

# The Press & Dakotan

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**WE SAY**

**What He Said**



**THUMBS UP** to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for proposing an ambitious highway funding plan during Tuesday's State of the State address in Pierre. The plan calls for raising funds to work on roads and bridges with a combination of mechanisms, including a raise in the state fuel tax that would adjust each year instead of remaining at a static level. There will be a lot of discussion on this plan and there is little doubt that changes will be made along the way. But it does ratchet up the essential conversation on how South Dakota intends to deal with its deteriorating roadways and bridges. Let the dialogue begin.

**What He Didn't Say**



On the other hand, **THUMBS DOWN** to Gov. Daugaard for failing to mention education issues in Tuesday's speech, particularly teacher wages and the shortage of educators. We understand the post-speech explanation that there are a lot of issues that lawmakers must deal with, and the failure to mention them in a speech to a joint session of the Legislature doesn't mean those issues will be overlooked. But the teacher shortage, in particular, is a pressing concern and was the topic of a lot of discussion last year. The matter still weighs heavily on school districts and communities across South Dakota. The issue won't go away, and it certainly deserves considerable attention this winter in Pierre.

**Grand Goal**



**THUMBS UP** to Larry and Diane Ness, who committed a \$2 million in addition to \$1 million from First Dakota National Bank to the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton "Building Great Futures" campaign. The campaign was created to construct a new, permanent home for the Boys & Girls Club. The future home of the club will be located north of YMS. The Nesses generous donation will benefit thousands of youth for decades. With the help of the Nesses, outside investors and the community, the Boys & Girls Club has already raised \$4.9 million for its ambitious \$7 million campaign. The club plans to break ground for its new a 25,000 square foot facility this fall.

**Constructive Outlook**



**THUMBS UP** to positive news regarding 2014 building permits. Both the City of Yankton and Yankton County saw large gains in the number of building permits and gains in valuations. Both also reported an uptick in residential building not seen since 2008. All of this is great news in a community and a county that are forecast to see a huge expansion during the next few years.

**ONLINE OPINION**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

Would you support expanding video lottery in South Dakota in order to supplement the state budget?  
No.....50%  
Yes.....44%  
Not sure.....6%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST.....317**

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:**

Would you support expanding video lottery in South Dakota in order to supplement the state budget?  
To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

**IN HISTORY**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2015. There are 349 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Jan. 16, 1865, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15, which decreed that 400,000 acres of land in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida would be confiscated, divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. (The order, which was later revoked by President Andrew Johnson, is believed to have inspired the expression, "Forty acres and a mule.")

**On this date:** In 1547, Ivan IV of Russia (popularly known as "Ivan the Terrible") was crowned Czar.

In 1883, the U.S. Civil Service Commission was established.

In 1920, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

In 1935, fugitive gangster Fred Barker and his mother, Kate "Ma" Barker, were killed in a shootout with the FBI at Lake Weir, Florida.

In 1942, actress Carole Lombard, 33, her mother Elizabeth and 20 other people were killed when their plane crashed near Las Vegas, Nevada, while en route to California from a war-bond promotion tour.

In 1957, three B-52's took off from Castle Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, which lasted 45 hours and 19 minutes. Classical music conductor Arturo Toscanini died in New York at age 89.

In 1969, two manned Soviet Soyuz spaceships became the first vehicles to dock in space and transfer personnel.

In 1978, NASA named 35 candidates to fly on the space shuttle, including Sally K. Ride, who became America's first woman in space, and Guion S. Bluford Jr., who became America's first black astronaut in space.

In 1989, three days of rioting began in Miami when a police officer fatally shot Clement Lloyd, a black motorcyclist, causing a crash that also claimed the life of Lloyd's passenger, Allan Blanchard. (The officer, William Lozano, was convicted of manslaughter, but then was acquitted in a retrial.)

In 1991, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

In 1995, the now-defunct United Paramount Network (UPN) made its debut by broadcasting the first episode of "Star Trek: Voyager."

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off for what turned out to be its last flight: on board was Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon. (The mission ended in tragedy on Feb. 1, when the shuttle broke up during its return descent, killing all seven crew members.)

**Ten years ago:** The U.S. military freed 81 detainees in Afghanistan, ahead of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha. Golden Globes were awarded to "The Aviator" as best movie drama and "Sideways" as best movie musical or comedy.

**Five years ago:** As precious water and food began reaching parched and hungry earthquake survivors on the streets of Haiti's ruined capital Port-au-Prince, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with Haitian President Rene Preval and promised that U.S. quake relief efforts would be closely coordinated with local officials. Glen W. Bell Jr., 86, founder of the Taco Bell chain, died in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

**One year ago:** The Vatican was called to account for the global priest sex abuse scandal as U.N. experts in Geneva interrogated the Holy See for eight hours about the scale of abuse, and what it was doing to prevent it. The U.S. Senate voted 72-26 for a \$1.1 trillion government-wide spending bill, sending it to President Barack Obama for his signature. The state of Ohio executed Dennis McGuire for the 1989 rape and fatal stabbing of pregnant newlywed Joy Stewart; McGuire gasped and snorted for 26 minutes before he was declared dead, raising questions about the drugs used in his lethal injection. "American Hustle" and "Gravity" each received 10 Academy Award nominations; "12 Years a Slave" (which ended up winning Best Picture) trailed close behind with nine Oscar nods. Death claimed actors Russell Johnson ("Gilligan's Island") at age 89 and Dave Madden ("The Partridge Family") at age 82.

**Today's Birthdays:** Author William Kennedy is 87. Author-editor Norman Podhoretz is 85. Opera singer Marilyn Horne is 81. Hall of Fame auto racer A.J. Foyt is 80. Singer Barbara Lynn is 73. Country singer Ronnie Milsap is 72. Singer Katherine Anderson Schaffner (The Marvelettes) is 71. Country singer Jim Stafford is 71. Talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger is 68. Movie director John Carpenter is 67. Actress-dancer-choreographer Debbie Allen is 65. Singer Sade is 56. Rock musician Paul Webb (Talk Talk) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maxine Jones (En Vogue) is 49. Actor David Chokachi is 47. Actor Richard T. Jones is 43. Actress Josie Davis is 42. Model Kate Moss is 41. Country musician James Young (The Eli Young Band) is 35. Rock musician Nick Valensi (The Strokes) is 34. Actress Renee Felice Smith (TV: "NCIS: Los Angeles") is 30. NFL quarterback Joe Flacco is 30. Actress Yvonne Zima is 26.

**Thought for Today:** "A fanatic is a man that does what he thinks 'th' Lord wud do if He knew 'th' facts 'v' th' case." — From "Mr. Dooley's Philosophy" by Finley Peter Dunne, American humorist (1867-1936).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

*I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



## The Future We Have

BY KELLY HERTZ  
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The editorial cartoon on this page today touches on one of those issues that has always bugged me.

If you're reading this piece online, here's an explanation. (Print readers: Please bear with me for a paragraph.) The cartoon is a two-panel rendering, one showing a breathtaking future we all dreamed of seeing, as represented by the U.S.S. Enterprise from "Star Trek," and the other showing the future we face instead, as embodied by an Islamic radical standing amid a blasted urban deathscape.

The future, when it arrives (which it is constantly doing), is almost always a letdown. For instance, 2015 looks nothing like we imagined: It bears little resemblance to "Back to the Future 2" and it feels dogged by the same issues and headaches that have always burdened our world in general, with a few new ones thrown in.

This brings to mind two points:  
• I would have been surprised if the world was in the idyllic, utopian shape we always saw in our 20th century fantasies, because mankind really isn't wired that way.

• To that end, we probably don't give the future we do have enough credit for what it offers. A lot of the science fiction of our youth certainly fed us dreamy scenarios of space travel and amazing exploration. For me, growing up in the age of Apollo and the moon landings will do that to you: You couldn't help but be dazzled by the possibilities of what we could accomplish next.

But in fact, even many of those bright predictions carried dark undercurrents.

"Star Trek," for instance, also touched on social and political problems, either in the future sense or as metaphors for 20th century issues. A couple of the best early "Star Trek" episodes dealt with matters of war and annihilation, which spoke directly to the audiences of the Cold War 1960s. (In fact, in the "Trek" universe, we also had to go through a devastating third World War before we got from where we were to where we were headed.)

A less familiar but equally as startling vision of the future — which is now our present — was offered in the epic 1927 German silent film "Metropolis." It showed us a dazzling city filled with flying cars and beautiful people resplendent in their high-tech opulence. But this spectacular world was built on the backs of the downtrodden workers who lived underground and tended slavishly to the soul-crushing machines that ran the city. This grim symbolism remains achingly relevant and inescapable.



Kelly HERTZ

So, we may be disappointed in this "future" — an age filled with the same kind of violence, greed, lust and other plagues that have always infested our existence — but there were warnings mixed in with the promises.

However, seeing this future strictly as a letdown overlooks how genuinely breathtaking our lives have, bit by bit, occasionally become.

For instance, here in the future (a phrase none of us use *nearly* enough, by the way), communication has changed dramatically. We now carry phones, much like the "Star Trek" communicators, and some of these devices perform functions that bring to mind "Trek's" tricorders. And iPads and other tablets are items straight out of "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

We have Internet and wireless connectivity that has literally reinvented our lives. Those of you reading this online are part of that reinvention. This impact on our society is almost as dramatic as the Industrial Revolution was nearly 200 years ago.

Our televisions look nothing like the sets we watched even 15 years ago. And we have so much more to watch now, including a channel (TCM) that actually aired "Metropolis" last weekend in prime time. How cool is that?

And there's so much more. We have myriad devices that run on batteries, and yet we consume less energy now. Our vehicles feature better fuel economy, and some are hybrids. Cancer is no longer a near-automatic death sentence. Corn and soybeans are exploding from our fields. Fixing or even replacing knees and hips have become practically routine. Classroom chalkboards have given way to "smart boards." You can have your entire musical library stored on a device that fits in your pocket; in fact, you can carry a small library of books on your tablet. There's a space station in orbit. For better or worse, drone technology is becoming commonplace. And USD and SDSU are both Division I — which isn't particularly futuristic but it still seems like jarring science fiction to me sometimes.

So, this may not be the future we envisioned long ago, but it actually has some merits that our old science-fiction expectations might have appreciated. And it surely makes me wonder what wondrous little items and advancements will come about in a year or two or five that will change our lives yet again.

That's how the future really arrives, you see: One miracle at a time.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz/](https://twitter.com/kelly_hertz/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

## Monsieur Obama Blew It

BY MICHAEL REAGAN  
CagleCartoons.com

Everyone from Jon Stewart to Ted Cruz has mocked President Obama for not flying to France last weekend.

And rightly so. It should have been a no-brainer for any American president to want to be seen by the whole world leading a massive unity march against terrorism in response to what is being called France's 9/11.

Obama had a great chance to show America's solidarity with the latest victims of Islamist extremism and stand up for a fundamental Western value like free speech.

But he blew it. Many of Obama's most faithful allies are still shocked by his clumsy blunder and have trouble defending him. But his latest diplomatic faux pas doesn't surprise me a bit.

The leader of what we used to call the Free World has been embarrassing the USA on the world stage for years by not going where he should go — or saying and doing things he shouldn't when he does go somewhere.

Let's see. If memory serves, he didn't go to Berlin in 2009 for the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall or to Poland for celebrations of the collapse of Moscow's evil empire.

And though he didn't skip the 70th anniversary of D-Day last year in Normandy, he spent most of his time during the solemn ceremony chomping on bubble gum like a 12 year old. The French people were irate at the disrespect.

It's not that Monsieur Obama dislikes France.

He also stopped in France in 2009 on what became known as his first "Apology Tour," where he apologized for America's past "bad" behavior, including being arrogant toward Europe, using the atomic bomb in World War II and trying to unseat communist dictators in Latin America.

Meanwhile, the president has found plenty of time to visit other parts of Western Europe when it suited his political or publicity purposes.

Remember when he went all the way to Copenhagen just to lobby for Chicago to be chosen to host the 2016 Olympics?

What happened spontaneously in Paris last weekend was bigger and more important for a

president of the USA to attend than all those official, long-planned events.

A million and a half Parisians went into the streets to defy the Islamic terrorists who cold-blooded slaughtered journalists solely because they had satirized Muhammad.

The whole world watched a morality play. And our president — and therefore our country and our Western values — was MIA.

We'll never know the real reason Obama didn't fly to Paris unless he confesses it in his memoirs.

But he's been known to blame America for just about everything.

Maybe in the back of his mind he thinks the terror attack on Charlie Hebdo was the fault of the cartoonists who made fun of Mohammad after they were warned not to.

Maybe he thinks it was somehow America's fault. Or Christianity's fault. But it doesn't really matter what Obama thinks. He had no excuse to skip Paris.

The White House has admitted the president had nothing on his schedule Saturday or Sunday.

He had no pressing fund-raiser in West Hollywood to attend, no big golf match set for Sunday morning. Michelle wasn't using Air Force One over the weekend.

So the president had plenty of time to fly to Paris. If he didn't want to miss the NFL playoff games on TV, he could have dispatched Joe Biden, who spent the weekend at his home in Delaware, no doubt watching the same football games his boss did.

At the very least Obama could have ordered Attorney General Eric Holder — who was already in Paris — to march arm-in-arm with the 40-plus other world leaders who found the guts and the time to get there and make a public statement for freedom.

Instead, our president did nothing and America was embarrassed in front of the whole world.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service [reagan.com](http://reagan.com) and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at [www.reagan.com](http://www.reagan.com) and [www.michaelereagan.com](http://www.michaelereagan.com). Send comments to [Reagan@caglecartoons.com](mailto:Reagan@caglecartoons.com). Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.