

## 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 SUBSCRIPTIONS CIRCULATION Extension 104 CLASSIFIED ADS Extension 108 tera.schmidt@yankton.net

NEWS DEPT. Extension 114 news@yankton.net SPORTS DEPT. Extension 106 sports@yankton.net ADVERTISING DEPT. Extension 122

sales@yankton.net BUSINESS OFFICE Extension 119 ar@yankton.net NEW MEDIA: Extension 136

beth.rye@yankton.net COMPOSING DEPT. Extension 129 kathy.larson@yankton.net

> **MANAGERS** Gary L. Wood Publisher

Michele Schievelbein

Advertising Director Iim Gevens

Circulation Director Tonya Schild

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We Say

The Right Court

**THUMBS UP** to the Yankton County Drug Court, which held its second graduation this week. Four individuals were honored as they finished the program, an alternative offered to non-violent substance abusers in lieu of prison. By all accounts, the program is not an easy way to avoid doing time, as those who participate must go through counseling, attend meetings, take

part in community service and basically live clean in order to graduate. A program like this not only gives offenders a chance to salvage their lives, but it also saves the taxpayers money in terms of resources not spent on incarceration. It's success should be celebrated and its organizers thanked.

#### It Rocked!



THUMBS UP to the first Rock's Rumble motorcycle rally held Saturday in Yankton. Organizers had no idea what to expect for the inaugural event and were hoping for 50 bikers. Instead, the rally drew 205 motorcycles — with upwards of 400 riders — who filled downtown Yankton and then made a round trip over the Meridian Bridge before heading to Lewis and Clark

Lake. The evening concluded with a barbecue and band at The Landing and a street dance on downtown Third Street. Bikers registered from six states and from 27 South Dakota communities, according to Stephanie Moser, director of the Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). Moser has indicated this year was so successful that organizers are considering a two-day event in 2016.

### Sign Off



A sad THUMBS DOWN to the departure of Jon Stewart from "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central. Stewart's farewell was Thursday night, and it brings to an end a transformative age of political and social satire that evolved with the changing technological times. When Stewart came on board as host — and yes, it's hard to remember the "Daily Show" before Stewart's arrival

— the program was basically a send-up of network newscasts. But beginning with the tumultuous 2000 presidential election, it turned into so much more. It was funny and it could be brutal, but more than that, it was always smart, stripping away a lot of the rhetoric and posturing that polluted our political discourse. Stewart departs in the wake of the exits of Stephen Colbert and David Letterman from their late-night gigs, although Colbert will be taking over for Letterman. It's the end of an age in late-night comedy that might not rank with the gold-plated heyday of Johnny Carson's reign, but it has sure come close

#### **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/.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

# LATEST RESULTS:

Would you favor Supreme Court justices facing retention votes by the public to stay on the court? Not sure/don't care

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:**

Which of the six "Big Idea" finalists do you like the most? To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website

# in history

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, August 7, the 219th day of 2015. There are 146 days left in

Today's Highlight in History: On August 7, 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted

men and noncommissioned officers.

On this date: In 1789, the U.S. War

In 1814, Pope Pius VII issued a bull restoring the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, four decades after the order had been suppressed by Pope Clement XIV. In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the Mc-

Coys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale In 1927, the already opened Peace Bridge connecting Buffalo, New York, and

Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, was officially dedicated. In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start

of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.
In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of

Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1974, French stuntman Philippe Petit repeatedly walked a tightrope strung between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)
In 1990, President George H.W. Bush

ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by

Iraq.
In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenva and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans. In 2000, Vice President and Demo-

cratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jewish candidate on a major party's presidential ticket. Ten years ago: ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at

age 67. Seven people in a Russian minisubmarine trapped for nearly three days under the Pacific Ocean were rescued after a British remote-controlled vehicle cut away undersea cables that snarled their vessel. Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned from his post

to protest an upcoming withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank.

Five years ago: Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, A healthy-looking Fidel Castro appealed to President Barack Obama to stave off global nuclear war in an address to parliament that marked his first official government appearance since emergency surgery four years earlier. Jerry Rice, Emmitt Smith, John Randle, Dick LeBeau, Rickey Jackson, Russ Grimm and Floyd Little were inducted into the Pro Football

One year ago: President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes in northern Iraq, warning they would be launched if needed to defend Americans from advancing Islamic militants and protect civilians under siege. President Obama signed a \$16.3 billion measure aimed at helping veterans avoid long waits for health care. A jury convicted a suburban Detroit homeowner of second-degree murder and manslaughter in the killing of an unarmed woman on his porch, rejecting Theodore Wafer's claim that he was afraid for his life when he heard Renisha McBride pounding on his door in the middle of the night and had acted in self-de-fense. (Wafer was sentenced to at least

17 years in prison.)

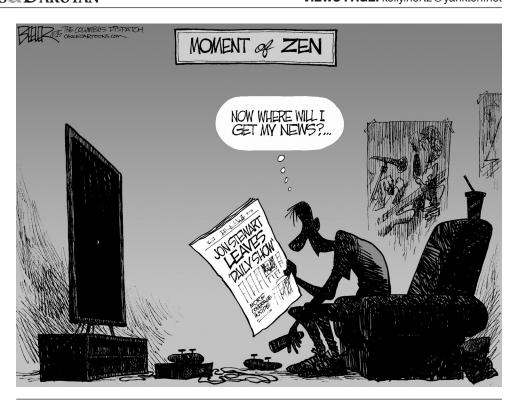
Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 87. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 86. Actress Verna Bloom is 77. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 73. Singer B.J. Thomas is 73. Singer Lana Cantrell is 72. FBI Director Robert Mueller is 71. Actor John Glover is 71. Actor David Rasche is 71. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 65. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 65. Actress Caroline Aaron is 63. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 63. Actor Wayne Knight is 60. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 57. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 57. Actor David Duchovny is 55. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 54. Actress Delane Matthews is 54. Áctor Harold Perrineau is 52. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 52. Country singer Raul Malo is 50. Actor David Mann is 49. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 48. Actress Sydney Penny is 44. Actor Michael Shannon is 41. Actress Charlize Theron is 40. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 39. Actor Randy Wayne is 34.

Actor-writer Brit Marling is 33.

Thought for Today: "There are a lot of people who think our job is to reassure the public every night that their home, their community and their nation is safe. don't subscribe to that at all. I subscribe to leaving people with essentially sorry it's a cliche a rough draft of history. Some days it's reassuring, some days it's absolutely destructive." — Peter Jennings (1938-

# FROM THE BIBLE

We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



### **Kelly Hertz**

# Focusing On Big Ideas

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

The six finalists in Yankton's highly publicized quest for its next "Big Idea" were unveiled Tuesday. In doing so, the Onward Yankton group introduced a new element into this curious cam-

After contemplating a swarm of more than 500 ideas, and then more than a dozen semifinalists, we can now concentrate on six fairly specific visions of what Yankton could be — and the possibilities seem genuinely exciting.

But also a little frustrating. The final six ideas — one more than the orginally scheduled five due to a tie in the voting — are all enticing. Any one of them would make Yankton

The frustration is that Yankton would do well to undertake any of these ideas, to some degree. Why not pursue a four-season event facility?

This is something the hotel owners proposed a couple of years ago, which basically got the whole discussion of the community's athletic facilities started. And the idea, as presented, would tie in perfectly with the Highway 52 corridor project the county is about to pursue.

Why not make this the best town in the state/ Midwest/nation to raise children? Who could possibly oppose such an initiative? And what young family could ignore it?

Why not develop the downtown district for creative culture and entrepreneurial start-ups? Downtown areas in many cities are seeking new identities as retail energies migrate to more accessible regions. Yankton's downtown is as primed as anyone else's for such a reinvention.

Why not partner with Mount Marty to expand its student enrollment and its offerings? It would be a win-win all the way around.

Why not reach out for cooperative efforts with area communities like Vermillion? Regional marketing has proven successful in other areas of the country. These two towns — along with others in the area — would fit together nicely in such

an arrangement. Why not re-brand Yankton's image to capitalize on its history and its recreation?

Why not develop the riverfront as a prime location for business and residential interests? Yankton was relatively slow to develop its riverfront potential: Riverside Park wasn't transformed into the beautiful thing that it is now until the 1980s. This kind of endeavor would help tie in so many of the elements that exist there now.

So, how do you choose one?

That's where the focus is needed, I suppose. Each idea has merit. How doable any one of them is seems a bit vague at this moment, but that's sort of the point of this whole campaign. The contest helps the community focus on one

All of these ideas put a focus on Yankton's future. We can be so many things that it's sometimes hard to direct our energies to just one thing.

Indeed, it could be argued that Yankton could pursue ALL these ideas, in some capacity or another. With aggressive marketing and the right city/county planning, all these things are attain-

But all these visions can't be realized at once, and that's the point of this campaign. That's why we need focus.

The "Big Idea" quest has shown us that there are a lot of ideas out there to make Yankton move forward, to give this town the momentum it has  $% \left( t\right) =\left( t\right) \left( t\right)$ long needed. In that sense, the campaign has shown us possibilities, and Tuesday's announcement of the finalists have put them right in our

Ultimately, the Onward Yankton campaign is not a question of what we will choose to do, but how will we choose to get there. We all have a vaguely bright vision of what Yankton could become — we can sense it when we go to other communities who have turned their big ideas into big realities. What we have lacked is the cohesion to move toward it. Hopefully, this campaign can change that, if it can generate the focus and the will that are needed

And that could be the biggest and best idea

Follow @kelly hertz on Twitter.

# No Sale, Mr. President

Michael

REAGAN

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

Did you catch President Obama's sales speech for his Iranian nuclear deal at American University? My head is still spinning and I think I did

something to my back trying to follow the president's arguments on Wednesday afternoon. Basically, the president said if Con-

gress doesn't approve the treaty that he.

John Kerry and his State Department softball team made with the avatollahs. three bad things are gonna happen.

Iran will develop nuclear weapons in

There will be a new war in the Middle And the United States will lose its

credibility as the global leader of diplo-You can argue that the same three

bad things will happen, or are already happening, whether or not we sign the Iranian nuclear deal, but let's not go there. Obama pulled out all the stops trying to per-

suade everyone that his bad deal is not only a good deal, it's the best deal with Iran we can ever hope He ended his sales pitch by asking Americans to contact their representatives in Washington to urge

them to approve the Iranian deal. He said two years of negotiations "have achieved a detailed arrangement that permanently prohibits Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon" and contains "the most comprehensive inspection and verification regime ever negotiated to monitor

a nuclear program. Republicans in the Senate and a few Democrats beg to differ with the president and his self-congratulatory BS. They'd prefer to study the details of the deal – and maybe improve them – before they

They also want to make sure the smiling Iranian despots in Tehran realize that we have this thing called a Constitution and no treaty Obama and his team whips up can become law until the Senate ratifies it.

The president appeared at American University in Washington because that's where John Kennedy gave his "Strategy of Peace" speech in 1963.

JFK called for the U.S. and the Soviets to seek peaceful solutions to the Cold War, which Obama noted was how it ultimately ended.

Obama praised Kennedy and Ronald Reagan and quoted them about the importance of seeking peace and the avoidance of war through diplomacy.

He forgot to mention that Kennedy and Reagan

also backed up their hard diplomacy with big military sticks and a willingness to swing them. Sometimes diplomacy – which Oba-

ma acts likes he invented in 2008 – has to take a backseat to a military solution.

In his speech Obama didn't quote Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, though he did point out that Israel's leader strongly disagrees with the Iranian deal.

That's an understatement. As Netanyahu has said, "The nuclear deal with Iran doesn't block Iran's path to the bomb. It actually paves Iran's path to the bomb."

The deal won't bring peace or security for Israel or anyone else, Netanyahu

It will "spark a nuclear arms race in the region. And it would feed Iran's terrorism and aggression that would make war, perhaps the most horrific war of all, far more likely. President Obama expressed his deep respect

for Netanyahu, then said he was wrong to be against the deal. Obama also expressed his love for Israel. Saying he'll always see to it that America defends our loyal ally, he insisted the deal he has crafted is "in

America's interests and Israel's interests. Deal or no deal, in the long run everyone knows Iran is as untrustworthy as any nation on the

Its leaders are responsible for destabilizing half the countries in the Middle East and they've not even pretended to renounce their intentions to destroy the state of Israel.

On Wednesday Obama boasted that his nuclear deal with Iran could become one of our country's greatest diplomatic feats.

Let's hope not.

Michael Reagan. Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank You For The Support! Lori Rothenberger, Yankton

On behalf of the Yankton Area Arts Board of Directors and staff, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Yankton community for its support of Meridian en Blanc.

We thank our sponsors, First Dakota National Bank, Benedictine Sisters, Anna Lynne Claire Reception & Event Design, Hy-Vee, City of Yankton, Dakota Beverage, Conkling Distributing, Mark Hunhoff, Gail Gubbels, Rob Klimisch, the Yankton

Fire Department and the volunteers that worked to make this year's event a huge success.

We also thank everyone that supported Meridian en Blanc by purchasing tickets and enjoying the arts on the Meridian Bridge. Our goal was to create a unique and fun event to help support YAA and art programming in the Yankton area.

Celebrating the arts in a beautiful outdoor setting, Meridian en Blanc — simply white, extraordinarily artful — has become an important fundraiser and we look forward to making it even better in the years to come.