

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**Published Daily**

**Monday-Saturday**

Periodicals postage

paid at Yankton,

South Dakota, under

the act of March 3,

1979.

Weekly Dakotian

established June 6,

1861. Yankton Daily

Press and Dakotian

established April 26,

1875.

Postmaster: Send

address changes to

Yankton Daily Press

& Dakotan, 319 Wal-

nut, Yankton, SD

57078.

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The Yankton Daily

Press & Dakotan is a

member of the Associ-

ated Press, the Inland

Daily Press Associa-

tion and the South

Dakota Newspaper

Association. The Asso-

ciated Press is entitled

exclusively to use of all

the local news printed

in this newspaper.

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**SUBSCRIPTION**

**RATES\***

(Payable in advance)

**CARRIER DELIVERY**

1-month . . . \$12.09

3 months . . . \$36.27

6 months . . . \$72.53

1-year . . . \$133.09

**MOTOR ROUTE**

(where available)

1 month . . . \$14.51

3 months . . . \$43.53

6 months . . . \$87.05

1 year . . . \$139.14

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1-year . . . \$148.82

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3 months . . . \$58.05

6 months . . . \$116.09

1-year . . . \$186.33

\* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

**OPINION | WE SAY**

**Outstanding Citizens**



**THUMBS UP** in advance to everyone who turns out this Sunday for the open house honoring Yankton's 2013 Citizens of the Year, Don and Pam Kettering. This award (of which the *Press & Dakotan* is one of the sponsors), has been handed out since 1970, and each new winner seems to add another special piece to the mosaic of Yankton's charitable soul. The Ketterings are no different, and they bring to the list of winners unique perspectives. And yet, all the winners share the same trait: the willingness to give and serve their community. The public is invited to Sunday's festivities at the Yankton Elks Lodge. The open house runs from 1:30-4 p.m., and there will be a special program at 2 p.m.

**Donation**



**THUMBS UP** to Irene farmer George Sees for donating a \$2,500 grant to the Irene volunteer fire department. Sees was selected as the Yankton County recipient for an America's Farmers Grow Communities grant, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. He designated the Irene firefighters as the non-profit recipient of the money, noting the department responded quickly during his Thanksgiving Day fire. And a Thumbs Up goes to the Irene fire department — and all firefighters — for their work in dangerous conditions at any hour of the day. Irene fire chief Lonnie Schenk said the \$2,500 has been used for new protective gear, and any additional funds and equipment are appreciated. When it comes to safety, firefighters need and deserve the best in equipment.

**Blast Off!**



**THUMBS UP** to news that United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton is closing in on its goal for the 2014 capital campaign. The "Last Blast Final Campaign Push" today (Friday) will attempt to raise the remaining \$26,000 needed to reach \$470,000 by the time the drive officially ends March 31. If the goal is met, it would be the first time the organization has achieved it since 2009. United Way staff and board members will be stationed at Hy-Vee from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. today to collect funds, and promote the organization and its 23 partner agencies.

**Stepping Down**



A sad **THUMBS DOWN** to the resignation this week of Yankton High School girls' basketball coach Doug Pesicka. In 22 seasons at the helm of the Gazelles program, Pesicka won 278 games, won a state championship in 1996, a runner-up finish in 1994 and 14 state tournament appearances overall. In short, he was a South Dakota mainstay. He was the man who was lopsided win or one-sided loss — was humble and easy to work with. His former players who went on to coach at the high school or college level are proof that Pesicka's legacy will long mean more to the YHS athletic scene than we can imagine. Together, Pesicka and his predecessor, Bob Winter, accounted for all but one year of Gazelles' basketball history, so there is a lot of history departing with Pesicka — who will, however, continue to coach in lower grades. Thank you, Doug, for your many years as a great coach.

**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 television and movies promote gun violence?**  
Yes . . . . . 69%  
No . . . . . 31%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** . . . . . 354

*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:**

**Would you support moving Yankton's water plant project to a different location, even if it means more expense?**  
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, March 28, the 87th day of 2014. There are 278 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On March 28, 1939, the Spanish Civil War neared its end as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

**On this date:** In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the Supreme Court, in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

In 1914, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State Edmund Muskie was born in Rumford, Maine.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film "Triumph des Willens" (Triumph of the Will), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

In 1943, composer Sergei Rachmaninoff died in Beverly Hills, Calif.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington, D.C. at age 78.

In 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pa.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S. Olympic legend Jesse Owens.

In 1994, absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco died in Paris at age 84. Ten years ago: French President Jacques Chirac's government suffered stinging defeats in regional elections seen as a vote of censure against painful economic reforms. Actor and writer Sir Peter Ustinov died in Genolier, Switzerland, at age 82. Game show host Art Armes died in Palm Springs, Calif., at age 74.

**Five years ago:** Fears in Fargo,

N.D., of a catastrophic flood eased with word that the surging Red River had crested at lower-than-expected levels. Nearly 4,000 cities and towns in 88 countries switched off nonessential lights for Earth Hour to highlight the threat of climate change. Thousands of people marched through European cities to demand jobs, economic justice and environmental accountability. Shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven returned to Earth, ending a 13-day voyage to install a pair of solar wings on the international space station. Film composer Maurice Jarre, 84, died in Malibu, Calif.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama, flanked by grim-faced mothers who'd lost their children to guns, urged lawmakers not to "get squishy" in the face of powerful forces against gun control legislation. Anxious Cypriots waited in long lines to get at their accounts after banks opened for the first time in nearly two weeks following an international bailout to save the country's financial system. Pope Francis washed and kissed the feet of a dozen inmates, including two young women, at a juvenile detention center in a surprising departure from church rules that restricted the Holy Thursday ritual to men. British actor Richard Griffiths, 65, remembered by movie fans for being grumpy Uncle Vernon in the "Harry Potter" movies, died in Coventry, England.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former White House national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski is 86. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 73. Movie director Mike Newell is 72. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 71. Actor Ken Howard is 70. Actress Dianne Wiest (weest) is 66. Country singer Reba McEntire is 59. Olympic gold medal gymnast Bart Conner is 56. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 48. Actress Tracey Needham is 47. Actor Max Perlich is 46. Movie director Brett Ratner is 45. Actor Vince Vaughn is 44. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 43. Actor Ken L. is 41. Singer/songwriter Matt Nathanson is 41. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 38. Actress Annie Wersching is 37. Actress Julia Stiles is 33. Singer Lady Gaga is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "It isn't what people think that's important, but the reason they think what they think." — Eugene Ionesco (1909-1994).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! *Ephesians 1:20-21 NLT.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



## Yankton's Park Places

BY KELLY HERTZ

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A pastoral theme emerged from a couple of story lines during Monday's Yankton City Commission meeting. Commissioners discussed whether to make some infrastructure improvements to Memorial Park to prepare it for hosting Ribfest. There was also a debate on whether a proposed water plant project could infringe upon Riverside Park.

What makes these items interesting to me is that they touch on one of the more curious concepts in modern, industrialized civilization: the city park.

A park represents a conscious decision by a community to set aside a piece of land for green space to be utilized for recreation and outdoor enjoyment. Preserving land for park space, not commercial property or residential lots, is rather bold, and some might argue illogical.

The history of parks is sketchy but intriguing. Parks hail back to the practice of medieval aristocracy of creating private hunting grounds for themselves while setting up lush walls of vegetation to keep the public out. Later, parks were seen as areas that allowed public hunting near overcrowded cities. But after the industrial revolution, parks were embraced as public recreational spaces and as community necessities; in that respect, there may be something socially revolutionary about them.

There are communities that place considerable importance in their parks. While some towns tend to set aside a small tract of land with only modest accouterments and call it a park, other places have great park spaces. In our area, Creighton, Neb., has a terrific drive-through park that is worth seeing during the holiday season. Irene has a very nice and spacious park, as does Vermillion. There are many others, no doubt. Not so locally, Broken Bow, Neb., has an entire city block in the heart of its downtown district — which is choice commercial property — preserved as a park. The coolest municipal park I've personally seen is Krape Park in Freeport, Ill., a sprawling glade that has a lake, band shell, baseball field, waterfall, roads and forest; it's an incredible city park by any measure.

The bottom line is, a city park can be whatever a city makes of it. So, the seemingly mundane matter of dealing with park property may say a lot about a community.

The improvements slated for Yankton's Memorial Park — representing about \$8,500 in electrical upgrades to accommodate Ribfest vendors and entertainment, as well as other potential future events — drew some questions about the need to stick money into the park and toward this particular event. The idea was defended as an investment for future use. The proposal ultimately passed.

I like the investment idea. I could see during the 150th anniversary concerts in 2011 that Me-



Kelly HERTZ

morial Park had enormous potential as a venue that could draw big crowds. As laid out during that celebration, the park has a natural mall space that's perfect for mulling crowds and vendors. The place is arguably underutilized, and there is no reason that other events couldn't find their way there. (As a side note, there was a rumor in 2011 that Riverboat Days might have been shifted to Memorial Park that year if the flooding had become too unwieldy.) Parks are meant to be used, after all, so let's find ways to use this one more.

Of course, there can be limits to our park enthusiasm, which brings us to the water plant issue down by the river. A proposal to build a water plant expansion to the east of Water Plant No. 2, located at the west edge of Riverside Park, stirred some concerns Monday. No. 2 was built along the river in the early 1970s back when what is now

Riverside Park was a vacant slab of land mostly remembered as a red-light district and garbage dump. (Riverfront development is a surprisingly new concept for this town, a fact we're still paying for with projects like this.) Much has changed, of course, and critics of this expansion option fear that the new facility will mar the park area. However, this option is the least expensive of the costly options on the table, and the project is very badly needed.

In a perfect situation, Yankton would build the new plant elsewhere in order to nurture the ambiance of Riverside Park. Of course, in that perfect situation, Water Plant No. 2 would be located elsewhere and there would be a hotel/convention center sitting between Riverside Park and Meridian Bridge.

But we have to play the cards we're dealt. In this case, as park-friendly as this community tends to be, Riverside Park's best interest cannot really be the top priority. It's surely important, however, and is a great plus for the community, but Yankton's water needs — and the costs that will have to be faced — must come first. At this moment, that seems to be the best approach, although I'm open to alternatives.

Mind you, the water project will NOT destroy or shrink the park at all (although it would be a new structure standing between the park and Meridian Bridge). It will just crimp the park slightly on the west end of the parking lot. Also, there's nothing that says that the new plant has to be a plain block building and can't be architecturally suited for this area. There are several possibilities in this realm that could enhance the area overall, not detract from it.

These park issues offer interesting choices for the community, and it's only fitting that these issues are difficult, too. Such burdens go with the green space.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz/](https://twitter.com/kelly_hertz/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

**YOUR LETTERS**

**A Look To The Web**

**John Magnuson, Yankton**

Have you ever needed to buy something, but couldn't find what you wanted in any of the stores around town, and were not inclined to drive to Sioux Falls or Sioux City to try to find it there, either? You and me both, brother.

As an alternative, have you ever checked out Amazon.com? If you like saving money and convenient buying, give it a look. All you need is a credit card and an e-mail address. Surprisingly, a lot of folks never think to check this out. You can buy a generic Frontline flea medication cheaper than any place I know in town. Need hard to find tools, auto parts or tires? Extra extra wide boots or shoes? Cheaper vitamins and nutritional products? Clothes, exercise equipment, a new fishing reel? A better computer system, watch or unusual gift for you're other half? Amazon has it all and sometimes ships directly from the factory. Returns are free. It's almost addictive and at their prices and quick shipping, it's a wonder they don't put all of our local stores out of business. And who knows, they just might.

Buying online is getting to be a universal idea and a good way for companies to out-Walmart Walmart. Businesses can survive and make a lot of money, too.

What's next? As they say in the military, learn and innovate. You have to wonder why our local merchants don't do something about a trend that might be their undoing.

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