

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | WE SAY

Master Plan



THUMBS UP to Yankton County and the South Dakota Department of Transportation for setting out to complete the Yankton County Transportation Master Plan. SRF Consulting is also assisting with the year-long planning process to identify problems with and ideas for the county's transportation system. That includes driving, bicycling, walking, transit and any other mode of travel people use. One point of note: The plan will not include the City of Yankton but does apply to the rest of the county. It is important for the public to weigh in during this process, and information on how to do that can be found at www.YanktonCountyPlan.com.

Weathering The Storm



We don't like to resort to commentary on the weather, but **THUMBS DOWN** to the violent storms that have ravaged our neighbors in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota during this past week. Heavy rains, hail, tornadoes, lightning and flooding have made their sometimes deadly mark on this region, and it has understandably rattled the nerves of even those who haven't been directly affected. We appreciate getting rain, but hopefully a more calm weather pattern arrives in the area soon.

New School Of Thought



THUMBS UP to this week's five-school meeting of Bloomfield, Wausa, Creighton, Plainview and Osmond, held at Northeast Community College (NECC) in Norfolk. As a five-school effort, the northeast Nebraska districts have gained national attention. Last Tuesday's meeting focused on building a strong curriculum serving not only students but also workforce development and the regional economy. In addition, the meeting discussed adult education and entrepreneurship. NECC officials have offered their assistance to the five schools. Will the districts eventually merge? School officials say that question is 3-5 years down the road. Meanwhile, we encourage the schools to maintain open lines of communication at their meetings and with their online site.

Time To Coal Down



THUMBS UP to a poll showing that 67 percent of respondents in a *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll either strongly or somewhat support new Environmental Protection Agency rules to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. This is an important step toward combatting climate change, and President Barack Obama had some poignant words about those who still question the existence of global warming: "When President Kennedy set us on a course for the moon, there were a number of people who made a serious case that it would be too expensive, that it would take too long. But nobody ignored the science. I don't remember anyone saying the moon wasn't there or that it was made of cheese."

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you believe the United States should become militarily involved with countering progress by militant extremists in Iraq?	
Yes	23%
No	69%
Not Sure	8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	286

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 use an online music streaming service such as Spotify, Pandora or Rdio?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, visit our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 20, the 171st day of 2014. There are 194 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 20, 1944, during World War II, Japanese naval forces retreated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea after suffering heavy losses to the victorious American fleet.

On this date: In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

In 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1921, U.S. Rep. Alice Mary Robertson, R-Okla., became the first woman to preside over a session of the House of Representatives.

In 1943, race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

In 1947, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, California, mansion of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the Supreme Court.)

In 1974, the film noir "Chinatown," starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1979, ABC News correspondent Bill Stewart was shot to death in Managua, Nicaragua, by a member of President Anastasio Somoza's national guard.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed National Bald Eagle Day.

In 1994, O.J. Simpson pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles to the killings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. Former Air Force pilot Dean Allen Melberg went on a shooting rampage at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Washington, killing four people and wounding 22 others before being killed by a military police sharpshooter.

Ten years ago: The Arab satellite TV network Al-Jazeera aired a videotape from al-Qaida-linked militants showing a South Korean hostage begging for his life and pleading with his government to withdraw troops from Iraq.

(The hostage, Kim Sun-il, was beheaded two days later.) Relief Goosen captured his second U.S. Open in four years at Shinnecock Hills.

Five years ago: Iranian music student Neda Agha Soltan, 27, was gunned down during election protests in Tehran; her dying moments were caught on video and circulated widely on the Internet, making her name a rallying cry for the opposition and sparking international outrage.

One year ago: In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, the Taliban proposed a deal in which they would free U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, held since 2009, in exchange for five of their most senior operatives at Guantanamo Bay. (Bergdahl was handed over on May 31, 2014.) The Food and Drug Administration approved unrestricted sales of the morning-after pill, lifting all age limits on the emergency contraceptive. The Miami Heat repeated as champions with a 95-88 victory over the San Antonio Spurs in Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Martin Landau is 86. Actress Bonnie Bartlett is 85. Actress Olympia Dukakis is 83. Actor James Tolkan is 83. Actor Danny Aiello is 81. Blues musician Lazy Lester is 81. Actor John Mahoney is 74. Movie director Stephen Frears is 73. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 72. Actor John McCook is 70. Singer Anne Murray is 69. TV personality Bob Vila is 68. Musician Andre Watts is 68. Actress Candy Clark is 67. Producer Tina Sinatra is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lionel Richie is 65. Actor John Goodman is 62. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 60. Pop musician John Taylor is 54. Rock musician Mark degli Antoni is 52. Rock musician Murphy Karges (Sugar Ray) is 47. Actress Nicole Kidman is 47. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan Tyminski is 47. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 46. Actor Peter Paige is 45. Actor Josh Lucas is 43. Rock musician Jeordie White (AKA Twigg Ramirez) is 43. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 41. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 37. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 35. Country musician Chris Thompson (The Eli Young Band) is 34. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 31. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & The Nocturnals) is 31. Actor Mark Saul is 29. Actress Dreama Walker is 28. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse is 25. Actress Maria Lark is 17.

Thought for Today: "A man's errors are his portals of discovery." — James Joyce, Irish poet (1882-1941).

FROM THE BIBLE

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him ... to the LORD. Luke 2:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

TRAUMATIC BRAND INJURY



Casey Kasem: Late DJ Square Enough To Be Hip

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

The Miami Herald (MCT)

He remembered everything about that night. He remembered the song they slow danced to — "You Are My Lady." He remembered the play of the lights in her hair as he held her. He remembered her eyes as she looked up at him. He remembered wanting to spend the rest of his life with her.

But it wasn't to be. Before they made it to forever, she died of cancer. So would Casey please play "You Are My Lady" in memory of that angel who was lost too soon?

I may have rolled my eyes as I edited that listener's letter to be read on the air by Casey Kasem, who died on Father's Day at age 82 after suffering from dementia. We rolled our eyes a lot in the offices of Casey's Top 40, the radio show he hosted after leaving American Top 40 — in a contract dispute.

We rolled our eyes at the schmaltz of R&Ds — Requests and Dedications — like the one recalled above. We rolled our eyes at the arcane and minutiae of pop-chart trivia we were required to master. We rolled our eyes as we leaped through rock magazines, searching for anecdotes on the lives of debauched young stars that we could spin into the tales of pluck and success Casey loved. ("Coming up, a rocker from Cleveland who slept on bus benches while chasing his musical dreams ...")

We rolled our eyes. Then we did it his way. Invariably, when people find out I once worked for Casey, they ask about the infamous outtake — you can find it online — where he's cursing and ranting about a script that requires an impossible transition from an up-tempo record to a letter from a guy whose dog has died. They want to know if that's the way he really was.

In a word, no. I saw him every Thursday (production day) for over two years — late '80s, early '90s. The worst thing he ever gave me was a reproachful look — Casey was a hard-core vegan — when he saw me scarfing barbecue chicken pizza.

Otherwise, the Casey I knew was remarkably at one with the Casey we mourn this

week. That Casey is probably best summed up in the words of the philosopher Huey Lewis who said, "It's hip to be square."

And human beings did not come at sharper right angles than Kemal Amin Kasem, a grocer's son from Detroit turned DJ who, in 1970, launched American Top 40, a radio show counting down the top singles of the week. It was precisely the wrong time for that show. Radio was abandoning singles in favor of album-oriented playlists. And it was silly to think a nation still bloody from the 1960s would want to hear Horatio Alger tales and a corny signoff: "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars," indeed.

People who knew about such things rolled their eyes.

But Casey had the last laugh. By the time he signed off for the last time in 2009, he was a radio icon — and also a television icon, the voice of Shaggy from the Scooby Doo cartoons.

Like Dick Clark and Fred Rogers, Casey understood something we often forget about our national character. For all the cynicism of our people, all the balkanization of our politics, all the studied disaffection of our celebrities, all our pose and pretense of being over it, Americans bend toward optimism. Toward hope and pluck. And toward a moving story, well told.

I sat in the studio the next day as Casey read the listener's letter in that husky, avuncular, instantly familiar voice. He killed it, of course. To this day, in fact, I think of that poor guy slow dancing with his doomed girl whenever "You Are My Lady" is played. That song was by Freddie Jackson — a former gospel singer from Harlem who used to sing backup for Melba Moore — and it peaked at No. 12 on the pop charts.

But the story was told by Casey Kasem, a grocer's son from Detroit who was square enough to be hip while other people rolled their eyes. He went all the way to No. 1.

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the *Miami Herald*, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172. Readers may write to him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

The Hard Lessons of Iraq

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

Nearly 5,000 of our fine men and women died in Iraq.

Who's going to explain Iraq to their loved ones now?

Who's going to explain why, if it was so important that we had to go to Iraq in 2003, we just walked away?

Iraq is back in our living rooms every night. Only this time, it's not a prime-time miniseries about how American military superiority topples the bad guy and democratizes a brutal dictatorship.

This time it's about a war with another bad ending for the United States — another Vietnam.

We're watching the Iraqi government we created and propped up with billions being humiliated by a bunch of Muslim extremists in pickup trucks.

A third of Iraq is in the hands of ISIS. The Iraqi army, like the South Vietnamese army we trained before we bailed out of Vietnam, dropped their weapons, stripped off their uniforms and pretended to be plumbers.

How can the families of our dead and wounded soldiers stand watching Iraq split into three parts and descend into a bloody sectarian Hell again?

I feel so sorry for the military families. What do you say now to a Gold Star Mother who lost her child fighting in Iraq?

Can you explain to her what her son died for? Or explain why we wasted 5,000 American lives and spent a trillion dollars there — and then left?

What was it that was so vital to our national interest that we went there in the first place?

If the whole idea of going to Iraq simply was to get rid of Saddam Hussein and his invisible weapons of mass destruction, we should have just sent some Special Forces guys in to do the job in the middle of the night.

Or we could have dropped a few smart bombs on Saddam's favorite palace, the way my father did with Gaddafi in Libya in 1986. We didn't kill Moammar, but after that he didn't misbehave.

I had serious doubts about the United States going to war in Iraq in 2003. But I joined the bipartisan parade and supported the commander in chief.

I figured George W. Bush knew more than I did about the situation in the Middle East. I also figured he had lots of good reasons to go to war and assumed his administration knew what it was going to do after our easy military victory.

The Bush II administration thought it was going to reengineer Iraq into a democracy where Sunni, Shia and Kurd would live in peace and harmony like Germans, Italians and French do in Switzerland.

My friend David Hackworth, who died in 2005, knew better. He was the most decorated soldier in the history of the United States, a critic of the military and a great military journalist.

"David," I once asked him, "when will there be peace in the Middle East?" His answer was blunt — "When they're all dead."

I'm afraid "Hack" was right. The most powerful country on Earth hasn't been able to force peace to break out in the Middle East — or even just Iraq.

What's happening before our eyes in Iraq can be blamed on lots of people. Obama's Number One on my Top 10 list.

But we conservatives have to take a lot of the blame too. It was us who supported going to war in Iraq in the first place, even though Bush 43 didn't have an entrance strategy or an exit strategy.

Back in 2003 I believe I really knew in my heart that Iraq was a bad idea. But I took the conservative position of supporting the president on military and defense matters. I thought it was a good idea for us to go over there and kick Saddam's butt.

As a conservative who supported the war in Iraq and my president, I apologize to all of the families of those killed or wounded in Iraq.

Going to war in Iraq seemed so right at the time. But I didn't think it through and neither did Washington. Next time, I promise I'll know better. Can Washington make that same promise?

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.michaeleregan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reagan-world on Twitter.