

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US
PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

ACA And Its Impact On Jobs

BOSTON HERALD (Feb. 5): When it comes to Obamacare, the bad news train keeps rollin'. A stunning report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office yesterday more than tripled the number of Americans who, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, will likely be out of the workforce by 2024, from the equivalent of 800,000 full-time workers to 2.5 million.

"CBO estimates that the ACA will reduce the total number of hours worked, on net, by about 1.5 to 2 percent during the period from 2017 to 2024, almost entirely because workers will choose to supply less labor — given the new taxes and other incentives they will face and the financial benefits some will receive," the report notes.

Since taxpayer subsidies to purchase insurance will shrink and premiums rise with workers' income there will be a disincentive for some individuals to work more, the report notes. Expanded eligibility for Medicaid is a similar disincentive. Meanwhile the financial penalty paid by larger employers who don't provide adequate coverage to workers is likely to chill working hours, too.

But don't take the CBO's word for it — just ask the sales clerks from Lord & Taylor or Saks Fifth Avenue or Target, whose employers have already announced plans to drop coverage for part-time workers because of the cost. How long before more full-time workers become part time?

And what price the dysfunctional Obamacare website? CBO projects 2 million fewer Americans will enroll in health insurance plans via the exchanges or the Medicaid program this year than projected, thanks to the site's "significant technical problems."

Of course the ostriches who occupy the White House continue living in a state of denial. They are touting the CBO's projections as a good thing, arguing the 2.5 million are really just exercising a personal choice to, say, "spend more time with their families."

"This is all about choices created by the availability of quality, affordable health insurance," White House spokesman Jay Carney said. Unemployment as just another appealing choice. Well, that's a new one for Democrats.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks 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 to views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2014. There are 328 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 6, 1952, Britain's King George VI died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.
On this date: In 1778, the United States won official recognition from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.
In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate.
In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Ill.
In 1922, Cardinal Archille Ratti was elected pope; he took the name Pius XI.
In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.
In 1943, a Los Angeles jury acquitted actor Errol Flynn of three counts of statutory rape.
In 1959, the United States successfully test-fired for the first time a Titan intercontinental ballistic missile from Cape Canaveral.
In 1973, Dixy Lee Ray was appointed by President Richard Nixon to be the first woman to head the Atomic Energy Commission.
In 1992, 16 people were killed when a C-130 military transport plane crashed in Evansville, Ind.
In 1994, actor Joseph Cotten died in Los Angeles at age 88.
In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who'd had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40.
Ten years ago: President George W. Bush appointed a bipartisan commission to examine intelligence on Iraq's weapons. (In a scathing 600-page report released in March 2005, the commission called the spy community "dead wrong on almost all of its prewar judgments" about Iraqi weaponry.) A suicide bomber set off

an explosion that ripped through a Moscow subway car during rush hour, killing 41 people. Auto mechanic Joseph P. Smith was charged with kidnapping and murder after authorities in Sarasota, Fla., found the body of 11-year-old Charlie Brucia, whose abduction had been captured by a car-wash surveillance camera. (Smith was later convicted and sentenced to death.)
Five years ago: Key senators and the White House reached tentative agreement on an economic stimulus measure at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan. Federal health officials said Peanut Corp. of America, a Georgia peanut processor, had knowingly shipped salmonella-laced products as far back as 2007. Death claimed actors James Whitmore at age 87 and Philip Carey at age 83.
One year ago: The U.S. Postal Service proposed eliminating Saturday mail delivery, an announcement that immediately drew protests from some lawmakers. At least nine people were killed by a tsunami that smashed into villages in the Solomon Islands, flattening dozens of homes in the South Pacific island chain. Toy maker Hasbro Inc. announced that Monopoly fans had voted online to add a cat token to the board game, replacing the iron.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor is 97. Actor Patrick Macnee is 92. Actor Rip Torn is 83. Actress Marnie Van Doren is 83. Actor Mike Farrell is 75. Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw is 74. Singer Fabian is 71. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 71. Actor Michael Tucker is 70. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 65. Singer Natalie Cole is 64. Actor Jon Walmsley is 58. Actress Kathy Najimy is 57. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 57. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 57. Actor Barry Miller is 56. Actress Megan Gallagher is 54. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 52. Country singer Richie McDonald is 52. Singer Rick Astley is 48. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 45. Actor Brandon Hammond is 30. Actress Alice Greczyn is 28.

Thought for Today: "The first duty of a leader is to make himself be loved without courting love. To be loved without 'playing up' to anyone — even to himself." — Andre Malraux, French author (1901-1976).

FROM THE BIBLE

For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. Acts 11:26. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

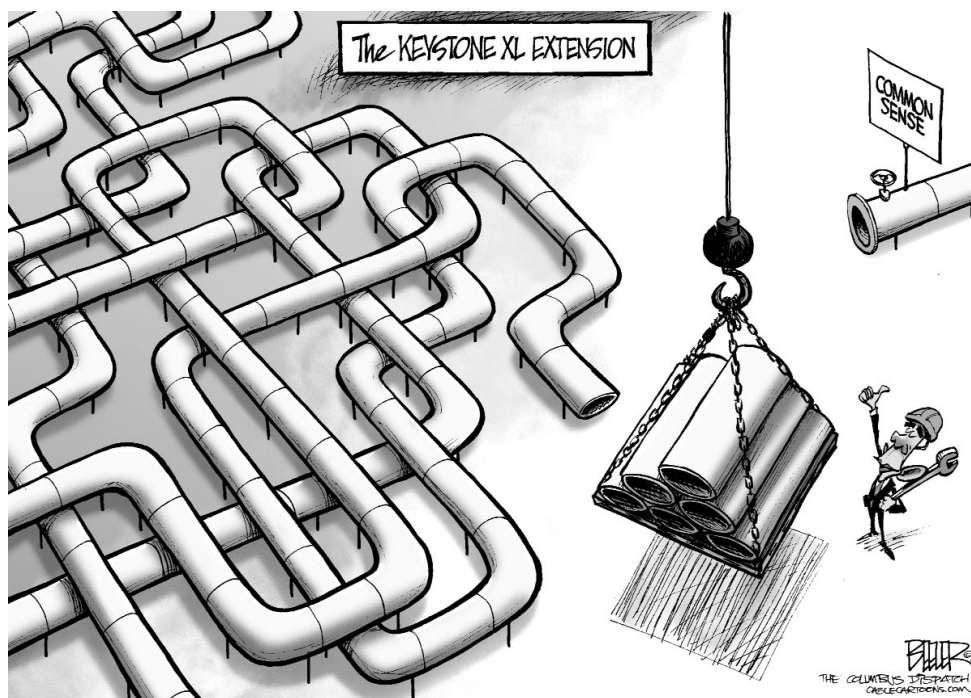
Questions of Freedom

Wayne Sharp, Yankton
I was appalled by your editorial "Do Personal Beliefs Trump the Law?" (*Press & Dakotan*, Jan. 29) Yes, gay marriage is the law in several states and may well be nationally someday. But laws cannot determine ones religious or moral beliefs. If anyone in the clergy is ever required to perform same-sex marriages against their beliefs it will be a tragic day for our nation.
Perhaps this will never happen. But,

in fact, it has happened in other countries, even in Canada. It is illegal in some European countries even to speak against homosexuality or gay-marriages from a pulpit. It is easy to say, "Oh, this will never happen here in the United States of America," but it might well happen if enough people are willing to try to make it happen.
The refusal on the part of one minister, priest, or rabbi to perform a same-sex marriage would not prevent that marriage from taking place where it is legal. Someone who does not have a reli-

gious or moral problem with same-sex marriages would perform the ceremony. Are all doctors required to perform abortions even if abortion is against their beliefs and conscience? Abortion is legal in many circumstances but not all consider it to be moral, including many doctors and hospitals. Perhaps you think that doctors should also be forced to perform an abortion which, although legal, they believe to be immoral.
I thought it rather ironic that the day after the editorial appeared, you printed

a "Know Your Rights" segment with a re-statement of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution emphasizing freedom of the press. But the First Amendment also says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." The day that any clergy person is required to perform a same-sex marriage (or anything else that violates his/her free exercise of religious beliefs) will be a sad and tragic day indeed and free exercise of religion will be negated!



Writer's Block

A Stenciled Mystery

BY JAMES L. VAN OSDEL
For the Press & Dakotan

It is with much interest we read these days about the current "mystery at the Mead," as workers for the Dakota Territorial Museum removing layers of paint and or wallpaper, uncover "stencils" applied to the newly plastered walls of the newest dormitory for women at the Human Services Center completed so many years ago.

Almost 40 years ago, some young friends were clearing many years of wallpaper from walls on the first floor of their home at 503 Mulberry, current home of the Fred Binder family.

The young couple (he was station agent for North Central Airlines at the Yankton airport terminal) told me that, as they removed the layers of old wall paper, they were amazed to uncover more painted stencils which had been apparently applied to the plaster walls when the home was newly constructed.

A story for the *Press & Dakotan* was in the making. When I showed the pictures of the discovered artistry to Ellen Tobin, longtime P&D newsroom staffer who possessed an amazing array of memories about Yankton's storied past, quipped offhandedly, "Oh, my father probably did that. That was his business, you know."

Ms. Tobin's sister, Florence Tobin, for many years greeted NWPS customers as they came into the office to pay their utility bills. Their



Van Osdel

brother had a sporting goods and camera store in Sioux City. Ellen and Florence Tobin, who both graduated from Yankton High School in the early 1940s, lived in the modest family home on the west side of Green Street at the intersection of Eighth Street. At that time, Ellen told me her father's stencils were most likely still stored in the small outbuilding to the northwest of the home. I think of those stencils and Ellen Tobin each time I drive up Eighth at Green.

Ellen had a great memory. It was she who meticulously pored through the old P&D files to write and edit the 75, 50 and 25-years-ago bits that old-timers like myself enjoy to this day.

Using such information, Ellen began to produce one of the most popular historical newspaper columns to ever hit the P&D.

Local author and historian Bob Karolevitz credited Ms. Tobin's historical column many times in researching answers for his later publications, including an excellent history column which was later assembled into a book still available at the *Press and Dakotan* office. It makes an excellent reference and gift whether one is a Yankton native or you "just got to town."

You never know what kind of story you will uncover in those pages — but no stencils, until now.

Keep Calm, And Gossip On

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — We have officially reached the take-a-step-back moment in the unfolding — or unraveling — of the Chris Christie alleged bridge/political retribution/Sandy funds political scandal.

It always happens in any story these days. News stampedes through the ether, trampling context and nuance, oblivious to potholes and fissures. And then corrections must be made.

This isn't finger-pointing at my colleagues. Columnists have the luxury of taking their time with facts, while reporters are expected to update news by the minute, or less. In our amped-up, blogodyte world, stories are chugging 5-hour Energy shots just to keep up with reporters and, it must be said, gossips.

Thus on Tuesday, Mika Brzezinski said the necessary on MSNBC's "Morning Joe": "Calm down." Later, a guest on the show added, "People need to step back," a sentiment with which all present were in accord.

For the past several days on most news shows, the dominant buzz has centered on a *New York Times* story, subsequently adjusted, that came close to accusing Christie of lying when he has insisted repeatedly that he knew nothing about the George Washington Bridge lane closings that resulted in a four-day traffic jam and that have been characterized as political retribution.

The *Times* story cited a letter from Alan L. Zegas, attorney for David Wildstein, the former Port Authority executive and one-time Christie ally who, after an infamous email exchange with Christie aide Bridget Anne Kelly ("Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee"), ordered the lane closings.

In the *Times* story, Wildstein was said to have "had the evidence" to prove that Christie knew contemporaneously about the lane closings. Later, the *Times* story was tweaked to reflect what the letter actually said: that "evidence exists" that Christie knew at the time of the lane closings. Thank you for the clarification. What evidence? Whose? Where? The voice knows.

And then she heard it again, the same chilling voice whispering as the curtains fluttered on a still night. "It exists ... it exists ... it exists."

But seriously, without confirmation or corroboration of such damning evidence, what, really, was this latest chapter? The letter was essentially a plea to the Port Authority that it pay Wildstein's legal expenses, which it previ-



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ously had denied to do.

To be fair, the *Times* story was not without basis — the letter does exist and its contents are of interest. News. But it is also damning of Christie's character without substantiation, otherwise known as one man's word against another — and that's not good for journalism.

Before you could say heywaita-minute, the Drudge Report led with the scurrilous headline "He Knew." Though Drudge clearly isn't a Christie fan (this must be terribly painful for the governor), the result has been a circling of conservative wagons by those who hate the media more than they dislike a moderate Republican — as foretold by a certain columnist weeks ago. Thus, Christie has been invited to speak at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference next month, where he was conspicuously not invited a year ago.

Meanwhile, Christie's office has fired back, impugning Wildstein's character, even going back to his high-school days and calling him "tumultuous." One can only imagine his year-book inscription: "Dude, stay as tumultuous as you are and bridges will fear you!"

In a parallel saga, CNN recently issued a report poking holes in Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer's story claiming that Christie's office threatened to withhold Hurricane Sandy recovery funds if she didn't support a development project the governor favored.

CNN cited not only contradictions and discrepancies but evidence that Zimmer may have practiced the same tactics of which she has accused Christie. The executive director of the Hoboken Housing Authority had sued Zimmer, claiming that the mayor had "an unwritten policy of political patronage or 'pay to play' to reward ... political supporters."

Shocking. As the Christie scandal machine grinds on, his polling numbers unshockingly are plummeting. Once in the lead in a fantasy presidential race, he now trails Hillary Clinton 39 percent to 55 percent. In the race for the GOP nomination, he trails Mike Huckabee and Rand Paul, tying with Jeb Bush.

But, the night is young. It remains entirely possible that Christie is telling the truth. And evidence may or may not exist. Which means a new narrative must fill the void. It goes like this: Even if he's telling the truth, Christie created the culture in which his people felt free to abuse power.

Stay tuned ... and stay calm.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.