

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS/
CIRCULATION:
Extension 112
CLASSIFIED ADS:
Extension 108
NEWS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 114
SPORTS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 106
ADVERTISING OFFICE:
Extension 122
BUSINESS OFFICE:
Extension 119
NEW MEDIA:
Extension 136
COMPOSING DESK:
Extension 129

* * *

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood
Publisher
Michele Schievelbein
Advertising Director
Tonya Schild
Business Manager
Michael Hrycko
Circulation Director
Tera Schmidt
Classified Manager
Kelly Hertz
Editor
James D. Cimburek
Sports Editor
Beth Rye
New Media Director
Kathy Larson
Composing Manager
Bernard Metivier
District Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF

Melissa Bader
Derek Bartos
Cassandra Brockmoller
Rob Buckingham
Randy Dockendorf
Jeannine Economy
Jeremy Hoeck
Nathan Johnson
Robert Nielsen
Muriel Pratt
Jessie Priestley
Matt Robinson
Cathy Sudbeck
Sally Whiting
Brenda Willcuts
Jackie Williams

* * *

Published Daily

Monday-Saturday
Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month \$12.09
3 months \$36.27
6 months \$72.53
1-year \$133.09
MOTOR ROUTE
(where available)
1 month \$14.51
3 months \$43.53
6 months \$87.05
1 year \$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL
TRADE ZONE
1-month \$16.93
3 months \$50.79
6 months \$101.57
1-year \$148.82
MAIL OUTSIDE
RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1 month \$19.35
3 months \$58.05
6 months \$116.09
1-year \$186.33
* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

OPINION | OUR VIEW

Marijuana Issues: Coping With Reality

The Press & Dakotan's recent two-part series on the mixed messages that youth are receiving about marijuana really has a broader application, for we are all seeing the conflicting signals and wondering what to make of them.

We've been trained to look upon marijuana as an illegal, illicit substance that can be a gateway to worse drugs and bigger problems. We are well aware of the red flags that have for decades been attached to the product.

And yet, we're seeing a gradual loosening of the mores that have long been associated with marijuana. Since 1996, we've been witnessing a tide of legalization and expansion of medicinal marijuana; to date, 20 states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medical purposes. Now, voters in Colorado and Washington have legalized recreational marijuana. This will be a test not only of the substance's impact on our culture, but also of legalized marijuana's long-promised economic potential.

Marijuana is more accepted now than it has been in our collective lifetime. As noted in our series, a Gallup poll last October found that 58 percent of Americans favored the legalization of marijuana — a leap of 10 points over the previous year and the first time ever in a Gallup survey that a majority of respondents has favored legalization.

Mixed messages, indeed.

Obviously, these aren't the first contradictory signals kids have gotten from adults.

For instance, our country has had what might be viewed as a curious relationship with alcohol. (For background, visit the Constitution and see the 18th Amendment, which got rid of alcohol sales in this U.S., and the 21st Amendment, which got rid of the 18th Amendment.) There are generations of human wreckage wrought by alcohol; there are many souls in graves directly because of it. We plead with kids not to drink, and yet many adults consume the stuff.

Look at tobacco. Smoking is a nasty habit — and a potentially fatal one — and kids are advised not to start down that addictive path. But then look at the plumes of smoke emanating from various adults they likely know.

The point is, kids — whether they are in Yankton or in any other community in this country — get a lot of mixed messages, and marijuana is another one we can add to the list.

Given the momentum of public opinion and state legislation on the issue, this particular contradiction isn't going to resolve itself in the near future, either.

Perhaps the real contradiction isn't in the messages kids get, but rather in the views that we still stubbornly cling to on the issue. (The continued federal aversion to the development of industrialized hemp is one of many examples.)

We have to figure out how to cope with these changing times in order to make sound decisions in the face of the growing acceptability of marijuana in our society. Frankly, closing our eyes and simply dismissing marijuana as illegal and dangerous — period — is no longer going to work, either as a message or as a lifestyle. It would be wiser to honestly educate people about the effects of the substance, like we try to do with alcohol, and how to make the best decisions concerning it. (This area must also include full understanding of the legal implications, which are evolving and fading but are still very real.) To some, that may sound like surrender. On the other hand, cultivating well-informed responsibility is still the best defense and the most practical guide.

Unless or until the tide of marijuana legalization recedes, we need to deal with the reality at hand, not the memories of the way things used to be.

kmh

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 Wednesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2014. There are 350 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

On this date: In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The republic later became the state of Vermont.)

In 1862, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Abraham Lincoln's choice of Edwin M. Stanton to be the new Secretary of War, replacing Simon Cameron.

In 1919, in Boston, a tank containing an estimated 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, sending the dark syrup coursing through the city's North End, killing 21 people.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1947, the mutilated remains of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short, who came to be known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot; her slaying remains unsolved.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, known retroactively as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1974, the situation comedy "Happy Days" premiered on ABC-TV. In 1989, NATO, the Warsaw Pact and 12 other European countries adopted a human rights and security agreement in Vienna, Austria.

In 1993, in Paris, a historic disarmament ceremony ended with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 1994, singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson died in Agoura Hills, Calif., at age 52.

Ten years ago: The NASA Spirit rover rolled onto the surface of Mars for the first time since the vehicle bounced to a landing nearly two weeks earlier. Fourteen-year-old golfer Michelle Wie shot a 2-over 72 in the first round at the PGA Sony Open in Honolulu. "First Wives Club" novelist Olivia Goldsmith died in New York at age 54.

Five years ago: US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived. In a farewell address to the nation, President George W. Bush said while his policies were unpopular, there could be little debate about the results: "America has gone more than seven years without another terrorist attack on our soil." Congress cleared the release of the final \$350 billion in bailout funds for the financial industry. After a wave of controversy, Roland Burris was sworn in as a U.S. senator from Illinois.

One year ago: New York state enacted the nation's toughest gun restrictions and the first since the Connecticut school massacre, including an expanded assault-weapon ban and background checks for buying ammunition. Twin blasts ripped through a university campus in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing more than 80 people, most of them students, in the government-controlled part of the city.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 77. Actress Andrea Martin is 67. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 57. Actor James Nesbitt is 49. Singer Lisa Lisa (Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam) is 47. Actor Chad Lowe is 46. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka "Bonnie Prince Billy") is 44. Actress Regina King is 43. Actor Eddie Cahill is 36. NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 35. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 33. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 26.

Thought for Today: "A man can't ride your back unless it's bent." — Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968).

FROM THE BIBLE

So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me." Genesis 16:13. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

STAR TRIBUNE

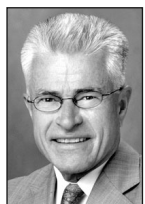


Healthiest Choice

Point Of View: Medicaid Expansion Meets The Medical Needs Of Many South Dakotans

BY JOHN T. PORTER

Avera Health



Porter

There is no easy answer to the complex question of funding health care. But this is an especially salient time to take up the challenge as the 89th session of the South Dakota Legislature convenes and the federal government is offering us \$57 million this year for expansion of Medicaid.

I challenge our state legislature to pick up the cause of expanding Medicaid. An open and honest debate about the benefit of families across South Dakota having access to primary care and health screenings that have been proven to save overall health care costs. Currently in South Dakota, more than 48,000 people do not have access to routine health care.

Health care reform has expanded coverage to some South Dakotans through the Insurance Marketplace. This access to insurance coverage and the possibility of a federal subsidy does not cover everyone. There are families of four who are doing everything they can on an annual income of \$23,000 and falling through the cracks with no Medicaid coverage or ability to pay for insurance on the Marketplace.

I challenge our state leadership to explore expanding Medicaid. Other states that have been reluctant to commit to expansion have developed state waiver programs. Over the next three years, South Dakota could receive \$649 million in federal Medicaid funding by

committing only \$1.6 million in state funds to cover our hard working neighbors. The state's investment would multiply by 406 times.

Currently, we are passing up more than \$156,000 a day in additional Medicaid funding. These are real dollars that would be flowing into our main street businesses and impacting the local economy. This is an economic stimulus that we have turned our back on. It is time that we accept the federal Medicaid match and expand Medicaid.

I challenge each of us to be a voice for those who need our support and ask for a plan to help our neighbors receive the health coverage and routine care they need. As a democracy we have pledged to help those in need with social programs when we can best provide support. Expanding Medicaid is a prime way we can help the working poor in our communities live healthier lives.

We have much to be proud of with our citizen Legislature. The legislators are dedicated servants who commit much time to the government of our state. I would like to thank them for their service and challenge them to think of the working poor during this session.

John T. Porter is president and CEO of Avera Health.

Requiem For A Strategy

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

Fifty years ago, when Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty, the poor were different — "other," as in Michael Harrington's seminal book of 1962, "The Other America."

That's no longer the case. After the War on Poverty ended, Republicans told working-class whites that their hard-earned tax dollars were being siphoned off to pay for "welfare queens" (as Ronald Reagan decorously dubbed a black single woman on welfare) and other nefarious loafers. The poor were "them" — lazy, dependent on government handouts and overwhelmingly black — in sharp contrast to "us," who were working ever harder, proudly independent (even sending wives and mothers to work in order to prop up family incomes dragged down by shrinking male paychecks) and white.

It was a cunning strategy designed to split the broad coalition that had supported the New Deal and Great Society by using the cleavers of racial prejudice and economic anxiety. It also conveniently fueled resentment of government taxes and spending.

The strategy also served to distract attention from why the paychecks of the working class began shrinking in the 1980s — because of corporations that were busily busting unions, outsourcing abroad and replacing jobs with automated equipment and, subsequently, computers and robotics.

But that divide-and-conquer strategy is no longer convincing because the dividing line between poor and middle class has all but disappeared. "They" are fast becoming "us."

Poverty is now a condition that almost anyone can fall into. In the first two years of this recovery, according to new report from Census Bureau, about one in three Americans dropped into poverty for at least two to six months.

Three decades of flattening wages and declining economic security have taken a broader toll. Nearly 55 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 60 have experienced at least a year in poverty or near poverty (the latter defined as below 150 percent of the poverty line), according to author and Washington University professor Mark R. Rank. Half of all American children have at some point during their childhoods relied on food stamps.

When LBJ declared war on poverty, most of the nation's chronically poor had little or no connection to the labor force, while most working-class Americans had full-time jobs.

This distinction has broken down, too. Now, a significant percentage of the poor are working but not earning enough to get themselves and their families out of poverty. And a growing portion of the middle class finds itself in the same place — often in part-time or temporary positions, or in contract work.

Economic insecurity is endemic. Working-class whites who used to be cushioned against the vagaries of the market are now fully exposed to them. Trade unions that once bar-

gained on behalf of employees and protected their contractual rights have withered. Informal expectations of lifelong employment with a single company are gone. Company loyalty has become a bad joke.

Financial markets are now calling the shots — forcing companies to suddenly uproot, sell out to other companies, transfer whole divisions abroad, liquidate unprofitable units, or adopt new software that suddenly renders old skills obsolete.

Because money moves at the speed of an electronic impulse while human beings move at the speed of human beings, the humans — most of them hourly workers but many white collar as well — have been getting shafted.

This means sudden and unexpected poverty has become a real possibility for almost everyone these days. And there's little margin of safety. With the real median household income continuing to drop, 65 percent of working families are living from paycheck to paycheck.

Race is no longer a dividing line, either. According to Census Bureau numbers, two-thirds of those below the poverty line at any given point identify themselves as white.

This new face of poverty — a face that's both poor, near-poor and precarious working middle class, and that's simultaneously black, Latino and white — renders the divide-and-conquer strategy obsolete. Most people are now on the same losing side of the divide. Since the start of the recovery, 95 percent of the economy's gains have gone to the top 1 percent.

Which means Republican opposition to extended unemployment insurance, food stamps, jobs programs, expanded Medicaid and a higher minimum wage could potentially backfire on the GOP.

Just look at North Carolina, a bellwether state, where Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan, up for re-election, is doing well by attacking Republicans back home as "irresponsible and cold-hearted" for slashing unemployment benefits and social services. The state Democratic Party is highlighting her Republican opponent's "long record of demeaning statements against those struggling to make ends meet." (Tom Tillis, the speaker of the state House, had spoken of the need "to divide and conquer" those receiving public assistance, and called criticisms of the cuts as "whining coming from losers.")

The new economy has been especially harsh for the bottom two-thirds of Americans. It's not hard to imagine a new political coalition of America's poor and working middle class, bent not only on repairing the nation's frayed safety nets but also on getting a fair share of the economy's gains.

Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, is professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of "Beyond Outrage," now available in paperback. His new film, "Inequality for All," was released last month. He blogs at www.robertreich.org.