

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Champions!



A congratulatory **THUMBS UP** to the Wynot Expos amateur baseball team, which won the South Dakota Class B championship last Sunday, defeating defending champion Alexandria 8-2. Yes, the South Dakota tournament, Nebraska — and the South Central League — was represented by two teams in the semifinals, as Crofton made another deep run in the tournament. For Wynot, though, hoisting the championship trophy at Cadwell Park was especially sweet. The Expos lost long-time manager Terry Foxhoven to cancer in 2012, and memorialized him at their field in Wynot — erecting an archway in his honor. Somewhere, Foxhoven was looking down and smiling at the sight of 'his boys' celebrating.

A Winter Tale?



THUMBS DOWN to the first winter forecast of the season, which came to us this week from the venerable "Old Farmer's Almanac." The 233-year-old annual publication is calling for a "super-cold" winter in the eastern two-third of the U.S. "Think of it as a refrigeration," stated editor Janice Stillman. What's more, the "Almanac" is predicting a warmer-than-normal summer next year, which may impact crop yields. It's not a pleasant forecast, to be sure, and one can always hope that the variables will change. But it's something to gnaw on as our summer slips slowly into autumn and everything after.

Losing A Voice



Speaking of venerable institutions, **THUMBS DOWN** to the passing this week of Don Pardo, 96, one of television's all-time most recognizable voices. He was known as the voice of game shows like "Jeopardy!" in the 1960s, but when he was recruited to provide his sturdy radio baritone to the cutting-edge "Saturday Night Live" (SNL) in 1975, he grew into a cultural icon. He spent the next 38 seasons introducing big-time stars and up-and-coming talents. He sometimes became part of the act, memorably adding chorus vocals to Frank Zappa's SNL performance of "I Am The Slime" in 1976. He was the rock-solid sound of television at its best. And there is no doubt he will be missed.

SPEAK UP!

■ Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or 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 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Are you ready for school to start?

Yes	46%
I Don't Care	35%
No	19%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	234

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 think South Dakota's ban on gay marriage will be overturned in court?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, August 22, the 234th day of 2014. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 22, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war against Belgium.

On this date: In 1485, England's King Richard III was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field, effectively ending the War of the Roses.

In 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates from the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1846, Gen. Stephen W. Kearny proclaimed all of New Mexico a territory of the United States.

In 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained under Japanese control until the end of World War II.

In 1922, Irish revolutionary Michael Collins was shot to death, apparently by Irish Republican Army members opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty that Collins had co-signed.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. conducted its first experimental television broadcast, using a 30-line mechanical system.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon were nominated for second terms in office by the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1962, French President Charles de Gaulle survived an attempt on his life in suburban Paris.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI arrived in Bogota, Colombia, for the start of the first papal visit to South America.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was nominated for a second term of office by the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach. John Wojtowicz and Salvatore Naturile took seven employees hostage at a Chase Manhattan Bank branch in Brooklyn, New York, during a botched robbery; the siege, which ended with Wojtowicz's arrest and Naturile's killing by the FBI, inspired the 1975 movie "Dog Day Afternoon."

In 1989, Black Panthers co-founder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, California. (Gunsman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: As shocked spectators watched, armed thieves stole one of four versions of the Edvard Munch masterpiece "The Scream" and a second Munch painting, "Madonna," from the Munch museum in Oslo, Norway. (The paintings, visibly damaged, were recovered in August 2006; three men were convicted in

connection with the theft and sentenced to prison.)

Five years ago: Dozens of wildfires broke out across Greece, torching olive groves, cutting off villages and sending residents fleeing as one of the largest blazes swept perilously close to the capital's northern suburbs.

One year ago: Egypt's ousted leader Hosni Mubarak was released from prison and transported to a military hospital in a Cairo suburb to be held under house arrest. A day after being sentenced to up to 35 years in prison for leaking secrets, Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, in a statement to NBC's "Today" show, announced he intended to live as a woman named Chelsea and undergo hormone treatment. A mysterious glitch halted trading on the Nasdaq for three hours.

Today's Birthdays: Heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley is 94. Broadcast journalist Morton Dean is 79. Author Annie Proulx is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 75. Actress Valerie Harper is 75. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells is 73. Writer-producer David Chase is 69. CBS newsmen Steve Kroft is 69. Actress Cindy Williams is 67. Pop musician David Marks is 66. International Swimming Hall of Famer Diana Nyad is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor is 58. Country singer Holly Dunn is 57. Rock musician Vernon Reid is 56. Country singer Ricky Lynn Gregg is 55. Country singer Collin Raye is 54. Actress Regina Taylor is 54. Rock singer Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears) is 53. Rock musician Debbi Peterson (The Bangles) is 53. Rock musician Gary Lee Conner (Screaming Trees) is 52. Singer Tori Amos is 51. Country singer Mila Mason is 51. Rhythm-and-blues musician James DeBarge is 51. International Tennis Hall of Famer Mats Wilander is 50. Rapper GZA/The Genius is 48. Actor Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje is 47. Actor Ty Burrell is 47. Celebrity chef Giada DeLaurentiis is 44. Actress Melinda Page Hamilton (TV: "Devious Maids") is 43. Actor Rick Yune is 43. Rock musician Paul Doucette (Matchbox Twenty) is 42. Rap-reggae singer Beenie Man is 41. Singer Howie Dorough (Backstreet Boys) is 41. Comedian-actress Kristen Wiig is 41. Actress Jenna Leigh Green is 40. Rock musician Bo Koster is 40. Rock musician Dean Back (Theory of a Deadman) is 39. Rock musician Jeff Sincro (Simple Plan) is 36. Actor Brandon Adams is 35. Actress Aya Sumika is 34.

Thought for Today: "Life does not give itself to one who tries to keep all its advantages at once. I have often thought morality may perhaps consist solely in the courage of making a choice." — Leon Blum, French statesman (1872-1950).

FROM THE BIBLE

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Mark 14:38. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Watching The Police

BY KELLY HERTZ

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I sometimes wonder just how we Americans view our police.

It's an intriguing question when you consider that most of us basically don't think about law enforcement unless 1) we need it, or 2) we are confronted (read: apprehended) by it. Obviously, these can give us two very different perspectives.

Those two conflicting viewpoints have been portrayed in the last week or so — in the whirlwind of the ongoing chaos in Ferguson, Missouri — by several editorial cartoons I've seen, each of which borrowed from the same inspiration. These cartoons have depicted two extremes: the modern police force, decked out in riot gear and seemingly ready to go for war, versus visions of simpler lawmen, embodied by, of all characters, Deputy Barney Fife from "The Andy Griffith Show." The Fife character was also used to judge the efficient job the Ferguson police has — or hasn't — done in dealing with the crisis.

You might say the cartoons have been humorously unfair.

Nevertheless, those cartoons got me thinking about how we see the police — and also how we don't see them.

For instance, we don't see the things they do every day to keep our society functioning.

We don't see the training and the preparation that goes into enforcing and upholding the law.

We don't see the time devoted to being vigilant even when the world they patrol is quiet.

We don't see what's going through their heads when they potentially put their lives on the line with every answered call and every traffic stop.

What we do see, however, are the results of their presence and their actions.

Not all of the results come off as planned. Unfortunately, they aren't always positive or logical.

It would be a glaring understatement to note that the situation in Ferguson has not been a good result. We know the details and we know about the racial undercurrents that have turned this situation into far more than an isolated confrontation between a cop and a kid. I'm aware of the defense that is being put up for the officer who shot and killed the unarmed teen: "What would you do," it's been asked rhetorically, "if you were that cop and someone was being aggressive toward you?"

YOUR LETTERS

More On Marijuana

John Magnuson, Yankton

I would like to respond specifically to statements to the editor by John Cornette (*Press & Dakotan*, Aug. 11) calling marijuana a gateway drug.

The gateway drug theory is a theory proposing that the use of softer drugs such as marijuana lead to the use of hard drugs such as heroin, as if users graduate from lower grades to higher grades.

There was a study published in a 2008 *American Journal of Psychiatry*, addressing this issue, which stated essentially that transition to the use of illegal drugs (heroin?) is not determined by the preceding use of a particular drug (marijuana?) but is determined instead by the user's individual tendencies and environmental circumstances. Most would interpret "individual tendencies" to include such factors as a genetic predisposition and having an addictive personality. "Environmental circumstances" might include urban blight, joblessness and possible family dysfunctional issues. Surveys vary but generally about 100 million Americans have admitted to trying marijuana, about 16.1 million claim to use marijuana at least monthly and according to best estimates 287,000 admit addiction to heroin. Clearly these numbers do not validate the Gateway Theory, otherwise there would be many more heroin addicts. Conversely, Some argue that the marijuana prohibition IS the Gateway since buying marijuana illegally introduces buyers to sellers who also sell heroin and other drugs.

Many good people say that we don't understand marijuana well enough to legalize it. I would respond that our lack of understanding did not prevent us from the overreaction of classifying marijuana as a Schedule I Controlled Substance the same as heroin. And as a consequence, this did not stop us from sending thousands if not millions to prison. Its time for those fighting the war on drugs to step out of the trenches and take a look around. Old methods do not work. There are no WMDs. We should end the prohibition on marijuana and legalize an unadulterated pure marijuana for those who chose to use.

Flowering Problem

Ruth Ann Dickman, Utica

This is a response to Jolene Berndt's letter (*Press & Dakotan*, July 21). I, too, am appalled at the way the flags, flowers and other items have been piled in a big heap after Memorial Day and then put in a big hole and buried. This is very disrespectful, especially to the flag! I have always been taught to respect the flag. I am wondering if there is no respect for anything anymore. Why can't the flags, flowers and other items be left on the graves for a month, then be gathered up and put someplace so that people could take them. I have already seen this being done! Such a shameful waste!

Taking Issue

Michael J. Cody, Yankton

"You're entitled to your opinion but not the facts." I thought of this quote as I read the "Writer's Block" article by Jim Van Osdel (*Press & Dakotan*, Aug. 14), a column riddled by half-truths and downright lies.

The gist of Van Osdel's gripe, I guess, was that Jimmy Carter's "throwing money at it scheme" (Van Osdel's words) caused the high inflation of the times. But if he just would have checked the public record, he would have learned that Carter inherited a budget deficit, trimmed it in his first year and produced surpluses in his last three years. What did Reagan do with Carter's surplus, Jim?

And if runaway spending really upsets you, why no mention of George W. Bush? He inherited a massive surplus from another Democrat, but you know what happened next: the "Bridge to Nowhere" bill, the prescription drug benefit and the \$2 trillion wars which of course produced a deluge of your hated red ink.

While on the subject of ink, I'm going to heed the advice to never get into a debate with someone who buys the stuff by the barrel. So save it, Jim. You really owe the readers a retraction but if you're scrambling to your desk to fire back some of your cheap propaganda, stop by the subscription desk first and cancel mine.

WRITE US: Letters, Yankton Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078