

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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Helping Hand



THUMBS UP to the cooperative efforts of the Santee Sioux Nation police department and the Knox County (Neb.) sheriff's office, providing greater water safety. The Santee Sioux department received a 21-foot rescue boat through a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and has offered its assistance for the sheriff's department for any need in Knox County. Santee Sioux police chief Rob Henry and his department have taken the boat out for test runs to determine the best routes for rescues. The department also brought the boat to a law enforcement water training course, hosted by Knox County Sheriff Don Henery and his department. The boat can provide faster response time not only on the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Lake, but also other waterways such as the Niobrara River. We hope the boat isn't needed for emergencies, but it's good to know that it exists as a major asset, with its benefit multiplied by the working relationship between the tribal and county law enforcement.

Sorrow



THUMBS DOWN to the loss of 19 firefighters with the elite Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew, overtaken by a raging wildfire in central Arizona. It marked the greatest loss of life for firefighters in a wildfire since 1933 when the Griffith Park fire in southern California claimed the lives on 29 firefighters. It also marked the deadliest day for U.S. firefighters since 9/11, when 340 died. While the fire occurred hundreds of miles from here, the incident reminds us of the dangers that our own firefighters and other first responders face when they respond to the call. We appreciate the local members' service, and we feel sorrow for those firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice trying to save lives and property in Arizona.

On The Grow



Looking back, THUMBS UP to the weather of June, which — despite a couple of stormy instances — was a real boon for farmers throughout the region and, really, the rest of us in general. The farmers' perspective can be measured with the corn: Many fields were planted relatively late because of the wet, cool spring, and at the start of June, many cornfields in the area were just sprouting up like most blades of grass. But it more than surpassed the “knee-high by the Fourth of July” rule of thumb, standing almost chest high in some places and looking very lush. Again, it's such a contrast to what we saw last year, but so, too, has been the weather. Here's hoping that this good fortune can continue as we head into the hotter days of July and August.

Whiplash



While on a weather topic, THUMBS DOWN to the devastating effects of what is known as weather whiplash. According to the environmental research organization World Watch Institute, \$170 billion in global losses occurred during 2012 due to natural disasters — 93 percent of which were weather-related. With Hurricane Sandy, the drought that spread across the Corn Belt last summer and a number of tornadoes and other extreme storms, the United States accounted for \$100 billion of the global losses. Approximately \$58 billion of those U.S. losses were covered by insurance. That made 2012 the most expensive year in terms of natural disasters in the U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Scientists say that climate change can be expected to continue to fuel these extreme weather events.

SPEAK UP!

■ Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: 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 Friday, July 5, the 186th day of 2013. There are 179 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 5, 1943, the Battle of Kursk began during World War II as German forces attacked a Soviet salient (or bulge) around the Russian city of Kursk; in the weeks that followed, the Soviets were able to repeatedly repel the Germans, who eventually withdrew in defeat.

On this date: In 1687, Isaac Newton first published his Principia Mathematica, a three-volume work setting out his mathematical principles of natural philosophy.

In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

In 1865, William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act.

In 1946, the bikini, created by Louis Reard, was modeled by Micheline Bernardini during a poolside fashion show in Paris.

In 1947, Larry Doby made his debut with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first black player in the American League.

In 1948, Britain's National Health Service Act went into effect, providing government-financed medical and dental care.

In 1954, Elvis Presley's first commercial recording session took place at Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn.; the song he recorded was “That's All Right (Mama).”

In 1962, independence took effect in Algeria; the same day, civilians of European descent, mostly French, came under attack by extremists in the port city of Oran.

In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win a Wimbledon singles title as he defeated Jimmy Connors.

In 1984, the Supreme Court weakened the 70-year-old “exclusionary rule,” deciding that evidence seized in good faith with defective court warrants could be used against defendants in criminal trials.

In 2011, a jury in Orlando, Fla., found Casey Anthony, 25, not guilty of murder, manslaughter and child abuse in the 2008 disappearance and death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee.

Ten years ago: Two female suicide bombers killed 15 victims at a Moscow rock festival. A bomb blast in Ramadi killed seven Iraqi police re-

cruits as they graduated from a U.S.-taught training course. Serena Williams beat sister Venus 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 for her second straight Wimbledon title. Police in Namibia reported the recent death of Nixau, the diminutive bushman catapulted to international stardom in the film “The Gods Must Be Crazy”; he was thought to be about 59 years old.

Five years ago: Venus Williams won her fifth Wimbledon singles title, beating younger sister Serena 7-5, 6-4 in the final. Gas station owner Kent Couch flew a lawn chair rigged with helium-filled balloons more than 200 miles across the Oregon desert, landing in a field in Cambridge, Idaho.

One year ago: Trucks carrying NATO supplies rolled into Afghanistan for the first time in more than seven months, ending a painful chapter in U.S.-Pakistan relations that saw the border closed until Washington apologized for an airstrike that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Former Argentine dictator Jorge Rafael Videla was convicted and sentenced to 50 years for a systematic program to steal babies from prisoners who were kidnapped, tortured and killed during the military junta's so-called “dirty war” on leftist dissidents. Jockey Jorge Herrera, 33, died after falling from his horse during a race at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Katherine Helmond is 84. Actress Shirley Knight is 77. Singer-musician Robbie Robertson is 70. Julie Nixon Eisenhower is 65. Rock star Huey Lewis is 63. Baseball Hall-of-Fame pitcher Rich “Goose” Gossage is 62. Country musician Charles Ventre is 61. Singer-songwriter Marc Cohn is 54. Actor Dorien Wilson is 51. Actress Edie Falco is 50. Actress Jillian Armenante is 49. Actress Kathryn Erbe is 48. Actor Michael Stuhlbarg is 45. Country musician Brent Flynn (Flynnville Train) is 44. Rapper RZA is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Joe is 40. Rock musician Bengt Lagerberg (The Cardigans) is 40. Actor Dale Goddard is 38. Rapper Bizarre is 37. Rapper Royce da 5'9" is 36. Rock singer Jason Wade (Lifehouse) is 33. Actor Ryan Hansen is 32. Country musician Dave Haywood (Lady Antebellum) is 31. Rock musician Nick O'Malley (Arctic Monkeys) is 28. Actor Jason Dolehy is 22.

Thought for Today: “The real drawback to ‘the simple life’ is that it is not simple. If you are living it, you positively can do nothing else. There is not time.” — Katharine Fullerton Gerould, American writer (1879-1944).

FROM THE BIBLE

Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen. Exodus 33:23. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

STAR TRIBUNE CagleCartoons.com

S&K



A Downtown Sound

BY KELLY HERTZ

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They say music is one of the most potent memory stimulators, and I can attest to that.

Lately, when I open my office window on a Friday night and hear the music flowing in from Happy Hourz a block over, my mind digs up a very vivid memory from almost 20 years ago.

Back in the mid-1990s, a friend and some guests were here from California for a visit. One night, we decided to go to a bar on Third St. that was located in the basement of what is now the River Rose Suites. Crammed in this gloriously intimate cellar was a rock band, and the music it produced roared out of the open windows and the open door. It filled the downtown darkness (Third St. had lighting issues back then, too) with a festive atmosphere I've never forgotten.

What I also remember was the frustrated feeling that it was all sort of a lie. I told my friend and his party that the downtown really wasn't like this at all. We just happened to catch it in a terribly rare, ebullient mood.

So, when I hear the music now that emanates from Happy Hourz, or from Rounding 3rd's party room on Cedar St., I feel better about the downtown area. It sounds like something's going on and everyone's invited; it sounds like a *pulse*. (This is even true to an extent when music is played over the loudspeakers at the Riverfront Event Center, particularly during the holidays when it weaves a cozy spell that's impossible to dislike.)

Not everyone is in tune with my reaction, which was evident last week when some people came before the Yankton City Commission to complain about the noise from Happy Hourz, particularly later at night. Some of the Sunday afternoon music was also cited.

This is a genuine quandary. It's especially so legally, because Yankton's noise ordinance is a vague doctrine. It does not quantify in decibels what constitutes being too loud, therefore it's difficult for law enforcement to enforce a law that is subjective in nature.

This is also a tough issue because, while some people living a few blocks away complained about the noise at Happy Hourz, other people living much closer to “ground zero” had no problems with it. Given the aforementioned

lack of specificity on the matter, that makes the nuisance complaint a dicey sell.

As for me, I really do like hearing that music swirling in the night air. It exudes a vibrancy that the downtown area has always sought and, at times, struggled to achieve.

But I also admit that I live nowhere near downtown (although I seem to practically live at the office sometimes), so my thoughts on the matter might not mean much.

Then again, let me also point out that, through the years, I've seen in the police records complaints about the bands playing at Riverboat Days and even the noise coming from Relay for Life when it was located up at the Yankton Middle School track. Any noise above a certain level, varying with the time of day or night, is going to generate a complaint. There's probably a mathematical formula in there somewhere to better illustrate it, but you get the idea.

This issue could go on like this indefinitely, but unless the noise ordinance is retooled, we will continue to have a cycle of sounds and complaints with no resolution, which will no doubt foster some hard feelings and will likely see someone sometime push the sound levels even further.

Compromise, then, would be in order, but it's difficult to say what precisely that might be. Perhaps decibel thresholds could be added to the noise ordinance to at least give the bars and the bands something by which to operate. Or perhaps a midnight cutoff for outdoors music in the downtown might be an answer, although some establishments may object to having two hours of entertainment time snatched from them.

The one thing that I would hate to see — or hear — is if the music stops altogether. The lack of music would scream a message that just wouldn't be particularly good for downtown.

Unless Yankton wants to be known as the Mime Capital of South Dakota (a title that's up for grabs, or so I haven't heard), it really needs to find a way to accommodate a musical nightlife with its downtown district. It makes the area sing, and when people listen, that's good for everyone.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz

A Nation Of Dummies

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

I've seen the future of America — and it's going to be dumber.

I saw a glimpse of where America is headed last week when prosecutors in the George Zimmerman case put Trayvon Martin's “not-girlfriend,” Rachel Jeantel, on the stand.

Jeantel was on the phone with Martin only minutes before he was shot and killed in his fight with neighborhood watch volunteer Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla.

The 19-year-old daughter of a Haitian immigrant was supposed to be the prosecutor's star witness.

But after seeing her bumbling, rude, impertinent demeanor and her poor communication skills, one commentator described Jeantel as a “train wreck.”

Jeantel — who admitted in front of the whole country she couldn't read cursive, and apparently had no idea how a court trial worked — has been ridiculed unmercifully for her awful grammar and lack of polish.

That's not completely fair. As one of her best defenders explained, she's a product of her unique cultural background.

“Rachel Jeantel has her own particular, idiosyncratic black girl idiom, a mash-up of her Haitian and Dominican working-class background, her U.S. Southern upbringing, and the three languages — Haitian Kreyol (or Creole), Spanish and English — that she speaks.”

It's true Jeantel has had obstacles to overcome. But neither her race nor her background is to blame for her embarrassing court appearance.

Public education is. Jeantel's performance was shocking evidence of the continuing failure of our government education monopoly to properly educate our kids. But she's not alone.

Public education has also failed millions of other kids like her — in the suburbs as well as the cities. It no longer imparts reading, writing, speaking and thinking skills to the kids like Jeantel who need it most.

She's a senior in high school. Tens of thou-



Michael
REAGAN

sands of tax dollars have been spent, supposedly to educate her. Yet she's going to graduate from high school without being able to read a letter written in cursive?

What else does she not know?

Like the young, white Southern California businessman I met on the golf course a few weeks ago who couldn't imagine why there would be an American military cemetery in Normandy, France, Jeantel is an innocent victim of our lousy public schools.

Maybe a miracle will occur. Maybe Jeantel's career track to government dependency will be changed for the better because of her negative celebrity.

Maybe someone like Bill Cosby or Oprah will swoop in and help her salvage her bad education. Maybe she will learn to exploit her multilingual skills and go on to make her living as a translator at the United Nations, but I doubt it.

More than likely, and sadly for her future and for the future of America, Jeantel is never going to become a productive member of society who can take care of herself.

If I still had young kids to educate, I'd send them anywhere but public school. Catholic school. Private school. Home school. Online schools. I'd hire tutors.

Those alternatives to public education are America's only hope for a smarter future.

Otherwise, we're going to become a nation of dummies, where cursive writing is like a second language and hardly anyone will be able to read the original handwritten copies of founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence. Happy Fourth of July.

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 and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reagan-world on Twitter.

YOUR LETTERS

Great Show!

Tom and Jane Gilmore, Glen and Barb Mechtenberg, Barb Olson, Liza Larson and Julie Dykstra
The Habitat 500 Bike Team

The Habitat 500 Bike Team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the musicians of the Habitat Hoedown including Boyd Bristow,

Jan Schiferl, Guy Larson, Ken Prussa and Ron Gardener for a night of fun in the park on Thursday, June 27. We would also like to thank the *Press and Dakotan*, all other local media, Thrivent Financial and all who attended the Hoedown raising \$3,500 for Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County!