

# The Press & Dakotan

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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:  
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WEBSITE:  
www.yankton.net

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OPINION

## HSC Property: Past And Future

The recently announced purchase of Humans Services Center property by the City of Yankton revives the intriguing dialogue about one of the choicest pieces of real estate in Yankton.

That land sits at 31st and Broadway. The fact that it is such a prime and attractive place actually says a lot about the past and the future of this community.

The future, clearly, seems clear now that the city has purchased the approximately 11 acres, to go along with more than 30 acres that were purchased previously. These sales now put the city in control of land that should be awfully attractive to potentially developers.

As we've stated in this space before — and as should be quite obvious to anyone who has even an inkling of Yankton's growth pattern — 31st and Broadway is the new commercial crossroads of this town. There has been growth, both commercial and residential, all around it the last two decades, starting with the Fox Run development in the early 1990s. This is the city's new commercial hub.

This offers a stark contrast with the past. More than a century ago, this real estate was located well out of town, far from the river highway and the bustling downtown business district. It seemed a good, relatively distant place for the HSC — or, the "state hospital," which is one of the kinder terms to hail from an antiquated vernacular.

But the town has grown northward, and the 31st and Broadway intersection (calling it the Highway 50/Highway 81 north intersection doesn't seem sufficiently urban enough now) has gone from the "countryside" to the outskirts to the centerpiece of the community's expanding reach.

It's also the home of a soccer complex, and that issue created some animated discussion a couple of years ago when the city purchased the 30-acre parcel of land and announced its interest in developing the property for potential commercial purposes. That discussion will certainly rekindle now that the property has been expanded and squared off.

That's the next step in the process of whatever this property will become. Perhaps it will remain the busy soccer complex it has been for several years — made all the busier now that Yankton High School has added a soccer program — but to be blunt, that doesn't seem real likely. That will be especially true if a developer comes in with a plan that could transform that land into something that could create fresh possibilities for the community. At any rate, city officials seem ready to talk about this and explore alternatives. Whether there will be a similar willingness on the part of soccer groups, who have poured a lot of energy into making these great facilities, is uncertain. But one suspects and understanding will someday be reached.

With this purchase, Yankton controls another piece of its economic destiny. That future may not arrive this year or next, but it will one day come, and this property at 31st and Broadway will serve as a springboard that could pay great benefits for everyone.

kml

## D.C. LAWMAKERS

### SOUTH DAKOTA

**SEN. JOHN THUNE:** United States Senate SR-493, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (866) 850-3855; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 334-9596; Fax: (202) 228-3855; Web: thune.senate.gov.

**SEN. MIKE ROUNDS:** 502 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: 202-224-5842; D.C. Fax: 202-224-7482; Sioux Falls Phone: 605-336-0486; S.D. Fax: 605-336-6624; email: N/A

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### NEBRASKA

**SEN. DEB FISCHER:** 825 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-6551; email: N/A

**SEN. BEN SASSE:** B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-4224; email: N/A

**REP. ADRIAN SMITH:** 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-2703; Washington Phone: (202) 225-6435; Fax: (202) 225-0207; District Phone: (308) 633-6333; email: log on at www.house.gov/writerep/

## IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 3, the 154th day of 2015. There are 211 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On June 3, 1965, astronaut Edward H. White became the first American to "walk" in space during the flight of Gemini 4.

**On this date:** In 1621, the Dutch West India Co. received its charter for a trade monopoly in parts of the Americas and Africa.

In 1808, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was born in Christian County, Kentucky.

In 1888, the poem "Casey at the Bat," by Ernest Lawrence Thayer, was first published in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.

In 1924, author Franz Kafka, 40, died near Vienna.

In 1935, the French liner Normandie set a record on its maiden voyage, arriving in New York after crossing the Atlantic in just four days.

In 1937, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Warfield Simpson in a private ceremony in Monts, France.

In 1948, the 200-inch reflecting Hale Telescope at the Palomar Mountain Observatory in California was dedicated.

In 1955, convicted murderer Barbara Graham, 31, was executed in the gas chamber at San Quentin State Prison in California, as were two accomplices, Jack Santo and Emmett Perkins, for the 1953 slaying of Mabel Monahan.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII died at age 81; he was succeeded by Pope Paul VI.

In 1972, Sally J. Priesand was ordained as America's first female rabbi at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1983, Gordon Kahl, a militant tax protester wanted in the slayings of two U.S. marshals in North Dakota, was killed in a gun battle with law-enforcement officials near Smithville, Arkansas.

In 1989, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died. Chinese army troops began their sweep of Beijing to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations. SkyDome (now called Rogers Centre) opened in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Ten years ago:** U.S. military officials said no guard at the Guantanamo Bay prison for terror suspects had flushed a detainee's Quran down the toilet, but disclosed there were instances in which Qurans were abused by guards, intention-

ally or accidentally. The child molestation case against Michael Jackson went to the jury after the defense concluded its closing argument (Jackson was acquitted).

**Five years ago:** BP sliced off a pipe with giant shears to make way for a cap in the latest bid to curtail the worst oil spill in U.S. history. During an Oval Office face-off over illegal immigration, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer told President Barack Obama Americans "want our border secured" while Obama underscored his objections over the tough immigration law Brewer had signed, calling it discriminatory. Joran van der Sloot, long suspected in the 2005 disappearance of Alabama teen Natalee Holloway in Aruba, was arrested in Chile following the slaying of 21-year-old Stephany Flores in Peru. (Van der Sloot is serving a 28-year sentence for Flores' murder.) Emmy-winning actress Rue McClanahan, 76, died in New York.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama arrived in Warsaw, Poland, at the start of a three-country swing, pledging to boost U.S. military deployments and exercises throughout Europe. Tens of thousands of Syrians in government-controlled cities voted to give President Bashar Assad a new seven-year mandate; the opposition and its Western allies denounced the election as a farce, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry calling it a "great big zero."

**Today's Birthdays:** TV producer Chuck Barris is 86. The president of Cuba, Raul Castro, is 84. Actress Irma P. Hall is 80. Author Larry McMurtry is 79. Rock singer Ian Hunter (Mott The Hoople) is 76. Actress Penelope Wilton (TV: "Downton Abbey") is 69. Singer Eddie Holman is 69. Actor Tristan Rogers is 69. Musician Too Slim (Riders in the Sky) is 67. Rock musician Richard Moore is 66. Singer Suzi Quatro is 65. Singer Deneice Williams is 64. Singer Dan Hill is 61. Actress Suzie Plakson is 57. Actor Scott Valentine is 57. Rock musician Kerry King (Slayer) is 51. Rock singer-musician Mike Gordon is 50. TV host Anderson Cooper is 48. Country singer Jamie O'Neal is 47. Singers Ariel and Gabriel Hernandez (No Mercy) are 44. Actor Vik Sahay is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lyfe Jennings is 42. Actress Arianna Zucker is 41. Actress Nikki M. James is 34. Tennis player Rafael Nadal is 29. Actress-singer Lalaine is 28. Actor Sean Berdy is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "It is best to act with confidence, no matter how little right you have to it." — Lillian Hellman, American playwright (1905-1984).

## FROM THE BIBLE

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:19. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



## Robert B. Reich

# A State Of Disaster

BY ROBERT B. REICH  
Tribune Content Agency



Robert B. REICH

As extreme weather marked by tornadoes and flooding continues to sweep across Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott has requested — and President Obama has granted — federal help.

I don't begrudge Texas billions of dollars in disaster relief. After all, we're all part of America. When some of us are in need, we all have a duty to respond.

But the flow of federal money poses a bit of awkwardness for the Lone Star State.

Just over a month ago, hundreds of Texans decided that a pending Navy SEAL/Green Beret joint training exercise was really an excuse to take over the state and impose martial law. And they claimed the Federal Emergency Management Agency was erecting prison camps, readying Wal-Mart stores as processing centers for political prisoners.

There are nut cases everywhere, but Abbott added to that particular outpouring of paranoia by ordering the Texas State Guard to monitor the military exercise. "It is important that Texans know their safety, constitutional rights, private property rights and civil liberties will not be infringed upon," he said. In other words, he'd protect Texans from this federal plot.

Now, Abbott wants federal money. And the Federal Emergency Management Agency is gearing up for a major role in the cleanup — including places like Bastrop, Texas, where the Bastrop State Park dam failed, and where, just five weeks ago, a U.S. Army colonel trying to explain the pending military exercise was shouted down by hundreds of self-described patriots shouting "Liar!"

Texans dislike the federal government even more than most other Americans do. According to a February poll conducted by the University of Texas and the *Texas Tribune*, only 23 percent of Texans view the federal government favorably, while 57 percent view it unfavorably, including more than a third who hold a "very unfavorable" view.

Texas dislikes the federal government so much that eight of its congressional representatives, along with Sen. Ted Cruz, opposed disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Sandy — adding to the awkwardness of their lobbying for the federal relief now heading Texas' way.

Yet even before the current floods, Texas had received more disaster relief than any other state, according to a study by the Center for American Progress. (The study covered the two-year period from 2011 to 2012.) That's not simply because the state is so large. It's also because Texas is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather — tornadoes on the plains, hurricanes in the Gulf, flooding across its middle and south.

Given this, you might also think Texas would take climate change especially serious-

ly. But here again, there's cognitive dissonance between what the state needs and how its officials act.

Among the state's infamous climate-change deniers is Lamar Smith, chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, who dismissed last year's report by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as "more political than scientific," and the White House report on the urgency of addressing climate change as designed "to frighten Americans."

Smith is still at it. His committee just slashed by more than 20 percent NASA's spending on earth science, which includes climate change.

It's of course possible that Texas' current record rainfalls — the National Weather Service reports that the downpour in May alone was enough to put the entire state under 8 inches of water — has nothing to do with the kind of extreme weather

we're witnessing elsewhere in the nation, such as the West's current drought, the North's record winter snowfall and flooding elsewhere.

But you'd have to be nuts not to at least be curious about such a connection and its relationship to the carbon dioxide humans have been spewing into the atmosphere.

Consider also the consequences for the public's health. Several deaths in Texas have been linked to the extreme weather. Many Texans have been injured by it, directly or indirectly. Poor residents are particularly in peril because they live in areas prone to flooding or in flimsy houses and trailers that can be washed or blown away.

What's Texas's response? Texas officials continue to turn down federal funds to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, thereby denying insurance to more than 1 million people and preventing the state from receiving an estimated \$100 billion in federal cash over the next decade.

I don't want to pick on Texas. Its officials are not alone in hating the federal government, denying climate change and refusing to insure its poor. And I certainly don't want to suggest that all Texans are implicated. Obviously, many thoughtful and reasonable people reside there.

Yet Texans have elected people who seem not to have a clue. Indeed, Texas has done more in recent years to institutionalize irrationality than almost anywhere else in America — thereby imposing a huge burden on its citizens.

How many natural disasters will it take for the Lone Star State to wake up to the disaster of its elected officials?

*Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on Netflix, iTunes and Amazon.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Grateful Teacher

**Beth Kaltsulas, Yankton Teacher, Yankton Middle School**  
Thank you to the Teacher Recognition Social committee members who planned and organized a wonderful evening for the Yankton School District employees recently. Congratulations to this year's retirees and service award winners. A big thank-you to Farm Credit Services of America represented by Neil Connot, who donated and presented me with the Teacher of the Year cash prize.

We teachers appreciate such support and generosity from our business community.

Teaching today's youth seems to be more challenging every year, so being recognized for my work is very rewarding.

I appreciate the kind words, cards and congrats that I have received from my colleagues and the Yankton community. I was proud to stand among the Teacher of the Year finalists — all of whom are dedicated and hardworking. I am grateful that Yankton's youth continue to receive a quality education from experienced educators.

## P&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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.

### A Slice Of Assistance

**Yankton CCFA Support Group**  
A BIG thank you goes out to Pizza Ranch for allowing the Crohn's & Colitis group to work at clearing tables Monday night May 11. A special thank you to Donna and Tom Steffen for joining our group and helping out. We had an awesome time meeting and promoting the CCFA to all of the wonderful customers.

Thank you family, friends and customers for your wonderful support both in word and monetary.

We will be putting all the funds collected from Pizza Ranch and the customers toward our South Dakota Take Steps Walk Saturday, June 6, at 3:30 p.m. at Falls Park in Sioux Falls. We are proud to say 82 cents of every dollar we collect goes toward research & development of new medications, for local education and sending youth to CCFA Camp Oasis.

Again, thank you, Pizza Ranch, for your help supporting our non-profit organization CCFA.

- 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 us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.