

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 Chappell

Randy Dockendorf

Jeanne 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 Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian 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.....\$133.09

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 OTHER VIEWS

There's No Reason To Delay AG Vote

LOS ANGELES TIMES (March 17): The Senate was expected to vote this week on the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be U.S. attorney general, more than four months after President Barack Obama announced that the veteran prosecutor was his choice to succeed Eric Holder. But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said over the weekend that he will delay that vote until the Senate resolves partisan differences over a bill designed to assist victims of human trafficking. Democrats have objected to anti-abortion language in the legislation.

It's specious for McConnell to suggest that a vote on Lynch must await approval of the trafficking legislation. There is no reason the Senate can't vote on the nomination and continue consideration of the bill.

It's specious for McConnell to suggest that a vote on Lynch must await approval of the trafficking legislation. There is no reason the Senate can't vote on the nomination and continue consideration of the bill.

As Sen. Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, noted, members voted last week on four other nominations while the trafficking bill was before the Senate, and votes on two more nominations were scheduled for Monday evening. The more plausible interpretation of McConnell's remarks is that a vote on Lynch is being used as leverage to win Democratic support for the trafficking bill.

Obama chose Lynch, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn, on Nov. 8, but her nomination wasn't acted on by the Republican-controlled Judiciary Committee until Feb. 26, when she was approved on a 12-8 vote. Now McConnell is threatening further delays. By contrast, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, who was nominated a month

after Lynch was, received Senate confirmation Feb. 12. Carter was an experienced and well-qualified candidate, but so is Lynch, who has been confirmed twice by the Senate for previous appointments. She received high praise from Republican senators after her nomination was announced. But some Republicans want to punish her for refusing to repudiate Obama's executive action deferring deportation for millions of immigrants in the country illegally. That helps to explain why only three Republicans on the Judiciary Committee supported her nomination, and why the outcome of a final vote is likely to be uncomfortably — and unjustifiably — close. (Some Democrats worry that additional delay, combined with Republican grandstanding on immigration, might make it impossible for Lynch to achieve the required majority when a vote is finally held.)

Ironically, the delay has left Holder, who has long been a *bete noire* for many Republicans, in charge at Justice — and has had no effect on Obama's immigration actions. Those actions are currently being challenged in court; Republicans should be content to let that process go forward and evaluate Lynch strictly on her stellar qualifications. In any case, she is entitled to a prompt up-or-down vote. McConnell should end his obstructionism.

D.C. LAWMAKERS

SOUTH DAKOTA

SEN. JOHN THUNE: United States Senate SR-493, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (866) 850-3855; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 334-9596; Fax: (202) 228-3855; Web: thune.senate.gov.

SEN. MIKE ROUNDS: Russell Senate Building, Courtyard 4, 20510, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: 202-224-5842; D.C. Fax: 202-224-7482; Sioux Falls Phone: 605-336-0486; S.D. Fax: 605-336-6624; email: N/A

REP. KRISTI NOEM: 2422 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Washington Phone: (202) 225-2801 or (855) 225-2801; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 275-2868; Fax: (202) 225-5823; email: visit https://noem.house.gov

NEBRASKA

SEN. DEB FISCHER: 825 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-6551; email: N/A

SEN. BEN SASSE: B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 424-4224; email: N/A

REP. ADRIAN SMITH: 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-2703; Washington Phone: (202) 225-6435; Fax: (202) 225-0207; District Phone: (308) 633-6333; email: log on at www.house.gov/writerep/

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 19, the 78th day of 2015. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 19, 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan; the ship, however, was saved. Adolf Hitler ordered the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands in his so-called "Nero Decree," which was largely disregarded.

On this date: In 1687, French explorer Rene-Robert Cavellier, Sieur de La Salle — the first European to navigate the length of the Mississippi River — was murdered by mutineers in present-day Texas.

In 1863, the Confederate cruiser Georgiana, on its maiden voyage, was scuttled off Charleston, South Carolina, to prevent it from falling into Union hands.

In 1918, Congress approved daylight saving time.

In 1920, the Senate rejected, for a second time, the Treaty of Versailles by a vote of 49 in favor, 35 against, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed for approval.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1955, the inner-city school drama "Blackboard Jungle," starring Glenn Ford, was released by MGM.

In 1965, the wreck of the Confederate cruiser Georgiana was discovered by E. Lee Spence, 102 years to the day after it had been scuttled.

In 1976, Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Princess Margaret and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon, after 16 years of marriage.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its floor proceedings; the live feed was carried by C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), which was making its debut.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1993, Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White announced plans to retire. (White's departure paved the way for Ruth Bader Ginsburg to become the court's second female justice.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

Ten years ago: Police in Citrus County, Florida, found the body of 9-year-

old Jessica Lunsford, more than three weeks after she'd disappeared from her bedroom. (Convicted sex offender John Evander Couey was later sentenced to death for kidnapping, raping and burying Jessica alive; he died of natural causes in September 2009.) Irina Slutskaya won the gold medal for the second time at the World Figure Skating Championships, held in Moscow; Sasha Cohen of the United States won the silver medal for the second straight year. Automaker John Z. DeLorean died in Summit, New Jersey, at age 80.

Five years ago: The White House released an online video of President Barack Obama making a fresh appeal directly to the people of Iran, saying a U.S. offer of diplomatic dialogue still stood, but that the Tehran government had chosen isolation.

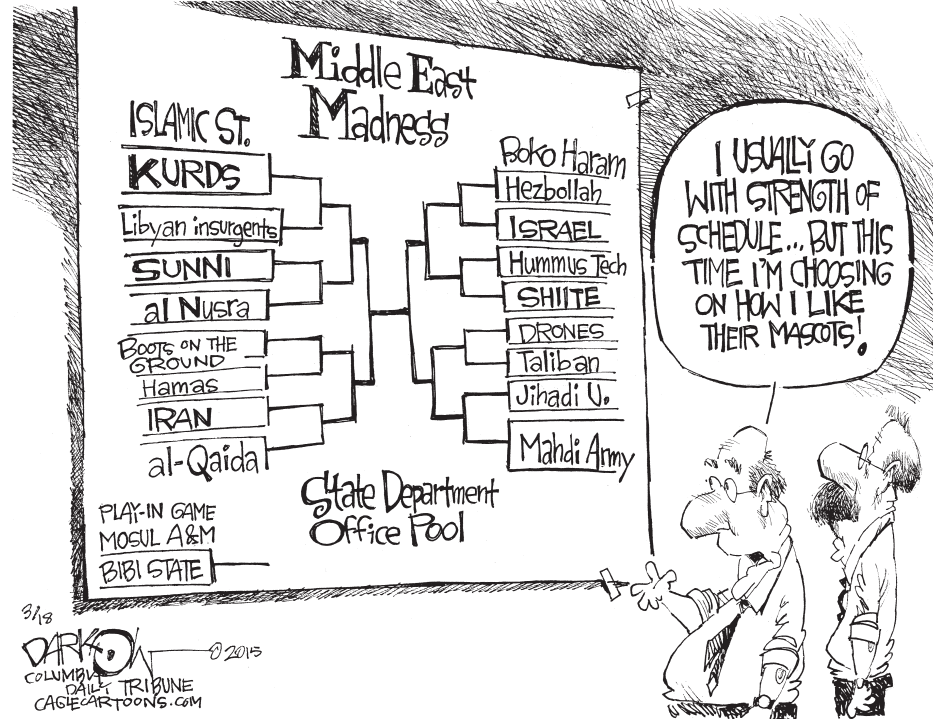
One year ago: In her first news conference as Federal Reserve chair, Janet Yellen said with the job market still weak, the Fed intended to keep short-term rates near zero for a "considerable" time and would raise them only gradually. Toyota agreed to pay \$1.2 billion to settle an investigation by the U.S. government, admitting that it had hidden information about defects that caused Toyota and Lexus vehicles to accelerate unexpectedly, resulting in injuries and deaths. Robert Strauss, 95, a prominent Democratic party powerbroker and former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, died in Washington. Former Iran-Contra chief prosecutor Lawrence E. Walsh, 102, died in Oklahoma City. Fred Phelps, founder of the Westboro Baptist Church that preached hatred of gay people, died at age 84.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft is 90. Theologian Hans Kung is 87. Jazz musician Ornette Coleman is 85. Author Philip Roth is 82. Actress Renee Taylor is 82. Actress-singer Phyllis Newman is 82. Actress Ursula Andress is 79. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 78. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 69. Actress Glenn Close is 68. Film producer Harvey Weinstein is 63. Actor Bruce Willis is 60. Actress-comedian Mary Scheer is 52. Playwright Neil LaBute is 52. Actor Connor Trinneer is 46. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 45. Rapper Bun B is 42. Rock musician Zach Llad (Jimmy Eat World) is 39. Actress Abby Brammell is 36. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 26. Actor Philip Bolden is 20.

Thought for Today: "As a woman I have no country. As a woman my country is the whole world." — Virginia Woolf, English author (1882-1941).

FROM THE BIBLE

[Be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Kindle's Korner

New Smarter Balanced Testing Looms For YSD

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE

Yankton School District

Like all South Dakota school districts, preparations for the Smarter Balanced Test have been on-going for several months. The Yankton School District will begin testing students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 during the second week of April.

The new Smarter Balanced Test, will evaluate Math and English Language Arts, and is aligned to the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards were adopted by the Yankton School District during the 2012-13 school year and are required by state law.

Parents may recall the Smarter Balanced Testing done last school year was a "trial run" required by the South Dakota Department of Education. Parents did not receive test results, and the state did not publish district results. However, this school year parents will receive their child's test results.

The new Smarter Balanced Test will continue to use online technology and there is the potential for several thousand students testing at one time across the state. As with any on-line testing, we are concerned about unforeseen technology glitches. The Yankton School Districts has budgeted and spent a significant amount of money in technology and staff time preparing for the required testing.

As with any testing, we want our students to take testing seriously and to do their best. We realize students and parents are always concerned about testing results. As a school district, we share these same concerns and are eager to see how well the Smarter Balanced Testing aligns with the Common Core Standards. Both of these initiatives were part of federal mandates and state mandates approved by the South Dakota Legislature.

I want to thank our teachers and administrators for their preparation leading up to the Smarter Balanced Testing. Their positive outlook in the face of uncertainty and on-going changes being required by the Federal Department of Education and the South Dakota Department of Education is truly appreciated, as we begin testing.

ACADEMICS + ACTIVITIES = EXCELLENCE!

The Yankton School District has a remarkable history of success in our school activity programs, fine arts, and club activities such as hockey, baseball, etc. Our students have been blessed to have terrific coaches, directors and sponsors.

While any type of activity should be enjoyable, there are also very valuable skills and lessons that can be taught to students participating. Goal setting, communication, organization, decision making, team work, conflict resolution, and many other valuable attributes related to activities are learned by those who are involved.

Many of these are often considered leadership skills, but they are also real life skills that can be practiced through-out life and also complement what is being taught in the classroom. School activities can often play a significant role in creating a positive school climate and keeping communities connected to their school.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fairest Tax

Joe Becvar, Yankton

South Dakota main revenue income comes from property taxes, sales tax and fees. There's no state income tax program.

Economists say that the property tax is the most unfair because it taxes without regard to the benefit derived from taxed property. A farmer or rancher must pay full taxes even though a crop failure happens. The same for a business owner, same taxes even on bad business year.

The income tax is the most fair because it taxes according to the ability to pay at time

P&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that a few simple guidelines be followed:

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

- In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

Other benefits include:

- Participants overall have higher GPAs than non-participants
- Participants overall have lower absenteeism than non-participants
- Reduced drop-out rates
- Lower discipline referrals
- Increased graduation rates

FACT OR FICTION

Fiction: Yankton School District Activities cost the taxpayers in Yankton several million dollars a year.

Fact: Yankton School District Activities do not cost the tax payers in Yankton several million dollars per year:

- Activities GF 2014-15: \$589,955 or 3.9 percent of total General Fund 2014-15
- Activities CO 2014-15: \$77,890 or 1.5 percent of total Capital Outlay 2014-15

- Activities GF 2013-14: \$588,946 or 3.8 percent of total General Fund 2013-14
- Activities CO 2014-15: \$83,788 or 1.9 percent of total Capital Outlay 2013-14

Total cost for Activities decreased by \$4889 from a year ago.

NOTE: The booster club reimburses the district for activity meals when they travel. In total, the Adult Booster Club has given \$42,426 in cash contributions for meals and equipment since July 2012.

KINDLE'S COFFEE

We held our third district wide coffee on March 4 at Lincoln Elementary School. Those in attendance learned about the different programs offered at Lincoln Elementary School, toured the facility, and had an opportunity for Q/A with Mr. Struck and me.

The coffee time is open to anybody who wishes to come and visit. I will provide a 10-minute update on the Yankton School District. The building principal will give a 10-minute overview of their school, and a 15-minute tour of the building. The remaining 25 minutes will be Question and Answer time from those attending. Along with coffee, there will be rolls/donuts served.

The following are dates/times/locations for upcoming Kindle Coffees:

- April 8 — 9-9:45 a.m.: Webster Elementary School
- May 1 — 9-9:45 a.m.: Beadle Elementary School

In addition to the Kindle Coffees, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place if that is more convenient for you and your group.

If there is a specific topic you would like for me to address in the future, please call me at 665-3998 or email me at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us. Let's continue to have a great year!