

The Press Dakotan

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WE SAY

Working Together



THUMBS UP to business and civic leaders from Yankton and Vermillion opening the dialogue on cooperation this week. Representatives from both towns met in Yankton Wednesday to discuss how the communities can work together on housing, education, workforce development and other topics. This is an excellent first step in cooperation.

Let's hope these leaders will continue the dialogue into the future, especially with a similar meeting in Vermillion in the near future.

Safety First



THUMBS UP to a measure that passed in South Dakota's Senate Education Committee Thursday that would require school districts to have a plan in place to deal with violent situations. These plans would include evacuation procedures; a protocol for dealing with injuries; and after-incident care that would include mental health care for both those

in the school and in the community. (This plan does not include school sentinel training, which is not particularly popular among either school or law enforcement officials.) This bill makes a lot of sense for several unfortunate reasons. Schools should have a plan in place in the event the unthinkable happens. We can pray it never comes to that, but we hope such plans are ready to go — just in case.

Ag Outlook



THUMBS UP to Dr. Brent Gloy's positive outlook for American agriculture during this week's Agrivisions program, sponsored by First Dakota National Bank. Gloy spoke of the growing demand for American food products and the strength of the U.S. economy in comparison to the rest of the world. He also spoke of the benefits from falling energy prices and continued low inflation. However, he also warned of the need for American farmers to implement strategies that put them in a good position to weather any bumps in the road ahead. Gloy gave a good overview and equally good advice.

Your Best Shot?



THUMBS DOWN to parents who do not get their children vaccinated. With the recent outbreak of measles (linked to children's dream world: Disney Land), it's amazing that parents still refuse to vaccinate their children. The disease has now spread to at least 87 people across seven states, making it the most severe measles outbreak in 15 years. There was also a mild outbreak reported recently in South Dakota, mostly in the Mitchell area. The disease can have very serious consequences. And the lack of preventative measures is to blame. Get your kids vaccinated.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?
I don't care 45%
Seattle 29%
New England 26%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 350

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 think carbon monoxide detectors should be mandated in all residential dwellings?
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, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2015. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On Jan. 30, 1945, during World War II, more than 500 Allied captives held at the Japanese prison camp in Cabanatuan in the Philippines were liberated by U.S. Army Rangers, Alamo Scouts and Filipino guerrilla fighters. Adolf Hitler marked the 12th anniversary of his appointment as Germany's chancellor with his last public speech in which he called on Germans to keep resisting until victory.

On this date: In 1615, Thomas Rolfe, the only child of John Rolfe and his wife, Rebecca (the former Pocahontas), was born in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony. In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for treason.

In 1815, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in agreeing to purchase the personal book collection of former President Thomas Jefferson to replace volumes lost when the British burned the U.S. Capitol and its congressional library during the War of 1812. In 1892, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, New York. In 1911, James White, an intellectually disabled black man who'd been convicted of rape for having sex with a 14-year-old white girl when he was 16, was publicly hanged in Bell County, Kentucky. In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. The first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist. (Godse and a co-conspirator were later executed.) Aviation pioneer Orville Wright, 76, died in Dayton, Ohio. In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit. In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals. In 1969, The Beatles staged an impromptu concert atop Apple headquarters in London; it was the group's last public performance. In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the freed American hostages from Iran.

Ten years ago: Iraqis voted in their country's first free election in a half-century; President George W. Bush called the balloting a resounding success. The downing of a C-130 military transport plane north of Baghdad killed all 10 British servicemen on board; the militant group Ansar al-Islam claimed responsibility. In Northern Ireland, Robert McCartney, 33, was fatally stabbed in a fight at a Belfast pub by members of the Irish Republican Army. Marat Safin defeated Lleyton Hewitt 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to win the Australian Open. **Five years ago:** China suspended military exchange visits with the United States in protest over \$6.4 billion in planned U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. (Those exchanges were reinstated in Jan. 2011). Thousands of demonstrators from across Japan marched in central Tokyo to protest the U.S. military presence on Okinawa. Serena Williams ended Justine Henin's hopes of a Grand Slam title in her return from retirement with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory in the Australian Open final. **One year ago:** An appeals court in Florence, Italy, reinstated the guilty verdict against U.S. student Amanda Knox and her ex-boyfriend for the 2007 murder of her British roommate, Meredith Kercher. (Knox was sentenced to 28 1/2 years in prison, raising the specter of a long legal battle over her extradition from the U.S. should the conviction be upheld.) Federal prosecutors announced they would seek the death penalty against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in the Boston Marathon bombing. Animation producer Arthur Rankin Jr. ("Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer") died in Bermuda at age 89. **Today's Birthdays:** Actress Dorothy Malone is 90. Producer-director Harold Prince is 87. Actor Gene Hackman is 85. Actress Tammy Grimes is 81. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 78. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 78. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 78. Country singer Norma Jean is 77. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 74. Rock singer Marty Balin is 73. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 66. Singer Phil Collins is 64. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 64. World Golf Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 60. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 57. Singer Jody Watley is 56. Actor-filmmaker Dexter Scott King is 54. The King of Jordan, Abdullah II, is 53. Actor Norbert Leo Butz is 48. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 43. Actor Christian Bale is 41. Rock musician Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) is 41. Actress-singer Lena Hall is 35. Pop-country singer-songwriter Josh Kelley is 35. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 35. Actor Jake Thomas is 25. Actress Danielle Campbell (TV: "The Originals") is 20. **Thought for Today:** "Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live." — Dorothy Thompson, American author, journalist and radio commentator (born 1893, died this date in 1961).

FROM THE BIBLE

God, be merciful to me, a sinner! Luke 18:13. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



A Holocaust Lesson ... From 'The Simpsons'?

BY KELLY HERTZ
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What is there left to say? Seventy years ago this week, Russian soldiers in pursuit of retreating German troops across the snowy fields of Poland during World War II came upon a ghastly discovery ...

And with that, a place called Auschwitz entered our nightmares forever — a place of death that lives on and on.

The Nazi concentration camp is regarded by history as the most infamous of the death mills created by Germany to exterminate Jews, Poles, Russians and others. Its infamy is well earned. According to *The Guardian* of London, at least 960,000 people are believed to have died at Auschwitz. By that reckoning, almost one in six people murdered in what will forever be mourned as the Holocaust died in this place.

For seven decades, we've read the tales and seen the images from the Holocaust. We've heard the accounts. We've confronted again and again this brutal thing that still seems utterly surreal, psychotic, unimaginable.

So, what IS there left to say? What new words or images can be offered to convey a tale told so many times before?

This week, I discovered something new. I found it in a link on the website of the *Jerusalem Post* for a story bearing perhaps the unlikeliest headline I might ever imagine: "Artist Draws The Simpsons as Jews in Auschwitz for Anniversary of Camp's Liberation."

Honestly, I cannot find the words to even describe the first thing that went through my head when I read this.

But what I thought was going to be an exercise in horrible taste turned into something unexpectedly haunting — and ingeniously useful.

Italian artist alexSandro Palombo, who has often used his abilities to address social issues in very stark terms, presented America's favorite dysfunctional cartoon family in a series of increasingly harrowing images.

They are cast in the first images as sad souls wearing the familiar vertical-striped garb and yellow Stars of David, standing amid vaguely familiar wastelands of barbed wire and snow, some of which is left noticeably sooty from nearby crematoriums.

In subsequent images, they are emaciated, with a look of inescapable doom scratched in their sunken eyes. A final image in a gas chamber — the family left skeletal and naked; more dead than alive; waiting ... is almost too much to bear.

Each scene trades off with a "Simpson"-ized vision of Ann Frank, a teen Holocaust victim, in the same setting holding a black sign bearing words in



IMAGE: ALEXSANDRO PALOMBO

This is one of the images in Italian artist alexSandro Palombo's series, "Never Again," which depicts "The Simpsons" at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland in World War II. This image, created to commemorate the 70th anniversary this week of the liberation of Auschwitz, is reprinted by permission of the artist.

white, "Never Again."

The comment board for the *Jerusalem Post* story was, when I saw it, surprisingly sedate about Palombo's drawings. Some comments noted a few of the historical inaccuracies in the images: Marge would not have been allowed to keep her towering blue hair, the family would not have been kept together, the kids would have been exterminated immediately ...

Make no mistake, this was not a laughing matter. But it told an familiar story from a startlingly fresh perspective, making this unlikely marriage of humor with Hell an unforgettable triumph.

It could be argued that we've become too comfortable with the Nazis' brutal story. We're certainly not accepting or forgiving of it, but we sometimes feel we've heard it all and we've seen enough. We know of Auschwitz — as well as Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Sobibor, Treblinka and the other haunted places. We've seen those terrible images to the point where we don't "see" them anymore. We've gotten the idea. They no longer tell us things we don't already know. We're numb to the atrocity. Bored by the history.

But we cannot be. We must not. We must see the soul of the Holocaust as something more than a grotesque Nazi perpetration that died with the collapse of the Third Reich in 1945. Instead, we should see those monstrous acts as examples of what humans are capable of doing to each other on wholesale terms. Look at the Islamic State group, al-Qaida or Boko Haram. They may not yet have reached the Nazi level of evil, but these groups wage genocide, inflict pain and induce terror for terror's sake. And they are part of our human family tree.

Deep down, this is who we are — in our darkest moments, in our most murderous thoughts.

We must never take that for granted, because if we do, we may forget. And if we forget ...

That's why Palombo deserves to be applauded for his unorthodox images of an iconic human crime. If such unlikely depictions of cartoon creatures can stun or surprise some of us into remembering those old lessons and heeding the warnings, then he's done an immeasurable service.

To see the complete set of Palombo's "Simpson" images, visit www.yankton.net; or go to http://humorchic.blogspot.com/2015/01/art-neveragain-by-alexandro-palombo.html

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cuba: It's About Time

Fernande Colette Bitsos, Yankton
Yes, it is now the time to open Cuba's door (*Press & Dakotan*, Jan. 22).

It took I believe less than 15 years to be "make nice" by de-embargoing (if there was) China, Vietnam and Russia — countries MUCH larger than little Cuba and where some of our CEO's "emigrated" their factories for cheaper clothing, tires, utensils, etc., for the benefits of their coffers and at the detriment of our working class.

Cuba was "ignored" under Batista's dictatorship while the Mafia slithered in to build their gambling casinos, bordellos and drug trafficking. The United States closed its eyes and ears. Many of the Cuban elite, owners of land and properties, benefited of Batista's regime. They were the first cowards who profited from their wealth to leave Cuba with most of their wealth — too avaricious to stand up against Fidel Castro.

Of course, the USSR stepped in to antagonize the U.S., but thanks to President Kennedy, the Russians backed down.

That lovely little island was no threat to the U.S. Diplomacy — in spite of Fidel Castro's violent acts (somehow similar to the Viet Cong) — was ignored, thus a Cuban embargo was created and lasted more than 50 years. The Cuban people took the blunt and suffered — not Castro! What did we gain? More poor and hungry Cubans trying to leave by rickety fishing boats — with some who sank for the benefits of sharks buffets. The "wealthy" ones had left much sooner (before Havana was taken over by Castro) by planes and cruise ships.

The poor working class of Cuba have always loved and admired the U.S. The "elite" class has always loved their wealth and left their country with it. President Obama used good judgment to end this hypocrisy.