

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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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
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

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OPINION | WE SAY

Community Affairs



THUMBS UP to the “State of the Community” forum organized by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce this week. It was an opportunity for city and county officials to update the public on what is going on with local government, whether it’s budget issues, planning projects or construction activity. However, things got really interesting during the question-and-answer session held after the presentations. Local businessman Larry Ness expressed in blunt terms his feelings that Yankton and Yankton County needs to become more progressive. Yankton County Planning and Zoning Administrator Pat Garrity made a plea to set aside emotions when discussing opportunities for the future and instead have a calm consideration of the facts. Judging by the social media response we’ve seen to the article published in the *Press & Dakotian*, this is the sort of conversation with which many area residents want to become engaged. Let’s hope this discussion continues.

A Passing



THUMBS DOWN to the death of former Northern State University coach Don Meyer. He retired in 2010 as one of the winningest coaches in NCAA men’s basketball history. He amassed 923 victories at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn.; Lipscomb University at Nashville; and NSU in Aberdeen. Meyer, a Wayne, Neb., native, spoke last March at the Summit Activities Center theater in Yankton as one of his last public appearances. The *Press & Dakotian* carried reflections this week on Meyer’s life from two Yankton colleagues — Ted Quinn, director of coaches’ programs for the Nations of Coaches ministry, and former Mount Marty College men’s basketball coach Jim Thorson. As Quinn and Thorson noted, Meyer will be remembered for his strong faith and character as much as his winning record. A memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. Saturday on the NSU campus, with a June 1 service planned at Lipscomb.

Community Benefits



THUMBS UP to Wagner Area Growth (WAG) for receiving a \$50,000 grant from USDA Rural Development. The money will benefit not only Wagner but six communities in southern Charles Mix County. WAG provided a \$51,000 match to the USDA grant in building up the local revolving loan fund. The Wagner officials will use the revolving fund to help local entrepreneurs with start-up or expansion needs. WAG president Bryan Slaba believes the current \$250,000 fund could grow to \$350,000 or \$400,000 with additional money from the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) or other sources. The Southern Charles Mix Dakota Rising program will hold its next meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Wagner theater, gathering more ideas for area development.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Who do you think will win South Dakota’s Republican Senate primary?
Mike Rounds51%
Not sure/don’t care25%
Stace Nelson9%
Dr. Annette Bosworth8%
Jason Ravnsborg5%
Larry Rhoden2%
TOTAL VOTES CAST370

The Press & Dakotian 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 plan on traveling more than 500 miles on a vacation trip this summer?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotian*’s Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2014. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On May 23, 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

On this date: In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England’s King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a second revised version of Beethoven’s only opera, “Fidelio,” had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1911, the newly completed New York Public Library was dedicated by President William Howard Taft. Gov. John Alden Dix and Mayor William Jay Gaynor.

In 1939, the Navy submarine *USS Squalus* sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and recommissioned the *USS Sailfish*.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces bogged down in Anzio began a major breakout offensive.

In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships, an action which precipitated war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeals of former Nixon White House aides H.R. Halde-man and John Ehrlichman and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell in connection with their Watergate convictions.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was “very solid” evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers. “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom,” starring Harrison Ford, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1994, funeral services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. “Mad Bomber” George Metesky, who’d terrified New Yorkers over a 16-year odd period, died in Waterbury, Connecticut, at age 90.

Ten years ago: A large section of the roof of a new passenger terminal at Paris’ Charles de Gaulle airport col-

lapsed, killing four people. A river ferry capsized in eastern Bangladesh during a storm, leaving as many as 200 dead.

Five years ago: Former South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, 62, leapt to his death amid a widening corruption scandal. Charles Donald Albury, co-pilot of the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, died in Orlando, Florida, at 88.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in a speech to the National Defense University, defended America’s controversial drone attacks as legal, effective and a necessary linchpin in an evolving U.S. counterterrorism policy, but acknowledged the targeted strikes were no “cure-all” and said he was haunted by the civilians who were unintentionally killed. The Boy Scouts of America threw open its ranks to gay Scouts but not to gay Scout leaders. LeBron James was a unanimous pick for the All-NBA team and Kobe Bryant earned his record-setting 11th first-team selection.

Today’s Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 89. Actress Barbara Barrie is 83. Actress Joan Collins is 81. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 78. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 70. Actress Lauren Chapin is 69. Country singer Misty Morgan is 69. Country singer Judy Rodman is 63. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 63. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 60. Singer Luka Bloom is 59. Actor-comedian-gone show host Drew Carey is 56. Actress Lea DeLaria (TV: “Orange is the New Black”) is 56. Country singer Shelly West is 56. Actor Linden Ashby is 54. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 53. Actress Melissa McBride is 49. Rock musician Phil Seltway (Radiohead) is 47. Actress Laurel Holloman is 46. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 44. Singer Lorenzo is 42. Country singer Brian McComas is 42. Actor John Pol-lono (TV: “Mob City”) is 42. Singer Maxwell is 41. Singer Jewel is 40. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 40. Actor Lane Garrison is 34. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson (TV: “Saturday Night Live”) is 33. Actor Adam Wylie is 30. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler (Film: “Fruitvale Station”) is 28.

Thought for Today: “We do not usually look for allies when we love. Indeed, we often look on those who love with us as rivals and trespassers. But we always look for allies when we hate.” — Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).

FROM THE BIBLE

Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin”? Proverbs 20:9. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



MMC's Next Step

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

I had to stop myself from opening this piece with the trite observation that Mount Marty College is at an important crossroads as it begins a search — again — for a new president.

MMC has practically lived at that intersection for several years now, so there’s no real need to point it out again.

This week’s sudden resignation of Dr. Joseph Benoit once more leaves the school hanging. Another search process must ramp up. The last one took a year and, as memory serves, I had to do a re-start somewhere along the line, so this doesn’t promise to be a real quick quest.

The school’s history with secular presidents, dating back to the 1990s, has been a decidedly mixed experience. Given the suddenness and immediacy of Benoit’s resignation, it’s not unreasonable to suppose that this parting of the ways was somewhat mutual.

When I heard the news, I was surprised to discover that I was slightly worried.

What worried me, as much as it possibly could, is the thought that MMC might backslide from what I realized were the gains the school has made in the last several years (and several presidents) to heighten its visibility.

This is no small point. My experience with Mount Marty goes back nearly 30 years. When I started working at this newspaper, I was aware of the place, but that was about it. This was a Yankton College town, and MMC was just the little Catholic school by the convent.

Mount Marty didn’t seem to have much identity beyond its intimate circle of students, faculty and alumni. Its campus was spare, almost invisible. The Lancers played their home basketball games at YC’s Nash Gym and then, after Yankton College closed, at whatever high school facility would have them. And you never really knew what was going on up there because its public relations efforts were spotty. MMC seemed more like a mystery to me than a bona fide place of higher learning.

My lack of perception about the school reflected MMC’s persistent lack of connection with surrounding area. Sometimes, there didn’t even seem like there was a desire to do so.

But through the years, things changed. The construction of Cimpr Arena gave the school its own athletic facility and a real, physical identity. A little more than a decade later, the building of the Scholastica Center created a campus atmos-

phere that had been sorely lacking. Things like the Vespers service each holiday season open up the school more, as do the spring concerts that bring in Christian recording artists. So, too, do the community learning classes that have been offered. These things bring people to campus and make people aware that Mount Marty is there.

On my media end, communication from MMC has improved a lot. We now get press releases from there on a regular basis, which really helps to get the word out about what’s going on at the Mount. It helps the school promote its nursing program, which is outstanding, and its science expansion that is currently under way. It helps put a face on what Mount Marty is really all about.

(There is still some work to do, however. For instance, the school has not, to my knowledge, released enrollment figures for quite a while. Those are the kinds of things that need tending to on a regular basis.)

I guess I was a bit concerned this week because I wondered if the school might shift gears on this effort at openness and lose the momentum it has gradually built these last several years. Granted, I cannot speak to what goes on internally at the school that may or may not have led to this latest presidential change, but from my external perspective, those little things I spoke of tend to add up and point to a good direction.

So, about the cliché crossroad: Mount Marty needs to take its game to the next level. It needs to sell itself vigorously as a Catholic-based college with a lot to offer.

I think the next president, whoever he or she will be, must be a promoter unlike any we’ve seen at the school previously. That will also mean being a fundraiser, which in this age has got to be a top priority. The next president needs to cultivate more relationships with other entities, like RTEC or area high schools, to maximize its profile.

These aren’t radical proposals; in fact, they are things the school has been doing with modestly encouraging success. But it’s time to shift hard into a higher gear.

MMC’s search for a new president will not be easy. The rewards could be great. But the attitude must be that there is no going back now, that the school must move forward, full steam ahead.

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

Leonard Pitts

Attacking A Double Standard

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

What if he had smacked her one?

She’s going after him with fists and feet. What if he had defended himself in kind? Or what if he had been the one who attacked her without physical provocation?

Would it still be funny?

As we all know from a leaked elevator surveillance video that has been replayed countless times on television and online, that’s not how it happened. Instead, rapper and businessman Jay Z deflected the blows and at one point caught a kicking foot in midair, but otherwise made no aggressive moves as his sister-in-law, singer Solange Knowles, whaled on him. Beyonce — his wife, her sister — watched without interfering, and an overmatched bodyguard tried to keep the peace.

Video of the one-sided brawl at a New York hotel first surfaced last week on TMZ. It has since been widely remarked upon and scrutinized. People have speculated on what made Solange go off like that. People have cracked jokes. But there has been little if any denunciation of the violence, nor are police known to be investigating.

Indeed, the world seemed ready to move on to the next oddity in the human carnival by the time the family released an opaque statement on Friday (they’re both sorry) and “Saturday Night Live” lampooned the fight in a sketch.

But what if he had hit her, whether in self-defense or aggression? Wouldn’t we be having a markedly different discussion right now? Wouldn’t police be involved? Wouldn’t his reputation be in the toilet?

Yes. So, what’s the difference?

We know the answer intuitively, even if it is not politically correct to say: Real men don’t hit women. Not even in self-defense, unless maybe she holds a black belt or a baseball bat. Men are taught from boyhood to be mindful of their superior size and strength: Don’t hit girls.

So Jay Z took his sister-in-law’s abuse because there was, in a real sense, nothing else he could do.

And don’t you think she knew that? Don’t you think she was counting on it when she waded in there?

YOUR LETTERS

On Memorial Day

Bill Rueppel, Yankton

Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 791, Yankton

I recently received a piece of junk mail, which had emblazoned across the front of the envelope “Happy Memorial Day!”

“Happy?”

I believe Memorial Day is somber, and rever-

ent. It is meant for remembering and reminiscing. A day to honor all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. A tribute to all of our wounded and fallen heroes, as well as today’s men and women in the military.

I encourage everyone to stroll through any cemetery and pay their respects.

“Happy?”

No.