

The Press & Dakotan

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We Say

On Target



THUMBS UP to Yankton for landing the 2018 World Archery Indoor Championships and the 2020 World Archery Field Championships, joining other sites — including metropolises — chosen for meets around the world. This week's announcement comes on the heels of Yankton hosting a very successful World Archery Youth Championships earlier this year. The upcoming meets will feature adult competitors, which brings a different dynamic than the youth meet. However, Yankton has shown its facilities and ability to host a world meet. The city and surrounding area hold the experience which allows it to hit the ground running for the two upcoming world events. More details should be announced today (Friday) during a press conference, but we're sure of one thing: Yankton will once (actually, twice) again show it knows how to roll out the red carpet for visitors from around the globe.

Promising Trend



THUMBS UP to the South Dakota prison system and the progress it has made to run more efficiently and effectively. A landmark public safety overhaul passed in 2013 has caused prison population to decrease in the last two years, while also boosting the number of offenders who are successfully completing their parole. The overhaul aims to reduce corrections spending, with more focus on violent and career criminals.

Deep Heating



THUMBS DOWN to a familiar refrain: News was released this week that last month was the warmest November on record globally. According to the NOAA, the November global land and surface temperature was 1.75 degrees F above the 20th century norm, marking the seventh consecutive month that the record has been broken. For the year overall, the average temperature is 1.57 degrees F above the 20th century average. The trend is nothing new, of course, but it is worth considering in light of last week's Paris climate accord, which marks a big first step toward limiting the impacts of climate change on the planet. While there has been a lot of hyperbole (on both sides) attached to the accord and the issue in general, the numbers make a stark, dispassionate case for what's on the line for humanity and what the nations of the world need to do.

Rock Laurels



THUMBS UP to the list of entries for this year's class of the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, which seems to be working to tie up some loose ends from the 1970s. The Midwest has a nice representation with the inclusion of Cheap Trick, a popular pop-rock band quite adept with recalling Beatles-type melodies, and Chicago, which started out as a stark jazz-fusion band before morphing in a soft-rock sound that, frankly, did not real favors for its reputation. Also on board this year is Deep Purple, which of course gave the world (including practically every high school pep band in America) "Smoke on the Water," and guitarist Steve Miller. The Hall also tabbed L.A. rap pioneers N.W.A., reflecting the broad reach of the rock music genre. The bands will be inducted next April.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should South Dakota pursue Medicaid expansion?
Yes.....67%
No.....25%
Not sure.....8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....209

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 think the Minnesota Vikings will make the playoffs?
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, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2015. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 18, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, whose first wife, Ellen, had died the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt, a widow, at her Washington home.

On this date: In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1863, in a speech to the Prussian Parliament, Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck declared, "Politics is not an exact science."

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1912, fossil collector Charles Dawson reported to the Geological Society of London his discovery of supposed early human remains at a gravel pit in Piltdown. (More than four decades later, Piltdown Man was exposed as a hoax.)

In 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered secret preparations for Nazi Germany to invade the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government's wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast while at the same time unanimously agreeing that "concededly loyal" Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1958, the world's first communications satellite, SCORE (Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment), nicknamed "Chatterbox," was launched by the United States aboard an Atlas rocket.

In 1969, Britain's House of Lords joined the House of Commons in making permanent a 1965 ban on the death penalty for murder.

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.

In 1992, Kim Young-sam was elected South Korea's first civilian president in three decades.

Ten years ago: In a televised speech, President George W. Bush declared that Iraq's parliamentary elections signaled the birth of democracy in the Middle East. Vice President Dick Cheney made

a surprise visit to Iraq, where he faced tough questions from battle-weary troops. Susanne Osthoff, a German aid worker kidnapped in Iraq, was freed after three weeks in captivity. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a mild stroke.

Five years ago: The U.S. Senate approved repeal of the military's 17-year "don't ask, don't tell" ban on openly gay troops in a 65-31 vote. (President Barack Obama later signed it into law.) Skier Lindsey Vonn was named the 2010 Female Athlete of the Year as chosen by members of The Associated Press.

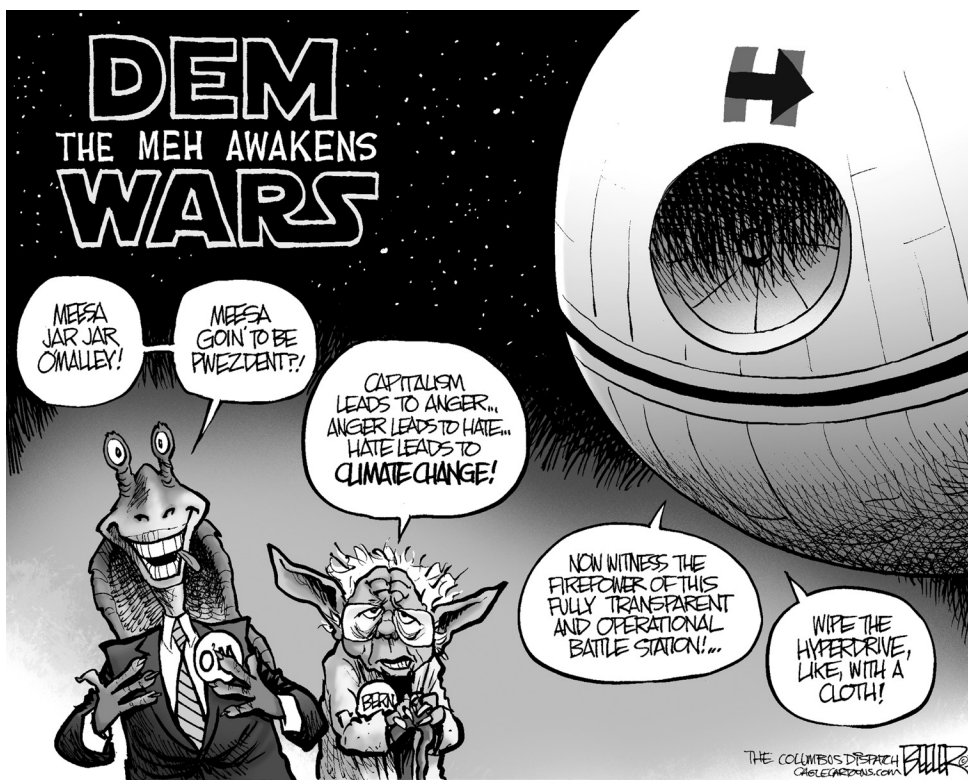
One year ago: Sternly warning the West it could not defang the metaphorical Russian bear, President Vladimir Putin promised to shore up the plummeting ruble and revive the economy within two years. Mandy Rice-Davies, 70, a key figure in the "Profumo Scandal" that rocked Cold War Britain, died in London. Actress Virna Lisi, 78, died in Rome. "The Colbert Report" came to an end after nine years on Comedy Central (host Stephen Colbert went on to become the host of CBS' "Late Show.")

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 88. Actor-producer Roger Smith is 83. Blues musician Lonnie Brooks is 82. Actor Roger Moseley is 77. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 72. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 72. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 69. Blues artist Ron Piazza is 68. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 65. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 65. Rock musician Elliot Easton is 62. Actor Ray Liotta is 60. Comedian Ron White is 59. R&B singer Angie Stone is 54. Actor Brad Pitt is 52. Professional wrestler-turned-actor "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is 51. Actor Shawn Christian is 50. Actress Rachel Griffiths is 47. Singer Alejandro Sanz is 47. Actor Casper Van Dien (TV: "Mortal Kombat") is 47. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 45. Rapper DMX is 45. International Tennis Hall of Famer Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is 44. DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit) is 43. Pop singer Sia is 40. Country singer Randy Houser is 39. Actor Josh Dallas is 37. Actress Katie Holmes is 37. Actor Ravi Patel (TV: "Grandfathered") is 37. Singer Christina Aguilera is 35. Christian rock musician Dave Luetkenhoelter (Kutless) is 33. Actress Ashley Benson is 26. Actress-singer Bridgit Mendler is 23. Actress Isabella Cramp is 11.

Thought for Today: "Whoever wants to be a judge of human nature should study people's excuses." — Christian Friedrich Hebbel, German poet and dramatist (1813-1863).

FROM THE BIBLE

And [Jesus] called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. Luke 9:1-2. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



'Star Wars' And A Tale Of Great Timing

BY KELLY HERTZ

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On May 24, 1977, I and more than 30 of my classmates graduated from good old Menno High School. With our eyes fixed upon the promise of far-off horizons, we were poised to hit the road of adulthood and conquer a world utterly unprepared for the likes of us.

The very next day, May 25, 1977, "Star Wars" crashed into movie theaters and just sucked all the oxygen out of the room. Our arrival on the adult stage was hopelessly overshadowed.

Timing, you see, is everything. I certainly have nothing against the movie, for I was one of the millions of people who, in the summer of 1977, helped turn "Star Wars" into, well, STAR WARS!

To call that entity ubiquitous is like calling Donald Trump blunt. The original movie spawned much more than a film franchise, which is returning again this weekend with a long-awaited new movie, "The Force Awakens," that's going to make death stars full of money. The original space opera gave birth to its own universe of characters, spinoffs and marketing ventures. It inspired countless imitators and rip-offs, as well as numerous cultural touchstones. Everyone knows what "the force" is. Everyone knows who Luke Skywalker's father is. Everyone recognizes John Williams' majestic musical score. The franchise is referenced in everyday conversation every day; it even entered the international dialogue to describe a proposed American orbiting missile defense system in the 1980s. "Star Wars" has become thoroughly ingrained in who and what we are.

Because of that aforementioned timing, I have the great accidental luxury of knowing precisely what I was doing the day before "Star Wars" changed everything. None one saw this phenomenon coming or even realized it when it first dawned. (Therefore, neither my classmates nor I woke up after a night of graduation partying and exclaimed, "Oh, shoot! It's 'Star Wars!'")

Timing is indeed everything, and the original "Star Wars" had it on its side: It was a momentous event because it struck the right chord at the right cultural moment. Oddly, it was different because it *wasn't* different: It wasn't a bold glimpse of the future but rather a nod to the past.

Let's be honest: The tale told (albeit imaginatively) in the original movie was OK, but it was pretty two-dimensional and didn't have a lot of mind-challenging twists. It was mostly derived from westerns, samurai movies and pulp sci-fi adventures from decades before, and the ending was triumphantly predictable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's Tirades

Fernande Bitsos, Yankton

This is in response to the editorial, "Why Trump Hasn't Gone 'Too Far'" (Press & Dakotan, Dec. 9):

Well, remembering my World War II youth, going to see an American or French movie with my parents and sister, we first had to watch the news. I remember seeing the Fuhrer Adolph Hitler (with French translation), gesticulating like a wild banshee, shooting words of hatred and threats against German Jews, German Gypsies, the handicapped and more to his well "regimented troops," murdering SS and civilian population raising their arms to "Heil Hitler" (not large posters "a la Trump"). Those Americans cheering Trump must not having seen the Fuhrer Hitler mesmerize his people to conquer Europe and the world into Nazism for a thousand years.

Mr. Trump degrades or shockingly insults his Republican opponents, or brings up how wealthy he is, thus hoping to "buy" the presidency.

I do believe we, unfortunately, have

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"copycats" in some situations but, Mr. Trump fits in his copycat standing of Adolph Hitler who caused the deaths of millions of innocent people, including our GIs. I want to believe and hope that the American people of various faith, race or color will not fall into Mr. Trump's "carnival" trash blabbering of lies and insinuations against Republicans or Democrats. Our country is not a Nazi REICH. We believe in "FREEDOM" for ALL — even you Mr. Trump.

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