

# The Press & Dakotan

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## We Say

### Building For The Future



**THUMBS UP** to the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton. Wednesday local officials broke ground on a brand new facility on the site of the Yankton Middle School. The new facility will host youths from first through 12th grade at a low cost during after-school hours when their parents are still working. There's been a great need to update on the facility the group currently calls home and this is a huge leap in the right direction.

### Farewell For Now



**THUMBS UP** to the Wagner-based 1st Detachment of the 155th Engineer Company which has deployed on a one-year mission to Kuwait. The unit was recognized Tuesday during a ceremony attended by more than 1,200 people at the Wagner High School gymnasium. The Wagner unit traveled Wednesday to the 155th headquarters in Rapid City, where a deployment ceremony was held at the Civic Center's Barnett Arena. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the soldiers and their families.

### Mall Work



A conditional **THUMBS UP** to the proposed renovations to the Yankton Mall. There are some big plans to dress up the outdated structure, but we've seen these proposals before. Here is hoping everyone follows through and we see the mall become a place that people go to, not avoid.

### The Change Of Seasons



**THUMBS DOWN** to the unofficial end of summer, marked by the first official high school activity for Yankton. While we are excited for the Bucks and Gazelles — and all of our area college and prep teams — to get underway, their start is an all-too-present reminder that warmer days, for the most part, are behind us and we'll be bundling up before we know it.

## OUR 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/.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

**Do you think Sen. John Thune will run unopposed for re-election in 2016?**  
Yes.....47%  
No.....53%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** .....262  
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:

**Who would you vote for in a hypothetical presidential matchup between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump?**  
To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

## IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, August 14, the 226th day of 2015. There are 139 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On August 14, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

**On this date:** In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1944, the federal government allowed the manufacture of certain domestic appliances, such as electric ranges and vacuum cleaners, to resume on a limited basis.

In 1947, Pakistan became independent of British rule.

In 1951, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, 88, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1975, the cult classic movie musical "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick, had its world premiere in London.

In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, in a job action that resulted in creation of the Solidarity labor movement. Actress-model Dorothy Stratten, 20, was shot to death by her estranged husband and manager, Paul Snider, who then killed himself.

In 1989, South African President P.W. Botha announced his resignation after losing a bitter power struggle within his National Party.

In 1995, Shannon Faulkner officially became the first female cadet in the history of The Citadel, South Carolina's state military college. (However, Faulkner quit the school less than a week later, citing the stress of her court fight, and her isolation among the male cadets.)

**Ten years ago:** Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to Israeli civilians, signaling the start of the historic withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. A Cypriot plane crashed into a hill north of Athens, killing all 121 people on board. First lady Laura Bush announced that Cristeta Comerford had been chosen to be the new White House executive chef, the first woman to hold the post.

**Five years ago:** A day after weighing in on the issue, President Barack Obama

repeated that Muslims had the right to build a mosque near New York's ground zero, but said he was not commenting on the "wisdom" of such a choice. Eight people leaving a party at a downtown Buffalo, New York, restaurant were shot, four fatally, including a Texas man who'd returned to his hometown to celebrate his first wedding anniversary. (Former gang member Riccardo McCray was later convicted of first-degree murder and attempted murder, and sentenced to life without parole.) A truck overturned during an off-road race in the Mojave Desert, killing eight spectators.

**One year ago:** Nouri al-Malaki, Iraq's prime minister for eight years, relinquished the post to his nominated successor, ending a political deadlock. Pope Francis called for renewed efforts to forge peace on the war-divided Korean Peninsula as he opened a five-day visit to South Korea. Rob Manfred was elected baseball's 10th commissioner, winning a three-man race to succeed Bud Selig. San Francisco said goodbye to Candlestick Park — the stadium where the city's beloved Giants and 49ers celebrated some of their greatest triumphs — with an evening concert by former Beatle Paul McCartney.

**Today's Birthdays:** Broadway lyricist Lee Adams ("Bye Bye Birdie") is 91. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Russell Baker is 90. Singer Buddy Greco is 89. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 80. Singer Dash Crofts is 77. Rock singer David Crosby is 74. Country singer Connie Smith is 74. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 70. Actor Antonio Fargas is 69. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 69. Actress Susan Saint James is 69. Actor David Schramm is 69. Author Danielle Steel is 68. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 65. "Far Side" cartoonist Gary Larson is 65. Actor Carl Lumbly is 64. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 63. Actress Jackie Harry is 59. Actress Marcia Gay Harden is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Ervin "Magic" Johnson is 56. Singer Sarah Brightman is 55. Actress Susan Olsen is 54. Actress-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 51. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 51. Actress Halle Berry is 49. Actor Ben Bass (TV: "Rookie Blue") is 47. Actress Catherine Bell is 47. Country musician Cody McCarter (Confederate Railroad) is 47. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan is 45. Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 44. Actress Lalanya Masters is 43. Actor Christopher Gorham is 41. Actress Mila Kunis is 32. Actor Lamorne Morris (TV: "New Girl") is 32. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 32. NFL quarterback Tim Tebow is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else." — James Thurber, American author and cartoonist (1894-1961).



## Guest Column

# YPD: Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over

**CHIEF BRIAN PAULSEN**  
Yankton Police Department

As summer winds down, the Yankton Police Department is ramping up its enforcement efforts as part of a national crack-down on drunk driving. The 20-day, high-visibility campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, is a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to curb impaired driving and save lives. August 21-September 7 (Labor Day), law enforcement partners nationwide will show zero tolerance for drunk driving. Increased state and national messaging about the dangers of driving drunk, coupled with checkpoints and increased officers on the road, aim to drastically reduce the toll of drunk driving.



Brian PAULSEN

And what a toll it is. In 2013, there were 10,076 people killed in drunk-driving crashes, almost a third of all traffic fatalities. Thirty-eight percent of crash fatalities on Labor Day weekend that year involved drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] of .08 or higher), amounting to 161 lives lost. And we're not just talking about a little bit of alcohol, either. More than a quarter (27%) of the crash fatalities that occurred on Labor Day weekend involved drivers with BACs of .15 or higher—almost twice the illegal per se limit.

Too many people think their actions don't affect anybody else and they know it's illegal. They know it's wrong. But they do it anyway—they make decisions as if those statistics just can't happen to them. The reality is, people aren't invincible. Of the 10,076 people who were killed in impaired-driving crashes in

2013, 65 percent were the drunk drivers themselves. Those 6,515 drunk drivers planned on making it to their destinations, but they didn't.

In every state, it's illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. I want to remind our drivers that it's not a recommendation; it's the law. And during the enforcement period starting August 21, there will be a special emphasis on drunk-driving enforcement. Local drivers should expect to see more patrol vehicles and increased messaging about this reckless, preventable crime. The number of people who are still drinking and driving is unacceptable. Yes, we want to increase awareness for the campaign, but we want the effects to be permanent.

NHTSA data shows that repeat offenders are an especially dangerous facet of the drunk-driving problem. In the month of August from 2009-2013, of the drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes, almost 1 out of 10 (8%) of them had already been convicted of at least one drunk-driving offense.

The Yankton Police Department emphasizes the preventable nature of drunk driving: "All it takes is a little planning ahead. Designate a sober driver or call a cab. But whatever you do, don't drink and drive." NHTSA has made it even easier to get home safely when you've been drinking. The new Safer Ride mobile app (free from the iTunes store and Google Play), can help users call a taxi or a friend for a ride home. The app can even help you identify your location so you can be picked up. So this August and year-round, remember that there's no excuse for drunk driving.

# The Phony, Unprincipled War On Planned Parenthood

**BY MARY SANCHEZ**  
Tribune Content Agency

With one careless comment, Jeb Bush revealed a fundamentally indifferent attitude toward half the U.S. electorate.

"I'm not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues," he said in a speech at the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

It was a throwaway aside in a longer blather about defunding Planned Parenthood, and one imagines that no sooner were the words out of his mouth than his cringing consultants were drafting a clarification.

The inevitable statement soon followed, admitting he "misspoke" and adding that "there are countless community health centers, rural clinics and other women's health organizations that need to be fully funded."

Too late. The game was on. Hillary Clinton blasted back, "When you attack women's health, you attack America's health."

I don't believe Bush misspoke. There's something about abortion he wishes to ignore: Abortion is a women's health issue. You cannot separate abortion from this context.

Oppose it or not — and I do — abortion is a medical procedure that ends an unwanted or health-threatening pregnancy. If we want to encourage the trend toward decreasing numbers of abortions in this country — and no one in their right mind wants to see more of them — we need to bolster women's reproductive health services. That means ensuring wide access to sex education and contraceptives. (It also means honestly admitting that an overwhelming majority of Americans accept that abortion should be permitted when a pregnancy is the result of incest or rape, or when the health of the mother is threatened.)

If you oppose abortion and you're not ready to promote the most effective ways of preventing unwanted pregnancies, you're not serious. If you call for "defunding" Planned Parenthood — as virtually the entire Republican Party does — you are attacking a leading purveyor of contraceptives and information about how to use them for women of limited economic resources. You're also threatening to shut down 700 clinics that provide crucial preventative health measures like pap smears and refer women for mammograms.

About 85 to 90 percent of Planned Parenthood's work is providing these basic health services, often to low-income women without access to health insurance. That's according to analysis of the organization done by PolitiFact. Abortions add up to about 3 percent of the organization's services, and they are not funded with federal money.

A recent vote in the U.S. Senate to defund Planned Parenthood, which failed, called for redirecting the monies to other women's health facilities that did not provide abortions. The problem is that there are far too few such clinics to meet the need. Moreover, the effort misunderstands how Planned Parenthood receives \$528 million annually: mostly through Medicaid reimbursements and competitive Title X family planning grants.

The plain truth is that the Republicans who wish to destroy Planned Parenthood — and Bush is far from the most vociferous — really don't care that the bulk of its work has nothing to do with abortion. Nor do they care about standards of accuracy in the accusations they make against the organization.

They have worked hand-in-glove with the Center for Medical Progress, an anti-abortion group inspired by the ethically dubious video techniques of conservative activist James O'Keefe. This group set up a phony front company and then lured Planned Parenthood officials into secretly videotaped conversations about providing fetal tissue for research. The group then released videos selectively edited to suggest that Planned Parenthood was in the illegal business of selling fetal tissue.

The bogusness of this charge is patently obvious when one views the unedited tapes, but that matters little to GOP opportunists, who promise all sorts of congressional inquiries.

Fine. Hold hearings. See what you find. My guess is that it will be zilch (See: Benghazi).

Meanwhile, the American public needs to know that these new anti-abortion activists are picking up the cudgels of the folks that brought us the so-called Summer of Mercy protests that required federal marshals to restore order in Wichita, Kan., in the 1990s. Tactics used to include clinic bombings and harassing any woman who set foot near a clinic, regardless of what services she might be seeking.

That phase of the movement failed, although it never went away. In 2009, Kansas abortion doctor George Tiller was shot dead at his church.

Pro-life activists have figured out that it's better to co-opt the Republican Party than to engage in terrorism. That's progress. Unfortunately, disingenuous attacks on women's health care purely to court votes do no favors to either women or unborn babies.

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via e-mail at msanchez@kstar.com or on Twitter @msanchez-column.

## FROM THE BIBLE

They shall have everlasting joy. Isaiah 61:7. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.