

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**OPINION | WE SAY**

**Energized**



power flowing in Yankton while prepping the foundation for future growth in the area. It's a smart investment.

**THUMBS UP** to the Yankton City Commission for giving the go ahead to the final piece in NorthWest-ern Energy's plans to upgrade Yankton's power system. Monday night, the commissioners approved construction of a substation on the east side of town, which has frequently seen power disruptions and other issues. This project will help keep the power flowing in Yankton while prepping the foundation for future growth in the area. It's a smart investment.

**A Busy Place**



event that gets under way Monday; plus there is the State VFW Teen-er AA Ages 13-14 Major Tournament both here and in Crofton, Nebraska; and the annual Hillcrest Pro-Am is under way. Add in to that the open-ing weekend of Lewis and Clark Theatre Company's production of "Barefoot in the Park" at the Dakota Theatre, plus the Collin Raye concert Sunday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre, 4-H Achievement Days and numerous other events and activities. It's all a vibrant sign that Yankton has been full of life this summer. Enjoy it!

If you're bored this weekend, you're in luck: **THUMBS UP** to another busy weekend of activities in Yankton. It may sound like a broken record (or a corrupt MP3 file), but Yankton has been a very busy place this summer, and this weekend showcases that. There are two archery tournaments in town: a national event that ends Sunday and an international event that gets under way Monday; plus there is the State VFW Teen-er AA Ages 13-14 Major Tournament both here and in Crofton, Nebraska; and the annual Hillcrest Pro-Am is under way. Add in to that the open-ing weekend of Lewis and Clark Theatre Company's production of "Barefoot in the Park" at the Dakota Theatre, plus the Collin Raye concert Sunday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre, 4-H Achievement Days and numerous other events and activities. It's all a vibrant sign that Yankton has been full of life this summer. Enjoy it!

**Sunny Side?**



skin cancer that now sees Americans spending \$8 billion annually to battle. The report didn't just point to sun tanners; it also called on state and local officials to do more to assist in this battle, doing things such as providing more shaded areas at parks and sporting events. It also called on schools to encourage kids to wear hats and sunscreen for outdoor events, and to schedule such events when the sun is lower in the sky. An estimated 9,000 people a year die of melanoma, so the cost of deep tanning is real. Hopefully, more Americans heed the warnings and cover up.

**THUMBS DOWN** to the findings of a report issued this week by the acting U.S. surgeon general finding that incidents of melanoma have jumped 200 percent since 1973. The report puts the blame on what The Associated Press described as "a generation of sun worshipping" and for the increase in the use of in-door tanning beds. Melanoma is a potentially deadly skin cancer that now sees Americans spending \$8 billion annually to battle. The report didn't just point to sun tanners; it also called on state and local officials to do more to assist in this battle, doing things such as providing more shaded areas at parks and sporting events. It also called on schools to encourage kids to wear hats and sunscreen for outdoor events, and to schedule such events when the sun is lower in the sky. An estimated 9,000 people a year die of melanoma, so the cost of deep tanning is real. Hopefully, more Americans heed the warnings and cover up.

**Halftime**



certainly taken a lot of the bite out of the summer. Good thing, too, because Accuweather.com stated Thursday that a shift in the jet-stream may be looming in mid-August, causing the formation of a "Bermuda High" on the East Coast that will build west, bringing possibly the warmest weather of the summer. "The pattern shift may be most dramatic for those over the Central states, where the cool conditions thus far this summer have been the most extreme," the on-line weather service said. So, enjoy the relatively mild summer days while you can, although also know that, not that we're passing summer's midway point, the cooler days of autumn aren't so far away, either.

**THUMBS UP** to the very mild weather that we have mostly enjoyed for the first half of summer. This is a cross-quarter day between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox, meaning we're officially at mid-summer (not matter what the school calendars may suggest to you). The area has enjoyed another pleasant week of mild temperatures, and that has certainly taken a lot of the bite out of the summer. Good thing, too, because Accuweather.com stated Thursday that a shift in the jet-stream may be looming in mid-August, causing the formation of a "Bermuda High" on the East Coast that will build west, bringing possibly the warmest weather of the summer. "The pattern shift may be most dramatic for those over the Central states, where the cool conditions thus far this summer have been the most extreme," the on-line weather service said. So, enjoy the relatively mild summer days while you can, although also know that, not that we're passing summer's midway point, the cooler days of autumn aren't so far away, either.

**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.

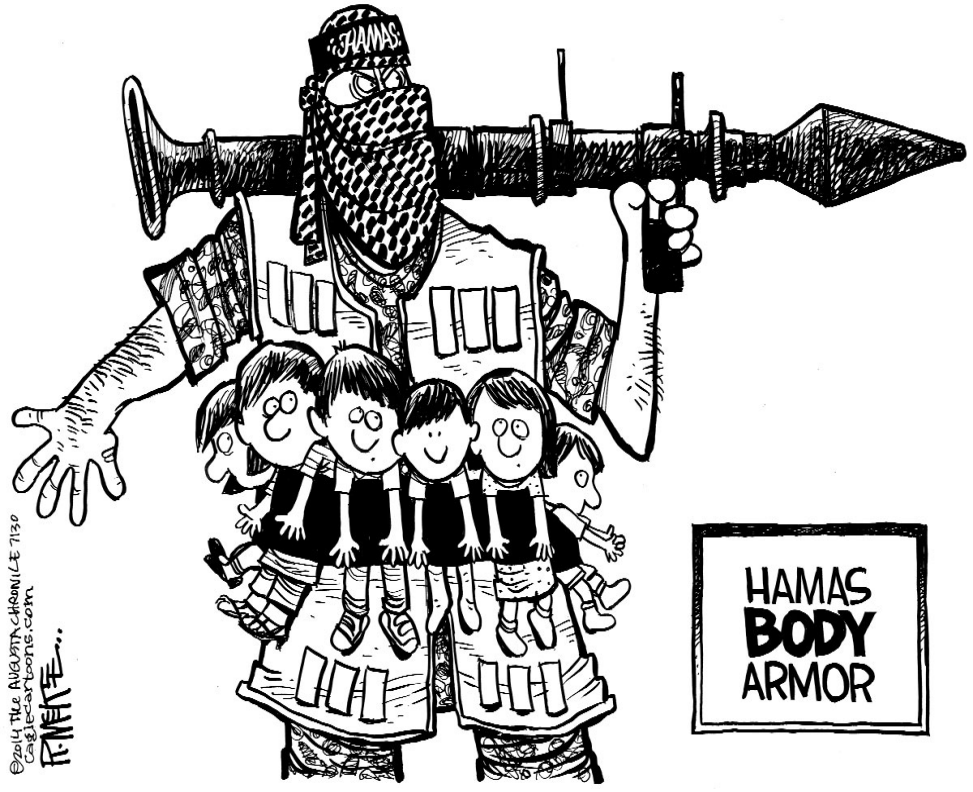
**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, August 1, the 213th day of 2014. There are 152 days left in the year.  
**Today's Highlight in History:** On August 1, 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.  
**On this date:** In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.  
In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.  
In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.  
In 1913, the Joyce Kilmer poem "Trees" was first published in "Poetry: A Magazine of Verse."  
In 1914, Germany declared war on Russia at the onset of World War I.  
In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.  
In 1943, rioting broke out in New York City's Harlem neighborhood after a false rumor spread that a police officer had shot and killed a black U.S. Army soldier who in fact had only been wounded; six people were killed in the violence.  
In 1957, the United States and Canada agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).  
In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on a shooting rampage at the University of Texas in Austin, killing 14 people. Whitman, who had also slain his wife and mother hours earlier, was gunned down by police.  
In 1971, the Concert for Bangladesh, organized by George Harrison and Ravi Shankar, took place at New York's Madison Square Garden.  
In 1981, the rock music video channel MTV made its debut.  
In 2007, the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.  
**Ten years ago:** The federal government warned of possible al-Qaida terrorist attacks against specific financial institutions in New York City, Washington and Newark, New Jersey. A supermarket fire on the outskirts of Asuncion, Paraguay, killed more than 400 people. World Trade Organization members meeting in Geneva approved a plan to end export subsidies on farm products and cut import duties across the world.

Karen Stupples won the Women's British Open. Alexandra Scott, a young cancer patient who'd started a lemonade stand to raise money for cancer research, sparking a nationwide fund-raising campaign, died at her home in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, at age eight.  
**Five years ago:** A fierce storm caused an outdoor stage at the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, to collapse, killing one person and injuring dozens of others. A gunman opened fired at a gay youth center in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing two people. Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, 76, died in Manila. Naomi Sims, 61, believed to be the first black supermodel, died in Newark, New Jersey.  
**One year ago:** President Barack Obama faced congressional critics of the National Security Agency's collection of Americans' telephone records as he and Vice President Joe Biden joined lawmakers on both sides of the issue for an Oval Office meeting. Defying the United States, Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport where he had been holed up for weeks. Actress-producer Gail Kobe, 81, died in Woodland Hills, California.  
**Today's Birthdays:** Actor-director Geoffrey Holder is 84. Singer Raminin' Jack Elliott is 83. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato is 77. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 72. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 64. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 61. Singer Michael Penn is 56. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 55. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 54. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 54. Actor Jesse Borrego is 52. Actor Demian Bichir is 51. Rapper Coolio is 51. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 51. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 50. Movie director Sam Mendes is 49. Country singer George Ducais is 48. Country musician Charlie Kelley is 46. Actress Jennifer Gareis is 44. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 42. Actress Tempestt Bledsoe is 41. Actor Jason Momoa is 35. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 33. Actress Taylor Fry is 33. Actor Elijah Kelley is 28. Actor James Francis Kelly is 25. Actress Ella Wahlestedt (Film: "Earth to Echo") is 16.  
**Thought for Today:** "Middle age snuffs out more talent than ever wars or sudden deaths do." — Richard Hughes, Welsh author and dramatist (1900-1976).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

And He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Mark 8:29. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



## Talking To Russ Morrell

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

I remember when I first met Russ Morrell. It was actually the first thing I thought of last Saturday when I heard that Morrell, the Hall of Fame high school football coach at Bon Homme, Wagner, Irene and elsewhere, had passed away of a heart attack the day before while fishing in Alaska. I've encountered so many people during my nearly 30 years at this newspaper. Some of them became so entwined in my life that they always just seemed to be there. It's hard for me — for all of us, perhaps — to point to the precise moment when any one person entered our orbit, in part because most of those first meetings were such casual matters that they didn't stand out as particularly special.



Kelly HERTZ

But that wasn't the case when I encountered Morrell for the first time. In October 1984, I was a new part-time sports writer assigned to cover the Bon Homme-Scotland football game as this newspaper's "Game of the Week." Both schools were in Class 11B then and were rivals in the Southeastern South Dakota Conference. Most every meeting between these two football teams was a mighty showdown, and this night in Scotland was no exception.

Bon Homme got a couple of early touch-downs and, for much of the game, fought to make them stand up. Scotland was driving late to close the gap. Facing fourth down in Bon Homme territory and a clock winding down, Scotland called a time-out. The teams huddled near their respective sidelines.

I was standing near the Bon Homme bench at this point. I watched as both teams finally broke from their huddles and jogged out onto the field for the make-or-break play. A hot tension squirmed in that autumn air.

I was jotting something down in my notes when I heard a voice.

"Are you from the *Press & Dakotan*?" I looked up and there was Morrell, of all people, approaching me as the players were gradually aligning themselves for the play. Startled — I wondered what I was doing wrong to draw his wrath *right then* — I confirmed that I was and introduced myself, and he did the same.

He then remarked, "Great game, isn't it?" And that was basically it. He turned his nervous energy back to the field and began clapping his hands and barking out encouragement to his defense. The Highlanders' running play was stopped. The Cavs won the game and went to the playoffs.

I have no recollection now of the post-game interview, but I do recall that my mind was made up. I liked Coach Morrell.

As it turned out, he was one of the most approachable people I've ever dealt with here. Morrell just had an affable openness about him, and as a result, he was one of the first coaches I was ever really able to talk to comfortably. Just his acknowledging me on the sideline that night

meant an awful lot to me back then. Although Morrell's coaching record did a lot of talking for him — 233 wins to just 89 losses, and three state championships — I learned that people were his real passion. He loved football, but he loved his players and coaches even more. And ultimately, he knew the game was just a game. Whether it was in the glow of a state title triumph or after a tough playoff loss, he kept things in context in his post-game comments, knowing that tomorrow was another day.

That made talking to Morrell one of the easiest things I've ever had to do as a journalist.

Except one time. One lesson that applies to journalists and coaches alike is that you have to be ready for the unexpected. But no one was ready for what happened when Bon Homme played Sioux Valley in the Class 11B championship game in Vermillion in 1988.

Sometime in the third quarter, one of the game's officials collapsed on the field directly in front of me. Paramedics rushed out, and the game was halted for 20 minutes. I didn't find out that the official had died of a heart attack — a haunting coincidence now, it seems — until shortly after the Cavs lost a tense game to the Cossacks 34-28.

I eventually tracked down Morrell outside the locker room in an empty hall deep in the belly of the DakotaDome. For more reasons than one, we were both lost. I didn't know what to ask and he couldn't really focus on answers.

Then, down the hall to my right, we saw a woman walk up to a closed door and softly knock. The door opened and one of the game's officials, still in uniform and looking drained of all energy, stepped out. The official and the visitor then hugged each other for a long, long time.

Morrell and I silently watched this sad encounter until they finally went inside the room and closed the door.

We both exhaled. "That really puts things in perspective," Morrell quietly told me.

And with that, we were able to get through an interview that neither of us felt like doing.

It did indeed put things in perspective — just like a similar tragedy does now. I've struggled mightily with perspective since last weekend, because there really are no more tomorrows, in a sense.

But with Morrell, there are so many marvelous yesterdays — filled with spectacular Friday nights, joyous moments and valuable lessons — to feed our memories of him forever. And he will be remembered: as a winner on the football field and in life, as a great coach, as a great friend, as a great person. And for me, he will also always live in my thoughts as a great guy to talk to, even when the game was on the line.

Follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz/](http://twitter.com/kelly_hertz/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

**YOUR LETTERS**

**On Veterans Hospitals**

**Cliff Aase, Springfield**  
As a veteran and a taxpayer, I have some thoughts and concerns on the problems coming to light in the Veterans Administration.

1. Do veterans get care in VA hospitals that is not available in privately run hospitals?
2. Is the care given in VA hospitals superior to private hospitals?
3. Are the doctors and nurses trained differently from those in privately run hospitals?
4. Are the VA hospitals as conveniently located (throughout the country) as the privately run hospitals?

If the primary difference is how the expenses are billed (to the government, to the insurance company, or to the individual), this could be handled in an office staffed by VA employees located in the hospital. This seems to be paperwork that must be done anyway.

I have also noticed that doctors are called in to the VA hospitals from privately run hospitals on occasion, as well as veterans transferred to privately run hospitals for procedures or tests not available at the VA hospital.

By operating a duplicated hospital just for veterans, the costs must go up as staff, equipment and buildings must also be duplicated. How is this economically better for anyone — patients or taxpayers?

**Online Opinion**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

**Do you believe the drilling technique known as "fracking" causes earthquakes?**  
No . . . . . 47%  
Yes . . . . . 34%  
Not sure . . . . . 19%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** . . . . . 290

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 support congressional Republican efforts to sue President Obama?**  
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

**Wise Words**

**Diane Gunderson, Yankton**  
I would like to commend Micki Schievelbein for her writing in "Her Voice" recently. Her story was a great lesson. And her last sentence was so true: "Do not judge others; you may be the only Bible some people will ever read."

**WRITE US**

■ Make your feelings known! Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day, in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to (605) 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.