

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | WE SAY

On The Water



THUMBS UP to this weekend's Fort to Field 50 Paddle Battle, an event for kayakers and canoeists that will be held Saturday on the Missouri River between Pickstown and Springfield. While much has been made (quite deservedly) of the explosive growth of archery in this region the last few years, it should also be noted the kayaking has really taken off, too. You see more of the sleek watercraft these days on the Missouri River, Lake Yankton and the James River. And events like this weekend's Challenge only draw a spotlight to the sport. A hand goes out to Yankton's Jarett Bies, the tireless organizer not only of this weekend's Challenge but also the South Dakota Kayak Challenge in late May and the upcoming Riverboat Days Kayak Run. These events showcase river recreation, which is what communities along the Missouri River should be doing aggressively.

Over The Water



THUMBS UP to the Yankton County Commission for making the James River bridge on old Highway 50 near Fleeg's a top priority in its infrastructure thinking. This week, the commissioners side-stepped a proposal by Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson to consider jointly planning for an upgrade on West City Limits Road (WCLR) between highways 50 and 52. The upgrade for West City Limits Road is actually reasonable, but as Nelson and the commissioners both admitted, WCLR is not a top priority for either the city or county. But replacing the bridge, which as Commissioner Garry Moore noted, is an important link between the east and west sides of the county, must be a top concern. While a delay is expected in order to eventually become eligible for more funding, the bridge project must be addressed within the next few years.

Hot News



To be fair after last week, **THUMBS DOWN** to the predicted upturn in summer sizzle for the area early next week. Last week in this space, we commented on the approach of a summertime polar vortex, which wound up producing a patently pleasant week throughout the region. But that all ends starting later this weekend, when a dome of hot air moves across the Upper Plains, sending temperatures into the lower to mid 90s, and perhaps higher. However, it is late July, which is the warmest time of the year, so this shouldn't be too much of a surprise. Also, most forecasts have the hot spell lasting only a few days — it's not 2012 revisited. So, it's something we can all live with, right?

Golden Revival



THUMBS UP to Universal Studios, which is borrowing a page or three from the Marvel Comics playbook by resurrecting the greatest rogue's gallery in film history. The *Los Angeles Times* reported this week that Universal is reviving its legendary screen monsters — Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, the Invisible Man, the Wolf Man, the Mummy, and the Creature from the Black Lagoon — in new movies that will have a "shared mythology," meaning it could all ultimately lead to an "Avengers"-type teaming down the line. The first such movie is a reboot of "The Mummy" in 2016. These characters were part of what's considered the golden age of cinematic horror, back in the 1930s and '40s (although the "Creature from the Black Lagoon" was a 1950s creation). It could be a great franchise, but one must also wonder if the CGI wizardry that will no doubt be used will supplant the brooding humanity brought to those films by the likes of Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi, Lon Chaney Jr., Claude Rains, etc. We're anxious to find out.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, July 19, the 200th day of 2014. There are 165 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On July 19, 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which suffered the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.
On this date: In 1553, King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen of England after pretender Lady Jane Grey was deposed.
In 1814, Samuel Colt, inventor of the Colt revolver, was born in Hartford, Connecticut.
In 1848, a pioneer women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, New York.
In 1903, the first Tour de France was won by Maurice Garin.
In 1944, the Democratic national convention convened in Chicago with the renomination of President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered a certainty.
In 1952, the Summer Olympics opened in Helsinki, Finland.
In 1961, TWA became the first airline to begin showing regularly scheduled in-flight movies as it presented "By Love Possessed" to first-class passengers on a flight from New York to Los Angeles.
In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.
In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.
In 1984, U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York won the Democratic nomination for vice president by acclamation at the party's convention in San Francisco.
In 1990, President George H.W. Bush joined former presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon at ceremonies dedicating the Nixon Library and Birthplace (since redesignated the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum) in Yorba Linda, California.
In 1994, a bomb ripped apart a Panama commuter plane, killing 21, including 12 Jews, a day after a car bomb destroyed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85 people. A secrecy-shrouded funeral ceremony was held for North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung, who had died July 8 at age 82.
Ten years ago: Mark Hacking of Salt Lake City shot and killed his 27-year-old wife, Lori, disposed of her remains, then reported her missing; he

was later sentenced to six years to life in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree murder. A fuel tanker rigged as a massive bomb exploded near the Baghdad police station, killing nine people. A methane gas explosion in a Ukrainian mine killed at least 34 miners. Former Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki died at age 93.

Five years ago: A Russian-owned civilian helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff from southern Afghanistan's largest NATO base, killing 16 civilians. Israel rejected a U.S. demand to suspend a planned housing project in east Jerusalem. Stewart Cink won the British Open in a four-hole playoff with Tom Watson. Eighty-one-year-old Hershel McGriff became the oldest driver to take part in a national NASCAR series race, finishing 13th in a Camping World West Series event at Portland International Raceway. Author Frank McCourt, who'd won the Pulitzer Prize for his memoir "Angela's Ashes," died in New York at 78.

One year ago: In a rare and public reflection on race, President Barack Obama called on the nation to do some soul searching over the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of his shooter, George Zimmerman, saying the slain black teenager "could have been me 35 years ago." A Dallas woman plunged 75 feet to her death from a Six Flags Over Texas roller coaster when her safety restraint apparently failed.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Helen Gallagher is 88. Country singer Sue Thompson is 88. Country singer George Hamilton IV is 77. Singer Vikki Carr is 74. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 70. Actor George Dzundza is 69. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 68. Tennis player Ilie Nastase is 68. Rock musician Brian May is 67. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 67. Actress Beverly Archer is 66. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 63. Actor Peter Barton is 58. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 54. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 54. Actor Campbell Scott is 53. Actor Anthony Edwards is 52. Country singer Kelly Shiver is 51. Actress Clea Lewis is 49. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 49. Country musician Jeremy Patterson is 44. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 43. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 43. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 40. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 38. Actor Jared Padalecki is 32. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 24.

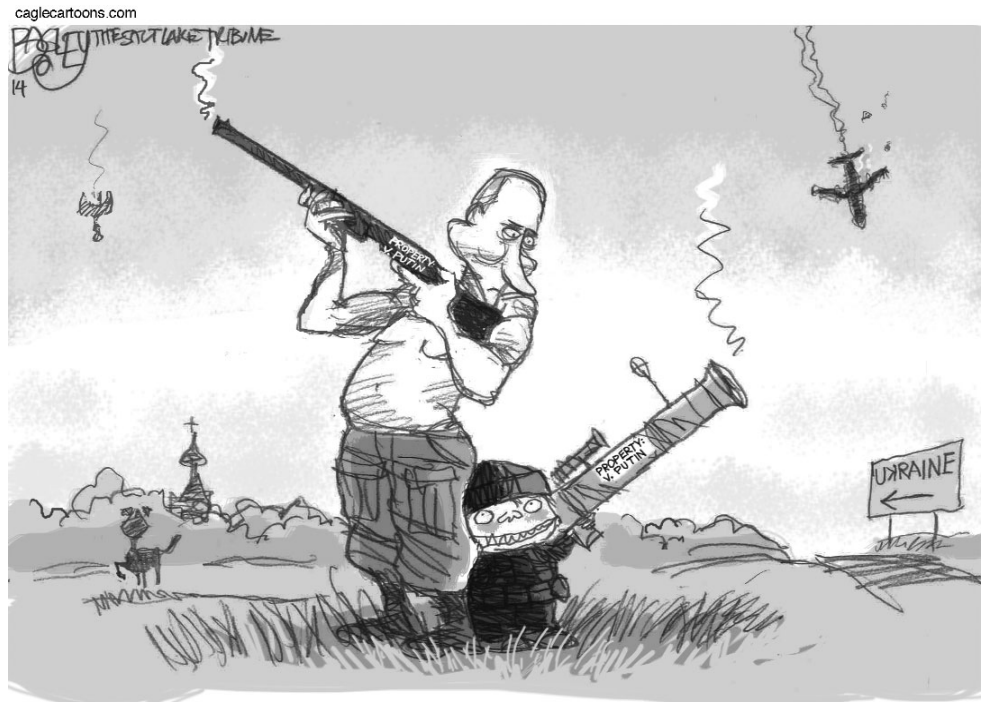
Thought for Today: "No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion." — Carrie Chapman Catt, American feminist (1859-1947).

FROM THE BIBLE

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? James 4:4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

TO OUR READERS

Due to production issues, the Views page was inadvertently excluded from Friday's Press & Dakotan. We are printing it here today; the only change is the "On This Date" section, which has been updated to July 19.



Americans And Our Energy Fantasies

BY KELLY HERTZ

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"Happy Energy Independence Day!" That thought went through my head when I read the headline for a Bloomberg News web article — on July 4, no less — that declared: "U.S. Seen As Biggest Oil Producer After Overtaking Saudi Arabia."

Ponder that for a moment. If you have any memory of the Arab oil embargo of 1973 and the painful paradigm shift that sprang from it, that headline is a breathtaking statement. And when you consider how many times through the years lawmakers have vowed that this country must achieve "energy independence" so that we aren't reliant on "Arab oil," this should be a moment of genuine triumph.

But, of course, it's not quite that simple.

To be sure, the massive expansion of America's oil production in the last few years is one of the biggest economic stories going. Oil extraction from shale formations via hydraulic fracturing has revived the Texas oil economy and hyper-accelerated North Dakota's oil economy. The U.S. has become the world's biggest producer of natural gas, and we now export more oil product than we import. (This could increase even more should the federal government lift its ban on exporting American crude oil.) *USA Today* reports that America's share of "liquid fuels consumption" fed by imports has gone from 60 percent in 2005 to just 33 percent last year — and may dip to 22 percent next year.

So, the fact that we now have surpassed the Saudis and Russia as the planet's No. 1 oil producer should seal the deal for energy independence, right?

Perhaps, except we still feel the pricing tremors whenever there's a flare-up in, say, Iraq or Libya, or when a hurricane menaces the Gulf of Mexico.

Also, exporting more than we import highlights two facts: 1) we're shipping a lot of oil product elsewhere, and 2) we're still the world's biggest energy user and continue to import a great deal of oil — about 7.5 million barrels a day in April. And this is not seen as paradoxical.

This has forced me to wonder if the promise of "energy independence" is really just a myth.

After all, simply because oil is extracted from American soil doesn't mean it's going to ultimately stay in America. In that sense, it's really Exxon's oil or BP's oil, and so on. The marketplace ultimately doesn't recognize national boundaries; it chases global demand.

Ironically, America's earth-shaking (literally, it seems, in some places) boom in oil production comes at a time when the nation is also seeing a significant drop in energy consumption. One report states that 45 percent of the fall in energy imports is due to less consumption.

YOUR LETTERS

About Packed Meals

Leona Kokesh, Yankton

I've seen pictures in the paper of different groups packing meals. Some are for local needs, others say for the world. You need to know where they go and also be responsible or see that a responsible group pays for government fees. A missionary tells of so much food is left rotting on the docks because fees were not paid. The government would rather have their fees paid than let the food go to feed their starving people.

Party Problems

M.J. Kirby, Sioux Falls

Sometimes the two major political parties do agree — like requiring an Independent candidate to collect hundreds, even thousands, of additional election petition signatures to get on our ballot while both major parties have political machines to gather their candidates' petitions.

Recently, both parties in the South Dakota Legislature again agreed — that the existing term limits are too short despite the voters telling them no, they are not in several statewide votes. Do they really think that they are indispensable?

Formers U.S. Senator Larry Pressler is running again as an Independent for a self-imposed single term, so he can concentrate on

tion. Some part of that can be assigned to the recent recession, which curbed industrial appetites — but a major portion of it stems from energy conservation and efficiency. This really should be no surprise if, again, you hark back to the 1973 energy crisis, an epic event that seared the need for energy conservation into our thinking. After a couple of generations, we're starting to reap the results.

But what if we actually DID declare "energy independence"? What if we parlayed our increased production with our decrease in usage into a state of practical self-reliance?

For some reason, I suspect the results might be disastrous.

Independence could theoretically be achieved by either mandating that U.S. companies sell their oil product domestically first (which would not be well received by those companies or their lobbyists, thus meaning lawmakers would oppose it) or by offering massive incentives to companies to keep their product here. Either move would likely cause sharp consumer pricing spikes here (the companies have to pay for exploration, and they all have hungry stockholders to feed) while creating economic shockwaves overseas. This could generate retribution by other nations against what they might perceive as U.S. protectionism. Of course, energy independence could also be achieved by nationalizing the oil companies — which is NOT going to happen.

Being a reliable member of the world economy includes being a good trading partner as well as a good producer. Importing oil — and thus relying on the oil emanating from some of the most politically unstable places on earth — is part of the partnership.

So, a vow of energy independence may ultimately be little more than a handy political tool to get people amped up about, say, opening up national parks and Arctic refuges to drilling. Case in point: Charlie Drevna, president of the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, this week blamed the federal government for holding this country back from the goal of energy independence, which was his argument for green-lighting the Keystone pipeline and for expanding drilling across the map. In response, recall the headline that got me going on this in the first place.

Perhaps the only real way for this country to achieve true energy independence is to wean ourselves off fossil fuels and transition more quickly to alternate, renewable energy sources (or, dare I say it, cultivate nuclear energy) while promoting even more conservation. That would break the strangling shackles that our reliance on oil has wrapped around our lives.

But such a goal is probably a fantasy, too — just like our cherished, long-sought dream of someday being oil rich and free of foreign interests.

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

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 placement of storm sirens in the Lewis and Clark Lake area?
Yes 90%
No 6%
Not sure/don't care 4%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 311
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:

Should the immigrant children moving across the southern border into the U.S. be deported?
To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

the job, not spending half of his waking hours raising money for his next election, as most U.S. senators of both parties do.

Pressler will not take either political party's oath of obedience to the party line.

The dumb and dumber major parties think the South Dakota voter is dumber than they are.

I am not. I am voting Independent. What have we got to lose?