

#### 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 kristina.tunink@yankton.ne 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 Kristina Tunink

Circulation Manage Tera Schmidt

Classified Manager Kelly Hertz Editor

James D. Cimburel Sports Editor

Beth Rye New Media Director Kathy Larson

Composing Manager

## **DAILY STAFF**

Cassandra Brockmoller Brandi Bue Rob Buckingham Caryn Chappelear Randy Dockendorf Jordynne Hart Jeremy Hoeck Sarah Lynde 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.

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CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month\$12.09
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6 months \$72.53
1-year \$133.09
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1 month \$14.51

. \$43.53 6 months......\$87.05 .. \$139.14 MAIL IN RETAIL

.....\$16.93 3 months......\$50.79 6 months...... \$101.57 . \$148.82

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# We Say

#### **Finale**



THUMBS UP to Mount Marty College band director Dean Rettedal, who is retiring after 33 years at the Catholic college. Rettedal went out on a high note, so to speak, when he conducted his final concert Sunday night at Marian Auditorium. Yankton Mayor Dave Carda read a proclamation in Rettedal's honor, and a number of Rettedal's former band students showed up

as a surprise addition for the final number. Anticipating an emotional moment for himself, Rettedal wrote his farewell and thanks that was read by a student. At the concert's conclusion, the packed Marian Auditorium showed its appreciation with a standing ovation. Rettedal has also run a clothing and shoe store in his hometown of Scotland for the past 36 years. A number of his fellow Scotland residents attended the concert and reception, whose line snaked out the building. Thanks to Rettedal for incredible music through the years. As they say in the business, he is entitled to take a well-deserved bow.

#### Hot ... Damn



**THUMBS DOWN** to the unpleasant summer weather forecast issued this week by the AccuWeather online meteorological service. The company's summer outlook had much of the area perched in the "hot and dry" category. "Drier-than-normal conditions in the winter and for the most part this spring will lead to a drier soil and hotter temperatures. This can put stress

on crops for this region," according to AccuWeather.com Expert Long-Range Forecaster Paul Pastelok. The forecast adds that mid-summer 'will feel hot across the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota.' Added Pastelok: "They will be dry, and the heat will just build as we go into the summer months, especially June and July." That may conjure up more than a few memories of the sweaty, parched summer of 2012, which saw many farm fields fail to produce crops. This is only a prediction, of course, and things can change. Let's all hope so.

#### **Executive Action**



THUMBS UP to South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds and other former governors in the U.S. Senate who have organized something called, appropriately enough, the Former Governors Caucus. Rounds (R) will be one of the chair of the group, along with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire) and Sen. Angus King (I-Maine). This bipartisan group of 10 governors-turned

senators will, according to a joint press release from the three chairs, 'use their experience as former state executives to work together in pursuit of practical and pragmatic solutions to the nation's problems." In a time of such political and legislative division, it's a hopeful sign that these former governors are pooling their unique perspectives to work on issues that impact our nation.

#### Think Thin



A sad THUMBS DOWN to the passing of Jean Nidetch, 91, a name some of you may not recognize, but a person whose passion to lose weight changed her life and the lives of millions. Nidetch founded Weight Watchers in the 1960s, partially out of frustration created by numerous fad diets the had only temporary effects and by clinical specialists who shared informa-

tion only sparingly. According to The Associated Press, she took what she had learned — including the idea of eating sensibly and not skipping meals — and shared it with six overweight friends who met in her living room to discuss their efforts. That sharing of tips and camaraderie became the template for the Weight Watchers organization. She emerged as the popular face of successful dieting in the 1970s, appearing on talk shows, writing books and inspiring a line of Weight Watcher products which are still on the market. Her long-ago quest to lose 70 pounds gained her a lifetime of notoriety and legions of followers. She literally did more with less than anybody we can think of. She will be missed.

# IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, May 1, the 121st day of 2015. There are 244 days left in the

Todav's Highlight in History: On

May 1, 1915, during World War I, a German submarine torpedoed and severely damaged the SS Gulflight, an American tanker near Britain's Scilly Isles, even though the United States was still neutral in the conflict: the incident occurred the same day that the RMS Lusitania set sail from New York, headed for Liverpool. England (it was torpedoed and sunk by Germany off the coast of Ireland six days

On this date: In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took ef-

In 1786. Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" premiered in Vienna. In 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when

vou are ready. Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish squadron in Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

In 1911, the song "I Want a Girl (Just Like the Girl That Married Dear Old Dad)," by Harry Von Tilzer and Will Dillon, was

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated. Singer Kate Smith made her debut on CBS Radio on

her 24th birthday.
In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler took his own life, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister. Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1963, James W. Whittaker became the first American to conquer Mount Everest as he and Sherpa guide Nawang Gombu reached the summit.

In 1965, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, in a speech in Williamsburg, Virginia, said: "There are not enough iails, not enough policemen, not enough courts to enforce a law not supported by the people." Bandleader Spike Jones, 53, known for his raucous renditions of popular songs, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1975, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Brewers broke baseball's all-time RBI record previously held by Babe Ruth during a game against the Detroit Tigers (Mil-

In 1982, the World's Fair in Knoxville. Tennessee, was opened by President Ronald Reagan.

In 1990, in a case that drew much notoriety, Gregory Smart was shot to death in his Derry, New Hampshire, home by Billy Flynn, the teenage lover of

Smart's wife. Pamela. (Flynn was paroled this year; Pamela Smart is serving a life sentence for being an accomplice to firstdegree murder.)

Ten years ago: A car bombing at Kurdish official's funeral in Tal Afar, Iraq, killed some two dozen people and wounded more than 50. Chinese computer maker Lenovo completed its purchase

of IBM's personal computer division. Five years ago: Pakistan-born U.S. citizen Faisal Shahzad failed in an attempt to set off a homemade bomb in an SUV parked in New York's Times Square. (Shahzad is serving a life prison sentence.) President Barack Obama named Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen point man for the federal government's response to the BP oil spill. Jockey Calvin Borel steered Super Saver through the mud to win his third Kentucky Derby in four years. ating Lookin At Lucky by 2 1/2 lengths. Flovd Mayweather Jr. won a unanimous decision over Sugar Shane Mosley Las Vegas. Actress Helen Wagner, who'd played Nancy Hughes on the CBS soap opera "As the World Turns" for 54 years died in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 91.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel called a 50-percent jump in reports by members of the military of sexual assaults the previous year a "clear threat" to both male and female service members' lives and well-being, and said he'd ordered Pentagon officials to increase efforts to get male victims to

report abuse. Today's Birthdays: Country singer Sonny James is 86. Singer Judy Collins is 76. Actor Stephen Macht is 73. Singer Rita Coolidge is 70. Pop singer Nick Fortuna (The Buckinghams) is 69. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 66. Actor Dann Florek is 64. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 61. Actor Byron Stewart is 59. Hall of Fame ckey Steve Cauthen is 55. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 53. Actor Scott Coffey is 51. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 50. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 49. Country singer Tim McGraw is 48. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 47. Rock musician D'Arcy is 47. Movie director Wes Anderson (Film "The Grand Budapest Hotel") is 46. Actress Julie Benz is 43. Actor Bailey Chase is 43. Country singer Cory Morrow is 43. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Tina Campbell (Mary Mary) is 41. Actor Darius McCrary is 39. Actor Jamie Dornan (Film: "Fifty Shades of Grey") is 33. Actress Ker-

ry Bishe is 31. Thought for Today: "Any man who has the brains to think and the nerve to act for the benefit of the people of the country is considered a radical by those who are content with stagnation and willing to endure disaster." — William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher (1863-1951).

## FROM THE BIBLE

Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today. ... The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. Exodus 14:13-14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



# World War II: The **Other Anniversary**

Kelly

**HERTZ** 

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

There are anniversaries, and there are anniversaries. Bear that in mind during the looming onslaught of World War II remembrances.

At this moment 70 years ago, the European phase of that global two-front war was stagger ing toward its conclusion. Thursday was the 70th anniversary of the suicide of Adolf Hitler, who did the world this immense favor (albeit 12 years and tens of millions of casualties too late) in a bunker buried beneath the ruins of Berlin and his 1,000-year Reich. A little more than a week later, Germany capitulated and V-E Day Victory in Europe — was celebrated across the planet and is still remembered today. There was still more fighting and dying to be done in the Pacific, where an atomic solution

would shortly materialize, but the

collapse of Nazi Germany was a truly

cathartic moment in the history of humanity. Honestly, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II is being recognized this year not so much because the 70th is a special milestone (by the way, it's the "titanium" anniversary, according to some wedding planners) but because of the sad realization that the soldiers who waged that war won't be with us much longer. This is probably the last year there will be significant commemorations of that war with a still-respectable number of those ancient warriors on hand. For many of them, this is their final look back; for us, it may be our final farewell.

But to genuinely appreciate the importance of celebrating this 70th anniversary of V-E Day, we must also recall what was happening 75 years ago this spring. This is the diamond jubilee of the dark antithesis of 1945's glowing triumphs.

The spring of 1940 saw Germany's power at its terrifying zenith, with Europe spiraling into an abyss. In early May, German troops were rolling through the low countries in western Europe, and then they turned to France. Just six weeks later, Paris was in Hitler's hands. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of British troops were pinned along the French coastline at a place called Dunkirk with the Germans preparing to deliver a pulverizing blow that might have left Great Britain fatally crippled. It says volumes about those days to note

that England's greatest achievement at that moment was in retreat, thanks to a massive, makeshift flotilla of boats that whisked away more than 330,000 troops to the vulnerable shelter of home just across the thin strand of the English Channel.

So, at this point 75 years ago, Hitler and Germany appeared practically invincible. They

were the masters of most of Europe and possessed perhaps the mightiest military on earth. Battered and reeling England stood alone while the U.S., though supplying some aid, remained reluctant and unprepared to get involved in another European conflict. Whatever goodness there was left in this world no longer seemed safe. Night was crashing down on 20th century civilization.

Fast-forward five years to the melodramatic final act in a Berlin bunker. The Aryan conqueror, having deposited a bullet in his brain, became just one more corpse in a

broken universe of the dead and dying. Like any war, World War II started as an idea in someone's head and grew like a cancer from there. In many ways, this war was Hitler's cancer. He saw it as a glorious exercise, just as he saw the extermination of a race of people as a cleansing mission. He was really a symptom of something squirming in the battered psyche of the German people, and he swept them to the rapturous heights of the spring of 1940. But this glory came at a monstrous price, and Hitler's own megalomaniacal hubris was ultimately one the most effective weapons the Allies had going for them. Seventy years ago, we saw the end result.

How our world got from 1940 to 1945 from 75 years ago this spring to 70 years ago – is the real tale to tell and it must never fall

The last of the old soldiers — who once gave everything, who saw too much, who lost so many but who finally prevailed — are being honored one more time with a final, fitting hurrah. And while it's vital that we cherish their 1945 triumph, it's also contextually essential to remember what they overcame to get there and what we all stood to have lost if they hadn't. The harrowing facts of 1940 offer haunting evidence of what could have been.

Follow @kelly\_hertz on Twitter.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# A Good idea

Ruth Ann Dickman, Utica I heartily agree with the article that was written in the *Press & Dakotan* by Randy Gleich on April 20. Yankton does need a north

bypass around the town. The truck traffic is just so busy and the noise is just terrible. Not only that, the fumes are not good healthwise. They come over the bridge way to fast!

I know that we need trucks to haul things and I bet the truckers would like it much better if they would not have to stop at all the stoplights.

## **Successful Fundraiser**

## **Todd Larson, Yankton**

President, Yankton Sertoma Club

The Yankton Sertoma Club would like to say "Thank You" to the large number (206) of community members who purchased and those who attended our April 17 "Men's Night-Out Fundraiser." This is the largest of the club's fundraising efforts that happen each

Besides this event being a great time for community members to socialize with friends, eat, drink and play card games, all the proceeds are given back to local organizations as they make funding requests to the Sertoma Club each year. Approximately \$14,000 in funding requests are made yearly and through the years, the Yankton Sertoma Club has given back more than \$500,000 to the Yankton Community.

## **Poll Results**

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

## LATEST RESULTS:

Do you plan on going to the new "Avengers" movie? TOTAL VOTES CAST .....

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

## **CURRENT QUESTION:**

Do you support the establishment of a rail authority for Yankton County?

To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

Without the community's support of this event and generous people purchasing tickets (even if they could not attend), these contributions to make Yankton a better place to live, work and play would not be possible. The Sertoma Club appreciates your generosity and again says a big "Thank You" to those who purchased tickets. A special thank you goes out to the grand prize winner at this year's event who was gracious enough to donate the entire \$3,000 grand prize back to the club! That is service above self!

## 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.
- Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same
- Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.