

# The Press & Dakotan

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

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## OPINION OTHER VIEWS

# Domes Look Nice, But Lost Luster

**MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC (July 28):** It's unfortunate the new Corn Palace domes sat on Sixth Avenue in Mitchell for months before they were actually installed Monday.

Nestled between the Corn Palace's south walls and the Scoreboard Pub & Grille, the domes waited patiently for their day in the sun. It was about four months after the believed-to-be completion date of the renovation that the domes finally were lifted off the street and onto the Palace.

Spectators and city officials watched as the new-look Corn Palace started to take form.

And, honestly, we felt the old domes were out of date. The Palace needed a new look. Did it need a multi-million dollar renovation? We'll find out.

Hopefully these new domes, turrets and updated Palace features attract more tourists to Mitchell. Our city has been undergoing a major self-promotion effort in the past year through endorsing its Top7 intelligent communities designation, creating a new logo and getting the word out about the great things we have going on here.

And that's great. But hopefully the majority of the tourists feel Mitchell made a good decision with its new domes and updated Palace.

As far as the domes, we've heard positive and negative comments. And now that they've been installed on the Palace's roof, we're actually listening to the reviews. While the domes rested on Sixth Avenue, we didn't feel the judgments were worthy. It was like trying to determine the sparkle of a Christmas tree without the star. It was unfinished.

We've heard some people think the new domes are hideous, while some really like the new look. Surely there are always going to be people who complain about a major decision such as this one.

What's our opinion?

Well, the domes certainly lost some of their luster while sitting on Sixth Avenue. We drove by them day after day and wished they were in their rightful place, on the Palace's roof. We realize it probably was tough to keep them hidden because they needed to be assembled, but seeing the domes gave away the surprise.

But we appreciate city officials ensuring their durability. Tuesday morning's early storm, which included 48 mph winds, gave at least an early inclination that these domes will withstand South Dakota's rough weather.

Overall, we're happy with the new domes, especially since they're finally on top of the Corn Palace. It will be interesting how the LED lights, which are going to be installed at a later date, will improve the domes even more.

Hundreds of thousands of people are going to see these domes for years to come, so we hope they're well-received. They're going to help define our city. Like it or not, the Corn Palace is Mitchell's identity.

## P&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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 us at [kelly.hertz@yankton.net](mailto:kelly.hertz@yankton.net).

## ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at [kelly.hertz@yankton.net](mailto:kelly.hertz@yankton.net).

## IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, August 3, the 215th day of 2015. There are 150 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

**On this date:** In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1863, the first thoroughbred horse races took place at the Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, New York.

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

In 1943, Gen. George S. Patton slapped a private at an army hospital in Sicily, accusing him of cowardice. (Patton was later ordered by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to apologize for this and a second, similar episode.)

In 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

In 1966, comedian Lenny Bruce, 40, was found dead in his Los Angeles home.

In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning that President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1993, the Senate voted 96-3 to confirm U.S. Supreme Court nominee Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

**Ten years ago:** Fourteen Marines from a Reserve unit in Ohio were killed in a roadside bombing in Iraq. Spacewalking astronaut Stephen Robinson removed two worrisome pieces of filler material from the shuttle Discovery's belly in an unprecedented space repair job. The Journal Nature reported that a South Korean

researcher had created the world's first cloned dog, an Afghan hound named "Snuppy." (Although the scientist, Hwang Woo-suk, was later disgraced over faked research, the cloning of Snuppy was independently confirmed.)

**Five years ago:** Engineers began pumping heavy drilling mud into the blown-out Gulf of Mexico oil well in an attempt to permanently plug the leak. A warehouse driver killed eight co-workers and himself in a shooting rampage at a Manchester, Connecticut, beer distributorship.

**One year ago:** Israel withdrew most of its ground troops from the Gaza Strip in an apparent winding down of a nearly monthlong operation against Hamas that had left more than 1,800 Palestinians and more than 60 Israelis dead. A strong earthquake in China's southern Yunnan province toppled thousands of homes, killing more than 600 people. Mystery writer Dorothy Salisbury Davis, 98, died in Palisades, New York.

**Today's Birthdays:** Football Hall-of-Fame coach Marv Levy is 90. Singer Tony Bennett is 89. Actor Martin Sheen is 75. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 75. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 74. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 74. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 66. Movie director John Landis is 65. Actress JoMarie Payton is 65. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 64. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 64. Country musician Randy Scruggs is 62. Actor Philip Casnoff is 61. Actor John C. McGinley is 56. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 54. Actress Lisa Ann Walter is 54. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 52. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 52. Actor Isaiah Washington is 52. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 49. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 45. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 44. Actress Brigid Brannagh is 43. Actor Michael Ealy is 42. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 39. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 38. Actress Evangeline Lilly is 36. Actress Mamie Gummer is 32. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 31. Actor Jon Foster is 31. Actress Georgina Haig is 30. Singer Holly Arstein (Dream) is 30. Actress Tanya Fischer is 30. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzie (OneRepublic) is 30.

**Thought for Today:** "We are healed of a suffering only by experiencing it to the full." — Marcel Proust, French author (1871-1922).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*I will raise up for them a prophet like you. Deuteronomy 18:18.*  
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



## Capitol Notebook

# School Funding Gets More Attention, Not Money

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – Two legislators from different political parties and different parts of South Dakota have been digging into the intertwined issues of public school funding and teacher salaries.

Rep. Lee Schoenbeck distributed a think piece that analyzes how we reached this point. One solution the Republican from Watertown offers is an additional 1 percent of state sales tax that coincides each year with the summer tourist season.

Rep. Ray Ring prepared an analysis of South Dakota's tax revenues used for public schools and a comparison with neighboring states where pay is higher for teachers. The Democrat from Vermillion showed consequence of lower taxes.

The two lawmakers have taken different routes to disseminate their information.

Schoenbeck is passing his eight-page paper through political channels. Ring had a statewide stage last August at the 2014 joint convention of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the School Administrators of South Dakota.

Ring, now retired, was a long-time professor at the University of South Dakota business school. More than 20 years ago, during the George S. Mickelson administration, he served as an analyst for the state's tax study panel.

His look last year at teacher salaries found South Dakota was last in the region for 2012-2013 at \$39,850. Next were North Dakota at \$47,344; Nebraska at \$48,931; and Montana at \$49,999. The U.S. average was \$56,383.

He performed a cost-analysis comparison that looked at each state's economic conditions. South Dakota remained last but improved to \$44,875. Next was North Dakota at \$52,372.



Bob  
**MERCER**

He also looked at more than 30 years of data. South Dakota trailed all of its neighboring states throughout the entire period and began falling farther and farther behind in about 2003.

South Dakota hasn't regained ground in the past decade.

In comparison to average South Dakota wages and salaries, teachers' pay gradually increased from 1980 to 1995 – and has steadily decreased since 1995 to its lowest point since 1970.

During the late 1970s, South Dakota school districts spent slightly more than 80 percent on salaries, about 10 percent on benefits and about 8 percent on other items. That balance has shifted, with salaries in the current decade down to slightly more than 70 percent and benefits up to approximately 20 percent.

Yet South Dakota in 2011-2012 provided the lowest level of benefits, as a percentage of salary, among states in the region at 27.8 percent. Next was Montana at 29.4 percent.

South Dakota received more federal revenue per capita for schools than all of the neighboring states in 2011-2012. For local revenue, South Dakota stood in the middle of the group. For state revenue, South Dakota trailed all, by a wide margin.

As a percentage of personal income, school funding in South Dakota was far behind neighboring states in 2011-2012 too. The state-revenue contribution in South Dakota was last in this comparison, Ring found, nearly 40 percent behind the next state, Montana.

The Schoenbeck proposal for a summer sales tax isn't novel. But it directly addresses the gap identified by Ring. It shifts some of the burden to visitors. And he might have the credibility to get it into law.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### God Spoke On Homosexuality

Kim Dale, Yankton

In reply to Debora Schmidt (*Press & Dakotan*, July 20):

Maybe you should take a look at what God thinks of homosexuality in the Bible.

Leviticus 18:22 — You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13 — If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Romans 1:26-28 — For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameful acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

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