

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

The Importance Of Boat Safety

One of the recurring themes that students encounter during Yankton's annual Missouri River Water Festival is the message of safety when out on the water. That means operating watercraft carefully and wearing life jackets in case the unthinkable happens.

It's all important stuff, to be sure. Unfortunately, too many of us tend to take the important stuff for granted and ignore the lessons we otherwise recognize as quite prudent.

But real-life application does pay off. This was demonstrated Sunday when two people — Dulce Vite and Daniel Deanda of South Sioux City, Nebraska — on a Jet Ski went missing on Lewis and Clark Lake. Their watercraft quit working out in the middle of the lake, and they began floundering in water that was in the low 50s; that's not a bad air temperature, but it's a chilling water temperature which, when enveloping a 98.6-degree body, can be dangerous if you're exposed to it for too long.

Four hours was almost too long for this couple, and they began struggling with symptoms of hypothermia, not to mention extreme exhaustion caused in part by a shift in the wind, which wound up blowing hard from the north and stirring up choppy white-cap conditions.

However, speaking to the *Press & Dakotan* from Avera Sacred Heart Hospital the next day, they said they were thankful they were wearing life jackets, which helped keep them afloat as they battled fatigue. One of them had even lost consciousness, but stayed afloat because of the jacket.

"Good thing we were wearing our life jackets," Deanda said. "Otherwise it would've been bad." This is an important example of the need to take precautions, such as wearing a life jacket our having access to a flotation device, while out on the water.

One of the points driven home at last week's water festival is that no one who goes out on the water plans on drowning, which is why you should always be ready in case the unplanned and the unthinkable happens.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), drowning is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide. Also, according to the Centers for Disease Control, it is one of the top causes of accidental death for children under 5, even eclipsing traffic accidents in recent years.

It can also be a particular threat in this region, a landlocked place where we flock to precious local waterways such as Lewis and Clark Lake for recreation. It's too easy to forget the importance of safety.

The unfortunate truth is that Sunday's incident probably won't serve as a vivid reminder because it had a happy ending. It seems that the tragedies make the lessons last a little longer. But we should embrace the good outcome from Sunday in mind. Precaution helped carry the day and, perhaps, saved two lives. And if the lesson is heeded, perhaps more lives than that.

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OUR 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 issue.

● 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.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, May 6, the 126th day of 2015. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 6, 1965, after a Rolling Stones concert in Clearwater, Florida, was cut short by rowdy fans, Keith Richards composed the opening guitar riff of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," which he co-wrote with Mick Jagger. (The song was recorded less than a week later, and the single was released in the United States on June 6.)

On this date: In 1840, Britain's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, officially went into circulation five days after its introduction.

In 1869, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1915, Babe Ruth hit his first major-league home run as a player for the Boston Red Sox. Actor-writer-director Orson Welles was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Political writer and historian Theodore H. White was born in Boston.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

In 1942, during World War II some 15,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1981, Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin was named winner of a competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he'd sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2002, Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn was shot and killed in Hilversum, Netherlands. (Volkert van der Graaf was later convicted of killing Fortuyn and was sentenced to 18 years in prison — he was released on May 2, 2014.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush arrived in Riga, Latvia, as he opened a fast-paced, four-country journey to mark the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. British Prime Minister Tony Blair unveiled his Cabinet, changing leadership in defense and health but keeping mostly familiar faces after a third term victory dampened by a reduced majority in Parliament. Audioslave became the first U.S. rock band to play an outdoor concert in Cuba.

Five years ago: A computerized sell order triggered a "flash crash" on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones industrials to a loss of nearly 1,000 points in less than half an hour. Conservatives captured the largest number of seats in Britain's national election but fell short of a majority. (Conservative leader David Cameron ended up heading a coalition government.) A court in India sentenced to death the only surviving Pakistani gunman in the bloody 2008 Mumbai attacks. (Mohammed Ajmal Kasab was hanged on November 21, 2012.)

One year ago: A federal report said that global warming was rapidly affecting the United States in both visible and invisible ways, shortly after the report came out. President Barack Obama used several television weathermen to call for action to curb carbon pollution before it was too late. The Vatican disclosed that over the past decade, it had defrocked 848 priests who raped or molested children and sanctioned another 2,572 with lesser penalties. Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant won his first NBA MVP award.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays is 84. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 81. Rock singer Bob Seger is 70. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 70. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 69. Actor Alan Dale is 68. Actor Ben Masters is 68. Actor Richard Cox is 67. Actor Gregg Henry is 63. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 62. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 60. Actress Roma Downey is 55. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 55. Actress Julianne Phillips is 55. Actor-director George Clooney is 54. Actor Clay O'Brien is 54. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 51. Actress Leslie Hope is 50. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 48. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 44. Actress Stacey Oristano is 36. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 32. Actress Gabourey Sidibe is 32. Actress-comedian Sashae Zamata is 29. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 22.

Thought for Today: "Form ever follows function." — Louis Sullivan, American architect (1856-1924).

FROM THE BIBLE

The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? ... Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:13-14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Trans-Pacific Deal: A Trickle-Down Trick

BY ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune Content Agency

Have we learned nothing from more than 30 years of failed trickle-down economics? By now we should know that when big corporations, Wall Street and the wealthy get special goodies, the rest of us get shafted.

The Reagan and George W. Bush tax cuts of 1981, 2001 and 2003, respectively, were sold to America as ways to boost the economy and create jobs. They ended up boosting the take-home pay of those at the top. Most Americans saw no gains.

In fact, the long stagnation of American wages began with Reaganomics. Wages rose a bit under Bill Clinton, and then started plummeting again under George W. Bush.

Trickle-down economics proved a cruel hoax. The new jobs created under Reagan and Bush paid lousy wages, the old jobs paid even less and we ended up with whopping federal budget deficits.

Then came the bailout of Wall Street in 2008. It was sold as the means of preserving the economy. It ended up preserving the jobs and exorbitant pay of bankers, but millions of Americans lost their shirts. Small savers were wiped out, and homeowners never got the refinancing they were promised.

No conditions were put on the Wall Street banks for what they were supposed to do for the rest of us in return for our bailing them out. None of their top executives even went to jail for causing the crash in the first place.

Here again, nothing trickled down. Now comes the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

It's being sold as a way to boost the U.S. economy, expand exports and contain China's widening economic influence. In fact, it's just more trickle-down economics. The biggest beneficiaries would be giant American-based global corporations, along with their executives and major shareholders.

Those giant corporations initiated the deal in the first place, their lobbyists helped craft it behind closed doors and they're the ones who have been pushing hard for it in Congress — dangling campaign contributions in front of congressional supporters and threatening to cut off funding to opponents.

These corporations made sure the deal contains provisions expanding and protecting their intellectual property around the world, but not protecting American jobs.

Supporters of the deal say it contains worker protections. I heard the same thing when, as secretary of labor, I was supposed to implement the worker protections in the North American Free Trade Act.

I discovered such provisions are unenforceable because of how difficult it is to discover if other nations are abiding by them. On the rare occasion when we found evidence of a breach, we had no way to force the other nation to

remedy it anyway.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is far larger than NAFTA, covering 40 percent of America's global trade. If it's enacted, American workers and consumers will be made even worse off because of another provision that allows global corporations to sue countries whose health, safety, labor or environmental regulations crimp their corporate profits. It establishes a tribunal outside any nation's legal system that can force a nation to reimburse global corporations for any such "losses."

Big tobacco is already using an identical provision to sue developing nations that are trying to get their populations off nicotine. The tobacco companies are demanding these nations compensate them for lost cigarette sales.

This provision would mean less protection from corporate harms here in America. It would require that when the potential cost of a new health, safety, environment or labor protection is weighed against its potential benefits, the cost of reimbursing corporations for lost profits is added in.

I've been through enough regulatory wars to know this added cost could easily tip the balance against protection.

The arguments in favor of the deal aren't credible. The notion that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will spark American exports doesn't hold because the deal does nothing to prevent other nations from manipulating their currencies in order to boost their own exports.

The argument that the deal will help contain China makes even less sense. Does anyone seriously believe American-based corporations will put the interest of the United States above the interests of their own shareholders when it comes to doing whatever China demands to gain access to that lucrative market?

Big American-based corporations have been cozying up to China for years — giving China whatever American technology China wants, letting China "partner" with them in designing new generations of technology, and allowing China to censor their software and digital platforms — all in exchange for a crack at Chinese consumers.

What we should have learned by now about trickle-down economics is that nothing trickles down.

If the Trans-Pacific Partnership is enacted, big corporations, Wall Street, and their top executives and shareholders will make out like bandits. Who will the bandits be stealing from? The rest of us.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on Netflix, iTunes and Amazon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Beautiful Turnout

Keep Yankton Beautiful Board of Directors

What a wonderful town we live in! On Saturday, April 11, we had a fantastic turnout of volunteers for our Great American Cleanup and we especially appreciate all of those children and youth who came to help pick up trash around town. It really is a learning experience for them (and adults) to see how careless littering and blowing trash can spoil our environment as well as create an eyesore and possible hazard. We had 250 volunteers pick up more than 2,580 pounds of trash off of Yankton's streets and roads going west of town.

We are truly grateful to those who donated food and drinks for our volunteers — thanks to Culligan's, Goodwill, Keep Yankton Beautiful Board Members, Starbucks and Walmart. In addition, Mid-American Energy and Ace Hardware donated supplies of trash bags and gloves.

Keep Yankton Beautiful is the only Keep America Beautiful affiliate in South Dakota and our mission is: "Improving and enhanc-

ing the beauty of the city with community involvement through recycling education and promotion, clean-up efforts and beautification projects." We would not be able to accomplish this without our dedicated volunteers, your membership support and in-kind contributions. We are not funded through any taxpayer dollars so your involvement is crucial to us.

It is also important that all of us — city and county residents, business, manufacturing companies, schools and neighborhoods — work on keeping their own areas clean and litter free. We are aware of so many individuals who, on their own time, will pick up trash and litter as they walk and bike in town and out by the lake. Yes, it does take some work but it is worth the time and effort so we can be proud of how we look to the visitors who come to shop, camp, attend special events and activities, etc.

Check out our Keep Yankton Beautiful website and Facebook for information on our events and activities as well as how you can help Keep Yankton Beautiful.

EMPOWERMENT: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: It's Your Right To Know!