

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
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## We Say

### Long-Distance Meeting



of fuzz or a cluster of disjointed pixels on telescope images. But the “dwarf planet” came into high-definition focus this week, as did some of its five tiny moons. The images have been eye-popping, as has the fact that mankind has at last explored the most distant reach of its own solar system. While this remote body may not get the respect it once did, it will still be considered by many people as one of this system’s nine planets. And thanks to NASA, it made a good case for itself this week.

### Tourism Trade



**THUMBS UP** to tourism and its prominent role in the region’s economy. South Dakota Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen visited the *Press & Dakotan* Thursday, talking about plans for promoting a wide variety of attractions for South Dakota and the southeast region in particular. The ideas ranged from outdoor recreation to sports events to festivals.

### Weather Effect



A hopeful **THUMBS UP** to recent reports that the El Niño phenomenon in the Pacific may be one of the strongest in recent memory. According to the Accuweather.com weather website, the phenomenon could be the strongest in the past 50 years. An El Niño is created when ocean water temperatures rise above normal in the central and eastern Pacific. One possible effect this could have is to flush warm, moist air across the west, particularly to California, which has been crippled by a historic drought. While the rainfall wouldn’t break the drought cycle, it could give the state a wet boost in the arm, Accuweather said. Another plus of a strong El Niño: It often creates a milder winter across the northern U.S. and southern Canada. And that sounds promising to us.

### Flying By



**THUMBS DOWN** to that annual mid-July realization that summer is too quickly flying by. We seem to reach July 4 so quickly, and then it’s a straight shot to the start of school and the looming shadows of autumn. Magnifying the matter this year (not counting the “back to school” displays already showing up in stores) is the fact that some of the corn in the area has already been tasseling for at least a week; quite often, this doesn’t occur until the very end of July. But our staff was given another sobering reminder of the time flying by Thursday when the sports department received the Yankton High School athletic calendar for the coming school year, and the first sports event is a soccer match on Aug. 14 — which is just more than three weeks away. Yes, times flies, even if most of us aren’t ready to give up on summer just yet.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

Do you agree with Donald Trump's views on illegal immigrants?

Yes.....58%  
No.....33%  
Not sure/not familiar with them.....9%  
TOTAL VOTES CAST .....322

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 support a tax levy in Yankton County to help pay for road and repairs bridge repairs and maintenance?

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 17, the 198th day of 2015. There are 167 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On July 17, 1945, following Nazi Germany's surrender, President Harry S. Truman, Soviet leader Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill began meeting at Potsdam in the final Allied summit of World War II.

**On this date:** In 1821, Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

In 1917, during World War I, the British royal family adopted the name " Windsor," replacing the German Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

In 1918, Russia's Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks.

In 1935, the entertainment trade publication Variety ran its legendary headline, "Sticks Nix Hick Pix" (which might be translated as, "Rural audiences reject rural-themed movies").

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War began as right-wing army generals launched a coup attempt against the Second Spanish Republic.

In 1944, during World War II, 320 men, two-thirds of them African-Americans, were killed when a pair of ammunition ships exploded at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California.

In 1955, Disneyland had its opening day in Anaheim, California.

In 1965, the Righteous Brothers single "Unchained Melody" by Alex North and Hy Zaret was released on the Philips label.

In 1975, an Apollo spaceship docked with a Soyuz spacecraft in orbit in the first superpower link-up of its kind.

In 1981, 114 people were killed when a pair of suspended walkways above the lobby of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed during a tea dance.

In 1996, TWA Flight 800, a Europe-bound Boeing 747, exploded and crashed off Long Island, New York, shortly after leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 230 people aboard.

In 1998, Nicholas II, last of the Romanov czars, was formally buried in Russia 80 years after he and his family were slain by the Bolsheviks.

**Ten years ago:** The Iraqi Special Tribunal filed its first criminal case against Saddam Hussein for a 1982 massacre of Shiites. Tiger Woods closed with a 2-under 70 to win the British Open for his tenth

career major. Sir Edward Heath, former British prime minister, died in Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, at age 89. Actress Geraldine Fitzgerald died in New York City at age 91.

**Five years ago:** Federal authorities in Puerto Rico arrested alleged drug kingpin Jose Figueroa Agosto after a decade-long chase through the Caribbean. Thousands of gays and lesbians from around Europe marched through Poland's capital, Warsaw, to demand equal rights and more tolerance in the heavily Roman Catholic nation.

**One year ago:** Eric Garner, an unarmed black man accused of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes, died shortly after being wrestled to the ground by New York City police officers; a videotape of the takedown showed Garner repeatedly saying, "I can't breathe." All 298 passengers and crew aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 were killed when the Boeing 777 was shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine; both Ukraine's government and pro-Russian separatists have denied responsibility for downing the aircraft. Microsoft announced the biggest layoffs in its 39-year history, outlining plans to cut 18,000 jobs. Legendary Broadway performer Elaine Stritch, 89, died in Birmingham, Michigan.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Donald Sutherland is 83. Actress-singer Diahann Carroll is 80. Comedian Tim Brooke-Taylor is 75. Rock musician Spencer Davis is 76. Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, is 68. Rock musician Terry "Geezer" Butler is 66. Actress Lucie Arnaz is 64. Actor David Hasselhoff is 63. Rock musician Fran Smith Jr. (The Hooters) is 63. German Chancellor Angela Merkel is 61. Television producer Mark Burnett is 55. Actress Nancy Giles is 55. Singer Regina Belle is 52. Rock musician Kim Shattuck is 52. Country singer Craig Morgan is 51. Rock musician Lou Barlow is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Susan Ashton is 48. Actor Andre Royo is 47. Actress Bitty Schram is 47. Actor Jason Clarke is 46. Singer JC (PM Dawn) is 44. Rapper Sole is 42. Country singer Luke Bryan is 39. Actor Eric Winter is 39. Hockey player Marc Savard is 38. Actor Mike Vogel is 36. Actor Tom Cullen is 30. Actor Brando Eaton is 29. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jeremiah is 28. Actress Summer Bishil is 27.

**Thought for Today:** "Modo et modo non habebant modum." (By and by never comes.) -- St. Augustine (A.D. 354-A.D. 430).

## FROM THE BIBLE

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. Hosea 2:14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

CAGUE CARTOONS



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# Look West, Yankton

BY KELLY HERTZ

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I received an email last week that made an interesting and quite accurate point about how we see the size of Yankton.

It seems that when government officials and reporters refer to Yankton's population, we usually put it terms of about 15,000 people. (The official 2010 census of the town is 14,454.) However, as the email pointed out, such references ignore the inhabitants of the lake area, which pushes the greater Yankton area population closer to the 20,000 neighborhood.

Our habitual math miscalculation is a handy lesson, because we often take for granted that the lake is part of Yankton's identity.

It was stated during the Highway 52 corridor meeting Monday that the area, defined generally as being south of Highway 50 to the lake, has an estimated population of about 4,000 people. (One county official thought this estimate might be a bit conservative, by the way.) While it is not technically a part of the municipality of Yankton, it abundantly feeds the city's sales tax coffers, not simply the county tax base.

On its own, the lake area is the second biggest town in the county and is a lot bigger than most municipalities in the state. (In fact, it has a larger population than at least 24 counties in South Dakota.)

But Monday's corridor meeting also served to highlight how undeveloped that area is. For instance, consider the aforementioned population facts and then bear in mind that the area has no sewer system serving it. Septic tanks rule in the lake area.

The Monday meeting was held to share with the public some proposals and visions for lake area development. This included a zoning plan and frontage and landscaping specs for a 650-foot corridor either side of Highway 52. Such a plan would also replace the development plan that's in place now, which is either no plan at all or too many plans. Instead, there is just patchwork of zoning designations with no real sense of continuity.

One member of the Highway 52 committee on hand at Monday's meeting said the area could be a "gold mine."

I've heard such lofty talk before: Some-

times, it's been justified; sometimes, it's goes nowhere. But if ever any place seemed primed for lucrative development, it's Yankton's lake area.

Sixty years ago, this land was a flood plain mostly used for farming. There was no "lake," of course, and as such, there was no significant tourism business. Residential developments were almost nonexistent. But now, it's something else completely. The area features one of the most popular state parks in South Dakota and a portion of a national park. There are people building all throughout the draws and bluffs that line the valley, and the removal (mostly) of the flood threat because of the dam has turned the riverside into prime property.

However, the case could also be made that this remains one of the most unrealized areas of potential in the state. The unfocused development, with its curious residential/business/agricultural mix, suggests there's a lack of definition and purpose in this place, which is to the detriment of Yankton County and Yankton city.

That's why the Highway 52 corridor proposal is so promising and necessary. Maybe it wouldn't be a gold mine, but development in this area would certainly create new sources of revenue for the county and for the city sales tax sector. It could enhance a local growth rate that has only inched along in recent decades.

And it could even be exciting, if you let yourself dream a bit. One drawing on display Monday night appeared to be a what-if conception of development in and around the Deer Boulevard vicinity. It showed a convention center, a business strip, a substantial housing development, parkland, athletic fields and so on. This was mostly a depiction of one possibility with no guarantees that any of it could happen as shown. But just the possibility was rather enticing to consider.

The Highway 52 corridor may be Yankton's next great developmental frontier. It won't happen instantly — it will likely take many years, even decades — but the creation of a vision at least points a way to the future. This is where Yankton, city and county, needs to look next. The opportunities and possibilities are simply too enticing to ignore.

Follow @kelly\_hertz on Twitter.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'Special Treatment'

Lois Keck, Crofton, Neb.

Recently, Kelly Hertz wrote a column ("Freedom is Hard," *Press & Dakotan*, July 3) about the Supreme Court decision on "gay marriage." He makes the statement that, "didn't same-sex couples face a form of persecution before last week's decision?"

I would like to point out that they did not face, to my knowledge, anything near that which is going on now. What "gay" business has faced the loss of their business, their home AND their life savings for refusing to do flowers for a same-sex "wedding," or faced a \$135,000 fine plus orders to not talk about it, because they refused to bake a cake for a same-sex "wedding" or fines and threat of loss of business, plus mandate to attend "therapy seasons" on same-sex lifestyle because they refused to bake a cake?

Or face the loss of their business simply because they refused to photograph a same-sex "wedding" or have to close down their park because they refused to allow a same-sex "wedding" at it? In none of these instances, was there not another avenue open to the "couple"? None of these people mentioned had refused to do other business with the "gays," none had treated them with hate or contempt.

No, all Christians are asking is that their beliefs also be respected, not at the loss of an-

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