

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/
CIRCULATION:
Extension 104
CLASSIFIED ADS:
Extension 108
NEWS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 114
SPORTS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 106
ADVERTISING OFFICE:
Extension 122
BUSINESS OFFICE:
Extension 119
NEW MEDIA:
Extension 136
COMPOSING DESK:
Extension 129

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood
Publisher
Michele Schievelbein
Advertising Director
Tonya Schild
Business Manager
Michael Hrycko
Circulation Director
Tera Schmidt
Classified Manager
Kelly Hertz
Editor
James D. Cimburek
Sports Editor
Beth Rye
New Media Director
Kathy Larson
Composing Manager
Israel Montalvo
District Manager

DAILY STAFF

Melissa Bader
Derek Bartos
Cassandra Brockmoller
Rob Buckingham
Randy Dockendorf
Jeannine Economy
Jeremy Hoek
Nathan Johnson
Robert Nielsen
Muriel Pratt
Jessie Priestley
Matt Robinson
Cathy Sudbeck
Sally Whiting
Jo Ann Wiebelhaus
Brenda Willcuts
Jackie Williams

Published Daily

Monday-Saturday
Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.
Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month . . . \$12.09
3 months . . . \$36.27
6 months . . . \$72.53
1-year . . . \$133.09

MOTOR ROUTE
(where available)
1 month . . . \$14.51
3 months . . . \$43.53
6 months . . . \$87.05
1 year . . . \$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1-month . . . \$16.93
3 months . . . \$50.79
6 months . . . \$101.57
1-year . . . \$148.82

MAIL OUTSIDE RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1 month . . . \$19.35
3 months . . . \$58.05
6 months . . . \$116.09
1-year . . . \$186.33

* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Help GF&P Find Deer Solutions

RAPID CITY JOURNAL (July 16): On the heels of huge reductions in antlerless deer licenses in South Dakota, the state Game, Fish & Parks Department is reviewing its system for allocating deer hunting licenses for the 2015 seasons.

Deer populations in the state have dropped dramatically in recent years, and the GF&P is struggling to find ways to help the deer rebound while satisfying the hunting demand by sportsmen. Meanwhile, hunters are reporting fewer successful hunts.

The Wildlife Division of the state GF&P will survey the 66,000 hunters who applied for a license in 2013, with results timed for the commission's December meeting and before the state Legislature convenes in January 2015.

Among the changes under consideration are limiting the number of licenses that hunters can apply for — some hunters apply for all the licenses that are available, including East River, West River, Black Hills and Custer State Park firearms, muzzleloader and archery seasons — while many hunters fail to receive the buck license that they want. The revised system would give hunters a better chance of getting the license they prefer. The GF&P may also reduce the number of licenses that are set aside for landowners.

The GF&P's proposal comes after it announced significant reductions in antlerless deer licenses this year. While the Black Hills region is not seeing significant cuts, East River antlerless-only licenses will drop by 59 percent and West River antlerless-only licenses will be reduced by 86 percent with no licenses for mule deer.

Wildlife biologists believe that limiting antlerless licenses will help the state's deer herds to recover. Diseases and a significant shift in agricultural land from conservation reserve to farmland have reduced deer populations in much of the state.

Hunting is an important lifestyle for many South Dakotans. A recent U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service survey found that South Dakota was No. 1 in the nation in percentage of residents who hunted and fished.

We like the idea of the GF&P surveying hunters for their views on how deer licenses should be allocated. Since much of the GF&P's income comes from hunting licenses, getting input from their "customers" is a good idea.

Maintaining the health of the state's deer herd should be a priority for the GF&P. We believe the state's sportsmen should support the GF&P in finding the best solution to declining deer populations, even if it means issuing fewer licenses and changing how hunting licenses are allocated.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: 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 Monday, July 21, the 202nd day of 2014. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On July 21, 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II, capturing it from the Japanese some three weeks later. The Democratic national convention in Chicago nominated Sen. Harry S. Truman to be vice president.

On this date: In 1773, Pope Clement XIV issued an order suppressing the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits. (The Society was restored by Pope Pius VII in 1814.)

In 1861, during the Civil War, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Virginia, resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tennessee, with John T. Scopes found guilty of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned on a technicality.)

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed an executive order establishing the Veterans Administration (later the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

In 1949, the U.S. Senate ratified the North Atlantic Treaty.

In 1959, the NS Savannah, the first nuclear-powered merchant ship, was christened by first lady Mamie Eisenhower at Camden, New Jersey.

In 1961, Capt. Virgil "Gus" Grissom became the second American to rocket into a sub-orbital pattern around the Earth, flying aboard the Liberty Bell 7.

In 1972, the Irish Republican Army carried out 22 bombings in Belfast, Northern Ireland, killing nine people and injuring 130 in what became known as "Bloody Friday."

In 1973, Israeli agents in Lillehammer, Norway, killed Ahmed Bouchikki, a Moroccan waiter, in a case of mistaken identity, apparently thinking he was an official with Black September, the group that attacked Israel's delegation at the 1972 Munich Olympics and killed 11 athletes.

In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.

In 1994, Britain's Labor Party elected Tony Blair its new leader, succeeding the late John Smith. Former Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott died in Falls Church, Virginia, at age 93.

In 1999, Navy divers found and recovered the bodies of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, in the wreckage of Kennedy's plane in the Atlantic Ocean off Martha's Vineyard. Advertising executive David Ogilvy died in Bonnes, France, at age 88.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush sketched out a second-term domestic agenda, telling campaign donors he would shift focus to improv-

ing high school education and expanding access to health care. Academy Award-winning composer Jerry Goldsmith died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 75. Richard Bloch, co-founder of H&R Block, the world's largest tax preparer, died in Kansas City, Missouri, at age 78.

Five years ago: The Senate voted to terminate further production of the Air Force's topline F-22 fighter jets. Prosecutors in Cambridge, Massachusetts, dropped a disorderly conduct charge against prominent black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who was arrested by a white officer at his home near Harvard University after a report of a break-in. John "Marmaduke" Dawson, a longtime Grateful Dead collaborator and co-founder of New Riders of the Purple Sage, died in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico at 64. Taco Bell mascot Gidget the Chihuahua died in Santa Clarita, California, at 15.

One year ago: Belgium's King Albert abdicated after a 20-year reign; his son Philippe took over as the fractured nation's seventh king. Phil Mickelson won the British Open, shooting a 5-under 66 to match the best round of the tournament and win his first claret jug. Britain's Chris Froome won the 100th Tour de France.

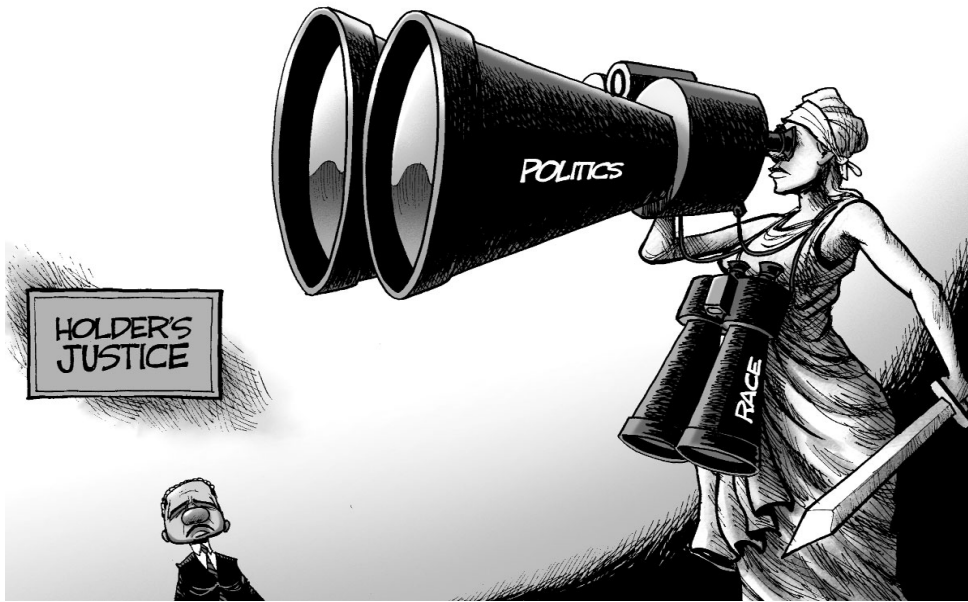
Today's Birthdays: Singer Kay Starr is 92. Movie director Norman Jewison is 88. Former Attorney General Janet Reno is 76. Actress Patricia Elliott is 72. Actor David Downing is 71. Actor Edward Herrmann is 71. Actor Leigh Lawson is 69. Actor Wendell Burton is 67. Actor Art Hindle is 66. Singer Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) is 66. Cartoonist Gary Trudeau is 66. Comedian-actor Robin Williams is 63. Actor Jamey Sheridan is 63. Rock singer-musician Eric Bazilian (The Hooters) is 61. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 57. Actor Lance Guest is 54. Actor Matt Mulhern is 54. Comedian Greg Behrendt is 51. Rock musician Koen Lieckens (K's Choice) is 48. Soccer player Brandi Chastain is 46. Rock singer Emerson Hart is 45. Actress Alysia Reiner (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 44. Country singer Paul Brandt is 42. Actress Ali Landry is 41. Actor-comedian Steve Byrne is 40. Actor Justin Bartha is 36. Actor Josh Hartnett is 36. Contemporary Christian singer Brandon Heath is 36. Actress Sprague Grayden is 36. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 36. Country singer Brad Mates (Emerson Drive) is 36. MLB All-Star pitcher CC Sabathia is 34. Singer Blake Lewis ("American Idol") is 33. Rock musician Will Berman (MGMT) is 32. Rock musician Johan Carlsson (Carolina Liar) is 30. Actress Vanessa Lengies is 29. Actor Jamie Waylett ("Harry Potter" films) is 25.

Thought for Today: "There is no bigotry like that of 'free thought' run to seed." — Horace Greeley, American journalist (1811-1872).

FROM THE BIBLE

There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. James 4:12. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

BLAIR THE CLARENCE T. PETERSON CHARLES CHRISTENSEN



Capitol Notebook

Highway Deficit Driving US Deeper Into Debt

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — It must be horrible to live in fear, like so many members of Congress, that a tax increase could cost your job.

Nothing else explains the maneuvers so many of our elected 535 are taking, as Congress tries to avoid increasing the federal motor-fuels tax.

The federal trust fund for highway aid has run on fumes for years. It is forecast to be financially broke again in August.

That is the heart of road-construction season across the northern states. States will get I.O.U.s from the federal Department of Transportation.

As the comic said, "What a country!" Congress last raised the tax in 1993 to 18.4 cents per gallon. Through inflation, the purchasing power decreased approximately 40 percent.

Just to stay even, the federal tax needs to be increased about 7 cents per gallon.

Recent days in Pierre, convenience stores ranged by about 20 cents per gallon in advertised prices.

That's for what's become the current standard: Regular gas that contains approximately 10 percent ethanol and carries an octane rating of 85 and sometimes 87.

South Dakota imposes its own motor-fuels tax, too. It is 22 cents per gallon for regular gasoline and diesel, and less for blends that mix in ethanol or other bio-fuels.

Members of our Legislature are conducting hearings and holding meetings across South Dakota this summer to talk about the need for more highway funding.

In the next few days, the state Transportation Commission begins its annual set of meetings to meet with the public about the proposed highway construction plan for 2015.



Bob MERCER

The ideas floating from Washington, D.C., don't call for straight-up increases in the federal tax.

There's one gimmick to encourage U.S. corporations to move more business back from overseas so that more federal corporate taxes can be collected now — and less in the future.

There's another gimmick to encourage U.S. corporations to reduce their pension set-asides now, so that they have more earnings to tax now — and less in the future.

There are more ideas that fit the same category of putting off the hard decision.

But there are many hard decisions coming, because our nation wants less gasoline and diesel consumption, and electric vehicles are gaining popularity.

Less carbon-based fuel that is consumed, equals less carbon-driven taxes collected through the federal and state taxes.

More electric vehicles accelerate that trend.

There was a long period in our nation when federal taxes on motor fuels were set aside at the federal level for highway aid.

That's still how we do it in South Dakota with our state tax.

But Congress crossed the line in the past decade when it began tapping general revenue to supplement demands for more money in the highway program.

That meant a portion of federal highway aid, that wasn't be covered by federal fuel tax and other traditional highway-related sources, began driving up the national debt.

We started building and repairing our highways and bridges using I.O.U.s for some of the work.

States still received aid to pay contractors, but the national debt was growing in Washington, D.C.

And now many in Congress want to make the hole deeper, because they fear the voters.

MO's Campaign Of Distraction

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

© 2014, Creators.com

Barack and Michelle Obama are quite the diversionary tag-team. He blames everyone else for his problems. She takes credit for progress on his behalf that he doesn't deserve and distracts public attention from his avalanche of failures with endless feel-good photo-ops.

While the shirker in chief golfed and grubbed for money at closed-door celebrity fundraisers this week, his East Wing flak-catcher provided him cunning cover on the still-festering VA scandals.

Mrs. Obama flew to Los Angeles to declare a war or something on veterans' homelessness. At a summit with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti on Wednesday, she said the neglect of our men and women in uniform, abandoned on the streets after returning from battle, should "horrify all of us."

Of course, vet homelessness is a shame, and it should be eradicated. But the timing of Mrs. Obama's remarks — not to mention her glaring omissions — is calculated cynicism on Louboutins.

President Obama's human deflector sprinkled her remarks with various anecdotes about vets struggling to get back on their feet. But not once in her 2,700-word speech did Mrs. Obama mention the horrifying stories of veterans neglected, abused, manipulated and crushed by corrupt VA bureaucrats under her husband's administration.

Instead, she spent the rest of the speech bragging about "my husband" launching this initiative and that program to do right by the vets.

Various federal agencies live-tweeted the event; Mrs. Obama's fan base oohed and aahed. And the Veterans Affairs media relations and social media tracking teams undoubtedly high-fived each other as they tallied up the positive press.

Meanwhile, more whistleblowers who will never gain Mrs. Obama's public sympathy or accolades gave damning testimony about the "culture of corruption" at the VA. One told Capitol Hill lawmakers about how her car was dented after she reported manipulation of veterans' benefits claims in Philadelphia. Others were put on leave or harassed. "Retaliation culture is a cancer," said Dr. Christian Head, who was investigating time-card fraud inside the Greater Los Angeles VA Health Care System.



Michelle MALKIN

A new report by the VA inspector general provided more details of how bureaucrats made pending benefits cases vanish and mischanced or intentionally lost paperwork related to claims in a mad attempt to reduce the 600,000-case backlog.

Linda Halliday, an assistant inspector general, ticked off all the new targets of investigative probes: Baltimore, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Oakland, Houston and Little Rock, Ark.

Asked whether she believes in the integrity of data being supplied to her by VA officials, Halliday told the House Veterans Affairs Committee: "No. ... I don't want to say I trust them." Goodbye, hope and change. Hello, lying liars.

And how's this for horrifying: Yet another VA IG report released this week affirmed that the Baltimore VA "had inappropriately stockpiled about 8,000 documents" containing sensitive personal information and processed and un-

processed claims-related mail with the potential to affect benefits payments. "More than 9,500 documents and 80 claims folders lacked the oversight necessary to ensure timely claims processing," investigators said.

Translation: Feckless VA drones sat on their plump, worthless backsides while the desperate entreaties of our nation's best and bravest clogged their do-nothing desks.

The horrors of government ineptitude and malpractice are behemoth. The OIG also affirmed this week that the same kind of book-cooking happening across the country took place at Philadelphia VA offices. Staffers changed dates on old claims to make them look new. Whistleblowers exposed systematic document shredding and piles of veterans' unanswered correspondence stuffed in boxes and cabinets. Still to be probed: cherry-picking of claims to inflate performance; 32,000 unanswered electronic queries from veterans seeking information about their benefits claims; and duplicate payments being written off.

The first lady's Operation VA Scandal Distraction may have been a success for one day. But evasion-by-photo-op can't work forever.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Cemetery Concerns

Jolene Berndt, Yankton

In response to and IN ADDITION to the letter "Shameful Act" (*Press & Dakotan*, July 14):

I am sorry for the manner in which you were victimized. I, and so many others, were similarly victimized after Memorial Day by the City of Yankton's Municipal Cemetery. I was aghast at the number of American flags thrown into a heap of "garbage" (flowers and miscellaneous sentimental items stripped from loved ones' gravesites) after Memorial Day. It was sad, heart-breaking and a deplorable — yet planned and sanctioned — act. Mostly, it is one that needs to be seriously reconsidered.

The cemetery is the only place I have to go

pay respects to my parents, and a number of friends who have passed way too early. It is a place that I think should be free to display mementos and to beautify in a manner our loved ones would appreciate. Instead, valuables (both monetary and sentimental) were taken from gravesites (in some cases, with tremendous effort) and thrown away. I would encourage anyone to visit my Facebook page: Jo Berndt, to see the "garbage" that was taken off my parents' headstone, as well as the heap of others, including American flags thrown away in a most disrespectful manner.

Something needs to be done about this! City government is now controlling how we grieve? Repulsive and heart-breaking.