

#### 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 SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION Extension 104 CLASSIFIED ADS Extension 108

tera.schmidt@yankton.net NEWS DEPT. Extension 114 news@yankton.net SPORTS DEPT. Extension 106 sports@yankton.net ADVERTISING DEPT.

sales@yankton.net BUSINESS OFFICE Extension 119 ar@yankton.net NEW MEDIA: Extension 136

Extension 122

beth.rye@yankton.net COMPOSING DEPT. Extension 129 kathy.larson@yankton.ne

> **MANAGERS** Gary L. Wood

Publisher Michele Schievelbein

Advertising Director Iim Gevens

Circulation Director Tonya Schild

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Kelly Hertz Editor James D. Cimburek

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## We Say

## Where There's Fire



THUMBS UP to the effort to locate a fire hydrant in rural Yankton County, 15 miles west of Viborg, to serve multiple rural fire departments. At Thursday's meeting in Yankton, the James River Water Development District (JRWDD) board approved \$6,375 to cover half the estimated cost of the hydrant. Viborg Fire Chief Craig Simonsen met with the JRWDD board, pointing out

the tremendous benefits for departments no longer needing to travel back to their hometowns for more water. Simonsen has been working with the B-Y Water District on the project. After the JRWDD approval of funding, Simonsen told the *Press & Dakotan* he hopes the hydrant can become reality in a couple of months.

#### United



THUMBS UP to South Dakota Homeland Security Office joining the national anti-terrorism campaign, "If You See Something, Say Something." For South Dakota to join the effort can be a scary sign, but it also serves as a message that the state is concerned about its citizens' safety and well-being. As residents of a Midwestern state with many small communities, the likelihood

of a terrorism threat or attack may seem unlikely, but the South Dakota Homeland Security Office is trying to get South Dakotans beyond the mentality that "nothing bad ever happens here." The current highly technological age provides for the continuous, deadly spread of the radical group ISIS. South Dakota Homeland Security is using those same technology resources for good, educating and informing South Dakotans what to be on the lookout for and how to report any suspicious activity. With the help from South Dakota citizens, state officials will hopefully be one step ahead, protecting the great state of South Dakota and those who live in it.

#### You Have One Job



A big  $\mbox{\bf THUMBS DOWN}$  to those county clerks refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Two weeks ago the Supreme Court — the highest judiciary in the country — proclaimed state bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. While most in positions of power have adhered to the ruling, many county clerks are refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex cou-

ples — or in some cases, to anyone — based solely on their religious beliefs in direct defiance of the ruling. Worse yet, there's substantial support for them with some states looking into protections for these clerks to NOT do their jobs if they feel it conflicts with their own personal religious beliefs. The fact of the matter is these clerks all took an oath which included a promise to uphold the laws and the Constitution of the United States of America. By defying the ruling, they are breaking their oath and proving themselves incapable of their jobs, and it could end up costing their constituents greatly in damages. These clerks have a few options — they should accept the ruling and do the jobs they promised their constituents they'd do, resign with dignity or face whatever professional consequences may come.

#### ONLINE OPINION

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

#### **LATEST RESULTS:**

Do you support refurbishing the grandstand and turf at Yankton's Crane Youngworth Field? TOTAL VOTES CAST ... .302 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 ac-

## **CURRENT QUESTION:**

curate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

Do you see the Confederate flag more as a symbol of racism or as a symbol

of cultural pride? 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, July 10, the 191st day of 2015. There are 174 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the Luftwaffe started attacking southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.) On this date: In 1509, theologian

John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Noyon, Picardy,

In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson

personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles to the Senate and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.) In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T.

Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was overturned on a technicality.) In 1929. American paper currency

was reduced in size as the government began issuing bills that were approximately 25 percent smaller. In 1943, during World War II, U.S. and

British forces invaded Sicily. In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong. In 1962, AT&T's Telstar 1 communi-

cations satellite, capable of relaying television signals and telephone calls, was launched by NASA from Cape Canaveral.
In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. John Paul Getty III, the teenage grandson of the oil tycoon, was abducted in Rome by kidnappers who cut off his ear when his family was slow

to meet their ransom demands: voung Getty was released in December 1973 for nearly \$3 million. In 1985, the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk with explosives in Auckland, New Zealand, by French intelligence agents: one activist was killed. Bowing to pressure from irate customers, the Coca-Cola Co. said

it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke. In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of

he Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 1999, the United States women's soccer team won the World Cup, beating

China 5-4 on penalty kicks after 120 minutes of scoreless play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Ten years ago: A search-and-rescue team found the body of a missing U.S.

commando in eastern Afghanistan, bring-

ing an end to the desperate search for

the last member of an ill-fated, four-man special forces unit that had disappeared the previous month. Nineteen-month-old ie Marie Pena was struck and killed by a SWAT team bullet during a shootout be tween Los Angeles police and her father, who was using the toddler as a shield; Jose Raul Pena also died. Hurricane Dennis roared quickly through the Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast with blinding squalls and crashing waves.

Five years ago: Robotic submarines removed a leaking cap from a gushing oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, sending crude flowing freely into the sea until BP installed a new seal that stopped the oil days later. Australia's Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde headed a class of seven inductees into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Grammy-winning country singer Carrie Underwood married NHL player Mike Fisher at a resort in Greensboro, Georgia.

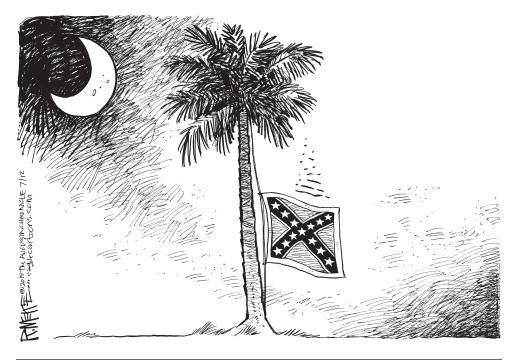
One year ago: Germany demanded that the CIA station chief in Berlin leave the country as a new round of allegations of U.S. espionage worsened friction be-

Today's Birthdays: Former boxer Jake LaMotta is 94. Writer-producer Earl Hamner Jr. is 92. Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 88. Actor William Smithers is 88. Broadway composer Jerry Herman is 84. Director Ívan Passer is 82. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 76. Singer Mavis Staples is 76. Actor Mills Watson is 75. Actor Robert Pine is 74. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 72. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 70. Actor Ron Glass is 70. Actress Sue Lvon is 69. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 68. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 66. Country-folk singer-song-writer Cheryl Wheeler is 64. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Bovs) is 61. Banio player Bela Fleck is 57. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 55. Actor Alec Mapa is 50. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 50. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 50. Actor Gale Harold is 46. Country singer Gary LeVox (Rascal Flatts) is 45. Actor Aaron D Spears is 44. Actress Sofia Vergara is 43. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 41. Actor Adrian Grenier is 39. Actor Chiwetel Eiiofor is 38. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 38 Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 35. Singeractress Jessica Simpson is 35. Rock musician John Spiker is 34. Actress Heather Hemmens is 31. Rapper/singer Angel Haze is 24. Pop singer Perrie Edwards

(Little Mix) is 22 Thought for Today: "The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action in mind." — Frank Herbert, American author (1920-1986).

#### FROM THE BIBLE

Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words." Daniel 10:12. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House,



# **Something In The Air**

Kelly

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

An old movie came to mind earlier this week. Specifically, it was the opening scene of the 1973 sci-fi flick, "Soylent Green, which served up a bleak introductory view of a futuristic New York City in a steamy world overrun with people and pollution, with the air so fouled by greenhouse gases that it hung over creation as a dirty, yellow haze.

Yankton reminded me of this Monday, except for the overwhelming population, the filthy streets, the whole dystopian vibe — well, most all of it apart from the air, which was rather atrocious.

Smoke pouring down from Cana-**HERTZ** dian wildfires engulfed much of the Midwest, reportedly spreading as far south as Tennessee. It produced an eerie haze that turned what should have been blue sky milky white. This wasn't the first time this summer we've dealt with such a smoke screen, but it was the first one I recall in which the smoke perfumed the air with an odor that wasn't nearly vomit-inducing, but it was pungent enough to suggest something was wrong someplace.

The next day, when the winds shifted and the jet stream drifted elsewhere, the skies were blue and the gorgeously mild air was smoke free. You couldn't have wished for a better summer day.

This contrast got me thinking how much we take air quality for granted out here in this marvelous middle of nowhere we call home. We don't have to deal with the industrial and human congestion found in urban centers. I was once told that spending a day outdoors breathing in the typical air in Los Angeles, for example, was the equivalent to smoking 11 cigarettes. That's why air quality warnings are issued in such places, especially for those who are susceptible to respiratory distress. (It should be noted that some local weather forecasts here late Monday included "patchy smoke" in their Tuesday outlooks.)

But even these locales pale when compared

to the air quality found (or not) in some Chinese cities, where brownish, sickly fog serves as a congested metaphor for unchecked economic ex pansion unfettered by environmental concerns. Images of people in masks going

about their daily affairs while the tops of skyscrapers vanish in a curtain of pollution are far closer to "Soylent Green's" unappetizing vision (well, that's nearly a spoiler) than anything we could ever dream of here.

And that may be why we take the quality of our air for granted out here on the windswept plains.

But we really shouldn't because there is more to our air than meets the eye. A search on the Internet turns up numerous surveys and assessments about South Dakota's air quality, which usually doesn't rank real high due to the use of chemicals in farming operations, the dust and the various emissions and aromas that come with living in the

farmland. ("That's the smell of money," someone usually tells me as I place my hand over my nose until I'm out of range of this aromatic cash cow.) And there are other industrial and non-industrial operations that also produce emissions that can impact the air we take into our lungs.

I understand the consternation a lot of people have with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over some of the rules it issues to minimize pollutants, but there are probably a few good reasons behind such things. While some of the rules may "overreach" and "kill jobs," or so some lawmakers proclaim in their press releases, it must be recognized that the alternative may not be real attractive or breathable, either.

Like the water and the soil, the air is an essential part of life and of living, and it's also fragile and needs care. Monday was a smoky reminder of that, mostly because it was such an anomaly. But sometimes there is more to air quality than what's right in front of us. Sometimes there are other kinds of fires we should be concerned about, even when there is no smoke at all.

Follow @kelly\_hertz on Twitter.

## **Does Trump Reflect GOP Views?**

Leonard

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

In 2006, then-Arizona State Sen. Russell Pearce advocated the return of a 1954 program for the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants. It was called 'Operation Wetback.' In 2010, Sen. David Vitter, Republican from Louisiana, released a

campaign ad that depicted a bunch of seedy-looking Mexicans, some with gang bandannas, slipping through a hole in a border fence to invade America. In 2011, Rep. Mo Brooks, Republican from Alabama, said of

undocumented immigrants: "I will **PITTS** do anything short of shooting them" to make them stop "taking jobs from American citizens." That same year, Republican presi-

dential contender Herman Cain vowed to build an electrified border fence that would shock Mexicans who sought to slip into the country.

In 2013, Rep. Steve King, Republican from Iowa, said that for every illegal immigrant who becomes a valedictorian, there are another hundred with "calves the size of cantaloupes" because they are drug mules.

Yet the party is shocked and offended by what Donald Trump said? Jeb Bush calls his recent comments on undocumented Mexican immigrants "extraordinarily ugly"? Sen. Marco Rubio finds them "not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive"? A major donor tells the Associated Press Trump should be excluded from the debates?

Beg pardon, but there is something rather precious in all this ostentatious umbrage. If you didn't know better, you might forget that the GOP has sought votes for years by stoking fear and anger toward Mexicans who enter this country illegally. If you weren't paying attention, you might not know that various Republican officials and pundits routinely characterize those people — most of them just dirt poor and trying to put bread on the table — as a diseaseridden invasion force of drug smugglers and gang members, not to mention pregnant women splashing across the Rio Grande in order to drop so-called "anchor babies" on U.S. soil.

This is not to say Trump's words were not ugly. They were. "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best," he said. "... They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems (to)

us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people."

But ugly as it was, Trump's xeno-phobia broke no new ground. So you have to wonder at the pious denunciations it is generating. You're tempted to say people are reacting like this because Trump was blunter than we are used to. On the other hand, there is nothing particularly subtle or ambiguous about threatening to shock Mexicans. Maybe folks weren't paying attention before.

It's worth noting that Trump's comments came as he announced his intention to run for president of

the United States, a nation whose last census found about 32 million of us identifying as Mexican-American (some, presumably, good people). Indeed, Mexican Americans are far and away the largest group under the umbrella rubric "Hispanic." All the Cuban-, Puerto Rican-, Argentinean- and Spanish-Americans combined don't equal the number of Mexican Americans in this country. So when the GOP talks about "Hispanic" outreach, it is, in a very real sense, talking Mexican-American outreach. Yet this "outreach" seems always to be overshadowed by insult.

The party seems not to realize that you can't have it both ways, can't insult people, then ask them to vote for you. How telling is it that, even as party elders assure us his remarks don't represent the GOP, Trump vaults to second place in the polling of Republican contenders? It's a truth that gives the lie to these proclamations of mortal affront.

It's hypocritical and unfair to put all this on Trump. He only repeated what his party's been saving all along.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@ miamiherald.com.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Caring For Canines**

John P. Blackburn, Yankton The incidents section of the June 30 *Press* and Dakotan Daily Record showed two reports of caring persons alerting the Yankton Police Department of dogs in vehicles with the windows either shut or almost shut. Thanks to those who cared enough to alert the authorities on behalf of these dogs.

And, thanks to the Yankton Police Department for following through and getting "relief" to these dogs. The owners are probably caring people who had a momentary lapse leaving their dog in the vehicle without proper ventilation. Thanks to all who gave the dogs relief.

**WRITE US:** Letters, Yankton Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078