

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | WE SAY

Sad Loss



THUMBS DOWN to the passing of the Rev. Oliver Omanson, a longtime clergy and former prisoner of war. Omanson, who endured 19 months as a POW during World War II, represents another lost member of the Greatest Generation. Omanson served as a pastor and evangelist in Yankton and elsewhere until shortly before his death last Friday at age 96.

He incorporated his POW experiences into his sermons, including decades of radio and television programs. A memorial concert, featuring granddaughters Sadie and Sophie Stevens as violinists, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Calvary Baptist Church in Yankton.

Good Standing



THUMBS UP to this week's local visit by Corey Westra, commissioner for the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC). Westra spoke to the Yankton Quarterback Club, providing good news about the GPAC's rock-solid stability, which is an oasis in the constantly shifting seas of the NAIA and other college athletics. The GPAC, which includes Mount

Marty College in Yankton, is even adding cheer and dance as a sport. The conference enjoyed immediate success following its creation in 2000 and has maintained national prominence.

Leaving Town



THUMBS DOWN to the loss of Yankton County 4-H/youth development director Lauren Fosheim, who has accepted a position with the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Fosheim took office in June 2011, shortly after graduating from South Dakota State University in Brookings. She has worked to expand the outreach of Achievement

Days and other 4-H and youth programs. We have enjoyed working with her at the *Press & Dakotan*, and we are glad to see the Yankton County Commissioners planning to continue funding and to hire a replacement for the county position.

Disparity Rules



THUMBS DOWN to the trend of growing economic disparity on a global scale. This week, Oxfam released "Working for the Few: Political Capture and Economic Inequality." The report focuses on the dangers posed by inequality. Currently, almost half of the world's wealth is owned by 1 percent of the population. That means the bottom half of the

world's population owns the same as the richest 85 percent in the world. The top 1 percent increased their share of income between 1980 and 2012 in 24 out of 26 countries for which Oxfam had data. Why is this a problem? Oxfam states, "This massive concentration of economic resources in the hands of fewer people presents a significant threat to inclusive political and economic systems. Instead of moving forward together, people are increasingly separated by economic and political power, inevitably heightening social tensions and increasing the risk of societal breakdown." We let these trends continue at our own risk.

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 the proposed rail grain facility near Napa junction in Yankton County?

Yes71%

Not sure/don't care15%

No14%

TOTAL VOTES CAST315

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 believe that marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2014. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 24, 1942, the Roberts Commission placed much of the blame for America's lack of preparedness for Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

On this date: In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession. In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1908, the Boy Scouts movement began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1924, the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. (However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg.)

In 1939, at least 28,000 people were killed by an earthquake that devastated the city of Chillan in Chile.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1961, a U.S. Air Force B-52 crashed near Goldsboro, N.C., dropping its payload of two nuclear bombs, neither of which went off; three crew members were killed.

In 1963, a U.S. Air Force B-52 on a training mission crashed into Elephant Mountain in Maine after encountering turbulence and losing its vertical stabilizer; seven of the nine crew members were killed.

In 1965, Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1984, Apple Computer began selling its first Macintosh model, which boasted a built-in 9-inch monochrome display, a clock rate of 8 megahertz and 128k of RAM.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

Ten years ago: Howard Dean sharply questioned John Kerry's judgment on Iraq as Democratic presidential rivals raced through a final weekend of campaigning before the New Hampshire primary. NASA's Opportunity rover landed on Mars, arriving at the Red Planet exactly three weeks after its identical twin, Spirit.

Five years ago: Pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who'd safely landed a crippled US Airways jetliner in the Hudson River, received a hero's homecoming in Danville, Calif. President Barack Obama met with his economic advisers after asking Americans to support his economic package as a way to better schools, lower electricity bills and health coverage for millions who lose insurance. Brazilian model Mariana Bridi, 20, died after contracting an infection that had forced doctors to amputate her hands and feet. Alissa Czinys won the women's title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland. Katie Stam of Indiana was crowned Miss America, the first winner from the Hoosier State.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the lifting of a ban on women serving in combat. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee opened a hearing into President Barack Obama's nomination of Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state. President Obama appointed Mary Jo White, a former prosecutor, to head the Securities and Exchange Commission. In Chicago, David Coleman Headley, an American drug dealer who had faced life in prison, was sentenced instead to 35 years for helping plan the deadly 2008 attacks on Mumbai, India — a punishment prosecutors said reflected his broad cooperation with U.S. investigators. New Orleans Hornets owner Tom Benson announced he was changing his team's nickname to the Pelicans for the start of next season.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jerry Maren ("The Wizard of Oz") is 95. Actor Marvin Kaplan ("Top Cat") is 87. Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 78. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 75. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 73. Singer Aaron Neville is 73. Actor Michael Öntkan is 68. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 64. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 64. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 63. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 56. Actress Nastassja Kinski is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Theo Peoples is 53. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 51. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan is 48. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 47. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 44. Actor Matthew Lillard is 44. Actress Merrilee McCormas is 43. Blues/rock singer Beth Hart is 42. Actor Ed Helms is 40. Actress Tatyana Ali is 35. Rock musician Mitchell Marlow (Filter) is 35. Actress Mischa Barton is 28.

Thought for Today: "God gives us relatives; thank God, we can choose our friends." — Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).

FROM THE BIBLE

Trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

STAR TRIBUNE
SDK



Teacher Pay: All Quiet In Last Place

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Kelly
HERTZ

Ironically, it was the perfect talking point. That's the conclusion that could stem from the "debate" that occurred this week when the South Dakota Senate considered a resolution (HCR 1002) that acknowledged that the state is suffering from a teacher shortage. This shortage is due in part, according to the legislative committee that proposed the resolution, to the fact that the state's teacher pay is the lowest in the nation — a damning distinction we've owned for more than two decades — and is contributing to the decline in the number of educators here.

When this bill, which passed the House last week 49-18, came to the Senate floor Tuesday, speeches were made in support of it. I could relay to you some of what was said, but you've heard it before — we've had many years of practice, after all.

Those opposed to the measure said nothing. Not a word. Perhaps not even an embarrassed cough.

And with that, HCR 1002 was defeated, of course. The vote was 15-19.

That talking point of not talking seems perfect because, really, what's left to say about this matter?

It was confirmed again last month by the National Center for Education Statistics that South Dakota's pay for teachers in 2013 brought up the rear once more. The state's average salary of \$39,580 is about \$2,000 behind the next state on the list, Mississippi. (The national average is \$56,383.)

An analysis of teacher salaries posted on the *Washington Post* website included historical data showing that South Dakota has been trailing the field in this category since at least 1990. Back in 1980, which was the next previous year listed, South Dakota resided at a lofty 49th out of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. In retrospect, those seem like the gold-rush years of teacher pay, relatively speaking.

Alas, the news for 2013 gets even bleaker when you compare South Dakota's teacher pay to its neighbors. Nebraska's average teacher wage is \$48,931 — nearly \$10,000 more than South Dakota. In Iowa, it's \$51,528; it's \$56,268 in Minnesota; \$47,344 in North Dakota; a dollar short of \$50,000 in Montana; and \$57,920 in Wyoming.

Teacher pay here isn't even keeping pace with other state employees, according to Joy Smolnisky, executive director of the South Dakota Budget and Policy Institute. She told a legislative panel this week that if teacher salaries had grown at the same rate as other state employees, the educators would be making closer to \$50,000 a year, which would certainly put this

Thomas E. Simmons

The Sins Of The Children?

BY THOMAS E. SIMMONS

University of South Dakota

were at issue, not hers.

William unsuccessfully appealed the termination of his parental rights, but his mother did not. She should have. Linda's rights were in play, at least indirectly, although she may not have realized it at the time. But the judgment dismissing her from the termination proceedings became a final one all the same.

Sarah then asked the court to deny any further visitation rights to Linda. Sarah argued that because William's parental rights had been terminated, his mother no longer had any enforceable rights regarding RS either.

Linda countered that Iowa courts should be required to enforce the Georgia court order that granted her grandparent visitation rights. Iowa courts had no jurisdiction to modify the Georgia order, she claimed.

A hearing was held and the trial court ruled that when William's parental rights were terminated, Linda's rights to grandparent visitation were cut off as well. Iowa recognizes grandparent visitation when the parent/child of the grandparent is deceased, but William was not deceased, he was imprisoned.

This time, Linda appealed. Detailed federal and uniform state laws address the enforceability and modification of child custody and visitation orders in our mobile society. Key to those rules is the concept of the "home state" of the child, which for RS was Iowa.

The appellate court reasoned that the initial Georgia order was valid, but the Iowa courts had jurisdiction to modify it. Linda still lived in Georgia, but her grandchild did not. Therefore, the Iowa court concluded, Linda's rights had been terminated along with her son's.

The court's application of the law may be correct, yet it seems almost medieval that the sins of William should be visited upon his mother so as to deny her any right to see her grandchild.

Thomas E.
SIMMONS

Thomas E. Simmons is an assistant professor at the University of South Dakota School of Law in Vermillion.

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

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