

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION

Extension 104
mike.hrycko@yankton.net
CLASSIFIED ADS
Extension 108
tera.schmidt@yankton.net

NEWS DEPT.

Extension 114
news@yankton.net

SPORTS DEPT.

Extension 106
sports@yankton.net

ADVERTISING DEPT.

Extension 122
sales@yankton.net

BUSINESS OFFICE

Extension 119
ar@yankton.net

NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136
beth.rye@yankton.net

COMPOSING DEPT.

Extension 129
kathy.larson@yankton.net

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood
Publisher
Michele Schievelbein
Advertising Director
Tonya Schild
Business Manager
Michael Hrycko
Circulation Director

Tera Schmidt
Classified Manager

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James D. Cimburek
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WE SAY

Play Ball!



THUMBS UP to the possibility (at press time) that spring is already here, thanks to the Mount Marty College baseball team. The Lancers this week scheduled a tripleheader for today (Friday) with Presentation College at Riverside Park (also known as "Riverside Field at Bob Tereshinski Stadium"). Thanks to the new turf infield that was installed last fall, the Riverside surface may be good to go (pending weather and other obstacles not known as of this writing) to open their baseball season today – in Yankton, and not somewhere down south. To the best of our staff's recollection, this may be the earliest date that a baseball game has been played in Yankton. The temperatures are expected to be in the 40s today, so it may work out. Don't be surprised if MMC — or other teams — decide to take advantage of Yankton's turf option in future late-winters to come. Play ball!

Shot Down



THUMBS UP to the South Dakota State House for rejecting HB1206, a bill that would've authorized the concealed carry of pistols on public university campuses. This isn't the first time such a proposal has been made, and it's undoubtedly the last time it'll be pitched in Pierre, but common sense prevailed Thursday with its defeat. There's a number of issues on the campuses that our state's legislators could spend valuable legislative time trying to address, and none of them involve arming students for solvency.

Patriotic Pen



THUMBS UP to Scotland eighth grader Tracy Kruse for finishing third in the National VFW Patriot's Pen student essay contest. Kruse, the daughter of Casey and Chris Kruse of Lesterville, won the \$3,500 prize for her entry on the national theme, "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans." The essay contest has become a family affair, as Tracy's sister, Kate, won ninth place nationally as a seventh grader in 2012. Tracy's essay focused on her experience of witnessing the respect shown to a veteran at a military funeral. South Dakota has rarely placed among the Top 10 in the national contest, and Tracy's third-place finish is believed to be the highest finish ever for a South Dakota contestant. We offer our own salute to the Kruses and the reminder that we need to show our appreciation for veterans every day of the year.

Going Down



THUMBS DOWN to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showing that there were nearly 400 fewer small operation farms and ranches in South Dakota than there were in 2013. It indicates a continual decline in the number of small farming operations in the state and the continued growth of bigger, more consolidated facilities working more and more land. It's yet another sobering indication that modern agriculture is no longer tied to the small family farms that built the industry in this state. It's logical progression, we suppose, but still an indication of changing, fading times.

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 a special minimum wage of \$7.50 for kids under age 18?

No.....49%
Yes.....43%
Not sure.....8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....310

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:

Should clothing be exempt from the state sales tax?

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, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2015. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 20, 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health. (The case involved a Swedish immigrant, Henning Jacobson, who refused to pay a \$5 fine for refusing to be vaccinated against smallpox; the Court upheld the right of states to penalize individuals who rejected vaccinations, but did not say they could be forcibly vaccinated.)

On this date: In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the U.S. Post Office.

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever.

In 1915, the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened in San Francisco (the fair lasted until December).

In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to negotiate with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. strategic bombers began raiding German aircraft manufacturing centers in a series of attacks that became known as "Big Week."

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Rabinowitz*, ruled 5-3 that authorities making a lawful arrest did not need a warrant to search and seize evidence in an area that was in the "immediate and complete control" of the suspect.

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft.

In 1965, America's Ranger 8 spacecraft crashed on the moon, as planned, after sending back thousands of pictures of the lunar surface.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered U.S. radio and TV stations off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

In 1987, a bomb left by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring store owner Gary Wright. Soviet authorities released Jewish activist Josef Begun.

In 1998, Tara Lipinski of the U.S. won the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics; Michelle Kwan won the silver.

In 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

Ten years ago: Israel's Cabinet gave final approval to the government's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements. Former Presidents

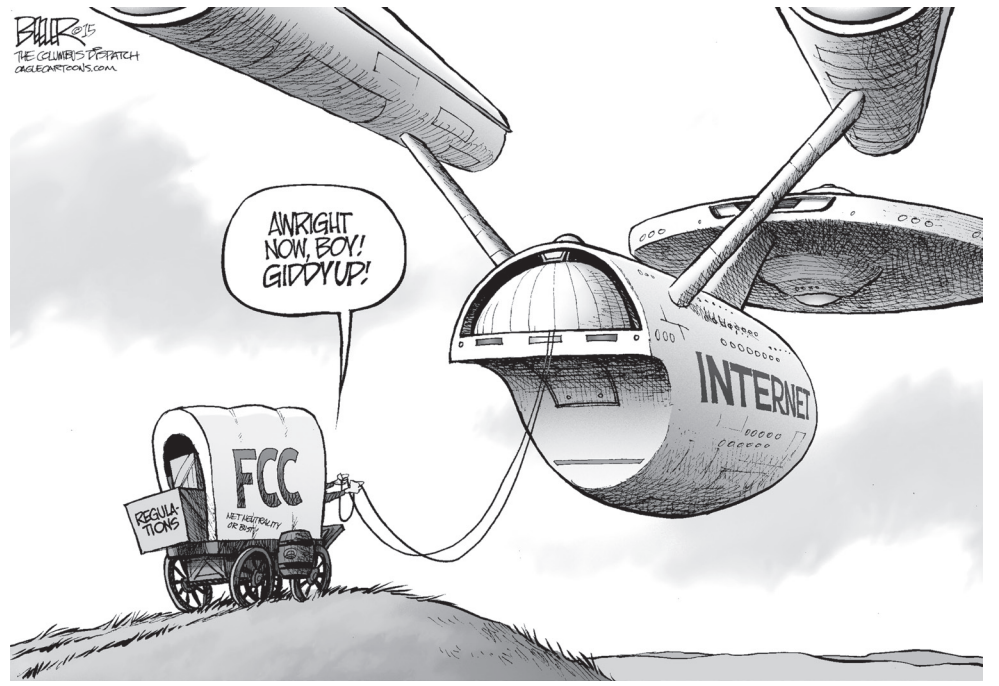
George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton traveled to Lamapuk, Indonesia, ground zero of tsunami devastation, where they promised survivors that more help would come. Jeff Gordon won his third Daytona 500. Allen Iverson was selected MVP of the NBA All-Star game, helping the Eastern Conference to a 125-115 victory. Death claimed actress Sandra Dee at age 62; musical actor John Raitt at age 88; and counterculture writer Hunter S. Thompson at age 67.

Five years ago: Alexander Haig, a soldier and statesman who'd held high posts in three Republican administrations and some of the U.S. military's top jobs, died in Baltimore at 85. Floods and mudslides on the Portuguese island of Madeira claimed more than 40 lives.

One year ago: Protesters advanced on police lines in the heart of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, prompting government snipers to shoot and kill scores of people. In Sochi, Canada beat the U.S. 3-2 in overtime to win its 4th straight Olympic women's hockey gold. Adelina Sotnikova became Russia's first gold medalist in women's Olympic figure skating, defeating defending champion Yuna Kim of South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Gloria Vanderbilt is 91. Actor Sidney Poitier is 88. Racing Hall of Famer Bobby Unser is 81. Actress Marj Dusay is 79. Jazz-soul singer Nancy Wilson is 78. Racing Hall of Famer Roger Penske is 78. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 74. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Phil Esposito is 73. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is 73. Movie director Mike Leigh is 72. Actress Brenda Blethyn is 69. Actress Sandy Duncan is 69. Rock musician J. Geils is 69. Actor Peter Strauss is 68. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 65. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is 64. Country singer Kathie Hill is 64. Actor John Voldstad is 64. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 61. Actor Anthony Stewart Head is 61. Country singer Leland Martin is 58. Actor James Wilby is 57. Rock musician Sebastian Steinberg is 56. Comedian Joel Hodgson is 55. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley is 52. Rock musician Ian Brown (Stone Roses) is 52. Actor Willie Garson is 51. Actor French Stewart is 51. Actor Ron Eldard is 50. Model Cindy Crawford is 49. Actor Andrew Shue is 48. Actress Lili Taylor is 48. Singer Brian Littrell is 40. Actress Lauren Ambrose is 37. Actor Jay Hernandez is 37. Actress Chelsea Peretti (TV: "Brooklyn Nine-Nine") is 37. Country musician Coy Bowles is 36. Actress Mandy Patinkin is 34. Singer-musician Chris Thile (THEE-LEE) is 34. Actress-singer Jessie Mueller is 32. Actor Jake Richardson is 30. Singer Rihanna is 27. Actor Jack Falah-ee (TV: "How to Get Away With Murder") is 26.

Thought for Today: "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." — Frederick Douglass, American abolitionist (born circa 1817; died this date in 1895).



Pierre Report

A Look At The Big 3

BY SEN. BERNIE HUNHOFF

D-District 18 (Yankton)

Three big issues overshadow the 90th legislative session. They include Medicaid expansion, road and bridge funding and the teacher shortage. Here's an update on where each stands as we finish the sixth week of a nine-week session.

Of the "big three," most of the discussion has revolved around road funding. Legislators studied the issue over the summer and brought a \$100 million tax increase plan to the full legislature. Governor Dennis Daugaard featured the issue in his January State of the State speech, and proposed a \$50 million tax increase that would gradually increase with annual two-cent increases in the gas tax for the foreseeable future.

There is now a Senate road bill and a House road bill making their ways through the legislature. Both are beginning to look quite different. Eventually we'll have to reconcile the two, and that won't be easy. But most Pierre watchers think that something will eventually be passed. The bill will take a two-thirds vote so this won't be decided until the last day or two.

There's less optimism that solutions will be found for Medicaid or the teacher shortage. But we're trying.

Health care lobbyists, lawmakers and administration officials have been visiting — largely in informal visits, often in the hallways or over coffee — as everyone tries to get answers to a lot of complicated questions such as how many people are likely to end up on the Medicaid rolls, how much will the access services and how should we pay the state's 10% share. All good and fair questions. If we cannot get answers in the next few weeks, then hopefully we can at least come up with a way to continue the discussion after session so we don't go another full year without taking advantage of the Affordable Care Act in South Dakota.

The teacher shortage is just as vexing. Nearly half of our 151 school districts now rely in part on under qualified teachers in the core content areas of math, reading and science. Thirty-one

Kelly Hertz

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

A brief but transformative era is ending for the *Press & Dakotan*, a great idea that has become a casualty of the restless technological evolution that periodically jumbles our world these days.

Spotted, the interactive web-based service that allowed readers to not only access and purchase the photos we shot but also post their own photos for viewing, is going away. Readers can still purchase past *P&D* photos from the site until the end of the month, after which the door to our Spotted era will be officially closed forever.

For me, Spotted is already finished. It ended Jan. 27 when I uploaded photos from the Bon Homme and Vermillion entries performing in a regional one-act play competition at Mount Marty. I didn't even realize it at the time, but those two uploads were my final duties as part of a ritual that had served us and our readers — and me — well for nearly a decade.

A few years ago, just before I was to shoot some photos at a school concert, a parent told me he had thought about shooting his own photos that night, but he passed because he knew I (or some other *Press & Dakotan* staffer) would be there taking photos. That comment embodied the entire spirit of Spotted. Through it, we came to be embraced as the camera lens for the community, a sort of official chronicler of concerts, ballgames, Halloween, prom and other events that defined life in the Yankton area.

Spotted was born from the explosion of digital photography in the early 2000s. I think the *Press & Dakotan* shot its last roll of film in about 2004. Thereafter, every image we shot was a digital file and ideal for online access.

When Morris Communications, the company that owned us at the time, introduced the Spotted service, we took to it slowly at first, groping to find a practical application for this thing. But when we finally did, we ran with it. I discovered its power several years ago when I shot a "YHS Idol" competition at the Summit Center. I uploaded the photos to the Spotted site — the first time I had ever really done so — and forgot about it. A few days later, I was excitedly informed that the event had garnered 50,000 page views. The power of this tool became clear.

This produced an editorial shift for us, and it was a productive one. Before Spotted, we opted not to shoot every school concert, for instance. But once we embraced Spotted, we



B. Hunhoff

school districts started the school year with unfilled positions. We have 1004 teachers eligible for retirement (that doesn't include others who may leave the profession early for other reasons), and only 726 students majoring in education. And there's no way to guarantee that those collegians will teach in South Dakota when they can

earn on average \$8,500 more per year in North Dakota, \$9,900 more in Nebraska, \$11,000 more in Iowa and \$17,000 more in Minnesota. The teacher shortage is spreading across the USA but it will be more acute in rural areas and in poverty-stricken districts. It will also hit harder in states that pay the lowest wages, and as you know we hold the title for paying the least of the 50 states.

We offered a corporate franchise tax as a funding proposal in Senate State Affairs, but the idea failed on a 7-2 vote. Our bill simply asked that the legislator put the tax measure on the November 2016 ballot. I am confident that the business community would support a fair proposal because they recognize better than anybody the need for a well-educated workforce. I don't know of any other funding recommendations on the table. However, Governor Daugaard intends to organize a task force to study the problem.

If any of the "big three" problems were easy to solve, they would have been solved years ago. That doesn't mean there isn't hope. We'll keep looking for common ground.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you in the legislature. I appreciate all the input and advice by phone and email and in person. Don't become too discouraged over all the negative news about some of the crazy and outlandish bills that make the news. Most of those will die in due time (not all but most). Hopefully when we adjourn in the middle of March we can point to some accomplishments that make life a little better for everyone in South Dakota.

went after every such event and, as a result, it raised our profile considerably, plus it got me out of the office a lot more, which is always a plus.

What I didn't know until later was just how much and how well we were doing with it. When Morris sold our newspaper in 2008, we decided we could no longer afford to offer the Spotted service at their non-member price and gave our notice. But the company didn't want to lose us: We had done such a good job branding Spotted in our community and driving readership to the site, we were held up by Morris as a poster child for the service. We had made it work quite well while many other newspapers fell short of our results. So, we stayed on with Spotted in a mutually beneficial move. (We even had people asking us to post photos on the site, which was a heartening barometer of things.)

But in recent years, something changed. That something was the technological state of photography, as cell phones and point-and-shoot cameras developed more sophisticated capabilities and iPads came into our lives. As a result, the traffic to our Spotted site declined, and the sales dropped to the point where the revenue was no longer covering the cost of the service.

With that, the decision was made last fall to pull the plug.

Spotted changed the way people view our photos, and it surely opened up access to the hundreds upon hundreds of images we shot but were never seen. It also allowed people to get their own images out there to be enjoyed.

However, Spotted also changed me. By compelling me to shoot so many events, I developed new ways to compose photos, and I learned to use more settings on my camera to get the best images possible. Spotted made me a better photographer.

The service is gone — but the lessons remain. We will continue shooting the many events that fill our lives, because each one is unique in its own way. (And, although they won't be posted en masse online, the photos will be available for purchase.)

Also, some of the tricks we've learned both in photography and in branding ourselves and our offerings will not be forgotten.

Thus, Spotted leaves behind a very constructive legacy. It had a relatively short run at this old newspaper, but it was a memorable one for all involved.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

CORRECTION

In Thursday's "Kindle's Korner" column by Yankton School District Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle, it was incorrectly stated that

the next Yankton school board meeting will be March 8. In fact, the March school board meeting will be held on March 9.

FROM THE BIBLE

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Psalm 103:2. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.