



# March At A Faster Pace

BY KELLY HERTZ  
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Easter is screwing everything up this year. That's how it feels anyway. With the Easter holiday dropping early this year, on March 31, we seem to be facing several formidable logjams and unusual headaches here at the newspa-per.

I noticed this quite clearly Tuesday night when reporter Randy Dockendorf and I made our annual trek to Freeman to cover the Schmeckfest musical for our "River City" sec-tion. The production is staged at Freeman Academy's Pioneer Hall, located at the southwest corner of the town, and we always take the same route there: When we hit the south edge of Freeman, we go west about a mile to a remote intersection, then head north to the back door of the Freeman Acad-emy campus. But this week, I had trouble finding that intersection. I quickly realized why: In past years, we usually made this trip a week later, which was after daylight saving time had kicked in, so when we hit that intersection, it was still very light out. But this year, Schmeckfest is being held earlier because of Easter, compelling us to do our play story before the time change and in the ob-scuring winter darkness.

However, there's a flaw in blaming the early Easter for why life seems rather harried and screwed up right now. Easter falling on March 31 isn't particularly un-usual. In 2008, for instance, the holiday occurred on March 23.

So there is much more at work here than that calen-dar.

What's up instead is a dirty little secret: March has quietly become one of the busiest months of the year in the Yankton area. It even challenges the hectic sum-mer months in some ways, and for Yankton, that says a lot.

March in this town is now packed with activities. Some of them added only recently. It starts and (usu-ally) ends with the Roger Haas tournaments, and it now includes the Special Olympics state basketball tourna-ment and a collegiate archery tournament (both fairly recent entries), a couple of play productions (and



Kelly  
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that's just in Yankton and not counting the Schmeck-fest musical), a flurry of school concerts and the Citi-zen of the Year reception (which generally now falls on the first Sunday in March, although that's mostly hap-penstance). Also, there is now an increasing number of major fundraisers for several local nonprofit organizations clustered in March. This year's schedule has also featured the state debate festival that was held at YHS last weekend. And of course, there are other usual suspects such as state basketball tour-naments in two states, the start of track sea-son with the Dan Lennon Relays at USD and so on. And in about 10 days, we will begin seeing candidate forums for the April elec-tions.

Needless to say, we're on the go a lot these days at the newspaper. But I'm not really complaining. Winter can be a very slow time of the year. It opens immediately with the Christ-mas holiday, which just sucks the oxygen out of local activities for many weeks. There are really very few major events that take place in January and February as life crawls along slowly; and when it's cold or snowy outside, you aren't really inclined to pick up the tempo very much.

But then comes that burst of renewal called March. Suddenly, there are things to do everywhere. The world simply revs up.

Easter's early placement this year simply condenses the available open dates and weekends, which seem-ingly makes it even more hectic than usual.

But this year, even without Easter, it would still be a race — as it turns out, more so than ever.

Being busy in March is a good problem to have, though. It means there are myriad things to do (and for us, to cover) because life is picking up steam with the warm-weather days looming before us. It means winter is fading away.

In Yankton, life now shifts life into overdrive in March, which may have to be renamed Gallop if this busy trend continues.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz](https://twitter.com/kelly_hertz)

# Yahoo Lands In The Crossfire

BY KATHLEEN PARKER  
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WASHINGTON — Excuse me while I roll my eyes over the latest "mommy war."

It's not that I don't care about the sub-stance, but because I've lived long enough to know how it turns out. Some wars can't be won because to the victor go spoils no one really wants. And the children always lose.

The most recent skirmish is taking place at the great and once-powerful Yahoo under the leadership of new CEO Marissa Mayer, the fifth in five years. The preceding sen-tence should be read as: "OMG, do whatever you have to do to fix this!"

Thus, Mayer issued orders that telecom-muting employees start showing up at the of-fice. You'd have thought she had called for the sacrifice of everyone's first-born. What kind of woman does such a thing? Doesn't she know that balancing work and family was a joke until technology made it possible to work from home?

If she knew it, she didn't care. And therein lies the rub. Mayer not only irked her employees; she did the unthinkable. She binked the sisterhood.

Mayer was already familiar with the fallout that comes from acting as an individual rather than as a member of the collective. When she appeared on the cover of Fortune magazine last fall as one of the 50 most powerful women — looking a little too svelte for someone who had just had a baby — the blogosphere lit up. Apparently, Mayer's critics wanted her to have been photographed while pregnant, conveying the message that pregnant women are also strong and powerful.

Whatever. Everything is about messaging these days, except when one doesn't like the content of the message, such as: Hire a baby sitter and get to work. Business is busi-ness, after all, and nothing is less sensitive than the bot-tom line.

I am not as tough as I sound. No one is more sympa-thetic to working mothers than I. (And, no, sorry, most fathers are not tending the young the way mothers do, and this is because they are not mothers. If you're hav-ing trouble with this, put on your Clearasil and go to bed.)

My sympathy stems from having decided long ago to work from home upon realizing that my child needed me

more than my employer did. But I am fortunate. Mine is the sort of work that can be accomplished from home — and, most important, I have a husband. Highly recom-mended.

It is thus understandable why Yahoo workers are dis-mayed — and why others who hoped for such civilized options for others — are disappointed. Adding to the insult is that Mayer has built a nursery for her own child — out of her own pocket — next to her office.

Such tidy solutions obviously are available to few and the fear is that all women now will be held to the impossible standard set by Mayer.

Let's be clear: Mayer is one rare bird. But should she be? Aren't we supposed to say "More power to her" right about now? By what dictum must Mayer conduct her life — and her company — to please others? She crashed the glass ceiling and we're upset that she made a mess?

This is how mommy wars get started and why they'll never end. There's no winning be-cause, except for the best educated and

wealthiest, it isn't possible to reach the top of the cor-porate ladder and also take care of babies. In a saner world, we wouldn't try.

Meanwhile, Mayer is doing what is right for her and what she thinks will improve her company's perfor-mance. She clearly believes that making her talented work-ers convene in the same physical space is crucial to improving performance.

She is probably not wrong to imagine that pooling tal-ent will engender greater creativity, synergy and all those other happy buzzwords of successful enterprises if people talk to each other in person. The Internet may be a universe of free-ranging thought, but there's noth-ing like the chemical combustion of human contact that leads to the birthing of ideas. Here's one:

Why not build a state-of-the-art day care center at Yahoo for all those employees who, though their minds may be present, will have left their hearts at home? Mayer, who obviously sees the benefit to her own child, could send a long-overdue message to corporate Amer-ica: Having children nearby makes workers less stressed and more productive. Call it "The Bassinet-Bottom Line Initiative."

If innovation plus compassion leads to profit, who knows? We may finally declare a truce after all.

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# The Press & DAKOTAN

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## OPINION | WE SAY

### A Great Showing



work put forth by the staff at the Elks Lodge. But mostly, we thank the winners — people like the Ranneys — whose years of commitment and dedication to this community really make it all possible every year, and we thank the public who nominates such extraordinary individuals to be considered. A sincere thanks to everyone.

### A Basketball Hotbed



tournament appearance since 1928. The accomplishments of all those teams just shows that you don't have to venture far across the border to find basket-ball powerhouses.

### Good News



months, matters are being rectified and business is returning to normal. Every-one can be grateful for that.

### Time To Change



ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning. What you lose in sleep you will gain in enlightenment, so to speak.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

Do you support the U.S. policy of using drones to target Americans who may be traitors?  
No ..... 48%  
Yes ..... 44%  
Not sure ..... 8%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST ..... 442**  
*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 accu-rate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.*

### CURRENT QUESTION:

**Do you think Joe Biden will run for president in 2016?**

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## SPEAK OUT!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Wal-nut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to [views@yankton.net](mailto:views@yankton.net).

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 8, the 67th day of 2013. There are 298 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On March 8, 1917, Russia's "February Revolution" (so called because of the Old Style calendar used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in Petrograd; the result was the abdication of the Russian monarchy in favor of a provisional govern-ment.

**On this date:** In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1862, during the Civil War, the iron-clad *CSS Virginia* rammed and sank the *USS Cumberland* and heavily damaged the *USS Congress*, both frigates, off New-port News, Va.

In 1874, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buf-falo, N.Y., at age 74.

In 1917, the U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1942, Imperial Japanese forces oc-cupied Burma during World War II.

In 1963, a military coup in Syria brought the Baath Party to power.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines were brought in to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muham-mad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film co-median Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 77.

In 1983, in a speech to the National As-sociation of Evangelicals convention in Or-lando, Fla., President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil em-pire."

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky., collided in mid-flight.

**Ten years ago:** The militant Islamic group Hamas vowed revenge after one of its founding members and three body-guards were killed in an Israeli helicopter attack in Gaza; the Israeli army promised to strike the militants again.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists. Barack Obama captured the Wyoming Democratic caucuses.

**One year ago:** Syria's deputy oil min-ister (Abdo Husameddine), looking tense, announced in a video that he had defected from President Bashar Assad's regime. Jesse Owens was posthumously made an inaugural member of the IAAF Hall of Fame more than 75 years after he won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. (Owens, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and nine others were the first athletes to be honored by the IAAF in its newly created Hall of Fame.) James T. "Jimmy" Ellis, 74, the frontman for The Trampmps who re-leased "Disco Inferno," died in Rock Hill, S.C.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Sue Ane Langdon is 77. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 75. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 74. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 69. Actor-director Micky Dolenz is 68. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 67. Pop singer Peggy March is 65. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jim Rice is 60. Singer Gary Numan is 55. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 54. Actor Aidan Quinn is 54. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 53. Actress Camryn Manheim is 52. Actor Leon is 50. Rock singer Shawn Mullins (The Thorns) is 45. Actress Andrea Parker is 43. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 40. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 37. Actor James Van Der Beek is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 35. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 34. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kristinia De-Barge is 23.

**Thought for Today:** "Contemplation seems to be about the only luxury that costs nothing." — Dodie Smith, English playwright (1896-1990).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."*  
*Matthew 17:22-23.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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## YOUR LETTERS

### Good Samaritan

Kathy Tramp and Evelyn Sedlacek, Yankton

We would like to thank the Good Samaritan lady in the maroon van that happened to drive by Mom's place one recent morning right after she had fallen in her driveway. Between you and Mom's good neighbor

Shelly, they got her in the house and got her taken care of before I could get down there and take her to the Clinic.

We don't know your name, but thankfully you were in the right place at the right time.

Thanks again to you and Shelly!