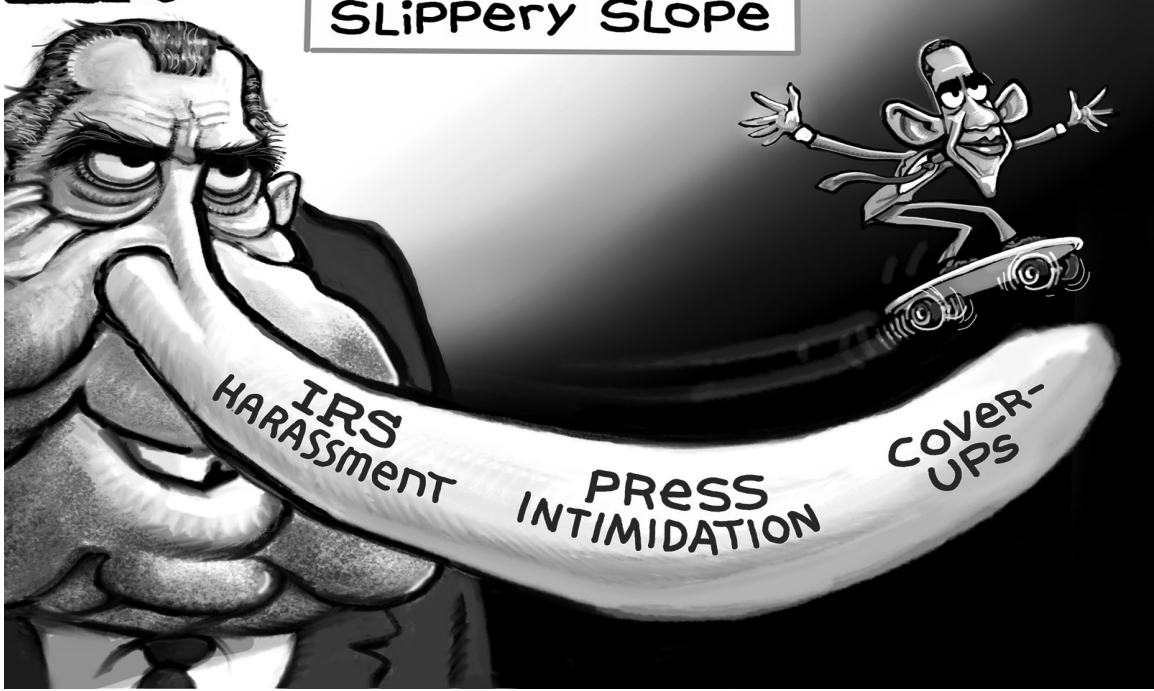


STAR TRIBUNE CagleCartoons.com



Pierre Report

# Committee Convenes At Capitol

BY SEN. JEAN HUNHOFF  
R-District 18 (Yankton)

Government Operations and Audit Committee (GOAC) met on the May 14. Due to other meetings for legislators that day, the committee just made quorum with six members present.

The Juvenile Corrections Monitor (JCM) Semi Annual Report was presented. The report covers complaints made by parents, guardians or youths that are in juvenile correctional facilities in South Dakota. Any and all allegations of abuse or neglect of individuals within state-run juvenile corrections facilities are investigated. The report identifies the complaint, the outcome of the investigation and any actions that were taken. Complaints come thru lock-boxes at the facilities or by personal contact by juveniles.

The report data was 98 notes and 27 personal contacts from July 1-Dec. 31, 2012. Subject matter was categorized as program problems, peer problems, staff behavior and miscellaneous.

Six investigations were submitted during this report time. All the investigation outcomes were unsubstantiated. There were procedural changes, additional training and personnel action that resulted from the investigations. There is a public report of the monitor's findings on the DSS website.

The Committee also heard a report on Abuse and Neglect in Private Placement Facilities for the same time period. Some of the juveniles are placed out of state because of their needs. These facilities are monitored for abuse and neglect by the Department of Corrections. The Department also reviews juveniles' injuries from restraints in contracted facilities. There were seven reports of the abuse/neglect and eight incidents reports with the restraints. All were reviewed and appropriate actions had been taken.

The Committee discussed SB70 oversight responsibilities for the Criminal Justice bill. Much of the discussion focused on performance measurements for all the areas that are impacted by the bill. It was concluded that departments referenced within the bill attend the next GOAC meeting and provide input as to what metrics should be considered to measure the effectiveness of the system reform.

SB235, which is the economic development bill, also had much of the same conversation on what should be the performance measurements to monitor. A draft of the funding formula was provided. Contractors excise tax on large projects and unclaimed property deposits — 25 percent in FY15, 50 percent thereafter — are used for the monies to support the five sections of the bill. No deposits/transfers to the fund if projected ongoing revenues are insufficient for that FY to accommodate the following:

- statutory increases for state aid to 1) K-12 Education, 2) Special Education 3) Technical Institutes;
- Projected Medicaid funding;
- State employee salary policy increases
- and actuarially projected increases in health Insurance costs.

The sections are: Local Infrastructure Improvement Grand Fund, Economic Development Partnership Fund,



J. Hunhoff

Workforce Education Fund S.D. Housing Opportunity Fund and revolving Economic Development and Initiative Fund.

GOED has had a rules hearing to begin implementation of the bill. The bill had an emergency clause attached so it went into effect after the governor's signature. However rules must be implemented for the statute to be implemented.

The department had the rules hearing on Monday and will bring the final rules to the Interim Rules Committee on June 4. The conclusion was to again have involved departments meet and coordinate their efforts. It was communicated to the committee that weekly meetings are beginning between Education, Economic Development and Housing Authority and will report back to the Committee at their next meeting.

The Bureau of Administration was asked to present their review process and conclusion on selection of liability coverage carrier for the State of South Dakota,

The state belongs to Midwest Higher Education (MEC) which a consortium of higher education facilities in the Midwest that as a group has significant purchasing power and resources for states in their education endeavors. They provide access to a liability carrier for coverage for Higher Ed facilities only. South Dakota chose to include both Higher Ed facilities and all state property holdings under one carrier. As a result the MEC bid could not be approved. The influence of the MEC bid did assist the State in achieving some cost savings in their selection for liability coverage.

Teach for America is a not-for-profit organization that works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunities for children facing the challenges of poverty. It is a national organization that recruits and trains recent college graduates and career-changers to teach in high-need public schools across the country. They have been partnering with Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations since 2004. They have been appropriated a total of \$250,000 from the general fund for the program from FY13 and FY14.

On the Senate floor, there was much debate as to the benefit this program brings to the state especially in the realm of student achievement. The committee had specific questions regarding outcomes of this program in the state. Discussion focused on teachers that stay in South Dakota following their two-year commitment, contributions to the program that come from within the state excluding state government, student scores/achievement, and size of Teach For America's reserve of \$300 million. Most of the questions were answered but student achievement data was not provided that would provide some measure of South Dakota student performance.

Also there was public testimony from three individuals questioning the use of state dollars for a not-for-profit group that only benefitted a segment of the state's population. The committee requested additional information for a later meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11. Agendas are posted on the Legislative web site.

# The Press & DAKOTAN

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Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

## OPINION | WE SAY

### Grad Tidings



**THUMBS UP** to the Yankton High School graduates who will receive their diplomas this weekend. It's been a long road, and you've got an even longer one ahead as you continue your education, enter the workforce and work out how to be an adult. We wish you luck in the future and congratulate you on this momentous occasion. The annual commencement is at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Summit Activities Center.

### Honored Veterans



**THUMBS UP** to Yankton residents Jim Black and Bob Hanson, two of only three living World War II submariners in South Dakota. They were honored during Saturday's memorial service near Meridian Bridge, honoring the *USS Scorpion*, believed lost at sea in 1944, and all other deceased World War II submariners. Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, a Yankton resident, spoke during the ceremony and recognized the contributions of Black, Hanson and other submariners who played a key role in protecting the nation during World War II. The two Yankton veterans also were instrumental in securing the *USS Scorpion* memorial, located next to Meridian Bridge. A special commemoration is planned for next year, marking the 70th anniversary of the *Scorpion's* disappearance. Hopefully, Hanson and Black will be in attendance.

### Deer Problems



**THUMBS DOWN** to the massive deer die-off in south-central and southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska created by epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and a similar disease known as blue tongue. In response, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) sponsored a series of meetings this week in Yankton, Tyndall and Freeman to outline proposed deer tag restrictions and to receive public input. About 1,100 deer were reported dead last year in southeast South Dakota, and Yankton County conservation officer Sam Schelhaas worries the actual number might be much higher. On a bright note, deer in other regions of the country apparently are building some resistance to the diseases. With this week's meetings, the GF&P is showing a resolve to take action for replenishing the deer herds, which looks to require several years.

### Hanging On



**THUMBS DOWN** to drought which continues to plague the Central Plains despite last month's moisture. Thursday's national phone conference provided the news that many area farmers already know: The drought will continue and even worsen in many areas, including southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska which remain in extreme (D3) drought. On a positive note, farmers have begun to catch up on their planting after facing major delays with cold weather and wet conditions (including snow). The long-term forecast calls for above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation. A series of timely rains are needed to make up the region's large moisture deficit.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

**Should the U.S. intervene in the Syrian civil war?**  
No .....84%  
Not sure .....9%  
Yes .....7%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST .....261**

*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:

**How closely have you been following the coverage of the IRS scandal?**

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

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 17, the 137th day of 2013. There are 228 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 17, 1973, a special committee convened by the U.S. Senate began its televised hearings into the Watergate scandal.

**On this date:** In 1510, Early Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli died in Florence, Italy; he was probably in his mid 60s.

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange had its origins as a group of brokers met under a tree on Wall Street.

In 1849, fire erupted in St. Louis, Mo., resulting in the loss of three lives, more than 400 buildings and some two dozen steamships.

In 1912, the Socialist Party of America nominated Eugene V. Debs for president at its convention in Indianapolis.

In 1933, *U.S. News & World Report* had its beginnings as David Lawrence began publishing a weekly newspaper called *United States News*.

In 1938, Congress passed the Second Vinson Act, providing for a strengthened U.S. Navy. The radio quiz show "Information, Please!" made its debut on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman seized control of the nation's railroads, delaying — but not preventing — a threatened strike by engineers and trainmen.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, unanimously struck down racially segregated public schools.

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro offered to release prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs invasion in exchange for 500 bulldozers. (The prisoners were eventually freed in exchange for medical supplies.)

In 1971, "Godspell," a contemporary musical inspired by the Gospel According to St. Matthew, opened off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre.

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami's Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

In 1987, 37 American sailors were killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the U.S. Navy frigate *Stark* in the Persian Gulf. (Iraq apologized for the attack, calling it a mistake, and paid more than \$27 million in compensation.)

**Ten years ago:** A top Vatican official, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, acknowledged what many observers had long suspected — that Pope John Paul II was suffering from Parkinson's disease. A German tour bus overturned on a highway in France, killing 28 people. A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in the West

Bank city of Hebron, killing an Israeli man and his pregnant wife. More than 260 people died in Sri Lanka's worst flooding in five decades. Funny Cide ran away from the field in the Preakness, two weeks after winning the Kentucky Derby. (However, Funny Cide came up short at the Belmont Stakes, finishing third.)

**Five years ago:** Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was flown to a Boston hospital after suffering a seizure at his Cape Cod home (he was later diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor). Nearing the end of his five-day Mideast trip, President George W. Bush held a rapid-fire series of diplomatic meetings at the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheik in Egypt. Kentucky Derby winner Big Brown ran away with the Preakness (however, the horse's Triple Crown quest ended three weeks later when it finished last in the Belmont Stakes).

**One year ago:** Washington's envoy to Israel, Dan Shapiro, told the Israel Bar Association the U.S. had plans in place to attack Iran if necessary to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons. Donna Summer, 63, the "Queen of Disco," died in Naples, Fla. Frank Edward "Ed" Ray, the California school bus driver hailed as a hero for helping 26 students escape after three kidnappers buried them underground in 1976, died at age 91.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Peter Gerety is 73. Singer Taj Mahal is 71. Singer-songwriter Jesse Winchester is 69. Rock musician Bill Bruford is 64. Singer-musician George Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 60. TV personality Kathleen Sullivan is 60. Actor Bill Paxton is 58. Boxing Hall-of-Famer Sugar Ray Leonard is 57. Actor-comedian Bob Saget is 57. Sports announcer Jim Nantz is 54. Singer Enya is 52. Talk show host-actor Craig Ferguson is 51. Rock singer-musician Page McConnell is 50. Actor David Eigenberg is 49. Singer-musician Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is 48. Actress Paige Turco is 48. Rhythm-and-blues musician O'Dell (Mint Condition) is 48. Actor Hill Harper is 47. TV personality/interior designer Thom Filicia is 44. Singer Jordan Knight is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darnell Van Renssaler (Shai) is 43. Actress Sasha Alexander is 40. Rock singer-musician Josh Homme is 40. Rock singer Andrea Corr (The Corrs) is 39. Actor Sendhil Ramamurthy is 39. Actress Rochelle Aytes is 37. Singer Kandi Burruss is 37. Actress Kat Foster is 35. Dancer-choreographer Derek Hough (huhf) is 28. Actor Tahj Mowry is 27. Actress Nikki Reed is 25. Actress Leven Rambin is 23. Actress Samantha Brown-Walters is 22. Actor Justin Martin is 19.

**Thought for Today:** "I always have a quotation for everything — it saves original thinking." — Dorothy L. Sayers, English author (1893-1957).

## FROM THE BIBLE

[Jesus said,] "Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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# Spring: Facing The New Normal

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Apparently, if you blinked, you missed spring.

That was my first theory, at least. Two weeks ago, Yankton saw 2 inches of snow on May 1 — the first time we've ever gotten measurable snow on that date — and everyone I talked to was wondering when in the world spring would arrive. This past Tuesday, when the mercury climbed to 95 degrees (and for a time I thought it would creep a few degrees higher), I began wondering where spring went. So, I guessed that I'd missed it, probably because it came at a bad time — sort of like getting a phone call while you're in the shower.

But upon more thought, I realized that we haven't missed spring at all.

This is it, you see. This is what our springs have become.

This could be a good starting point for a debate on climate change (formerly and inaccurately known as global warming). However, I'll take a cue instead from a professor I heard speak at USD last year about the climate change debate. I don't have the exact quote, but the gist of his words, I clearly recall, was this: There is no debate. The overwhelming majority of the scientific community acknowledges that something is happening to our climate and mankind contributes to it. The evidence is in, despite what a few highly publicized outliers may claim. Case closed.

For my part, I simply don't want to get into a debate today because it seems to solve nothing.

Instead, let's talk about what's climactically normal — and spring is an excellent place to start.

You cannot find two more different kinds of spring than what we've experienced these last two years. The spring of 2012 was very warm: It was 91 degrees on April 1 (as I noted in this space a few weeks ago), and I saw trees leafing out and flowering while the calendar still said March. However, this spring has been cold and snowy. April (and very early May) was a slog of intermittent winter curtain calls. It finally heated up this week, but even on Tuesday, I noticed that many of the trees in Yankton were still not leafing out fully, still stuck in the throes of a lingering dormancy from a winter that refused to leave.

Which spring is normal?

By our recollections, neither is. We have a set vision in our heads of what spring should look like — albeit ideally — and it lies somewhere between the two extremes we've seen in the last two years.

But that vision of what a "normal" spring should be may now be obsolete.

So, too, may be our thoughts on a normal summer. Again, we've been confronted with stark contrasts recently. The summer of 2011 was marred by flooding and, early on, heavy rains that kept feeding the misery. But last summer was straight out of the looking glass: We seemingly couldn't buy a good rain and most of the corn burned up by late July. Again, we were witness to two very different extremes.

By the way, get used to that word, "extreme." Extreme weather is viewed as one of the major impacts of our changing climate. There are many high-profile examples, but locally, let's go back to 2007 when the Yankton area was part of a massive tornado outbreak in early May that stretched as far south as Kansas. It was an extreme tornado outbreak, but what followed was an extreme of another sort: Incredibly, after that burst of violent weather, there was not another tornado sighting reported in South Dakota for the rest of that summer.

Or recall the memorable 2005 November blizzard that smothered this region with snow and ice that snapped tens of thousands of powerlines all across South Dakota and Nebraska. After a week or so of bitter cold, our area suddenly saw more than 50 straight days of above-normal temperatures, and all that snow was gone by the end of the following January — a month during which I was able to bike 60 miles and I saw ducks and geese making early flights north.

This, then, is what the new "normal" may be for us.

Our seasons are becoming wildly unpredictable, especially the transition times of spring and autumn, which are always unstable by their schizophrenic nature. The old rules about planting crops or gardens in the springtime or the arrival of the first frost of fall may be gone for good. The trick is going to be learning the new rules.

I suspect, though, that the only rule is going to be that there are no rules. The patterns of logic are mostly dissolved. Instead, there are outbursts and prolonged extremes that will eventually have a lot to say about the way we conduct our lives.

So, the new normal can be defined by the fact that nothing is normal anymore — or everything is. It all depends on how much we choose to remember and how surprised we are by what happens instead.

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



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