

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS/

CIRCULATION

Extension 104

mike.hrycko@yankton.net

CLASSIFIED ADS

Extension 108

tera.schmidt@yankton.net

NEWS DEPT.

Extension 114

news@yankton.net

SPORTS DEPT.

Extension 106

sports@yankton.net

ADVERTISING DEPT.

Extension 122

sales@yankton.net

BUSINESS OFFICE

Extension 119

ar@yankton.net

NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136

beth.rye@yankton.net

COMPOSING DEPT.

Extension 129

kathy.larson@yankton.net

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood

Publisher

Michele Schievelbein

Advertising Director

Tonya Schild

Business Manager

Michael Hrycko

Circulation Director

Tera Schmidt

Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz

Editor

James D. Cimburek

Sports Editor

Beth Rye

New Media Director

Kathy Larson

Composing Manager

Kristina Tunink

District Manager

DAILY STAFF

Melissa Bader

Cassandra Brockmoller

Brandi Bue

Rob Buckingham

Caryn Chappelcar

Randy Dockendorf

Jeannine Economy

Jordynne Hart

Jeremy Hoeck

Sarah Lynde

Shauna Marlette

Robert Nielsen

Diana Smallwood

Cathy Sudbeck

Sally Whiting

JoAnn Wiebelhaus

Brenda Willcuts

Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotan established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY

1-month.....\$12.09

3 months.....\$36.27

6 months.....\$72.53

1-year.....\$135.09

MOTOR ROUTE

(where available)

1 month.....\$14.51

3 months.....\$43.53

6 months.....\$87.05

1 year.....\$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL

Trade Zone

1-month.....\$16.93

3 months.....\$50.79

6 months.....\$101.57

1-year.....\$148.82

MAIL OUTSIDE

RETAIL TRADE ZONE

1 month.....\$19.35

3 months.....\$58.05

6 months.....\$116.09

1-year.....\$186.33

* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

OPINION

Session Left Some Holes To Fill

You could probably say South Dakota's 2015 legislative session finished up the way it was destined to end, only with about \$10 million less on the books.

The final budget, which included \$1.4 billion in general funds, quietly cleared both chambers of the Legislature Friday night. There was little drama in the proceedings, and most everyone seemed at least somewhat satisfied that they did what they could with what they had at their disposal, despite a late report showing the aforementioned \$10 million shortfall in revenues.

However, there was something disappointing in it. Since that's to be expected anymore, the disappointment cannot rate as a surprise. Nevertheless ...

Education issues made only modest headway again this session. It's true that K-12 funding got a 2 percent increase when, by law, it required only a 1.5 percent boost, and some lawmakers took genuine pride in that accomplishment. But the fact remains that the school districts are still left to work with a lower base created by deep cuts a few years ago, and little headway was made to get back to where funding really needs to be.

Also, the issue of the teaching shortage, which is tied directly to salaries, wasn't really addressed this session. The governor set that tone when he failed to mention the issue in his State of the State address two months ago. The public was told not to worry, for the issue was being discussed and would be tackled. Two months later, the issue remains and will probably deepen in the coming year.

There was, however, the formation of a task force to study education funding issues in the state. That sounds fine and maybe even somewhat promising. We can imagine at least two scenarios tied to this: one, that the task force was formed to get education out of the way for one year in order to focus on the transportation bill, with education being addressed next year; and two, the education issue is simply getting kicked down the road again, with no answer in the cards. Clearly, 2016 should be a telling year for this issue.

On another front, Medicaid expansion didn't go anywhere, even though there was a lot of promising talk before the session about finally extending this help. But again, concerns about how to eventually pay for this expansion kept the door as bolted as ever. And many thousands of South Dakotans are still left without coverage.

On the plus side, South Dakota did take some major action with its transportation bill to address its roads and bridges. Although the proposal was watered down as it went through the process, it should provide a basis for dealing with infrastructure issues in the years to come.

Ultimately, the lawmakers made do with the resources they had. And they should be commended for that.

But until the state can figure out how to boost its financial resources — and that could provoke some fairly divisive debate in the not-too-distant future — those old problems (and many others) will continue to linger, much to the detriment of this state and its people.

kmh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you want to own and/or operate a drone?

No.....74%

Yes.....26%

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 Sen. John Thune will run for president in 2016?

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 Tuesday, March 17, the 76th day of 2015. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 17, 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

On this date: In 1776, British forces evacuated Boston during the Revolutionary War.

In 1861, Victor Emmanuel II was proclaimed the first king of a united Italy.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt first likened crusading journalists to a man with "the muckrake in his hand" in a speech to the Gridiron Club in Washington.

In 1912, the Camp Fire Girls organization was incorporated in Washington, D.C., two years to the day after it was founded in Thetford, Vermont. (The group is now known as Camp Fire USA.)

In 1943, the Taoiseach of Ireland, Eamon de Valera, delivered a radio speech about "The Ireland That We Dreamed Of."

In 1950, scientists at the University of California at Berkeley announced they had created a new radioactive element, "californium."

In 1959, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

In 1966, a U.S. midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb which had fallen from an American bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain.

In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel.

In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council. (The U.S. killed a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failure to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.)

In 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all 143 people on board.

In 1995, Flor Contemplacion, a Filipino maid, was hanged in Singapore for murder, despite international pleas to spare her.

Ten years ago: Baseball players told Congress that steroids were a problem in the sport; stars Rafael Palmeiro and Sammy Sosa testified they hadn't used them while Mark McGwire refused to say whether he had. (McGwire owned up to steroid use in January 2010.) Rapper Lil' Kim was convicted of lying to a grand jury about a shootout outside a New York radio station. (Lil' Kim was sentenced to 366 days in prison; she served nearly 10 months.) Stephanie Lambiel of Switzerland won the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Moscow. Diplomat and Pulitzer Prize-winning histo-

rian George F. Kennan died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 101.

Five years ago: Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter became the first state chief executive to sign a measure requiring his attorney general to sue Congress if it passed health reforms requiring residents to buy insurance (a mostly symbolic action on Idaho's part, since federal laws supersede those of the states). Michael Jordan became the first ex-player to become a majority owner in the league as the NBA's Board of Governors unanimously approved Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Singer-guitarist Alex Chilton, 59, died in New Orleans.

One year ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula as an "independent and sovereign country," ignoring sanctions imposed by the United States and European countries. Fashion designer L'Wren Scott, 49, was found dead in New York, a suicide. British cinematographer Oswald Morris, who'd won an Oscar for "Fiddler on the Roof," died in Dorset, England, at age 98.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gabriele Ferzetti is 90. The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 82. Former NASA astronaut Ken Mattingly is 79. Rock musician Paul Kantner is 74. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 72. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 71. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 70. Rock musician Harold Brown (War: Lowrider Band) is 69. Actor Patrick Duffy is 66. Actor Kurt Russell is 64. Country singer Susie Allanson is 63. Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 61. Actor Mark Boone Jr. is 60. Country singer Paul Overstreet is 60. Actor Gary Sinise is 60. Actor Christian Clemenson is 57. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 56. Actor Arye Gross is 55. Actress Vicki Lewis is 55. Actor Casey Siemaszko is 54. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 53. Actor Rob Lowe is 51. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 48. Rock musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 48. Actor Matthew St. Patrick is 47. Actor Yanic Truesdale is 46. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 43. Soccer player Mia Hamm is 43. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 42. Actress Amelia Heinle is 42. Country singer Keifer Thompson (Thompson Square) is 42. Actress Marisa Coughlan is 41. Rapper Swift (D12) is 40. Actress Natalie Zea is 40. Actress Brittany Daniel is 39. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Hozier is 25. Actress Eliza Hope Bennett is 23. Actor Flynn Morrison is 10.

Thought for Today: "Beagan agus a ra go maith." (Say little, but say it well.) — Irish saying.

FROM THE BIBLE

Even as their fathers forgot My name for Baal? Jeremiah 23:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Pierre Report

Why I Voted 'No' On The State Budget

BY SEN. BERNIE HUNHOFF

D-District 18 (Yankton)



B. Hunhoff

I was one of only two senators who voted "no" on this year's state budget. The other "no" came from my friend Sen. Phil Jensen, a Rapid City conservative who probably felt the budget did too much. I voted "no" for the opposite reason — I know South Dakota state government can do better and I'm too stubborn to vote for mediocrity.

Everybody cites education and workforce development as priorities these days. But the budget is anticipated to grow by almost 4 percent, and in real dollars we only increased the school funding formula by 1.5 percent. (The other .5 percent increase was a shift to property taxes, which is another story.)

We say we're for workforce development, but due to lack of state support our technical schools have the highest tuition rates in the region. Our state universities aren't the highest priced, but student costs are rising. Legislators were led to believe we'd budget for a "tuition freeze," but that idea fell by the wayside in the waning hours of the session.

Our college costs are arguably the highest in the region for youth from low income families because we are the only state without a well-funded scholarship program for needy students. Lawmakers did manage to pass such a program in 2010 but we've struggled to fund it. This year we deposited a paltry \$150,000 to the cause.

In South Dakota, a poor student from a wealthy family is far more likely to graduate from college than a good student from a poor family. That tells me that we're wasting talent and hurting our workforce. Thirty-four percent of our high school graduates don't go to college or tech school. And many — maybe most — have the ability to continue their schooling. We're failing our youth.

We established a "critical needs teaching scholarship" to attract young people to careers in education, but funding for the program only covers 19 students. That will hardly stem the tide of teachers who are exiting the profession or leaving South Dakota for better jobs in surrounding states.

And education is supposed to be a priority in South Dakota?

The Rez Of The Story

Coping With A 'Suicide Culture'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Richard Russo, the American novelist, screenwriter and teacher, once wrote: "I think a lot of what is going on with kids who get pushed too far and attempt either murder or suicide is that they are trying to deal with their own non-existence for the people who are supposed to care most for them."

Taking a prompt from Charmaine White Face's "Suicide and Our Old Culture" in *LCT's* March 12 issue/Voices section, I offer up these thoughts for your consideration as well. The act of committing suicide, although abhorrent to many people, must be examined in terms of the circumstance and belief system one finds oneself if we can ever attempt to better understand the all important question: why?

My family, like many Native families, has suffered from disproportionate circumstances like depression, deep and dark despair, hopelessness and more than our share of family members deciding to exercise their choice to take their own life. The depth of suffering, whether it be psychological and/or physical, must be truly mind numbing to those who cannot entertain suicidal thoughts. Everyone has a limit as to the amount of suffering they will, or can, endure — of this, we can be sure of or we would not be talking about this very sensitive issue. Who is to say how much someone else is allowed or expected to suffer before they have the right to exercise the option of pulling the plug?

And what of long, drawn out forms of suicide like alcohol or drug abuse or for that matter smoking? Just because they take longer are they no less purposeful and equally deadly as other forms? Maybe, as Charmaine says in her article, there was "no such thing as suicide" at one time in our cultural history, this says nothing about what we are experiencing in today's world.

The truth is that people unfortunately experience this sometimes great tragedy, no matter what corner of the planet we may inhabit or from what culture we may have been brought up in. I think it is far more productive to look at what circumstances these young people are faced with and what factors lead them to consider the

possibility of suicide in the first place. Here is some useful information to hopefully elevate our current understanding about this serious matter.

Wikipedia informs us that "Suicide is alarmingly common. It is the eighth leading cause of death for all people ... and the third leading cause for people aged 15 to 24. The vast majority of suicides are related to emotional or psychiatric disorders, including depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and others. While boys are more likely than girls to commit suicide, teens of both genders and all ages are at risk for suicide."

Indian Country is experiencing a "youth suicide epidemic" according to an article in *100 Reporters* submitted by Stephanie Woodard. She begins by reporting, "Native teens and young adults [are] killing themselves at more than triple the rate of other young Americans according to federal government figures."

"In pockets of the United States, suicide among Native American youth is 9 to 19 times as frequent as among other youths, and rising. From Arizona to Alaska, tribes are declaring states of emergency and setting up crisis intervention teams."

Stephanie continues, "So dire is the alarm that 23 grants the U.S. federal government awarded nationally to prevent youth suicide went to Native American Tribes or organizations, with most of them receiving nearly \$500,000 per year for three years."

"Suicide figures vary from community to community, with the most troubling numbers in the Northern Plains, in Alaska, and in parts of the Southwest. In Alaska, the suicide rate for young Native males is about nine times that of all young males in the United States. Meanwhile, Native females in Alaska kill themselves 19 times as often as all U.S. females their age, according to the Alaska Native Tribes Health Consortium."

Crisis intervention and suicide hotlines are a good idea no doubt, but what is going on in Native Country to change the paradigm that supports this reported "epidemic?" This where the real conversation should be taking place, in my opinion.

And now you know the rez of the story.

Doksha (later) ...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not 'Gone'

Rhonda Stucker, Yankton

In regards to the "We Say" item regarding the loss of Me-TV from cable television offerings. ("Gone," *Press & Dakotan*, Feb. 27)

We had given up on KWSD, then recently it came back. We're on antenna, having cancelled cable years ago. I think it's funny that we got it back, but my husband's sister, who is on cable, still doesn't have it. We enjoyed Svengoolie Saturday night.