

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION

Mall Upgrade: Let's Hope It Happens

The news that the owners of the Yankton Mall are looking into renovating the facility should be welcome news not only for shoppers but also for mall tenants and city officials who have about the future of the place ...

Yes, it should be, but allow us to temper our hopes on this until we see some genuine forward motion on that proposal. After all, we're been down this road before.

It was back in 2008 when officials with Dial Properties announced plans for a major renovation of a facility desperately in need of a facelift. The plans unveiled look a lot like the ones that are one the table now, which include parking lot improvements, facade work and a significant reconfiguration of the Carmike cinemas complex. It was a grand vision. However, the issue over creating a \$1.1 million tax increment proved a major sticking point, and rightfully so. Thereafter, the proposed renovation stalled and faded away, and the mall sat in limbo.

The mall has long been a concern for Yankton officials, who see its stagnation in recent years as major drag on the community's retail prospects. And in the last decade or so, even with the construction of the Walmart Superstore and the arrival of Menards, there remains the concern that the lack of a relatively vibrant mall — even in what some might generally consider the post-mall retail era in America — would continue to be a missed opportunity for this community.

This time, it seems Dial management and city officials are on the same page. The new proposal creates a special assessment on the mall property itself, thus sparing taxpayers of any extra taxing burden. In return, the mall will be expanded and modernized, see its first major structural upgrade since the late 1970s.

If it all happens, of course.

We're not trying to sound pessimistic on this. But the fact is, we've heard such talk and seen artist renderings before. There may have been compelling reasons why these things didn't happen; we only know the end result. Ultimately, renovation of the mall would be a very good thing for this retail market. It would also be good for Dial Properties. Both the city and Dial seem to recognize that, and the agreement appears to be to everyone's satisfaction. So all the dots appear to connect. Let's hope it comes to pass this time.

kmh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you support sending U.S. troops to Iraq to fight ISIS? Yes.....47% No.....45% Not sure.....8% TOTAL VOTES CAST.....275

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 support a tax levy in Yankton County to help pay for road/bridge repairs and maintenance?

To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

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.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, August 25, the 237th day of 2015. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 25, 1985, Samantha Smith, 13, the schoolgirl whose letter to Yuri V. Andropov resulted in her famous peace tour of the Soviet Union, died with her father, Arthur, and six other people in a commuter plane crash in Auburn, Maine.

On this date: In 1718, hundreds of French colonists arrived in Louisiana, with some settling in present-day New Orleans.

In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil.

In 1916, the National Park Service was established within the Department of the Interior.

In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.

In 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation. Romania declared war on former ally Germany.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure providing pensions for former U.S. presidents and their widows.

In 1965, former baseball player-turned-doctor Archibald "Moonlight" Graham, who'd briefly played in only one major league game (for the New York Giants), died in Chisholm, Minnesota, at age 87.

In 1975, the Bruce Springsteen album "Born to Run" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1980, the Broadway musical "42nd Street" opened. (Producer David Merrick stunned the cast and audience during the curtain call by announcing that the show's director, Gower Champion, had died earlier that day.)

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 1989, Voyager 2 made its closest approach to Neptune.

In 2009, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the U.S. Senate, died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, after a battle with a brain tumor.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Katrina hit Florida with 80 mph winds and headed into the Gulf of Mexico. The base closing commission voted to shut down the Army's historic Walter Reed hospital and move much of its staff and services to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The Miss America pageant

announced it was leaving Atlantic City, New Jersey, its home for 84 years. (The pageant ended up moving to Las Vegas, but moved back to Atlantic City in 2013.)

Five years ago: North Korea welcomed Jimmy Carter back to Pyongyang as the former U.S. president arrived to bring home Aijalon Mahli Gomes, an American jailed in the communist country since January 2010 for entering the country illegally from China.

One year ago: A funeral was held in St. Louis for Michael Brown, the unarmed 18-year-old shot to death by a police officer in suburban Ferguson on August 9. At the Emmy Awards, ABC's "Modern Family" won best comedy series for the fifth time, while the final season of AMC's "Breaking Bad" captured the top drama award and a trio of acting honors for its stars, including Bryan Cranston.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Monty Hall is 94. Actor Sean Connery is 85. Actor Page Johnson is 85. TV personality Regis Philbin is 84. Actor Tom Skerritt is 82. Jazz musician Wayne Shorter is 82. Movie director Hugh Hudson is 79. Author Frederick Forsyth is 77. Actor David Canary is 77. Movie director John Badham is 76. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 76. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 72. Actor Anthony Heald is 71. Rock musician Danny Smythe is 67. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 66. Actor John Savage is 66. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 66. Rock singer Rob Halford is 64. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 63. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 61. Movie director Tim Burton is 57. Actor Christian LeBlanc is 57. Actress Ashley Crow is 55. Actress Ally Walker is 54. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is 54. Actress Joanne Whalley is 54. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 53. Actor Blair Underwood is 51. Actor Robert Maschio is 49. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 49. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 48. Actor David Alan Basche is 47. Television chef Rachael Ray is 47. Actor Cameron Mathison is 46. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 45. Model Claudia Schiffer is 45. Country singer Brice Long is 44. Actor Eric Millegan is 41. Actor Jonathan Togo is 38. Actor Kel Mitchell is 37. Actress Rachel Bilson is 34. Actress Blake Lively is 28. Actor Josh Flitter is 21.

Thought for Today: "Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or the money to do it right." — Kurt Herbert Adler, Austrian-born conductor (1905-1988).

FROM THE BIBLE

See my hands. John 20:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



THERE'S A NEW BEAR ON WALL STREET

This Is What Tourette Syndrome Looks Like

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

"Are you sure?" I asked my daughter before writing this column.

"Yes," she said resolutely.

Veronica is profoundly grateful for all the prayers, kindness and advice from strangers, friends and family alike that she received earlier this summer when I first told you about her plight. We hope sharing the rest of her story can help pay it forward in some way.

In May, she stopped breathing normally. Describing the condition in words cannot adequately capture how torturous it was: She felt "air hunger" with every inhalation. At first, it looked and sounded like a gentle sigh. But the small gasps soon morphed into a horrible "stridor," up to 30 to 40 times a minute, every minute, every hour, every day.

As we faced agonizingly long wait times to see doctors, we turned to crowdsourcing and CrowdMed.com. We heard from many other parents of children with mystery ailments and chronic illnesses on similar all-consuming searches for answers. Was it anxiety? Vocal cord dysfunction? A pulmonary embolism? Lyme disease? Food allergies? Along the never-ending journey, Veronica was diagnosed with postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and joint hypermobility, which led to an inconclusive side investigation into Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

The days and weeks passed in slow motion. Veronica remained bedridden. She lost sleep. She lost friends. She felt "like a zombie" and battled "brain fog." An aspiring doctor, she had to quit her volunteer job at a local hospital's oncology ward. Instead, she spent the summer as a patient in a blur of medical clinics and diagnostic labs, shuttling between experts in cardiology, pulmonology, rheumatology, genetics and neurology.

Some of the more creative interventions were cause for family amusement — inhaling helium and blowing bubbles, for example. And then there were the drugs. The ones that made her gain weight and lose weight. The ones that gave her heart palpitations and hyperactivity. The ones that caused painful backaches, scary tremors, intermittent numbness, fainting and memory loss.

In the end, the "mainstream" medications she was prescribed did little to nothing to alleviate the gasping episodes. (What eventually did provide relief is an entirely separate story.)

Two months after the daily daymares started, in early July, Veronica was finally weaned off the last of her "traditional" meds. The gasping episodes waned, but never disappeared. Instead, they morphed into an extreme combination of other motor and vocal tics:



Michelle MALKIN

blinking, eye-rolling, grimacing, throat-clearing, coughing, neck-stretching and head-jerking. We had seen some of these symptoms when she was younger, but never so severe. Now, the dots were all connected. After hoping and praying for an easy cure, a quick fix or a magic pill for our bright and beautiful 15-year-old girl,

we embraced what several hundreds of thousands of families across the country confront every day with every breath:

This is what Tourette syndrome looks like.

When she's in an enclosed space, like an elevator or a quiet classroom, Veronica feels suffocated. Strong odors, loud noises or rude people can trigger an uncontrollable wave of ticking. Even if she's able to temporarily suppress the "urge,?" some form of tic comes back with a vengeance later. There are other "comorbidities": migraines and OCD. She is still fighting

chronic fatigue that is interfering with "normal" life. There are many more tests and doctors' appointments to come.

Like other Tourette kids, Veronica wants people to know that it's not a "cursing disease," as Hollywood and YouTube have mercilessly mocked the syndrome. It's not something you do on purpose. It's not like having an occasional muscle spasm in your eye or leg.

Many TS kids are fortunate enough to outgrow their symptoms. Many more do not. As soccer star Tim Howard, who was diagnosed with TS in elementary school, wrote in his autobiography last year, "TS looks different in everyone who has it — I've heard it called a 'fingerprint condition,' and that's exactly right. No two people have the same case."

There are good days, bad days and still a whole lot of uncertain days. But knowing that there are families with children suffering far worse, we are grateful for every day. Veronica has shown us how to face our fears instead of hiding from them — and how to persist, not just subsist.

While most students dread going back to school, she wanted more than anything else to return to the classroom with her peers, even if it meant exposure of her tics to kids who can be cruel and ignorant. In her math period, she told me this week, she started gasping loudly. Dozens of pairs of eyes fixed on her. She excused herself, listened to some soothing music on her iPhone in a restroom for a few minutes and bravely walked back into class.

"Are you sure you still want to do this?" I asked.

"Yes," she said resolutely.

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saluting Fallen Heroes

John Hollenbeck, Yankton

Commander, Yankton American Legion Post #12

I'm writing this letter just after sunset on Monday, Aug. 10. I just raised my American Flag back to the top of the pole after having it lowered to half staff to honor David Ruhl, the firefighter from South Dakota who lost his life while fighting wild fires in California. Gov. Dugaard had asked that this courtesy be extended to Mr. Ruhl today. Now the reason for this letter.

Driving around the community today just after the lunch hour, I was very disappointed to see so many flags at the top of their poles. What was most disappointing, some state and federal buildings hadn't lowered their flags. Several banks and other public facilities had also not lowered their flags. I'm guessing about 75 percent of the "tall pole" flags in Yankton did not honor or know about Gov. Dugaard's request.

Granted, flag etiquette is all that addresses the flying of Old Glory. However, if you commit to honor our country in this way, please take the time to learn and understand the recommended procedures in flying our national flag and make sure it does not look like a faded rag on top of a pole! And if you don't have time, or can't display a sharp, clean and colorful flag, it's no disgrace to have a "naked" pole in your yard or at your business.

I love to see the flag I served under being displayed properly around our community. Wouldn't it be nice the next time the flag needs to be lowered to half staff to honor a fallen soul, the EVERY U.S. flag in Yankton was saluting that soul?

Commission Questions

Randy Gleich, Yankton

In response to the editorial "A discussion About Yankton Co. Roads" (*Press & Dakotan*, Aug. 19):

On July 16, the taxpayers of Yankton County woke up to the news that a tax levy was being assessed on their property. The common theme was "When did they do this and why was it not in the paper?" You bet they could have handled