries signed the Charter of Punta del Este in Uruguay, creating the Alliance for Progress aimed at promoting economic growth and social justice. In 1962, East German border guards shot and killed 18-year-old Peter Fechter, who had attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into the western sector. In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba. In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris. In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minn., in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year. In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide. Ten years ago: In Krakow, Poland, tens of thousands of adoring Poles gave Pope John Paul II a joyous welcome home as the ailing pontiff began the ninth — and last — visit to his native country during his papacy. Five years ago: Hurricane Dean roared into the eastern Caribbean, tearing away roofs, flooding streets and causing at least three deaths on small islands as the powerful storm headed on a collision course with Jamaica and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. A dike on a river in eastern China broke, flooding three coal mines and killing 181 miners. One year ago: Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Beijing to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping. Today's Birthdays: Actress Maureen O'Hara is 92. Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin is 86. Author V.S. Naipaul is 80. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 71. Actor Robert DeNiro is 69. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 66. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 65. Rock musician Sib Hashian is 63. Actor Robert Joy is 61. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 60. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 59. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 57. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 57. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 55. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 54. Author Jonathan Franzen is 53. Actor Sean Penn is 52. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 51. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 50. Singer Maria McKee is 48. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 47. Rock musician Jill Cuniff is 46. Actor David Conrad is 45. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 43. Former NBA player Christian Laettner is 43. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 43. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 42. MLB player Jorge Posada is 41. Actor Mark Salling (TV: 'Glee') is 30. Actor Bryton James is 26. Actor Brady Corbet is 24. Thought for Today: 'Where words leave off, music begins.' — Heinrich Heine, German poet and critic (1797-1856).

FROM THE BIBLE

When we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

Lessons In The Dust

BY KELLY HERTZ
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

There was a moment of weirdness earlier this week when a poorly worded press release from an aide to Speaker of the House John Boehner implied that the current drought was President Obama's fault. The release was reworded a few hours later to reflect a criticism of Washington's reaction to the drought crisis, but at least for a small while, we were confronted with what seemed like an entertaining brand of political hysteria. However, this episode reminded me that the notion that people (although not just one person) causing a drought is not so far-fetched. In fact, while humans can't cause the clouds to not rain, we can certainly aggravate circumstances to make things much, MUCH worse.



Kelly HERTZ

This is actually a matter of historical fact, and we may recall it in these parched times as either a gentle, ghostly reminder or a hard slap across the face.

The historical precedent is the Godzilla of all droughts: the epochal Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

A few years ago, I heard an author during a radio interview refer to the "Dirty Thirties" as the greatest man-made ecological disaster in human history. I was taken aback slightly by the claim, but I really shouldn't have been, for the statement was right on point. We have long tended to look at the Dust Bowl as nature's wrath, and not as nature's retaliation.

The monstrous drought of the 1930s was exacerbated by the serial lack of conservation techniques practiced by farmers. They planted fence row to fence row in those days; they thought nothing of windbreaks, crop rotation or cover crops; and they eagerly broke up virgin sod that had held the topsoil in place forever. These practices left farmers — and in fact an entire culture — dangerously vulnerable when the rains stopped falling and the hot winds roared.

But the farmers were eagerly aided and abetted by the federal government, which encouraged the producers to churn up their land. The popular mantra (based on an actual "scientific" theory) since the frontier days had been "the rain follows the plow." Nothing prepared either the farmers or the government for a mega-drought: The Dust Bowl has been labeled the most extreme natural event in 350 years by one author.

With that, our own lack of vision or regard for consequence spawned a different harvest. Without vegetation, America's heartland became an oven. The land turned to dust, and the dust begat even more heat and turbulent winds. Storms of dust choked the skies all across the Central Plains, and they buried once productive fields in blankets of uselessness. Crops and gardens could be suddenly withered by static electricity caused by the

"black blizzards." Grasshoppers devoured whatever vegetation might have grown. The air sometimes became dirty and unbreathable. The world blew away: It's estimated that approximately 2.5 million people moved out of the Plains states during the 1930s due directly to the drought and its crippling aftereffects. It changed our social landscape, not to mention countless family trees, forever.

But it also changed land management practices for the better. Far-reaching and far-sighted conservation programs were enacted, and Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, a work relief initiative, planted a forest of more than 200 million trees from Canada to Texas to form wind breaks that protected the soil. (Visit the Red River area in table-flat eastern North Dakota to see what pristine shelterbelts look like. Honestly, they're inspiring.) These practices didn't make it rain, of course, but it made the land, and thus the people, better prepared for the times when the rains didn't fall. We softened the destructiveness of subsequent droughts by learning from our follies.

In recent years, there have been reports of more land coming out of conservation programs and put to the plow in order to cash in on the current soaring crop prices. Some producers are foregoing rotation planting in order to squeeze out more corn. I've seen some farmers tearing up erodible hillsides — again, tearing up unbroken sod in some cases — in order to make them "productive." And then there's the phenomenon of tiling, which shuttles inconvenient surface water away from cropland; however, it's not clear to me what this human intervention does to the process of replenishing the underground water levels and aquifers. And that would be important to know, even if it's because "the rain follows the tiles."

While the current climate in no way suggests we are reverting to Dust Bowl conditions (although a comparison of the current conditions was made to the Dust Bowl during a Thursday web conference by the state climatologist), the general trend of inching away from land practices created because of the Dust Bowl is nervously disconcerting. I mention all this today because the current drought may serve some constructive purpose as a reminder. Sometimes the rain doesn't come and the crops shrivel. Sometimes the parched land is burned by heat and wind. And there are always things we can do about it — one way or another. For me, respecting the unpredictability of nature should be the highest priority. Our own dirty history tells us what happens when we don't.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at Twitter.com/kelly\_hertz

Paul Ryan: A Bold, Smart Choice

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

Choosing Paul Ryan is a game-changer. Ask the Chicago Gang and its publicists in the mainstream media. They're terrified.

They know that when Mitt Romney chose Ryan for his vice president, it re-defined the Romney campaign overnight.

It proved Mitt was not as boring, cautious and moderate as conservative Republicans feared and the Obama Left hoped.

In one bold, smart move, Romney's VP choice makes it clear that this election is about one thing — the economy.

And there is no better person on the planet to discuss that issue than Ryan, the young, articulate, spirited, openly Reaganesque conservative who heads up the House Budget Committee and is the leading Republican deficit hawk in Congress.

With Ryan as his VP choice, Romney also took a huge step in redefining what the Republican Party is and reminding everyone what it's supposed to stand for.

For decades Reagan conservatives have been wondering what has happened to the GOP my father loved. He worked hard to shape it into a party that clearly and proudly stood for smaller government, more freedom, free enterprise and a strong military.

But for two decades Republican politicians have been trying to out-Democrat the Democrats. The GOP my father left behind lost its way, lost its nerve and chose to betray many of its core principles to win elections.

By choosing Ryan, Romney has ended the era of Republican fuzziness overnight. It makes me think Mitt and his advisers have decided that the way to defeat Obama was to heed the advice my father gave to the GOP in 1975 at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Republicans, disheartened by the post-Watergate thrashing they got at the polls in 1974, were being urged by moderates to water down (i.e., liberal-up) their party's principles to broaden its appeal to voters.

My father told them not to further "blur" the distinctions between the two parties but to "revitalize" the GOP by reasserting its conservative principles and raising them "to full view."

He challenged Republicans to raise "a banner of no pale pastels, but bold colors which make it unmistakably clear" that their party believed in "a free market as the greatest provider for the people," not socialism.

The conservative conventioners took my father's wise message to heart, but the nation's voters didn't. Jimmy Carter was elected in 1976 and the country got four years of economic malaise and folly in the Middle East that did not end until my father was elected in 1980 — as an unabashed conservative.

America today is truly at a crossroads. This election is going to decide the direction we take for the next 50 years. For the first time in a while, the American people will have a clear choice.

Do you want the USA to go down the Obama Expressway to Greece or, God forbid, California? Or do you want to go down the Romney-Ryan-Reagan Freeway to freedom, growth and prosperity for all people?

It's up to the American people to decide where they want to go. It's up to Romney and Ryan — R & R, two letters that look pretty good together, I'd say — to sell their message of conservatism.

Americans can't afford to wait for someone to come along four years from now and fix the damage Obama has already done.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder and chairman of The Reagan Group and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.michaelreagan.com and www.reagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter

purchased the "Miracle" balloons and to those who contributed to the donation jar.

Through the years, we've had the opportunity to meet some of the children and their families that have been recipients of the Miracle Treat funds. For some, only tears can express their gratitude. Their stories are truly amazing.

We look forward to seeing you on Miracle Treat Day 2013 to help us continue our support for the Children's Miracle Network.

YOUR LETTERS

What A Treat!

Maret Rempp, Yankton Dairy Queen

To all of our Dairy Queen friend's, families, and neighbors, a huge thank you! Once again, due to your support, our annual Miracle Treat Day was a VERY good day.

On miracle Treat Day we sold a total of 1,354 Blizzard Treats to raise funds for the Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. Thank you also to those who

CONTACT US

PHONE: (605) 665-7811 (800) 743-2968
FAX: (605) 665-1721
WEBSITE: www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS: news@yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION: Extension 112
CLASSIFIED ADS: Extension 120
NEWS DEPARTMENT: Extension 114
SPORTS DEPARTMENT: Extension 106
PHOTO DESK: Extension 105
ADVERTISING OFFICE: Extension 122
BUSINESS OFFICE: Extension 119
PRODUCTION DESK: Extension 127
NEW MEDIA: Extension 136
COMPOSING DESK: Extension 129

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood, Publisher
Michele Schievelbein, Advertising Director
Tonya Schild, Business Manager
David Jeffcoat, Circulation Director
Tera Schmidt, Classified Manager
Kelly Hertz, Editor
James D. Cimburek, Sports Editor
Beth Rye, New Media Manager
Kathy Larson, Composing Manager
Bernard Metivier, Mailroom Manager

DAILY STAFF

Brian Anderson, Andrew Atwal, Derek Bartos, Cassandra Brockmoller, Randy Dockendorf, Jeannine Economy, Megan Finnegan, Jeremy Hoeck, Nathan Johnson, Shauna Marlette, Muriel Pratt, Noelle Schlechter, Taryn Sonnenfeld, Cathy Sudbeck, Brenda Willcuts, Jackie Williams

Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979. Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875. Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES\*

(Payable in advance)
CARRIER DELIVERY: 1-month \$12.09, 3 months \$36.27, 6 months \$72.53, 1-year \$133.09
MOTOR ROUTE (where available): 1 month \$14.51, 3 months \$43.53, 6 months \$87.05, 1 year \$139.14
MAIL IN RETAIL TRADE ZONE: 1-month \$16.93, 3 months \$50.79, 6 months \$101.57, 1-year \$148.82
MAIL OUTSIDE RETAIL TRADE ZONE: 1 month \$19.35, 3 months \$58.05, 6 months \$116.09, 1-year \$186.33
\* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates