

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Leadership Needed In Ferguson

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (August 18): It was reported Monday by Andrea Peterson of the *Washington Post* that the city of Ferguson had hired a Chesterfield public relations firm that specializes in crisis management. We tried contacting the firm to verify this, but no one answered the phone. As metaphors for the communications issues that have characterized the protests in Ferguson, this works very nicely.

As the 10th night of protests approached, a few things had sorted themselves out. More remain unsorted.

The family of Michael Brown, the unarmed 18-year-old whose death at the hands of a Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9 sparked the protests, has hired lawyers. Mr. Wilson apparently has hired lawyers. Three autopsies have been performed, none of which appear to conclusively support initial eyewitness testimony on either side.

The Ferguson and St. Louis County police departments, which could not have bungled communications worse if they'd tried, were relieved of overall command by Capt. Ron Johnson of the Missouri Highway Patrol. For a couple of days, Capt. Johnson talked to everyone, leaving no doubt who was in charge.

After Sunday night, when protesters made a move on the police command center, Gov. Jay Nixon activated the National Guard to protect the command center, apparently surprising Capt. Johnson. As Monday evening began, Capt. Johnson was still in charge on the streets, which had been ordered cleared, but the Guard was in charge at the command center.

For all the uncertainty on the law enforcement side, there was more on the protesters' side. The pastors and local activists who played a leading role in the first days of the insurgency, appeared to have no control over certain more aggressive elements in the crowd.

These awful events will not be calmed until leaders emerge, on both sides, and communicate clearly, among themselves, among each other and to the public. Law enforcement should speak with one, clear voice. It must engage on social media, where it is being creamed in the info-wars. It must treat reporters fairly. In return, reporters should respect lawful orders, as they would if they were embedded in a war zone. People are frightened, and frightened people sometimes make bad decisions.

On the other side, protesters should consider who they are following, and for what purpose. Mob mentality is not just a figure of speech. There are people in this crowd who are there to create trouble, not solve problems.

If progress is going to be made in dealing with very real issues facing Ferguson and St. Louis, responsible leaders must step forward and be heard.

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 Thursday, August 21, the 233th day of 2014. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 21, 1944, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China opened talks at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington that helped pave the way for establishment of the United Nations. (The talks concluded on October 7.)

On this date: In 1614, Transylvanian Countess Elizabeth Bathory, believed complicit in the killings of dozens, possibly hundreds, of young women and girls, was found dead at age 54 nearly four years after being sealed off in her castle chambers.

In 1831, Nat Turner led a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 white people. (He was later executed.)

In 1858, the first of seven debates between Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1972, the Republican National Convention opened in Miami Beach.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport. The musical play "La Cage Aux Folles" opened on Broadway.

In 1984, Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro appeared before reporters in Queens, New York, to field questions about her family's finances.

In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

Ten years ago: The International Gymnastics Federation ruled that South Korean Yang Tae-yung had been unfairly docked a tenth of a point in the all-around gymnastics final at the Athens Olympics, costing him the gold medal that ended up going to Paul Hamm of the United States; however, the ruling did not change the

final result in which Yang received the bronze.

Five years ago: A wildfire broke out north of Athens, Greece; in the days that followed, the blaze spread, charring 80 square miles before being extinguished. A high-level delegation of North Korean officials paid their respects to late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gays and lesbians from serving as ministers.

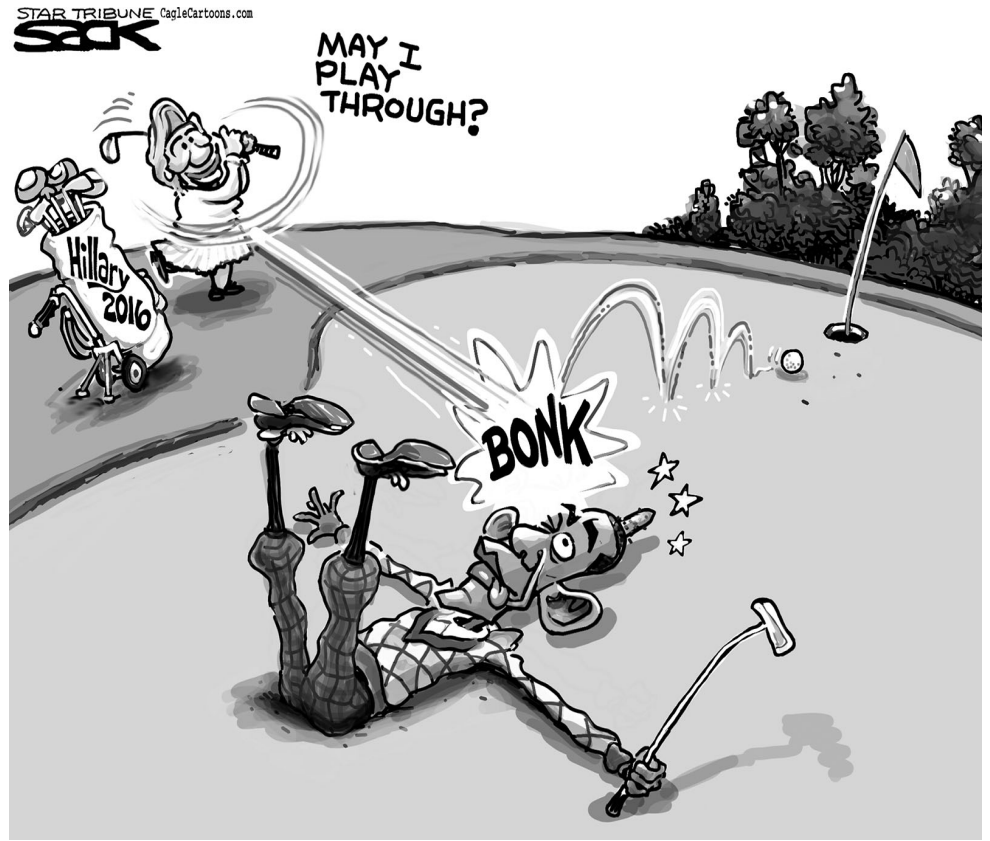
One year ago: Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was sentenced at Fort Meade, Maryland, to up to 35 years in prison for spilling an unprecedented trove of government secrets. The National Security Agency declassified three secret court opinions showing how in one of its surveillance programs, it scooped up as many as 56,000 emails and other communications by Americans not connected to terrorism annually over three years. Former space shuttle astronaut C. Gordon Fullerton, 76, died in Lancaster, California. Music promoter Sid Bernstein, 95, who booked such acts as Jimi Hendrix, Judy Garland and the Rolling Stones and brought The Beatles to Carnegie Hall in 1964, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Former football player Pete Retzlaff is 83. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 82. Playwright Mart Crowley is 79. Singer Kenny Rogers is 76. Actor Clarence Williams III is 75. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 75. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 75. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 73. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 69. Actress Patty McCormack is 69. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese is 67. Actress Loretta Devine is 65. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 63. Singer Glenn Hughes is 62. Country musician Nick Kane is 60. Actress Kim Cattrall is 58. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 55. Actress Cleo King is 52. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher John Wetteland is 48. Rock singer Serj Tankian (System of a Down) is 47. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 45. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 44. Retired MLB player Craig Counsell is 44. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 43. Actress Alicia Witt is 39. Singer Kelis is 35. TV personality Brody Jenner is 31. Singer Melissa Suman is 30. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is 28. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 28. Actor Cody Kasch is 27. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 26. Actress Hayden Panettiere is 25. Actor RJ Mitte is 22.

Thought for Today: "Old age is the most unexpected of all the things that happen to a man." — Leon Trotsky (1879-1940).

FROM THE BIBLE

Truly ... whenever the gospel is proclaimed in the while world, what she has done will be told in memory of her. Mark 14:9. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Kindle's Korner

Welcome To A New School Year At YSD

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE
Yankton School District Superintendent

On behalf of the Yankton School District, I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for the new-teacher luncheon and the welcome-back coffee. Carmen Schramm, Chamber executive director, and Barb Kabeseaman, chair of the Chamber Education Committee, organized both events. They were both excellent events and greatly appreciated by school staff.

A very special thank you to the following sponsors: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, First Dakota National Bank, First National Bank South Dakota, Gerstner Oil Company, Hatch Furniture and Flooring, Northwestern Energy, Rupiper Tours, State Farm/Rhonda Wesseln, Verizon Wireless, Walmart, Yankton Medical Clinic, Missouri National Recreational River, Mtron PTI, RTEC, The Riverfront Event Center & Hotel, SAPA, Services Center Federal Credit Union, Slumberland Furniture, Applied Engineering, Boller Printing, Discovery Realty & Management Services, Home Federal Bank, KPI-JCI Astec Companies, KYNT, McDonalds, M.T. & R.C. Smith Insurance, State Farm/Roy Wilcox, South Dakota Magazine, Truxedo, W-Dee's, Willcockson Eye Associates, Wohlenberg and Ritzman & Co.



Wayne **KINDLE**
YSD Superintendent

Goal No. 5 — Use of Technology to Promote Parental Involvement and Increase Communication with Parents

The specific details of the Strategic Plan and Technology Plan can be found at www.ysd.k12.sd.us on the right hand side of the page under quick links.

I want to personally thank our entire community for their input into the development of both plans. These are plans and plans do change, so we will continue to monitor the progress and make changes as needed.

CONNECT 5 MESSAGING: PARENTS, ALUMNI, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

In order to improve communication, the Yankton School District implemented a computer messaging system called Blackboard Connect 5. This service allows the school district to reach thousands of people within minutes with a personalized voice message, email and/or text message.

If you are not receiving these messages, and wish to do so, please check with the secretary of your child's school to make sure we have your home phone, cell phone and email address. We will add you to the system.

Anyone in the Yankton community — parents, alumni, friends, and community members — can receive these messages. Just be sure we have your contact information in our system. Anyone can also subscribe to selectively receive district-wide communications as well as information about a specific school building at www.https://ysd633.bbcportal.com/

We have used personalized voice message, email and/or text messaging as ways to communicate with parents regarding school closures, a particular school event, upcoming book fairs, etc. However, there are some limits to the system. For instance, a text message written with Connect 5 is limited to 160 characters.

Since some complicated information cannot be easily explained in 160 characters, you may only receive an email notice. We are looking at new ways to use the text-messaging component more since we know that parents use that mode of communication regularly.

When you register your child for school, the contact information you give us is automatically included in our student management computer software called PowerSchool. You are then automatically signed up to receive communications from your child's school and district-wide announcements, alerts and reminders.

At times you may receive a text message, an email and a phone call for the same event. If families have not provided an email address or do not receive text messages, we may send the messages out in all modes available so as to reach as many families as possible. If you do not want to receive text messages from the school district, reply STOP to the next text message you receive. That will stop all text messages to that phone number.

PRESENTATIONS

As superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

Since taking my new position as superintendent, I have spoken to several groups throughout our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit. I can also be contacted using my email at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us

Let's have a terrific year!
Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

YOUR LETTERS

A Great Riverboat Days

Katie Greene, Yankton Yankton Riverboat Days Secretary
The 2014 Riverboat Days Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who had a part in making this year's festival such a success.

One of the best parts of Riverboat Days is the many free activities and events we are able

to offer. That is because of all the businesses and individuals who support us in one way or another. For all those, who helped to get the park set-up, organized events, worked at a booth, or shared expertise and knowledge to help make everything go smoothly — Thank you!

We also want to thank all of our sponsors who either donated money, services and goods, materials or manpower.