

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Turning The Tide On Youth Unemployment

MADISON DAILY LEADER (Aug. 15): Teens and young adults are working less — a lot less. Nearly 6.5 million U.S. teens and young adults are neither in school nor in the workforce, according to the annual KIDS COUNT report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The number of working youth has dropped by almost half since 2000. Let's not mince words, as there are real implications to fewer working teens and young adults. They aren't developing skills that employers need, they are getting into trouble with the law, and they are developing a sense of laziness that leads to long-term dependence on relatives and welfare programs.

Fortunately, only 5 percent of South Dakota teens are neither in school nor working, compared to 8 percent nationally. But every teen is important, and we should try to fix the problem even though our state may be better off than other places.

So why are more teens neither in school or employed? Several reasons: they face more competition from older workers for entry-level jobs, especially post-recession. Many lack the skills required for the jobs that are available. Some are without a high-school diploma, which practically wipes out job opportunities. Some don't have working adults in their lives as role models.

We can tell that parenting plays a big role here. Insisting on graduation from high school, assigning basic chores at home at a young age, getting summer or part-time jobs to build experience, and stressing the importance of work are all important.

Outside the family, other resources are available, primarily through the Madison office of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation. It offers youth job search assistance classes to develop interviewing and job retention skills, plus various youth training and education programs, with priority given to ages 18-21. Those who haven't finished high school can obtain their GED through the Madison Area Career Learning Center.

Computers are available at the office for job searches and filling out online job applications. The department offers free assistance in obtaining a "national career readiness certificate," which a growing number of employers are using as a tool to screen for skills and abilities. Local employers can also help, by considering inexperienced youth for jobs, even for tasks that don't require experience and probably don't pay well. Just learning the value of reliability and hard work in the workplace can help youth gain experience and build a work history.

We should never give up on youth at risk. There are great resources available, and even better outcomes likely if we keep working at it.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 26, the 238th day of 2013. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

On this date: In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began cataclysmic eruptions, leading to a massive explosion the following day.

In 1913, the newly completed Keokuk Dam in Iowa was dedicated.

In 1936, the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, calling for most British troops to leave Egypt, was signed in Montreux, Switzerland. (It was abrogated by Egypt in 1951.)

In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.

In 1961, the original Hockey Hall of Fame was opened in Toronto.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago.

In 1971, New Jersey Gov. William T. Cahill announced that the New York Giants football team had agreed to leave Yankee Stadium for a new sports complex to be built in East Rutherford.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice was elected pope following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I. (However, he died just over a month later.)

In 1986, in the so-called preppie murder case, 18-year-old Jennifer Levin was found strangled in New York's Central Park; Robert Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and served 15 years in prison.

In 1993, Dorothea Puente was convicted in Monterey, Calif., of murdering three of her boardinghouse tenants; she was later sentenced to life without parole. (Puente died in prison in 2011, at age 82.)

Ten years ago: In the face of criticism, President George W. Bush defended his handling of the war and reconstruction of Iraq, telling an American Legion conference in St. Louis the fight was essential to the U.S. campaign against terrorism. Investiga-

tors concluded that NASA's overconfident management and inattention to safety doomed the space shuttle Columbia as much as damage to the craft when it burned up on reentry in February 2003.

Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton closed the book on her 2008 presidential bid by telling the Democratic National Convention in Denver the election wasn't about her and declaring herself a "proud supporter of Barack Obama." Russia recognized the independence claims of two Georgian breakaway regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Hurricane Gustav struck Haiti, causing widespread flooding and landslides; the storm went on to kill at least 78 people in the Caribbean. Major League Baseball announced umpires would be allowed to check video on home run "boundary calls" starting August 27.

One year ago: In the face of approaching Tropical Storm Isaac, Republicans pushed back the start of their national convention in Tampa, Fla., by a day. Lydia Ko, a 15-year-old South Korean-born New Zealander, won the Canadian Women's Open to become the youngest winner in LPGA Tour history and only the fifth amateur champion. Japan limited Tennessee's potent lineup to two hits in a 12-2 victory in the Little League World Series title game.

Today's Birthdays: Former *Washington Post* Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee is 92. Actress Francine York is 77. Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 67. Pop singer Bob Cowill is 64. Actor Brett Cullen is 57. NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 54. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 53. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 52. Actor Chris Burke is 48. Actress-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 47. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crows) is 47. TV writer-actress Riley Weston is 47. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 44. Actress Melissa McCarthy is 43. Latin pop singer Thalía is 42. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 38. Actor Mike Colter is 37. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 33. Actor Chris Pine is 33. Country singer Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 28. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie Ventura is 27. Actress Keke Palmer is 20.

Thought for Today: "Suffering belongs to no language." — Adelia Prado, Brazilian poet.

FROM THE BIBLE

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Ode To The Old Days

BY BILL O'REILLY

Creators Syndicate

One of the highlights of my summer experience was the 50th reunion of my graduating class from St. Brigid elementary school on Long Island. Back in 1963, 60 children sat in a small classroom hoping for big things in the future. We had spent eight years together, but now high school beckoned, and all of our lives would change dramatically.

Back then, America was a far different place than it is today. John F. Kennedy was president but had fewer than six months to live. The Beatles were just emerging. Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" was scaring everybody in the movie theaters. "The Andy Griffith Show" dominated on TV. There was no war, but civil unrest in the South was intense. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was making great strides in securing human rights for black Americans.

Twenty-two of my classmates made the reunion, and it was good to see all of them. Their lives have unfolded in mostly conventional ways. Most remain in the middle class and still believe in the fundamental goodness of their country and religion, although some are no longer practicing Catholics.

The reunion deal is the same all over. Folks who don't succeed in life often don't show up. The happy people usually come armed with pictures of their children and grandchildren. My reunion was very family focused.

Many of my classmates have led interesting lives, but unfortunately, I was the center of much attention. My visibility on television engendered much discussion, and I was happy to answer their questions. Since I was always a loudmouth, my classmates delighted in re-



Bill O'REILLY

minding me that I haven't changed a bit and pointed out that only in America could I be well paid for doing something that got me a slap from Sister Thomas way back when.

The thing that is so different today is that children have little time to be innocent. We only had each other at St. Brigid. There were no cellphones, computers or video games. There was no Facebook. In fact, outside intrusions were rare. We played games like dodgeball and keep away. We attended square dances and Christmas concerts. It was all so basic, so simple. And there was a magic to it.

Today, children are thrust into an adult world at warp speed. I remember a kid named Billy McDermott explaining to me and the other 8th-graders that his older brother knew some girls who were "easy." Easy? We were all confused. And so was Billy as he struggled to define the term.

Today, many 8th-graders are thinking about tattoos and drugs. We all know how graphic the Internet is, and believe me, kids know how to access this stuff. So I ask you: Wasn't it better to be a kid in 1963? By the way, the answer is yes.

I feel sorry for the urchins these days. Responsible parents can mitigate some of the cultural damage but not all. We are living in fast times, in an era of selfishness and narcissism in which lowbrow entertainment envelops children like the chilly fog of San Francisco.

Good memories are forever. I had them back in 1963.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

Capitol Notebook | Bob Mercer

Changing Times In Pierre

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — When Senate Republican leader Russ Olson officially steps down Sept. 30, he becomes the fourth member of the South Dakota Legislature to resign this year.

Not only is the number somewhat high, but the reasons for three of the departures from elected office are professional advancement.

Olson, 43, of Wentworth, accepted a promotion to chief executive officer for Heartland Consumers Power in Madison effective Oct. 1.

Their moves are part of a larger pattern in the past three years.

Rep. Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, age 27, stepped down so he can start law school this fall at the University of South Dakota.

Sen. Mark Johnston, R-Sioux Falls, age 50, resigned for a new position with Sanford health system.

The wave started in late 2010. Gov.-elect Dennis Daugaard selected Dusty Johnson as chief of staff for his new administration.

Johnson, a Republican, had won re-election to the state Public Utilities Commission in 2010. Rather than start his second six-year term, Johnson went to work for the new Republican governor.

Then in 2011 another PUC member, Democrat Steve Kolbeck, resigned with a year-plus left. He took a top job at Qwest in Sioux Falls.

To replace Johnson on the PUC, Daugaard selected Chris Nelson, the former secretary of state who had been term limited.

For Kolbeck's successor the governor chose former Rep. Kristie Fiegen, R-Sioux Falls. Both Fiegen and Nelson won election last November.

Also in 2011 Sen. Cooper Garnos, R-Presho, relinquished his seat upon being hired as a school principal.

The governor selected Rep. Kent Juhnke, R-

Vivian, for the Senate vacancy and appointed David Scott, R-Geddes, to the House opening. Juhnke and Scott lost in the 2012 elections.

The fourth legislative resignation was solely about family.

Rep. Patty Miller, R-McCook Lake, announced shortly after the 2013 legislative session ended that she would give up her seat.

Miller, 60, needed to give care to her husband, who had been spending winters in Pierre with her.

This year came another vacancy for statewide office. Republican Jarrod Johnson was term limited as school and public lands commissioner and wanted to spend more time at home at Crooks with his family and their agricultural operation.

All of the incumbents in the other constitutional officers are eligible to seek re-election to second terms in 2014. And all are Republicans. That left Johnson in a political box.

The Johnson resignation took effect Aug. 15. To replace him, the governor brought back Vern Larson, a 32-year veteran as state treasurer and state auditor, to serve the year-plus left of Johnson's term. Larson won't seek election.

Currently there are two candidates for the Republican nomination in 2014 for lands commissioner: Rep. Jim Bolin, R-Canton, and deputy commissioner Ryan Brunner.

The governor meanwhile is accepting suggestions for Olson's successor.

Daugaard previously selected David Anderson, R-Hudson, for Miller's seat; Kris Langer, R-Dell Rapids, for Hansen's; and former Rep. Blake Curd, R-Sioux Falls, for Johnston's.

In 1969 Gov. Farrar faced six resignations by legislators. Gov. Mickelson had four in 1989 — three for federal jobs. Gov. Janklow had four in 2002 — one for a federal post and two for Sioux Falls government posts.

Times, and jobs, are changing.

YOUR LETTERS

District III's Value

Ron Kraft, Yankton

The report on Yankton County business indicated that the board agreed to have the zoning director do an analysis to determine what the county pays to Planning & Development District III vs. what the county gets back for those charges. (*Press & Dakotan*, Aug. 21)

I have worked with Planning & Development District III since 1995. I have worked with planning districts in three other states before coming to South Dakota. I have told audiences on numerous occasions that this planning district is all around the most professional, successful and effective regional planning group with whom I have ever worked.

Greg Henderson, District III director, each year delivers a report to all 15 county commissions in Region III. In said report, since 1973, District III has provided assistance (grants & other assistance) worth \$53 million-plus. Yankton County has paid dues of \$545,900 since 1973.

That is a 98-to-1 return on investment.

Yankton County is in the southeast corner of the 15-county region. We receive the benefit of 15 higher-paying professional salaries and fringe benefits — people who contribute and volunteer in our community. Fourteen other counties nearer to the center of the district would love to have the headquarters and jobs. Planning & Development District III is not "captive" to this location.

District III has an ongoing, professional relationship with federal, state and private foundations that helps get approval and expedites important grants. District III helped us get the \$780,000 EDA grant as a congressional special appropriation that is now the Regional Technical Education Grant. District III created and helped fund the Areawide Business Council (ABC) revolving business loan fund that has grown into a multimillion dollar small business lending group. Our local development corporation and the State of South Dakota use ABC in our financial packaging for job creating businesses.