

The Press & Dakotan

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We Say

Financial Awards



THUMBS UP to Yankton Finance Officer Al Viereck for being recognized with the 2015 South Dakota Municipal League Finance Officer of the Year Award last week. Viereck has been in city government for more than 17 years and an award like this goes to show the kind of work the city staff in Yankton does for the community. However, it's also a reflection not only of the dedication and hard work he has put into the job, but his talent at guidance. He has served as basically the interim city manager when that slot has been open, and he has worked diligently to train the new people who have stepped into that slot. Viereck is a man of many talents, and he is most deserving of this honor. Congratulations!

Education Work



THUMBS UP to the strong showing of interest that was shown Wednesday when the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Education convened at the Yankton High School Commons for three sessions. The session for educators attracted nearly 150 people and produced a lot of discussion on what can be done to best address education funding in the state. Of course, it was quite apparent that there are more questions than answers and many problems seeking solutions. Hopefully, these meetings across the state produce a momentum to address these matters on the legislative level.

Passing The Tests



THUMBS UP to the news Thursday that a Knox County chicken egg facility is having its quarantine lifted after testing negative for the presence of avian flu. The facility had been under quarantine since late last month after suspicions of the disease's presence arose. The flock of 3 million birds was tested daily and came back clean. The rigorous regimen that aims to contain the spread of this disease may be working, as it appears the spread of the disease is slowing greatly. (A fifth confirmed case was reported Tuesday in Dixon County among birds that were already being destroyed as a precautionary measure.) Hopefully, there will be more victories like the Knox County case to come as ag officials and producers work to get a handle on this situation.

The Toll



THUMBS DOWN, however, to those still feeling the impact of the avian flu outbreak, which as a broader reach than one may think. There have been reports about what it is doing to egg prices and poultry prices. (The Associated Press reported this week that chicken prices are actually falling here because other countries are banning their importation.) It is also created an economic impact on the producers hit by this. And there are the employees impacted: This week Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad estimated that more than 1,500 workers in the Hawkeye State may lose their jobs because of the outbreak, and he is asking President Barack Obama to declare a major disaster. While the spread of the disease is slowing, the fallout may continue for some time to come.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think the U.S. and its allies are losing the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS)?

Yes.....	66%
No.....	20%
Not sure.....	14%

TOTAL VOTES CAST.....258

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 think the Minnesota Twins can make the playoffs?
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, June 19, the 170th day of 2015. There are 195 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 19, 1865, Union troops commanded by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free, an event celebrated to this day as "Juneteenth."

On this date: In 1764, Jose Gerovasio Artigas, considered the father of Uruguayan independence, was born in Montevideo.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Confederate sloop-of-war CSS Alabama was sunk by the USS Kearsarge (also a sloop-of-war) off Cherbourg, France.

In 1910, the first-ever Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington. (The idea for the observance is credited to Sonora Louise Smart Dodd.)

In 1934, the Federal Communications Commission was created; it replaced the Federal Radio Commission.

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

In 1945, millions of New Yorkers turned out to cheer Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was honored with a parade.

In 1953, Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes, blamed for at least 122 deaths, made landfall over the Florida Panhandle.

In 1975, former Chicago organized crime boss Sam Giancana was shot to death in the basement of his home in Oak Park, Illinois; the killing has never been solved.

In 1986, University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, the first draft pick of the Boston Celtics, suffered a fatal cocaine-induced seizure. Artificial heart recipient Murray P. Hayden died in Louisville, Kentucky, after 16 months on the manmade pump.

In 1999, author Stephen King was seriously injured when he was struck by a van driven by Bryan Smith in North Lovell, Maine. Britain's Prince Edward married commoner Sophie Rhys-Jones (rees johnz) in Windsor, England.

Ten years ago: Fighting raged across southern Afghanistan as the U.S. military pounded suspected Taliban positions with airstrikes. Michael Campbell

answered every challenge Tiger Woods threw his way for a two-shot victory in the U.S. Open. Fourteen Formula One drivers refused to participate in the United States Grand Prix because of unresolved concerns over the safety of their Michelin tires. (The race was won by Michael Schumacher, one of six drivers who raced using Bridgestone tires.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address to pin blame on Republicans for making life harder for the unemployed and for those who could lose their jobs without new federal intervention. Former NBA player Manute Bol, 47, died in Charlottesville, Virginia, after returning from a humanitarian trip to his birth country of Sudan.

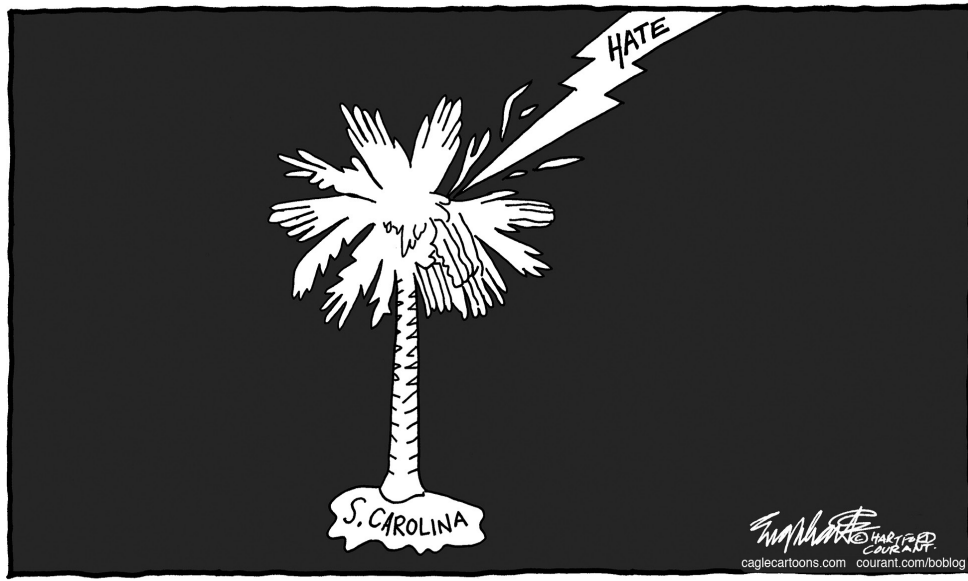
One year ago: President Barack Obama announced he was dispatching 300 U.S. military advisers to Iraq to help quell a rising insurgency. Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California won election as House majority leader as Republicans shuffled their leadership in the wake of Rep. Eric Cantor's primary defeat in Virginia. Gerry Goffin, 75, a prolific and multi-dimensional lyricist who with his then-wife and songwriter partner Carole King wrote such hits as "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman," "Up On The Roof," and "The Locomotion," died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Pop singer Tommy DeVito (The Four Seasons) is 87. Actress Gena Rowlands is 85. Hall of Fame race car driver Shirley Muldowney is 75. Singer Spunky McFarlane (Spunky and Our Gang) is 73. Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi is 70. Author Salman Rushdie is 68. Actress Phylicia Rashad is 67. Rock singer Ann Wilson (Heart) is 65. Musician Larry Dunn is 62. Actress Kathleen Turner is 61. Country singer Doug Stone is 59. Singer Mark DeBarge is 56. Singer-dancer-choreographer Paula Abdul is 53. Actor Andy Lau is 52. Rock singer-musician Brian Vander Ark (Verve Pipe) is 51. Actor Samuel West is 49. Actress Mia Sara is 48. TV personality Lara Spencer is 46. Rock musician Brian "Head" Welch is 45. Actor Jean Dujardin is 43. Actress Robin Tunney is 43. Actor Bumper Robinson is 41. Actress Poppy Montgomery is 40. Alt-country singer-musician Scott Avett (The Avett Brothers) is 39. Actor Ryan Hurst is 39. Actress Zoe Saldana is 37. Actress Lauren Lee Smith is 35. Rapper Macklemore (Macklemore and Ryan Lewis) is 32. Actor Paul Dano is 31. Actor Giacomo Gianniotti is 26. Actor Atticus Shaffer is 17.

Thought for Today: "Exuberance is better than taste." — Gustave Flaubert, French author (1821-1880).

FROM THE BIBLE

But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. Psalm 3:3. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Kelly Hertz

Dead Reckoning

BY KELLY HERTZ

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There are many great experiences that can come with being a journalist. The list includes meeting newsmakers such as politicians and candidates (which is, contrary to the reflexive disdain some people feel toward such souls, kind of a rush), getting access to a lot of special events like the World Archery Youth Championships and never knowing what new challenge or drama each day may bring.

But there is another aspect to this profession that's hard to handle, even though it's inescapable and, out of necessity, grimly irresistible.

Through many years, I've seen a few dead bodies. These have been admittedly rare events, but the memories of these instances stay with me. It's a part of this job that I never bargained on or wanted to experience. You can't prepare for it in journalism school or in a reporting class. What you see on TV or in movies is a pale imitation of the real thing. The situations just happen, and you alone must deal with them in whatever way you can.

I've seen the dead lying in ditches and trapped in cars.

I've seen them pulled from burning buildings and from cold river waters.

I've even seen one on a football field, which I've written about before. That incident occurred back in the 1980s when a referee died during a state championship football game in Vermillion. But it still feels like last week to me sometimes.

I ran into such a scenario again this week out at the lake. Listening to the emergency scanner at our office, I heard that someone had gone missing in the river at the marina. When the newspaper was finally wrapped up for the night, I drove out there expecting to find a search operation mobilizing. But when I arrived, I saw a group of emergency personnel bringing something up from one of the docks. The something, it turned out, was someone ...

I still recall the first time I saw a corpse in this line of work. It was at a traffic accident many years ago, and I watched as paramedics worked frantically but futilely to bring this person back from whatever brink the victim had already passed.

I can't tell you exactly, or even inexactly, how many others I've seen in the decades since. I lost count after the first one.

Point Of View

My Daughter Hated The 'H' Word

BY PAT GRANT

Yankton

My daughter Misti would be 38 this year, but she died in 2010 after suffering from Huntington's Disease.

When a family faces such a trial, it becomes a learning experience. One of the many things we learned from Misti is that words do matter — despite the "sticks and stones" poem that we're taught as children. Words can hurt.

Misti lived with her little girl in an apartment on Memory Lane. One day, the apartment manager called me to say that there were some women who wanted to report Misti for carrying her baby while she was intoxicated. They thought she was drunk. It was such a blow to Misti.

She was also referred to as handicapped. She thought about the word and the definition, and one day she told me, "You know, you get handicaps in golf, horse racing and bowling. They are gifts you're given to equalize a game. I wasn't given a gift or a handicap, I have a disease that has caused a disability."

Misti was a client at Prairie Freedom Center (now it's called Independent Living Choices) so she spoke to the director there and she helped Misti contact the city. Dan Specht was the mayor and he understood immediately and created a Disability Education and Awareness Committee. Adam Haberman and Mary Robb of the city staff also were very encouraging and helpful.

The committee worked hard to change signage that used the word "Handicap," replacing it with a new symbol for accessibility that features the wheelchair icon. Our city has also worked hard to reshape the curbs so the sidewalks are friendlier not just of people in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Sad Loss

EDITOR'S NOTE: The March 5 edition of the Press & Dakotan reported on a dog named Asia and six surviving newborn puppies that had been found in subzero temperatures near Wagner. The dog and the puppies survived the ordeal and sent to a foster home for care. This is a follow-up to that story.

Tonya Graff, Yankton

It is with great sadness that we wanted to tell you all that our dear rescue dog Asia had an emergency visit to the vet on Friday, May 22, after her foster home reported her not acting normal and seeming to be in pain. Our vet saw her in Vermillion and discovered she had a temp of 104. Fearing that she may have uterine stump pyometra, she said the only thing to do is open her back up and see what was causing this. They took her over to Hartington where another vet came in to do the surgery and discovered she had an extremely large tumor on her kidney.

The situations are always different — the circumstances, the time of day, the myriad other details that comprise what is logged as an "incident" — and yet, they always seem the same.

There is something virally wordless about these moments. On Tuesday night, there had probably been a lot of talking — the issuing of orders, the coordination of divers, random chatter — but then it all fell mostly silent as the final consequence was presented. Nothing needed to be said, I suppose.

For me, my instinct is to believe that what I'm seeing ISN'T happening until I'm told otherwise, usually by law enforcement or emergency personnel. Then my denial turns into a chilly realization, a numb feeling that burrows down into my soul.

I usually lose track of everything else going on at this point, as the world briefly dims into a blur of inconsequence. Whatever I'd been working on at the office or mulling over while driving out to the incident suddenly seems a thousand miles away.

That's because I keep thinking about it. I think about it as I drive back to the office. I think about it while I'm sorting through photos or editing stories. I think about it when I'm lying in bed later that night.

That's part of my job, too.

(I often wonder about how emergency personnel and law enforcement deal with these things. Yes, they may expect it, as per their training, but it still must take a toll. If they could casually shut it out or easily dismiss what they see, they probably wouldn't be in such lines of public service in the first place.)

These sights that I sometimes encounter don't plant happy or comfortable thoughts in my head, but they do serve a purpose. They remind me of the paper-thin fragility of life and the occasional, unexpected suddenness of the end. They show me how fate can turn in a moment you never see coming. They make me want to hold tighter not just to life but also to living, which are two different things.

Each experience like this passes eventually. The image is mentally filed away as the next day dawns and new missions arise. That's another fortunate thing about my job, I suppose: The disease can also be the cure.

But it never prepares you for the next time. And honestly, there is no getting used to that part of this profession. Ever.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

wheelchairs, but for people with canes and for bicyclists and all of us.

Randy Bylander and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital have also been wonderful. I talked to him about the "Handicap" signage one morning, and the signs were being changed that afternoon. Wal-mart, Hy-Vee and many other places have hurried to change their signs.

I am so thankful that I live in a city like Yankton where people care enough to make such changes. But the job isn't finished. There are still signs in parking lots that use the word "Handicap," and while it may be just a word to you it is the "H" word to many of our friends and neighbors living with a disability.

The origin of the word is "cap in hand," someone sitting by the road begging for your pity.

Misti never wanted our pity. She wanted an opportunity to live to her full potential, despite her disability, for as long as possible. She and many others across the United States viewed the "H" word as a negative label.

A disability is just part of what a person is — like being tall or short or skinny. It's no reason to be proud or ashamed.

I write this only to ask all other businesses in Yankton to please consider replacing their "H" signs with signs that feature the new international symbol for accessibility. The signs can be found very easily at Ace Hardware, and probably elsewhere in town.

Thanks to everyone in Yankton who cares about people like my daughter and all the others who have lived with disabilities.

Pat Grant works at a local convenience store. She served on the city's awareness committee.