

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**OPINION | WE SAY**

**Holiday Sounds**



**THUMBS UP** to Mount Marty College and the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery for another great Vespers performance, which took place Sunday at the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. The annual Advent program remains a great piece of the area's holiday season and one of the better musical events that takes place in Yankton. MMC choral director Kenneth Tice, his singers and the musicians delivered wonderful performances of "The Rose of Christmastide." And if you weren't there to see or hear the Vespers, you will get two chances on Christmas Eve. The performance will be broadcast on KYNT 1450AM at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24, then will be telecast on South Dakota Public Broadcasting at 7 p.m. that night.

**Code Talker**



**THUMBS UP** to the late Walter "Cody" John, a Santee Sioux tribal member who has received the Congressional Medal of Honor as a Dakota Code Talker. He and his family will be honored during a special ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Ohiya Casino and Resort along Nebraska Highway 12, east of the Santee highway spur. The code talkers used their American Indian languages to encode and translate Allied messages that could not be deciphered by the enemies during World War II. The Code Talker recently received well-deserved recognition in Washington, D.C., for their invaluable contributions. Saturday's ceremony will provide another opportunity to pay tribute to those talkers, who are now elderly or have passed away.

**Wagner's Horizons**



**THUMBS UP** to the Wagner Area Horizons Team for receiving nearly \$200,000 over two years from the Bush Foundation. Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera served as the conduit for the funding. The award will support the Horizons team's work to engage both Native and non-Native people who live in Wagner on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in a series of conversations and workshops about race. This will include developing and sharing a new curriculum for understanding differences in Native and non-Native leadership.

**Going Nowhere**



**THUMBS DOWN** to the continued gridlock over the Farm Bill in Congress. The debate has become a clash not only between liberal-conservative and rural-urban but even among commodity groups. In the meantime, local producers are left unable to make long-term or even short-term plans for their operations. Speculation has also arisen as to the impact on nutrition programs and consumer prices. Will milk rise to \$8 per gallon? The latest word is that an agreement can be reached in January without creating harm. We hope that lawmakers can reach a consensus — and soon.

**ONLINE OPINION**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

**Are you satisfied with the direction of the gun-control debate in this country since the Newtown killings a year ago?**  
No . . . . . 74%  
Yes . . . . . 26%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** . . . . . 193

*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:**

**Have you or anyone you know ever been in a vehicle accident caused by distracted driving?**  
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2013. There are 18 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 13, 2000, Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore conceded to Republican George W. Bush, a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts in Florida.

**On this date:** In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later. (It was during this battle that Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee is said to have remarked: "It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it.")

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains as many as 300,000 people died; Japan says the toll was far less.)

In 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser *Nashville* was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack that claimed more than 130 lives.

In 1962, the United States launched Relay 1, a communications satellite which retransmitted television, telephone and digital signals.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation in July 1979.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1994, an American Eagle commuter plane crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15 of the 20 people on board.

**Ten years ago:** Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of

Tikrit. A summit to forge a European Union constitution collapsed in Brussels, Belgium. Oklahoma quarterback Jason White won the Heisman Trophy. Former Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., creator of Roth IRA accounts, died in Washington at age 82.

**Five years ago:** The White House weighed its options for preventing a collapse of the troubled U.S. auto industry. Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford won the Heisman Trophy after guiding the highest-scoring team in major college football history to the national championship game.

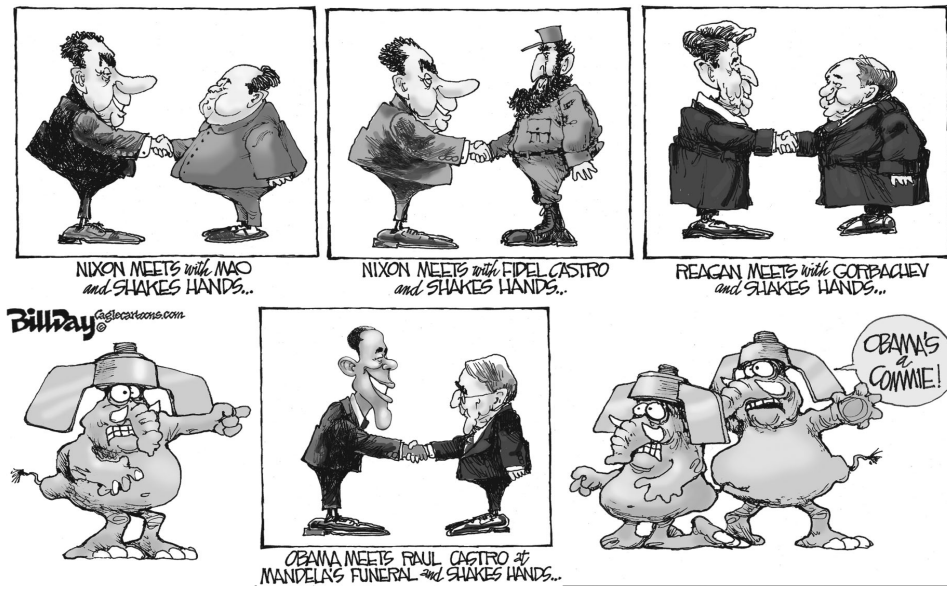
**One year ago:** U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice withdrew from consideration to replace outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Rice had run into opposition from Republicans angry over her explanation of the September attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. Rice had said the attack stemmed from a protest over an anti-Islamic video, which later proved incorrect.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 93. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 88. Actor Christopher Plummer is 84. Country singer Buck White is 83. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 80. Singer John Davidson is 72. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 68. Singer Ted Nugent is 65. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 65. Country musician Ron Getman is 65. Actor Robert Lindsay is 64. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 64. Actress Wendie Malick is 63. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 63. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 60. Country singer John Anderson is 59. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 59. Singer-actor Morris Day is 57. Actor Steve Buscemi is 56. Actor Johnny Whitaker is 54. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 51. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 47. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 46. Actor Bart Johnson is 43. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 39. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 38. Actor James Kyson Lee is 38. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 32. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 32. Actor Michael Socha is 26. Country singer Taylor Swift is 24. Actress Maisey Stella is 10.

**Thought for Today:** "My theory is to enjoy life, but the practice is against it." — Charles Lamb, English essayist (1775-1834).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

*I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in Him. Isaiah 8:17. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*



## A Challenge, Not A Prize

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Yankton should feel very good about being recognized this week as the "Best Town in South Dakota for Young Families."

Then again, some people might be baffled by the designation.

The honor was bestowed by the San Francisco-based financial blog NerdWallet (which I've never heard of, but if I allowed my ignorance of such things to serve as a filter for new information, I would be living deep in a cave in an area that wasn't good for young families.) The survey measured all South Dakota communities with a population of 2,000 or more, applying criteria such as income growth, affordable housing and quality of schools. (The latter point is particularly heartening given the dramas that the school district has endured the last few years.)

Income growth was particularly intriguing. As NerdWallet analyst Mike Anderson said, "In Yankton, income grew by over 44 percent (between 1999-2011), which is very high. It's just a marker of civility and prosperity." However, while overall income has gone up, good-paying jobs are still cited by many people as a scarce commodity here. That's a disconnect that really needs to be addressed. But for today, I digress.

Nevertheless, Yankton can be happy about this survey's findings.

At the same time, you might be somewhat puzzled by it.

It's a fact, for instance, that the biggest growing demographic in Yankton city and Yankton County is the older population; this was affirmed again during the housing report given at Monday night's City Commission meeting. Indeed, the same trend is true for most every community and county in the area.

I've heard the term "young families" thrown around often in city and school discussions concerning what the community needs. It's a key demographic for success and the kind of tonic that places like Yankton (and the surrounding area that Yankton serves) desperately need to attract.

Yankton has been growing, slowly and incrementally, for many years. While it beats contraction, the fact is that the community has been moving forward at only a snail's pace, and an influx of young families has not been the prime driver in

that modest "momentum."  
How do you get the growing going? There is no one, great answer; rather, there are many little answers that collectively make things happen.

For instance, it was no small development Tuesday when there was a ground breaking for a new retail development on the old Groseth Motors lot at 31st and Broadway. The so-called "Yankton's Best Site" will be home for a new, larger Verizon Wireless store, plus a clothing store. Other businesses will be recruited for the site.

The project creates a few more jobs, but what it really does is bolster the retail presence at one of the most high-profile intersections in the community. With the arrival of Menards almost two years ago and the future addition of whatever eventually materializes on the former HSC property purchased by the city, 31st and Broadway may well become a cornerstone not only of Yankton's retail base but also of how the community presents itself to prospective young families. It's part of the "quality of life" issue that, for those families, may matter at least as much, if not more, than, say, access to medical care, which is terribly important and very attractive to other demographics. (It's also something that we may take for granted, but that's another issue for another time.)

The project is one piece of a much larger puzzle that casts an image of Yankton we all want to see someday.

So, while the NerdWallet designation is a fine achievement, it's a measure of potential, not realization. The honor suggests that Yankton has the tools it needs to attract those young families to the area. The facts on the ground simply suggest the community needs to work at it.

This week's honor from NerdWallet is not so much a prize as it is a challenge. A prize is for something you accomplish: an end result. That's not the case here. Rather, it tells us Yankton has the elements these coveted families are seeking. It's time for the community to turn those elements into reality. This designation is not an end; it must be a beginning.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz/](https://twitter.com/kelly_hertz/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

**Michael Reagan**

## The Gipper And South Africa

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

The whole world mourns Nelson Mandela. Rightly.

But, as usual, some politically and historically challenged liberals have seen the passing of a great man of history as a chance to take more cheap potshots at Ronald Reagan.

One human rights attorney, Gay McDougall, made a fool of herself on "Good Morning America."

She claimed that while many Americans were urging our government to use economic sanctions to pressure South Africa to end apartheid in the 1980s, "Ronald Reagan wanted to solidify, you know, U.S. support for apartheid."

That was a pretty dumb thing to say for a 66-year-old who attended Yale Law School. But at least McDougall wasn't pretending to be a fair and balanced TV news reporter the way Andrea Mitchell does.

Mitchell bared her liberal biases — and historical amnesia — to the world during her report on Mandela's death on the "Today" show.

Instead of concentrating on praising Mandela, Mitchell felt she had to remind her viewers that "The U.S. wasn't always on Mandela's side."

Then she pointed out that "President Reagan supported the apartheid regime, a cold war ally, even as protests broke out on college campuses across America demanding that the U.S. punish the regime ..."

Mitchell went on to say that Congress, including some key Republicans, had to override my father's veto of the South African economic sanctions "that helped break the apartheid regime."

Truth, accuracy, fairness, political balance, historical perspective, the complex geopolitics of the Cold War?

Mitchell, like McDougall, didn't bother with that complicated stuff.

It was all about race. And Ronald Reagan was, as usual, called on stage to play the bad guy.

It's the only role my father gets when the lefty news and entertainment media do their dirty historical work. The latest example was the movie "The Butler," last summer's liberal fantasy about Eugene Allen, the real-life White House butler.

But let's give Mitchell the benefit of a few doubts she doesn't deserve.

Maybe she forgot that Mandela was also in jail during the JFK, LBJ, Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations.

Maybe it slipped her mind that those presidents didn't push for economic sanctions to force the end of apartheid in South Africa.

Apartheid was a horrible system of oppression. But until it ended, the Cold War was more important to American presidents.

They had to keep their eyes on the bigger global picture. That meant supporting the racist regime of South Africa, our only important ally in the region during a time when Moscow was busy inciting revolutions there.

It's unfair and simplistic for the media to single out my father and smear him for being soft on apartheid because he vetoed Congress' economic sanctions against South Africa.

My father detested apartheid and wanted to see it end. But he thought economic sanctions — which hurt South Africa's poorest black citizens the most — would be counterproductive.

Andrea Mitchell doesn't remember. But after my father's veto of the sanctions was overridden by Congress, he said the debate wasn't about "whether or not to oppose apartheid but, instead, how best to oppose it and how best to bring freedom to that troubled country."

Ronald Reagan did not kiss up to South Africa's leaders, he was in their face.

One of his first moves was to send his close aide William Clark to tell Prime Minister Pieter Botha to his face how much my father abhorred apartheid.

Later my father appointed the first black ambassador to South Africa, Edward Perkins.

And in 1986 he said that as necessary step to achieving political peace in South Africa, all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, "should be released to participate in the country's political process."

Ronald Reagan called apartheid "a malevolent and archaic system totally alien to our ideals."

Given the realities of the Cold War, and contrary to the selective memories of Andrea Mitchell and her friends, he did the best he could to help Nelson Mandela put an end to it.

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](mailto:reagan.com) and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his website at [www.reagan.com](http://www.reagan.com) and [www.michaelreagan.com](http://www.michaelreagan.com). Send comments to [Reagan@caglecartoons.com](mailto:Reagan@caglecartoons.com). Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

**YOUR LETTERS**

**Giving Spirit**

David Houfek, Minneapolis

*Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child*  
Yankton locals are making a difference in the lives of 1,500 needy children this Christmas with gift-filled shoeboxes. Through Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, local volunteers prepared 1,500 gifts filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement.

Although local collection of the gifts is finished, the shoeboxes' journey to children has just begun. Volunteers will be working in the

coming weeks to prepare, package and transport the 7.2 million gifts collected in Yankton and across the United States to their final destination.

Yankton residents can still get involved by building a box online at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/oc/>. Through an online tool, participants can conveniently send shoebox gifts to kids in some of the hardest-to-reach countries.

If you are interested in speaking with a Yankton volunteer, feel free to give me a call at 828-278-1773. For more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit [samaritanspurse.org/newsroom/](http://samaritanspurse.org/newsroom/).