

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Cold Spring



THUMBS DOWN to frost warnings in mid-May. It's been a long, cold winter, even without the major snowfall, and the record low temperatures and frost prospects make us wonder when — or if — spring will arrive for good. The recent rainfall has been extremely welcome, but the cold temps and frost warnings wreak havoc for both gardeners and farmers.

Here's hoping the forecast warm-up for this weekend is a sign of things to come.

Flying High



THUMBS UP to the Freeman High School seniors who received honorable-mention status in C-SPAN's "StudentCam" national competition. The FHS documentary was judged among the best 150 of a record 2,355 entries. The Freeman students focused on government gridlock, offering the "No Labels" grassroots effort in Congress as one way of breaking the stalemate. "No Labels" seeks to shed the emphasis on party labels and instead work on serving the national interest. Isn't that what government is (or should be) all about?

Great Addition



THUMBS UP to the opening of the Sunshine Terrace challenging behavior unit at Irene. The unit, which opened this week, operates as a separate wing of the Sunset Manor Avera campus. According to local officials, Sunshine Terrace's 11 private room suites should be filled and a waiting list established later this month. The facility seeks to serve a special population, such as those with schizophrenia, anxiety, dementia and bipolar disorders, according to Administrator Chad Breidenbach. The majority of initial admissions will come from the Human Services Center in Yankton, he said. The Irene campus has shown its innovation by opening one of South Dakota's first traumatic brain injury (TBI) units, and the latest addition continues that trend.

Truth To Tell



THUMBS UP to KSFY anchor Nancy Naeve for her strong lecture Monday concerning viewer complaints after tornado warnings aired by the Sioux Falls station on Sunday night cut into the season finale of ABC's "Once Upon a Time." The station was hit by several complaints after the warning of a tornado near Hospers, Iowa. A woman interviewed afterwards even credited the station's alert for compelling her to call her daughter to tell her to seek shelter. On Monday morning, Naeve grew emotional as she told viewers that the lives of people are more important than a television show, which can be also found online. Naeve is absolutely right. While the odds are against any one person from getting injured (or worse) in a storm, the danger always exists, and information is the best weapon to keep those odds low. Good for her for making a stand.

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 the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) should be scrapped completely?
Yes. Get rid of it and start over 56%
No. Leave it alone or fix what is already enacted 39%
Not sure 5%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 462
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 in the theory of climate change and that man is causing it?
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, May 16, the 136th day of 2014. There are 229 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 16, 1929, the first Academy Awards were presented. "Wings" won "best production," while Emil Jannings and Janet Gaynor were named best actor and best actress.

On this date: In 1763, the English lexicographer, author and wit Samuel Johnson first met his future biographer, James Boswell.

In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1868, the U.S. Senate failed by one vote to convict President Andrew Johnson as it took its first ballot on the eleven articles of impeachment against him.

In 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized by Pope Benedict XV.

In 1939, the federal government began its first food stamp program in Rochester, New York.

In 1943, the nearly month-long Warsaw Ghetto Uprising came to an end as German forces crushed the Jewish resistance and blew up the Great Synagogue.

In 1948, CBS News correspondent George Polk, who'd been covering the Greek civil war between communist and nationalist forces, was found slain in Salonika Harbor.

In 1953, Associated Press correspondent William N. Oatis was released by communist authorities in Czechoslovakia, where he'd been imprisoned for two years after being forced to confess to espionage while working as the AP's Prague bureau chief.

In 1961, Park Chung-hee seized power in South Korea in a military coup.

In 1974, former U.S. Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst pleaded guilty to failing to testify fully at his Senate confirmation hearing about an investigation of International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.; he was fined \$100 and given a suspended 30-day sentence.

In 1984, comedian Andy Kaufman died in Los Angeles at age 35.

In 1989, during his visit to Beijing, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, formally ending a 30-year rift between the two Communist powers.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration announced a new initiative to speed up the approval process for

new combination AIDS drugs designed to bring cheap, easy-to-use treatment to millions of people in Africa and the Caribbean. Pope John Paul II named six new saints, including Gianna Beretta Molla, revered by abortion foes because she'd refused to end her pregnancy despite warnings it could kill her. (Beretta Molla, an Italian pediatrician, died in 1962 at age 39, a week after giving birth to her fourth child.)

Five years ago: The ruling Congress party swept to a resounding victory in India's mammoth national elections. Rachel Alexandra became the first filly to win the Preakness Stakes since 1924, holding off a late charge by Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird to capture the middle jewel of the Triple Crown by a length.

One year ago: President Barack Obama named a temporary chief for the scandal-marred Internal Revenue Service and pressed Congress to approve new security money to prevent another Benghazi-style terrorist attack. Candice Glover won the 12th season of "American Idol" on Fox.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Senator and Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker is 83. Jazz musician Billy Cobham is 70. Actor Danny Trejo is 70. Actor Bill Smitrovich is 67. Actor Pierce Brosnan is 61. Actress Debra Winger is 59. Olympic gold medal gymnast Olga Korbut is 59. Actress Mare Winningham is 55. Rock musician Boyd Tinsley (The Dave Matthews Band) is 50. Rock musician Krist Novoselic is 49. Singer Janet Jackson is 48. Country singer Scott Reeves (Blue County) is 48. Actor Brian F. O'Byrne is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tresvant (New Edition) is 46. Actor David Boreanaz is 45. Political correspondent Tucker Carlson is 45. Actress Tracey Gold is 45. Tennis player Gabriela Sabatini is 44. Country singer Rick Trevino is 43. Musician Simon Katz is 43. Entrepreneur Bill Rancic (TV: "The Apprentice") is 43. Actress Tori Spelling is 41. Actress Lynn Collins is 37. Actress Melanie Lynskey is 37. Actress Megan Fox is 28. Actor Drew Roy is 28. Actor Jacob Zachar is 28. Actor Marc John Jefferies is 24. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Ashley Wagner is 23. Actor Miles Heizer is 20.

Thought for Today: "I want, of course, peace, grace, and beauty. How do you do that? You work for it." — Studs Terkel, American writer (1912-2008).

FROM THE BIBLE

Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Ezekiel 37:4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

HOW TO ESTABLISH NFL CRED.



We're Just Different In Yankton County

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Yankton County is different. That statement could be taken in several positive ways, each of which we can be rightly proud of: our history, our recreation, our diverse economic base, our bridges and so on.

But it's not all good. Sometimes, it can be frustrating and embarrassing.

If you've followed what might be called the Dakota Plains road show in recent weeks, you've become aware of one of Yankton County's "differences."

The grain company has had its sights on building a terminal near the Napa railroad junction northwest of Yankton for about two years. The company has been trying to work out the details with the County Commission and other officials; there was a false start, then a serious effort to reignite the project, which could be an investment around \$40 million in its first phase alone. Along the way, there have been numerous hurdles erected, accusations made, miscommunications, and rising and falling hopes, not to mention clear demonstrations of resistance and even antagonism by some county officials.

After a county Planning Commission meeting last month resulted in what Dakota Plains officials viewed as yet another swing and miss, they began looking elsewhere to locate their multimillion-dollar facility. That meant going through the courting process all over again with officials in other counties.

Lo and behold, when they met with the Bon Homme County Commission in Tyndall last week, it was quite cordial. One commissioner told the Dakota Plains officials that, if they had come to Bon Homme County in the first place, their facility would already be built.

This week, Dakota Plains went before the Clay County Commission in Vermillion, and again, cordiality reigned. There were questions about what had been going on here in Yankton County, but the meeting seemed productive, with one commissioner saying that his county looked forward to working with Dakota Plains.

So yes, Yankton County is different. Whereas other counties in our rural state seem eager to work with Dakota Plains and possibly take on this promising agricultural project, Yankton County appears to have little use for such "blue sky" schemes — "blue sky" being a handy term foes of the project like to lob out when they want to cast the proposal in dreamy, dismissive terms.

Any pulse that was left in the Napa proposal probably died Tuesday, when the county Planning Commission was slated to consider numerous options concerning a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, which Dakota Plains says it needs to make the Napa facility feasible. County Commissioner Allen Sinclair — who supported Dakota Plains' rezoning request but has also been a critic of the Napa project — declared that the planning commission could not proceed without direction from the parties involved because the situation had changed. This surprised most everyone. Since Dakota Plains officials say they intend to make a decision on

the site for its grain terminal next month, Tuesday's limbo felt like one final wrench thrown into the clock and ensure that Dakota Plains does not do business in Yankton County, where the grain facility and other related developments could generate considerable revenue and lead to potentially dozens or even hundreds of new jobs.

Yankton County really is different. Tuesday's outcome left several people rather frustrated, as well as on awkwardly different pages. While County Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen (who was among the frustrated) said the members of the commission wanted Dakota Plains to come in, Sinclair said the commission has been telling Dakota Plains for years to look elsewhere — or, as County Commissioner Donna Freng once suggested, "anywhere." It comes off

seeming rather rudderless.

No wonder the company appears to be doing just that. Dakota Plains has not been faultless in this process, either. As I understand it, there has been some frustration on several levels — not just the county — about the extent of the company's plans for the Napa site.

But it has seemed evident that there was no consensus on the county end to reach an understanding with a "big ag" company. When Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) stepped in to try to shepherd the matter along — I've been told Dakota Plains was set to pull out of Yankton County altogether in January before YAPG interceded — the resistance appeared to stiffen. I've heard that YAPG was criticized by some Napa foes as being in the "pocket" of corporate agriculture. So, in an effort to keep the outsiders out, we've turned on people who live and do business right here among us.

We look like a dysfunctional island right now, surrounded by those who envy our opportunities and then welcome them after we fumble them away.

Of course, Yankton County DOES stand to benefit from this project in spite of itself should the terminal be built in Bon Homme or Clay counties. There will still be jobs created and money flowing. This county will reap the rewards from the commitments and investments made by people in other places with bluer skies and more welcoming arms. We will live off those fumes and be satisfied with whatever we get.

Meanwhile, Yankton County can also live with roads that will probably get battered by heavy truck use, but without the new tax revenue to upgrade and/or fix them. And we can relish our reported reputation of being anti-development and anti-agriculture — which is not a local criticism but rather a state-level perception.

But that's what victory looks like when you're different, I guess.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

YOUR LETTERS

Signage Issue

Linda Zimmerman, Yankton
Recently, the *Press & Dakotan* ran an article about the proper placement of garage sale signs. We do garage sales at least twice a summer and place our signs in our front yard. I'm assuming that is OK with city ordinance.

My question is this: Signs are not allowed in the space between the street and our sidewalks, yet there are numerous flower or vegetable gardens in that space — most are not kept up and are a weed patch most of the year. Where does the city stand on this — for nine months of the year, it is just dead flowers and weeds. Not a lot to keep Yankton Beautiful — some plots are well kept.

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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.

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