

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
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**Published Daily  
Monday-Saturday**  
Periodicals postage  
paid at Yankton, South  
Dakota, under the act of  
March 3, 1979.  
Weekly Dakotan  
established June 6, 1861.  
Yankton Daily Press and  
Dakotan established April  
26, 1875.  
Postmaster: Send  
address changes to Yankton  
Daily Press & Dakotan,  
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD  
57078.

**MEMBERSHIPS**  
The Yankton Daily  
Press & Dakotan is a  
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ated Press, the Inland  
Daily Press Association and  
the South Dakota  
Newspaper Association.  
The Associated Press is  
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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

## Nebraska Is Well Worth Exploring

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD (Nov. 27): Nancy Giorgi had a remarkable spring and summer. She and her husband made an extraordinary trek across Nebraska, visiting all 80 stops on the Nebraska Passport tourism promotion list.

Along the way, the Hemingford resident discovered the notable variety of tourist experiences around the Cornhusker State.

Giorgi learned about Nebraska's growing winery and microbrewery industries by visiting Schilling Bridge Winery & Microbrewery in Pawnee City and the Kincaider Brewing Company in Broken Bow. She enjoyed the creations at the Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art in David City and the Carnegie Arts Center in Alliance.

Giorgi sampled confections at The Gering Bakery and, in St. Paul, at The Sweet Shoppe. She explored the sights at Cody Park Railroad Museum in North Platte, Lee's Legendary Marbles and Collectables in York, and the Woodland Trails Art & Learning Center in Winnebago.

And she learned that fun and relaxation can be found at locales as varied as Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park in Merriman, the Balcony House Bed and Breakfast in Imperial and the River Inn Resort in Brownville.

Giorgi was named the grand-prize winner this year for the Nebraska Passport program. Begun in 2010, the program this year featured 80 attractions on 10 themed tours across the state.

More than 24,600 travelers, including visitors from 23 other states, participated this year in the program, sponsored by the Nebraska Tourism Commission. That was the highest participation yet, according to Kathy McKillip, the commission's executive director.

The average number of stops completed this year was 36. Cass County is home to the most visited stop, Baker's Candies in Greenwood.

Tourism not only is important to individual communities across the state. It's also a significant Nebraska industry. Visitors spend more than \$4.4 billion here each year, directly generating more than 44,300 jobs.

As Giorgi's wide-ranging itinerary showed, when it comes to tourism, Nebraska has much to offer.

From Chadron to Nebraska City, Valentine to Red Cloud, ours is a state well worth exploring.

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/.

IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Monday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2015. There are 24 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese navy launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as part of a plan to pre-empt any American military response to Japan's planned conquest of Southeast Asian territories; the raid, which claimed some 2,400 American lives, prompted the United States to declare war against Japan the next day.

**On this date:** In 43 B.C., Roman statesman and scholar Marcus Tullius Cicero was slain at the order of the Second Triumvirate.

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1842, the New York Philharmonic performed its first concert.

In 1909, chemist Leo H. Baekeland received a U.S. patent for Bakelite, the first synthetic plastic.

In 1946, fire broke out at the Wine-coff Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Winecoff.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras I simultaneously lifted the mutual excommunications that had led to the split of their churches in 1054.

In 1975, author-playwright Thornton Wilder, 78, died in Hamden, Connecticut.

In 1985, retired Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart died in Hanover, New Hampshire, at age 70.

In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the pilots and himself, causing the plane to crash. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving at a Washington summit with President Ronald Reagan.

In 1990, actress Joan Bennett died in Scarsdale, New York, at age 80.

In 1995, a 746-pound probe from the Galileo spacecraft hurtled into Jupiter's atmosphere, sending back data to the mothership before it was presumably destroyed.

In 2004, Hamid Karzai was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

**Ten years ago:** Federal air marshals shot and killed an airline passenger, Roberto Alipizar, at Miami International Airport after he claimed to have a bomb. (It turned out that Alipizar, who suffered

from bipolar disorder, had no bomb.)

**Five years ago:** Elizabeth Edwards, the estranged wife of former U.S. Sen. John Edwards, died at her home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, at 61 after fighting breast cancer. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange surrendered to authorities in London, where he was jailed for nine days before being freed on bail as he fought extradition to Sweden for questioning in a rape investigation. Mike Tyson, three-division champion Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico and Russian-born Kostya Tszyu, a junior welterweight champion, were selected for induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum; also selected were Mexican trainer Ignacio "Nacho" Beristain, referee Joe Cortez, and "Rocky" actor and screenwriter Sylvester Stallone.

**One year ago:** Six prisoners held for 12 years at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, arrived in Uruguay amid a new push by President Barack Obama to close the U.S. prison. Britain's Prince William and his wife, Catherine, arrived in New York City on their first official visit to the U.S. Ken Weatherwax, who'd played Pugsley on "The Addams Family" television series in the 1960s, was found dead at his home in Box Canyon, California, in May 59.

**Today's Birthdays:** Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 87. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 84. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 83. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 78. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 68. Actor-director-producer James Keach is 68. Country singer Gary Morris is 67. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 66. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 63. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 59. Actress Priscilla Barnes is 58. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd Hall is 57. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 57. Actor Patrick Fabian is 51. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 50. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 49. Producer-director Jason Winer is 43. NFL player Terrell Owens is 42. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 41. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 40. Latin singer Frankie J is 39. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 39. Actor Chris Chalk is 38. Actress Shiri Appleby is 37. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Bareilles is 36. Actress Jennifer Carpenter is 36. Singer Aaron Carter is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "O tempora! O mores!" (Oh the times! Oh the customs!) — Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 B.C.-43 B.C.).

FROM THE BIBLE

In Him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mall Matters

**Randy Gleich, Yankton**  
Need a talking point on the Yankton Mall and efforts by the City to help out Dial Enterprises: According to the Director of Equalization Office: The Yankton Mall property is made up of four separate parcels with value totaling \$2,423,800 for the 2015 assessment year.

There are at least four — if not more — properties on the Broadway corridor that have changed hands, so I'm sure a more correct tax current valuation could possibly be made on these parcels owned by Dial Enterprises.

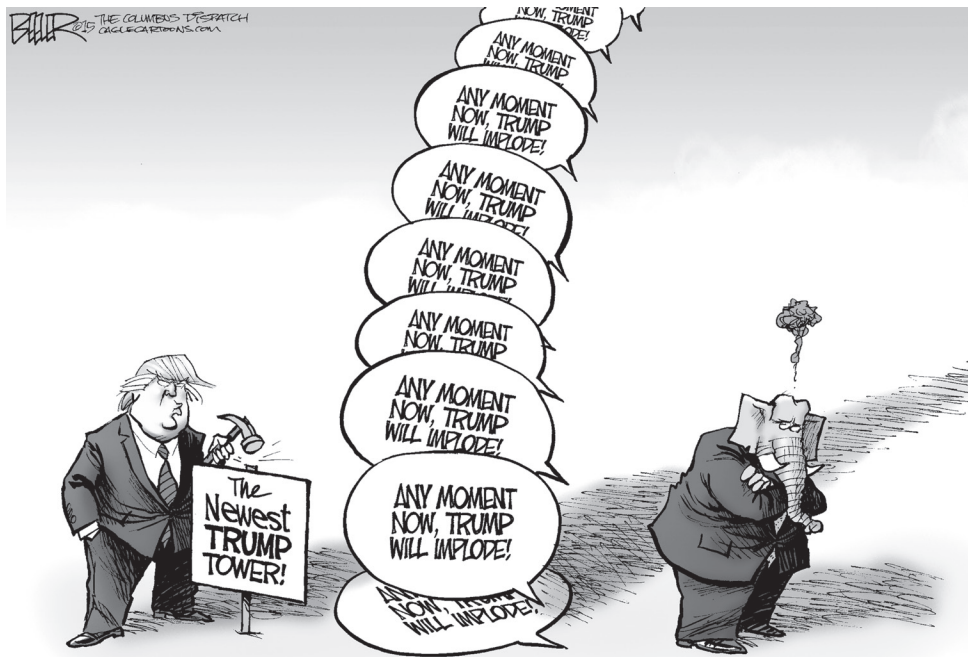
Also, if land out at Napa Junction is selling for \$25,000 an

acre and lots within Yankton are selling for an average of \$25,000 a lot ... the land for tax purposes must be worth more than what it is appraised for.

Yes, I have a problem with the Yankton Mall (Dial Enterprises) only paying \$45,000 a year in property taxes. It's not fair to the other property owners that are paying more than their fair share.

Instead of a \$2 million incentive by the City, maybe the City should just kick in another \$400,000, buy the mall and redevelop it, as I doubt Dial will do anything about it.

This is prime real estate in the City of Yankton and its paying the least amount in property taxes. What is up with that?



Capitol Notebook

## The Budget Speech We'd Like To Hear

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Wouldn't it be refreshing if Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who's generally been a solid steward of our tax money, used the occasion of his budget speech on Tuesday to tell the Legislature how he plans to prevent future scandals in state government?

Budgets are about money. The scandals dogging Daugaard are, too. Much of that money comes from we the taxpayers.

He and we might be on the hook for a whopper of a bill from the EB-5 scandal. The lawsuit filed by Chinese investors seeks \$18.5 million from state government claiming they were misled about the Northern Beef plant at Aberdeen.

The visas-for-money program took shape largely under previous governor and now U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds. Cleanup falls to Daugaard, who was lieutenant governor to Rounds.

There also were misdeeds committed during the four years Jason Gant was secretary of state. The money blown in Gant's office came from us too. Gant's office was next door to Daugaard's office.

But because the secretary of state is a constitutional office unto itself, governors don't have clear authority to discipline them. Only the Legislature has impeachment power to remove a constitutional officer.

At the urging of then-Sen. Stan Adelstein, Rapid City, state Attorney General Marty Jackley looked into activities involving Gant's office in 2012 and declared no evidence — none, zero — of criminal activity.

Then in the past 11 months we gradually found out about details of some messes that occurred during Gant's time.

This information came from Shantel Krebs, who was gutsy enough to challenge Gant for the

Republican nomination in 2014, and from state Auditor General Marty Guindon, whose office looked into things for Krebs after she took office in January.

It also was Auditor General Guindon and his staff who discovered the loose threads involving the state Department of Education, Mid Central Education Cooperative at Platte and the GEAR UP program.

GEAR UP is supposed to help low-income students and their families learn about the requirements and costs for higher education after high school graduation.

Now Black Hills State University is replacing Mid Central as the federally funded program's manager.

The problems involving the department's Indian education programs didn't start since Gov. Daugaard took office in 2011, but they're blowing sky-high.

Since Sept. 17, we have a family of six shot to death, a safe that can't be found in the burned wreckage of their Platte home, the resignation of state Board of Education member Stacy Phelps who ran GEAR UP for Mid Central and state board member Kelly Duncan under financial scrutiny.

We learned more Thursday from a limited independent audit conducted for Mid Central into GEAR UP.

Former state secretary of education Rick Melmer received a total of \$102,746 over the past two years, and former state director of Indian education Keith Moore made a total of \$99,768 during the same span, for advising Mid Central on Indian education, with full approval of state Education Secretary Melody Schopp, from GEAR UP funds.

The auditor general, attorney general and federal authorities are investigating. They are trying to track GEAR UP money beyond Mid Central.

As taxpayers we wonder: What was really going on?



Bob MERCER

## The CAIR Effect: See Something, Do Nothing

BY MICHELLE MALKIN  
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As news of the San Bernardino jihadist shootings blared on airport TVs, I spotted a TSA monitor flashing the now ubiquitous message:

"If you SEE something, SAY something."

The warning should be followed with a big "LOL" and a winky-blinky, just-kidding emoji. It's one of the emptiest slogans in modern American life.

While the White House pays lip service to homeland security vigilance, it consorts with Islamic terror sympathizers who attack vigilant citizens and law enforcement officers at every turn. Yes, I'm looking at you, Council on American-Islamic Relations.

After seeing CAIR's bizarre press conference with the San Bernardino jihadists' family members, here's what I'd like to say to them:

You are not to be trusted. You put damage control above border control and jihad control. You are enemies of our national security and sovereignty.

Reminder: The feds designated CAIR an unindicted terror co-conspirator in 2007 in the prosecution of the Holy Land Foundation and others for providing support to Hamas jihadists. Over the alleged objections of Dallas-area federal prosecutors, the Obama Justice Department's senior political appointees declined to press terror-financing charges against CAIR co-founder Omar Ahmad.

Instead, the administration has rolled out the red carpet for CAIR officials "hundreds" of times since 2009 on a "range of issues."

This is the same group of "Islamophobia!"-shrieking grievance grifters that cooked up the Ahmed "Clock Boy" Mohamed brouhaha in Texas, where the city of Irving and Irving Independent School District are now being sued for \$15 million after raising alarms over the teen's low-tech media stunt. Obama hailed Mohamed before the boy jetted off to Qatar to cash in on a Muslim Brotherhood-linked educational scholarship.

This is the same group of litigious radicals who unsuccessfully sued a Florida gun shop owner this summer for declaring that he would refuse to sell weapons to "[a]nyone who is either directly or indirectly associated with terrorism in any way." A judge ruled this week that "[t]here are simply no facts grounding the assertion that Plaintiff (CAIR) and/or one of its constituents will be harmed." CAIR is appealing, of course.

This is the same group of treacherous thugs that squelched critics of Somalia-based jihad group al-Shabab in Minnesota. CAIR smeared whistleblowing Muslims who participated in an educational Minneapolis forum on al-Shabab terrorism and youth gangs as "anti-Muslim." In 2013, the uncle of a missing young Muslim radical testified before Congress about CAIR's efforts to pressure families to impede FBI investigations.

"CAIR held meetings for some members of the community and told them not to talk to the FBI," Abdurizak Bihi told lawmakers, "which was a slap in the face for the Somali American Muslim mothers who were knocking on doors day and night with pictures of their missing children and asking for the community to talk to law enforcement about what they know of the missing kids."

This is the same group of free speech-trampling zealots that bombed private citizen, Zaba Davis, with harassing subpoenas over her opposition to a planned construction project by the Muslim Community Association and Michigan Islamic Academy. A federal judge called CAIR's anti-free speech witch hunt "chilling" and ordered the outfit to pay \$9,000 in legal fees.

This is the same manipulative group of controversy-manufacturing instigators who tried to sue "John Does" — innocent American citizens who alerted the authorities about their security concerns — in 2007 after a group of imams falsely claimed they were discriminated against on a Minneapolis flight.

And this is the same dangerous group of jihad enablers that filed an obstructionist lawsuit to block vigilant Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from quizzing Muslim border-crossers about their ties to jihadist martyrs and radical mosques. The anti-racial profiling lawsuit has dragged on for three years.

Little wonder, then, that in this politically correct climate of intimidation, a neighbor of the San Bernardino jihadists told local media this week that he had "noticed a half-dozen Middle Eastern men in the area in recent weeks, but decided not to report anything since he did not wish to racially profile those people."

That's the CAIR effect: See something, do nothing. Silence is complicity.

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