

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

The Demands On College Athletes

CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Aug. 18): If you were worried you might have to cross a picket line made up of linebackers and offensive tackles to see your favorite Big Ten team this fall, you can stop fretting. Last year, the regional director of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Northwestern football players are school employees and thus entitled to unionize. But on Monday, the NLRB reversed his call.

The unanimous, five-member board found that the regional decision had veered well out of bounds. To begin with, the board said, federal labor relations law was not designed for this particular realm. The players, it said, "do not fit into any analytical framework that the board has used in cases involving other types of students or athletes."

Even if players did qualify as employees, as National Football League players do, collective bargaining "has never involved a bargaining unit consisting of a single team's players, where the players for competing teams were unrepresented or entirely outside the board's jurisdiction."

Northwestern is among the small number of private institutions that compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision, the rest being public universities that, as state entities, are beyond the reach of the NLRB. Allowing one set of players to join a union while keeping others out would not make much sense as a matter of labor policy or competitive athletic balance. Designating Northwestern players as employees, in short, would be like playing a softball game on a basketball court.

Northwestern players do get compensated pretty handsomely for their efforts. A football scholarship is worth about \$61,000 a year, by the NLRB's estimate. That gives these athletes access to a first-class education and the chance to earn a bachelor's degree without going into the debt now common among new graduates. They also get the chance to participate in the sport they love at a high level. The best may snag lucrative NFL contracts.

But players also incur obligations far heavier than their classmates — devoting 40 to 50 hours a week to football during the season, which is more time than many full-time Northwestern employees put into their jobs. The players also are exposed to serious physical risks. So it's not surprising that they want a bigger share of the \$30 million in revenue the football program takes in each year.

The NLRB was right to stay out of a realm so different from normal business sectors. But the NCAA, the Big Ten and the major football schools nationwide have to recognize that the players deserve a bigger share of the more than \$3 billion in revenue the sport generates annually.

The good news is that they have already begun to wise up. Last winter, the NCAA voted to let schools in the five richest conferences provide stipends to cover the full cost of attending college, which amounts to an average of \$2,500 a year not covered by scholarships in the past. That change could be worth more than \$50 million to athletes.

The NCAA also barred universities from revoking the scholarships of athletes who don't measure up on the field. If a school commits to providing someone a free college education, it has to provide a free college education. Hmm. Maybe universities exist for academic reasons, not athletic ones?

The NLRB deserves credit for grasping the appropriate limits of its authority and responsibility, and for understanding the chaos a decision in favor of unionization would have produced.

But the union organizing effort, with former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter as its public face, served a valuable function: It focused national attention on the heavy demands imposed on scholarship players and the gap between the money they bring in and what they get in return. It helped to begin the process of bringing change to a system that badly needs it.

IN HISTORY**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, August 20, the 232nd day of 2015. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On August 20, 1940, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force before the House of Commons, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky was assassinated in Coyoacan, Mexico by Ramon Mercader, a Spanish Communist agent working at the behest of Josef Stalin. (Trotsky died the next day.)

On this date: In 1833, Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president of the United States, was born in North Bend, Ohio. In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1882, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" had its premiere in Moscow.

In 1910, a series of forest fires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1914, German forces occupied Brussels, Belgium, during World War I.

In 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

In 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

In 1972, the Wattstax concert took place at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

In 1977, the U.S. launched Voyager 2, an unmanned spacecraft carrying a 12-inch copper phonograph record containing greetings in dozens of languages, samples of music and sounds of nature.

In 1989, entertainment executive Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, were shot to death in their Beverly Hills mansion by their sons, Lyle and Erik. Fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames in London after colliding with a dredger.

In 1994, Benjamin Chavis Jr. was fired as head of the NAACP after a turbulent 16-month tenure.

Ten years ago: Northwest Airlines mechanics went on strike rather than accept pay cuts and layoffs; Northwest ended up hiring replacement workers.

San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Thomas Herrion, 23, died of a heart attack shortly after a preseason game against the Denver Broncos. With a deafening boom, the ashes of gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson were blown into the sky above Woody Creek, Colorado.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama invited Israel and the Palestinians to meet face-to-face in Washington the following month for talks aimed at achieving an agreement to establish an independent Palestinian state and secure peace for Israel.

One year ago: The United States launched a new barrage of airstrikes against Islamic State extremists and weighed sending more troops to Iraq as President Barack Obama vowed to be relentless in pursuit of a terrorist group that beheaded American journalist James Foley. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder arrived in Ferguson, Missouri, to meet with federal investigators and reassure residents of the community torn by several nights of racial unrest since the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter Bernstein is 96. Boxing promoter Don King is 84. Former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, is 82. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 80. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 71. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 69. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 68. Actor Ray Wise is 68. Actor John Noble is 67. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 67. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 63. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 63. Actor-director Peter Horton is 62. TV weatherman Al Roker is 61. Actor Jay Acovone is 60. Actress Joan Allen is 59. Movie director David O. Russell is 57. TV personality Asha Blake is 54. Actor James Marsters is 53. Rapper KRS-One is 50. Actor Colin Cunningham is 49. Actor Billy Gardell is 46. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 45. Rock musician Brad Avery is 44. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 44. Actor Misha Collins is 41. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 40. Jazz/pop singer-pianist Jamie Cullum is 36. Actor Ben Barnes is 34. Actress Meghan Ory is 33. Actor Andrew Garfield is 32. Actor Brant Daugherty is 30. Actress-singer Demi Lovato is 23.

Thought for Today: "Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity." — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian author (1918-2008).

FROM THE BIBLE

Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied. Luke 1:67. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

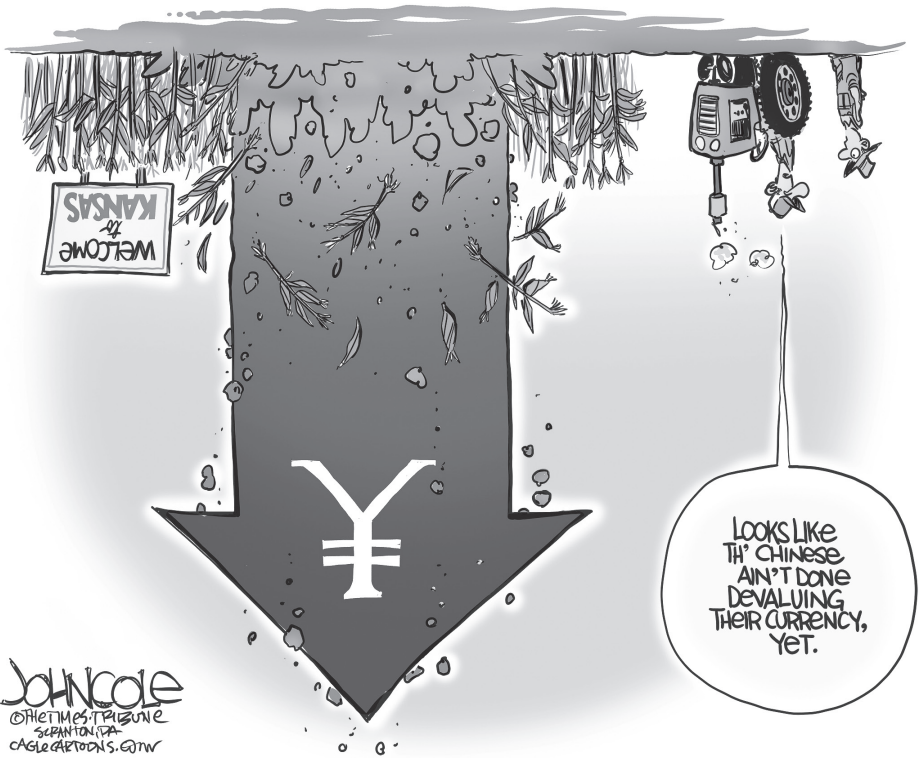
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Road Taxes****John Magnuson, Yankton**

Maybe our county should vote a 10-year freeze on all property taxes. Aren't we a little tired of getting a form letter every year from a crunchy computer telling us our property values went up again. Its like some kind of legalized extortion racket. You may have noticed that the county recently saw fit to add on a nice little road tax on top of everything else. You would think that if they even cared about the taxpayers, they would have found another way. Also if you noticed an article in the *Press & Dakotan*, the road tax

will be subject to a special opt-out vote in September. Be sure and vote for this opt-out.

We owe Randy Gleich a big thanks for his article and the ad which he ran requesting signatures on the opt-out petition. This wouldn't have happened without Randy. Stop by his store and take a selfie with Randy or buy something. He's a modern day Robin Hood and the county is like Nottingham castle.

Do we really need all of the proposed road work? Many say we don't. Many like the bypass idea that would have separate funding. Our county needs to find other revenue sources other than raising our taxes. It's a fact that we don't want no more stinking

**Kindle's Korner**

Youngworth/Williams Survey Now Available

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE

Yankton School District

Thank you to those who participated in the Public Forum on Crane Youngworth Field and Williams Field, held on July 7 at the Yankton High School Theater. We had around 60 folks who attended and participated in the discussion. I also want to thank everybody for being respectful of each other's opinions and ideas.

In addition to the public forums, school board meetings, numerous writings in Kindle's Korner, and the superintendent speaking to groups in town, the Yankton School District would like to keep the community engaged in this process through an online survey.

We welcome anybody who is interested in providing input into the Crane Youngworth/Williams Field Project to please participate in the survey. The survey is very short and will take a person 5-10 minutes to complete.

Any person who would like to take the survey and does not have access to a computer may use any of the Yankton School District facilities. Access to the survey will be provided at the following locations:

Yankton School District Administration Building, Yankton High School, Yankton Middle School, Beadle Elementary, Stewart Elementary, Webster Elementary and Lincoln Elementary.

Computers are also available at The Center. The survey may be accessed at the following website: <http://www.ysd.k12.sd.us>

Another public forum will be held in October to discuss the results of the survey. The time, date, and location of the public forum will be announced at a later date.

Note: Crane Youngworth Field has been open for self-guided tours by the public since Aug. 17 and will remain open daily from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. through Aug. 21.

GIRLS ON THE RUN PROGRAM

Girls on the Run program involves girls in grades 3-5 who participate in a 10-12 week after school program. Throughout the program the girls make new friends, build their self-confidence and celebrate the great things that make them who they are as individuals.

The program encourages positive emotional, social, mental, and physical development. They are able to discuss their own beliefs about experiences and challenges they may face at this age. The girls learn and develop strategies that will help them with challenges and experiences as they move through life.

Last spring, 15 girls were involved at Lincoln Elementary and 16 girls participated at Beadle Elementary. In addition, there were six volunteers from each school who helped with the program.

This fall both Webster Elementary and Stewart Elementary will participate. Next spring Beadle Elementary and Lincoln Elementary will continue with their second year. We wish to thank United Way of Yankton and a special thank you to the volunteers. This is a wonderful program for these young girls!

STAY CONNECTED!

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.

Anyone in the Yankton community — alumni, friends and community members — can stay connected. Just be sure we have your contact information in our system. You can subscribe at www.https://ysd633.bbcportal.com/ or call the Superintendent's Office at 665-3998.

PARENTS CONNECT TO CONNECT 5

If you have children in school and you are not receiving 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.

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 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.

NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON/WELCOME BACK COFFEE

On behalf of the Yankton School District, I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Education Development Committee for the new teacher luncheon and the welcome back coffee. Both events were both excellent and very much appreciated by school district staff.

A very special thank you to the following sponsors:

Anderson Realty, Applied Engineering, Avera, Boller Printing, Bonanza, Casey's on W. 4th Street, Discovery Realty & Management Services, First Dakota Bank, First National Bank, Gerstner Oil, Kolberg-Pioneer, Mark's Machinery, McDonalds, Mount Marty College, Mtron, Northtown Automotive, Northwestern Energy, Papa Murphy's, Riverfront Broadcasting, RTEC, Rupiper Tours, Services Center Federal Credit Union, Service Master, *South Dakota Magazine*, Slumberland, Smith Insurance, State Farm/Rhonda Wesseln, State Farm/Roy Wilcox, The Landing, Welf Construction Corp., Verizon Wireless World, Willcockson Eye, Wilson Trailer Company, WNAX and Yankton Medical Clinic.

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.

I have had the opportunity to speak and visit with many 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 make it a great year for our students! Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

Dr. Wayne Kindle is superintendent of the Yankton School District.

About The YMS Flag**Dr. Wayne Kindle Yankton***Yankton School District Superintendent*

The Yankton School District thanks Mr. Robert Parry for his concern with the flag size (*Press & Dakotan*, Aug 19.). We, too, agree and steps have been taken to address this concern.