

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:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net

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kathy.larson@yankton.net

OPINION

County Town Hall Idea A Good One

The Yankton County Commission is on to an old idea — and a good idea — by considering town hall meetings in other communities in the county.

This would be a prudent move that recognizes the fact that there is more to Yankton County than Yankton, the lake area and anyone residing within sight of town.

Yes, it is a time investment on the part of the commissioners, but it only mirrors the investment that residents in outlying areas would have to make in order to voice their concerns to the commission.

Having county commissioners get out to area towns to hear the concerns of locals is more than just an obligatory gesture. It would help address some points of division within the county.

As we've stated before, there's a feeling in parts of this county that Yankton County operations are too Yankton city-centric. Usually, a majority of the county commissioners hail from Yankton or right next to it. As a result, there can sometimes be the perception that county officials and county services are far more responsive to the needs closest to Yankton than they are to the needs found in, say, the corners of the county. As such, there is sometimes a sense of distrust of county government and its operations, which some may feel are more tied to the immediate vicinity of the city than to the rest of the county.

It shouldn't be that way, of course. This is NOT a large county as such areas go, and even though the County Government Center is located literally within two blocks of being as far away from the north end of the county as it can physically and legally get, that doesn't mean that the all county business tilts in that same direction.

The County Commission's idea of holding town halls in other communities is a great way to address that matter and perhaps dispel some perceptions.

What that also means is that it would be good and encouraging if residents in those communities would attend those meetings, just to let the commissioners know who's out there and that the commission's outreach effort is indeed a productive one.

Hopefully, this proposal, if approved, will open up some lines of communication that may not be operating now and draw this county closer together. It would be a nice step forward.

kmh

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ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, June 24, the 175th day of 2015. There are 190 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 24, 1975, 113 people were killed when Eastern Airlines flight 66, a Boeing 727 carrying 124 people, crashed while attempting to land during a thunderstorm at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

On this date: In 1509, Henry VIII was crowned king of England; his wife, Catherine of Aragon, was crowned queen consort.

In 1793, the first republican constitution in France was adopted.

In 1880, "O Canada," the future Canadian national anthem, was first performed in Quebec City.

In 1908, Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 71.

In 1939, the Southeast Asian country Siam changed its name to Thailand. (It went back to being Siam in 1945, then became Thailand once again in 1949.)

In 1940, France signed an armistice with Italy during World War II.

In 1948, Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the western allies to organize the Berlin Airlift.

In 1964, AT&T inaugurated commercial "Picturephone" service between New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. (The service, however, never caught on.)

In 1968, "Resurrection City," a shantytown constructed as part of the Poor People's March on Washington D.C., was closed down by authorities.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger — carrying America's first woman in space, Sally K. Ride — coasted to a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1985, a federal judge in New York found former Wall Street Journal reporter R. Foster Winans guilty of illegally using his position at the paper in a get-rich-quick insider-trading scheme. (Winans served eight months in federal prison.)

In 1990, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan was virtually drowned out by jeering demonstrators as he addressed the Sixth International AIDS conference in San Francisco.

Ten years ago: Despite growing anxiety about the war in Iraq, President George W. Bush refused to set a timetable for bringing home U.S. troops and de-

clared, "I'm not giving up on the mission. We're doing the right thing." Officials said tests confirmed the second case of mad cow disease in the United States. Ventriquist Paul Winchell died in Los Angeles at age 82.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared that he and visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev had "succeeded in resetting" the relationship between the former Cold War adversaries. Julia Gillard was sworn in as Australia's first woman prime minister. Apple's iPhone 4 was released in five countries, selling a record 1.7 million units in three days despite criticism of its new antenna design. U.S. tennis player John Isner defeated Nicolas Pietrangeli of France 70-68 at Wimbledon in the longest-ever professional match: 11 hours, 5 minutes over three days.

One year ago: Mississippi Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, a mainstream conservative with more than 40 years' congressional experience, narrowly turned back a primary challenge from state Sen. Chris McDaniel, a tea party favorite. Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby won his second Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player at the league's postseason awards ceremony. Character actor Eli Wallach, 98, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Al Molinaro is 96. Comedian Jack Carter is 93. Rock singer Arthur Brown is 73. Actress Michele Lee is 73. Actor-director Georg Stanford Brown is 72. Rock musician Jeff Beck is 71. Rock singer Colin Blunstone (The Zombies) is 70. Musician Mick Fleetwood is 68. Actor Peter Weller is 63. Rock musician John Illsley (Dire Straits) is 66. Actress Nancy Allen is 65. Reggae singer Derrick Simpson (Black Uhuru) is 65. Actor Joe Penny is 59. Reggae singer Astro (UB40) is 58. Singer-musician Andy McCluskey (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 56. Actor Iain Glen is 54. Rock singer Curt Smith is 54. Actress Danielle Spencer is 50. Actress Sherry Stringfield is 48. Singer Glenn Medeiros is 45. Actress Carla Gallo is 40. Actress-producer Mindy Kaling is 36. Actress Minka Kelly is 35. Actress Candice Patton is 30. Actress Kaitlin Cullum is 29. Singer Solange Knowles is 29.

Thought for Today: All are lunatics, but he who can analyze his delusions is called a philosopher." — Ambrose Bierce, American author (born this date in 1842, disappeared in 1914.)

FROM THE BIBLE

For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness. Isaiah 61:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Happy To Be Here

Verne Hull, Yankton
As of July 8, I will be 92 years old. For 11 years, I have lived in Yankton. Other than Yankton's beautiful location, it is the people who live here who have inspired me the most.

Because I do not get around much anymore, it is mainly what I read and hear from friends that keep me informed. Briefly, however, I have touched base with some really creative and innovative folks, such as Dan Tremble of Yesterday's Cafe; and Dave Hosmer and Doug Haar, who strive to collect the thoughts of us World War II vets before we are all gone. Then there is Bruce Cull and his assemblage of helpers who chart ambitious goals for archery in Yankton, as does Dr.

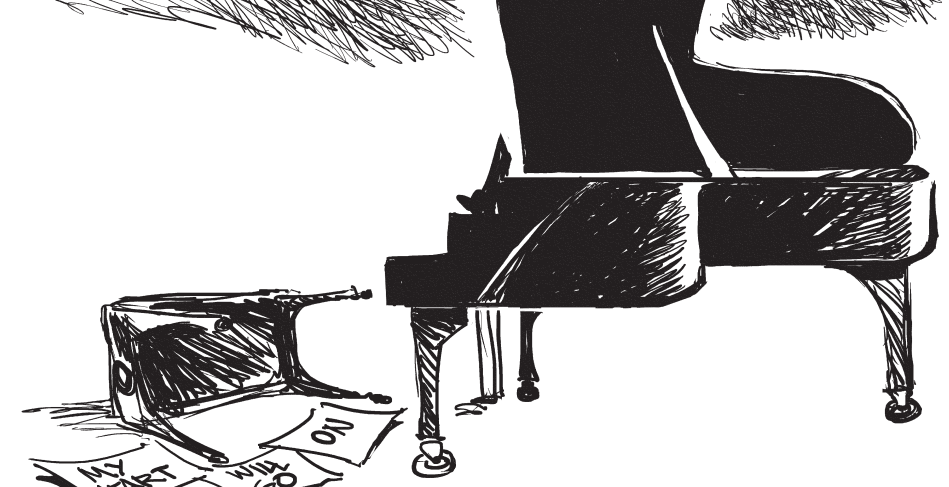
Kindle for education and Kelly Hertz for reporting the news.

As I said, these folks I have briefly come into contact with, but there are a host of others with similar visionary views about Yankton who I have only read about. And, then, there are still others — and my step-brother, Roy Wilcox, is an example — who never shirk when they might be helpful to the community. For example, Roy virtually never turns down the call to referee youth soccer or volunteer in areas of his interest, as he did recently for the World Archery Youth Championships. As it turned out, Roy was not alone, for so did scores of others from the Yankton area.

For these reasons, I am happy to have chosen to live in Yankton during my twilight years. Thank you, Yankton!

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CAGLECARTOONS



Punishing Bank Felons

BY ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune Content Agency

What exactly does it mean for a big Wall Street bank to plead guilty to a serious crime? Right now, practically nothing.

But it will if California's Santa Cruz County has any say.

First, some background. Five giant banks — including Wall Street behemoths JPMorgan Chase and Citicorp — recently pleaded guilty to criminal felony charges that they rigged the world's foreign-currency market for their own profit.

This wasn't a small heist. We're talking hundreds of billions of dollars worth of transactions every day.

The banks altered currency prices long enough for the banks to make winning bets before the prices snapped back to what they should have been.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch called it a "brazen display of collusion" that harmed "countless consumers, investors and institutions around the globe — from pension funds to major corporations, and including the banks' own customers."

The penalty? The banks have agreed to pay \$5.5 billion. That may sound like a big chunk of change, but for a giant bank it's the cost of doing business. In fact, the banks are likely to deduct the fines from their taxes as business costs.

The banks sound contrite. After all, they can't have the public believe they're outright crooks.

It's "an embarrassment to our firm, and stands in stark contrast to Citicorp's values," said Citigroup CEO Michael Corbat.

Values? Citigroup's main value is to make as much money as possible. Corbat himself raked in about \$13 million last year.

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon calls it "a great disappointment to us," and says "we demand and expect better of our people."

Expect better? If recent history is any guide — think of the bank's notorious "London Whale" a few years ago, and, before that, the wild bets leading to the 2008 bailout — JPMorgan expects exactly this kind of behavior from its people.

Which helped Dimon rake in \$20 million last year, including a \$7.4 million cash bonus.

When real people plead guilty to felonies, they go to jail. But big banks aren't people despite what the five Republican appointees to the Supreme Court say.

The executives who run these banks aren't going to jail, either. Apologists say it's not fair to jail bank executives because they don't know what their rogue traders are up to.

Yet ex-convicts often suffer consequences beyond jail terms. In many states they lose their

right to vote. They can't run for office or otherwise participate in the political process.

So why not take away the right of these convicted banks to participate in the political process, at least for some years? That would stop JPMorgan's Dimon from lobbying Congress to roll back the Dodd-Frank Act, as he's been doing almost nonstop.

Why not also take away their right to pour money into politics? Wall Street banks have been among the biggest contributors to political campaigns. If they're convicted of a felony, they should be barred from making any political contributions for at least 10 years.

Real ex-convicts also have difficulty finding jobs. That's because, rightly or wrongly, many people don't want to hire them. A strong case can be made that employers shouldn't pay attention to criminal convictions of real people who need a fresh start, especially a job.

But giant banks that have committed felonies are something different. Why shouldn't depositors and investors consider their past convictions?

Which brings us to Santa Cruz County.

The county's board of supervisors just voted not to do business for five years with any of the five bank felons. The county won't use the banks' investment services or buy their commercial paper, and will pull its money out of the banks to the extent that it can.

"We have a sacred obligation to protect the public's tax dollars, and these banks can't be trusted," said County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty "Santa Cruz County should not be involved with those who rigged the world's biggest financial markets."

The banks will hardly notice. Santa Cruz County's portfolio is valued at about \$650 million.

But what if every county, city and state in America followed Santa Cruz County's example and held the big banks accountable for their felonies?

What if all of us taxpayers said, in effect, we're not going to hire these convicted felons to handle our public finances? We don't trust them.

That would hit these banks directly. They'd lose our business. Which might even cause them to clean up their acts.

There's hope. Supervisor Coonerty says he'll be contacting other local jurisdictions across the country, urging them to do what Santa Cruz County is doing.

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.

Michelle Malkin Holy Hypocrisy And Hot Air

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
Creators.com

Unlike Pope Francis, I believe that air-conditioning and the capitalists responsible for the technology are blessings to the world.

Perhaps the head of the Catholic Church, who condemned "the increasing use and power of air-conditioning" last week in a market-bashing encyclical, is unaware of the pioneering private company that has donated its time, energy and innovative heating, ventilating and air-conditioning equipment to the Vatican's most famous edifice for more than a decade.

That's right. While the pontiff sanctimoniously attacks "those who are obsessed with maximizing profits," Carrier Corporation — a \$13 billion for-profit company with 43,000 employees worldwide (now a unit of U.S.-based United Technologies Corp.) — ensures that the air in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel stays clean and cool.

Last fall, Carrier unveiled a groundbreaking HVAC system for the Vatican to help preserve Michelangelo's masterpieces against pollution caused by the estimated six million visitors who descend on the Sistine Chapel every year to see its famous frescoes.

As the company described it, their new solution "uses two Carrier AquaForce® 30XWV water-cooled chillers with Greenspeed® intelligence, each with 580 kilowatts of capacity. It leverages specially designed software and components, as well as patented, energy-saving technologies to maintain optimal climate conditions for the protection of the paintings within the chapel." State-of-the-art intelligent controls "anticipate visitor levels and adjust its performance intuitively." It also "delivers twice the efficiency and three times the capacity of the former system, which was built and installed by Carrier in the early 1990s."

Here's the lesson about air-conditioning capitalists that Pope Francis fails to appreciate: Carrier's technological know-how and breakthroughs didn't just descend from the clouds. As I recount in my latest book, "Who Built That," every perfectly chilled home, office, movie theater, mall, factory, hospital, lab and museum owes its existence to the profit-seeking pioneers of manufactured weather: Willis Carrier and Irvine Lyle.

These early 20th-century inventive giants brought air-conditioning to the market and to the masses. Willis Carrier was the scientist-tinkerer whose prolific stream of experiments and epiphanies, beginning in 1902, fueled historic technological advances in heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning. Irvine Lyle was the mechanical engineer-turned-salesman who imagined countless new commercial applications for Carrier's work — and successfully turned those ideas into a multibillion-dollar business through relentless

promotion, pitches, networking, advertising and outreach.

The scientists and their core team begged, borrowed and made stock sales to friends and neighbors. Carrier even enlisted his dentist for cash to get Carrier Engineering Corporation up and running in 1915. Carrier, Lyle and five founding engineers together pitched in \$32,600 in start-up funds.

The Carrier capitalists risked it all in defiance of an economic depression and amid the tumult of world war. They couldn't afford their own factory and scrounged for made-to-order parts wherever they could find them. They dug into their own pockets to cover salary shortfalls. The wealth wasn't handed to them. Carrier and Lyle, farm boys who both graduated from Cornell, drove their men and themselves harder.

The Carrier team sold its products to businesses, large and small, that spanned the spectrum of human needs and wants. The pope should know that in addition to sparing countless lives from death by heat wave, Carrier designed a special system for Jonas Salk that helped maintain constant temperatures in the vats where Salk's poliovirus strains grew. The Salk vaccine saved thousands of lives and spearheaded the vaccine revolution.

From Hollywood to the pharmaceutical industry to textiles to the retail industry to the military to homeowners, there isn't a sector of the American economy that Carrier and Lyle didn't help transform. Their zealous focus on helping businesses provide better products at cheaper costs resulted in the invaluable byproducts of increased health, comfort and happiness.

While the pope blames commercial enterprises and the "global market economy" for causing "environmental degradation," it is a worldwide commercial enterprise made in America that solved the human-caused degradation, and of environmental damage to the Vatican's most prized art and assets.

If the pontiff truly believes "excessive consumption" of modern conveniences is causing evil "climate change," will he be shutting down and returning the multimillion-dollar system Carrier generously gifted to the Vatican Museums?

If not, I suggest, with all due respect, that Pope Francis do humanity a favor and refrain from blowing any more hot air unless he's willing to stew in his own.

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkinblog@gmail.com.