

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## Alarms



(if there could possibly be one) is that these two incidents should help school officials and local law enforcement in reviewing their procedures for such emergencies. That's a small consolation — other than the fact that, thankfully, there were no injuries (or worse) in these two incidents.

## Trooper Academy



THUMBS UP to Allie Thiesse for being the first Yankton High School student named to the South Dakota Trooper Academy. It's great to see there's no shortage of locals looking into the world of law enforcement. Allie will be one of 20 cadets from across the state during June's academy. This year also saw a jump from 17 applications in 2013 to 54 in 2014, signaling the program is gaining interest and will continue to prosper.

## Taking Out The Trash



THUMBS UP to the successful — and expanded — Missouri River Stewardship Events held at Riverside Park and elsewhere along the river. Friday's school festival drew nearly 300 students who experienced firsthand the river's life and history found in their backyards. On Saturday, more than 120 volunteers turned out for the 11th annual Missouri River Clean Up. Organizers believe more than three tons of debris were gathered on the South Dakota and Nebraska sides of the river. The Clean Up is organized by federal and state agencies, the City of Yankton as well as many other groups and organizations. Also on Saturday, the Outdoors Expo greeted visitors to 33 stations showing a variety of outdoors-oriented and Boy Scout exhibits. And the Clean Boat educational outreach continues through Saturday, informing anglers and boaters of the necessity of keeping invasive species — such as the Asian carp and zebra mussel — out of waterways such as Lewis and Clark Lake.

## Building A Headquarters



THUMBS UP to the Ponca Tribe for breaking ground on their new headquarters in Niobrara, Nebraska. The new headquarters is being built east of the current location and will cover approximately 9,000 square feet — more than double the size of the existing building. The project is expected to be completed next February. Tribal councilwoman Debbie Robinette noted the current building was formerly used as a fertilizer supply business and has served as tribal headquarters for 23 years. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) of Minnesota provided major funding for making the project a reality. The Poncas are a tribe without a reservation, and its 3,500 members are spread across the United States. As Robinette pointed out, the new headquarters will represent a homecoming of sorts as the tribe begins the next chapter in its history.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

**Should South Dakota increase the number of video lottery machines it allows in businesses?**  
No . . . . . 54%  
Yes . . . . . 29%  
Not sure/Don't care . . . . . 17%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST . . . . . 287**

*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 believe the proposed Napa junction project in Yankton County is dead?**

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

## ON THIS DATE

### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 9, the 129th day of 2014. There are 236 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

**On this date:** In 1754, a political cartoon in Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* depicted a snake cut into eight pieces, each section representing a part of the American colonies; the caption read, "JOIN, or DIE."

In 1814, the Jane Austen novel "Mansfield Park" was first published in London.

In 1864, Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick was killed by a Confederate sniper during the Civil War Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia.

In 1914, country music star Hank Snow was born in Brooklyn, Nova Scotia, Canada.

In 1926, Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett supposedly became the first men to fly over the North Pole. (However, U.S. scholars announced in 1996 that their examination of Byrd's recently discovered flight diary suggested he had turned back 150 miles short of his goal.)

In 1936, Italy annexed Ethiopia.

In 1945, U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a 225-kiloton device on Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

**Ten years ago:** A bomb planted by Caucasus rebels destroyed the VIP section at a stadium during a Victory Day

celebration in the Chechen capital of Grozny, killing some two dozen people, including the province's president, Akhmad Kadyrov. Canada rallied to beat Sweden for the second straight year in the gold-medal game at the world hockey championships, 5-3. Comedian Alan King died in New York at age 76.

**Five years ago:** The top religious adviser to Jordan's king thanked visiting Pope Benedict XVI for expressing regret after a 2006 speech that many Muslims deemed insulting to the Prophet Muhammad. Pakistani warplanes pounded the Taliban-held Swat Valley in what the country's prime minister called a "war of the country's survival."

**One year ago:** Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who had irked Washington with his frequent criticism of U.S. military operations in his country, said his government was ready to let U.S. have nine bases across Afghanistan after the withdrawal of most foreign forces in 2014. A 72-foot-long, high-tech catamaran sailboat capsized in San Francisco Bay while practicing for the America's Cup races, killing English Olympic gold medalist Andrew "Bart" Simpson. Malcolm Shabazz, 29, grandson of civil rights activist Malcolm X, died in Mexico City of blunt trauma injuries sustained in a bar dispute.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Geraldine McEwan is 82. Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 80. Rock musician Nokie Edwards (The Ventures) is 79. Actor Albert Finney is 78. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 77. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 77. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 77. Singer Tommy Roe is 72. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 70. Actress Candice Bergen is 68. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 68. Actor John Corbett is 53. Singer Dave Gahan (Depeche Mode) is 52. Actress Sonja Sohn is 50. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 44. Country musician Mike Myers (Heartland) is 43. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamia is 39. Rock musician Dan Regan (Reel Big Fish) is 37. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 35. Actress Rosario Dawson is 35. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 35. Actress Rachel Boston is 32. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 29.

**Thought for Today:** "A watch is always too fast or too slow. I cannot be dictated to by a watch." — From "Mansfield Park" by Jane Austen (1775-1817)

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life." John 6:35. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*



# Climate Change: Just Look Around

BY KELLY HERTZ

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So, I learned this week that I may be an elitist.

I discovered this after reading the White House's grim report on climate change, which really didn't offer many new revelations except for one: Those changes are already happening; the future is now.

It bothered me, and I fear for that future if we don't change our ways.

However, that makes me an elitist, according to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). The Senate minority leader scoffed at the report's findings, declaring it would "get loud cheers from liberal elites — from the kind of people who leave a giant carbon footprint and then lecture everybody else about low-flow toilets."

Of course, I'm not cheering anything; this is too disturbing for that. As for my personal carbon footprint, I'll let others judge me.

As I consider McConnell's words, I see little that challenges the science that has been embraced by an estimated 97 percent of the scientific community. Instead, I just see derisive red meat tossed out to the skeptics. To be fair, McConnell added that anything the U.S. does won't mean much unless other industrialized nations also act, which is true. But I don't think he sees his words as a beginning of a solution so much as an end to a discussion he'd rather not have.

The climate change report laid out a new urgency that is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These steps won't be easy, but the alternative is to fiddle while Rome burns, which we've mostly been doing for the last 30 years.

The consequences are already with us.

And you know it.

Most everyone I know has commented about the volatile weather extremes we've endured in recent years. It fits in with predictions of wildly unsettled weather patterns, which also include heavier precipitation in the winter months and more periods of drought in warm months. The former could generate more floods and soil erosion; the latter could create water shortages that could cripple farmers and rural communities.

I think back to last October when winter storm Atlas smothered western South Dakota, creating enormous havoc for livestock (and the state's economy). But I also remember the rather rare EF-4 tornado that smacked Wayne, Neb., at the same time. I drove down there the next afternoon (Saturday) to take photos. What I recall most, besides the damage, was how cold the northwest wind was on that dark, autumnal day. It wasn't tornado weather, but the wreckage around me cried otherwise.

Listen to the trees. They are, after all, long-term inhabitants wherever they take root, and they have stories to tell. There are now places



Kelly  
**HERTZ**

along the James River, for instance, where you see vast swaths of dead trees. In some places, in one glance, you can spot trees that died in the 2011 flooding as well as trees that died in the 2012 drought. It's a striking visual contradiction: two completely divergent paths that ended up at the same fate. They also reveal a blunt truth: Masses of trees that had survived and thrived for decades are now gone.

The James itself tells a tale, mostly because I don't recognize it anymore. According to SDSU Extension, years of unprecedented flooding due to a rise in rain events have widened the river all out of shape, and thousands of acres of bottomland that used to be consistently productive are now annually at risk of producing nothing. This is a different river, now.

Agriculture is being impacted by climate change in other ways. For instance, if you're a corn producer, you have new competition. Canada now has a corn belt, a once-unthinkable prospect now being realized thanks to a growing season that's about two weeks longer than it used to be, coupled with new, faster-growing hybrids. Production is growing exponentially, which resulted in a drop in Canadian corn purchases from the U.S. last year. That purchase total (\$113.7 million) was less than 25 percent of what it was five years ago.

Actually, agriculture could see benefits from climate change in terms of longer growing seasons — SDSU Extension estimates the frost-free season in South Dakota has expanded by about 10 days. But that could be offset somewhat by insect species and weeds that are better able to cope with milder winters. (In fact, the mountain pine beetle, which is ravaging the Black Hills, was cited in Tuesday's report as a creature now thriving in the warmer climate. The rusty streaks splashed across the piney slopes out west paint a portrait of this new reality.)

Even issues ranging from seasonal allergies and diseases to monarch butterflies and pot-holes are being influenced by the changing climate.

If there is good news here, it's the fact that we can change our ruinous destiny — if we act now.

But the biggest problem may not be in the storm clouds or the dust devils but in ourselves. Public opinion doesn't see climate change as a top priority, mostly because it's been viewed as a far-off threat. Thus, many lawmakers feel no pressure to address the issue directly — or when they do, some see the topic as a target for ridicule. Foresight, it seems, is merely optional for these people. And the public is left to feel powerless and/or unthreatened as a result.

But the joke may ultimately be on us and on the world that we not only leave for future generations but also the one we are making for ourselves right now — as you can all see.

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

### Tribute To Veterans

#### VI Ranney, Yankton

On Monday morning, the YHS history class of Mr. Haar invited World War II veterans from the Yankton area for a program at Summit Theatre. It featured a beautiful trumpet trio under the direction of Todd Carr, three musical selections by the high school chorus under the direction of Mrs. Larson, a tribute by Dr. Kinde, and videos that attorney David Hosmer and Mr. Haar had done of area veterans. Truly, a most outstanding program honoring our WWII veterans and accompanying guests!

I attended with my WWII husband, Dr. Ranney. Then we were served rolls and coffee in the Commons by the students and round table discussions were held.

Later, we all went to the library and the veterans signed pictures of famous WWII sights.

But I want to send my glorious thanks and praise to the YHS students who did an outstanding job of hosting this event, not only physically helping our aged veterans with their walkers and wheelchairs, but showing such loving kindness to all. What a beautiful group of students! Hats off to our school!

### Gesture Appreciated

#### Cindy Huss, Yankton, and Dan Born, Olivet

To the family who paid for our birthday meal at the Fry'n Pan on Thursday, May 1 — a big "Thank You." It was quite a surprise and greatly appreciated!

## ELECTION LETTERS

■ During the election season, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** is limiting any letter related to the political campaigns to 150 words. (A letter that exceeds that total by a small margin may be edited down to fit within that parameter.) Letters that surpass that limit will be referred to the advertising department, and author will be given the option of paying to have the letter printed in its entirety elsewhere in the newspaper. Send your letters or questions to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at [views@yankton.net](mailto:views@yankton.net).

### A Successful Crawl

**Bob & Lisa Willcockson, Pauline Akland, Kris Ford, Marcy Moser and Deb Weddingfeld**  
*The Lori Groetken Foundation Planning Committee*

The second annual Lori Groetken Poker Run and Pub Crawl is complete. We continue to tell the story of Lori Groetken and her battle with pancreatic cancer and raise money for research in her memory. Many helped with this effort including major sponsors Dakota Beverage and First Dakota National Bank. Cheerfully serving a slew of thirsty patrons were the staffs of Rounding 3rd, Ben's, O'Malley's, Boomer's, Happy Hourz, and Czeckers. All funds raised will benefit research in the Linehan Lab at the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis. The turn out was great, the day spectacular and the fellowship truly memorable. We appreciate the efforts of all who helped make the day a success.

**WRITE US:** Letters, Yankton Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078