

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotan established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

MEMBERSHIPS
The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*
(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month.....\$12.09
3 months.....\$36.27
6 months.....\$72.53
1-year.....\$133.09

MOTOR ROUTE
(where available)
1 month.....\$14.51
3 months.....\$43.53
6 months.....\$87.05
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MAIL IN RETAIL Trade Zone
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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

A Wrong Turn In The Arctic?

THE BALTIMORE SUN (May 13): Nobody in their right mind vacations in the Chukchi or Beaufort seas. Only hard core geography buffs can even name them. Instagram isn't filled with photographs of close encounters with Arctic whales or polar bears. It is a cold and hostile environment.

But underneath, there may be as much as 30 billion barrels of oil, and as of this week, the fate of that unique part of the world — waters that, while hostile to humans, support an abundance of marine life not found elsewhere around the planet — may never be the same. That's because the Obama administration has decided to allow Shell Gulf of Mexico to return to drilling exploratory oil and gas wells there this summer.

As the Deepwater Horizon disaster of five years ago demonstrated, off-shore oil drilling carries significant risks. But as much as that explosion and the enormous oil spill that resulted from it

Why has President Obama taken an appropriately cautious position on the Keystone XL natural gas pipeline only to be so generous with off-shore drilling here and in the Arctic?

proved disastrous for the Gulf of Mexico, the stakes on the Chukchi shelf may actually be higher. It was relatively easy, albeit expensive, to quickly muster Coast Guard and other disaster response resources to Louisiana in 2010 to help clean up that mess, but the waters within the Arctic Circle are another matter entirely.

Under such conditions, Shell needed to be held to an extraordinarily high standard — one that the company failed to meet when it received initial approval several years ago and which it does not appear to have met now. Even the U.S. Department of Interior's own Environmental Impact Statement predicted a "75 percent chance of one or more large spills happening." That should not be regarded as an acceptable risk.

The danger is not only to migratory species, marine mammals like the walrus or ice seal or local Inuit tribes that are supported by fishing but to all human beings living on this planet. As much as President Barack Obama claims to be concerned about man-made climate change and lowering the production of destructive greenhouse gases, the combustion of 30 billion more barrels of oil now safely tucked under the Arctic will result in 12.9 billion additional metric tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

This is absolutely the wrong direction for U.S. energy policy to take. Oil is a finite resource no matter how much high-risk drilling the U.S. and other countries undertake. Continuing the nation's dependence on cheap petroleum is not a sustainable policy. Worse, it will only accelerate the pace of climate change with the rising sea levels, more frequent and harsh weather-related disasters, drought and international political upheaval that is expected to accompany it.

History has demonstrated that off-shore drilling results in accidental spills even in conditions far more favorable than available in the Arctic. Yet the Obama administration seems willing to make that gamble — much as it was willing to roll the dice with Maryland's coastal fishing and tourism industries when it rather inexplicably approved drilling off the coast of Virginia and some other East Coast states four months ago.

Why has President Obama taken an appropriately cautious position on the Keystone XL natural gas pipeline only to be so generous with off-shore drilling here and in the Arctic? It's difficult not to see a political calculation here, a choice to give his party an "all of the above" energy policy that might offset criticisms of recent efforts undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants — a policy derided as a "war on coal" by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and others in his party.

"See," the Democrats can say, "we want to keep energy prices as low as possible, too, by granting these off-shore leases." Or it might just be a sop to those handful of labor unions that have supported Shell's plan because of the jobs it will generate. In either case, what a shortsighted and costly policy choice it could prove to be. Bad enough that Shell appears ill-prepared for a major spill and its consequences to the region, but the decision will cause incalculable harm to this nation's climate change policy at a time when international cooperation on this fraught but perilous matter seems more likely than it has for years.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, May 14, the 134th day of 2015. There are 231 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 14, 1955, representatives from eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact in Poland. (The Pact was dissolved in July 1991.)

On this date: In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France at age four upon the death of his father, Louis XIII.
In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter.

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

In 1900, the Olympic games opened in Paris as part of the 1900 World's Fair.

In 1913, the Rockefeller Foundation was founded in New York.

In 1925, the Virginia Woolf novel "Mrs Dalloway" was first published in England and the United States.

In 1940, the Netherlands surrendered to invading German forces during World War II.

In 1948, according to the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv.

In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1973, the United States launched Skylab 1, its first manned space station. (Skylab 1 remained in orbit for six years before burning up during re-entry in 1979.) The National Flight to Life Committee was incorporated.

In 1988, 27 people, mostly teens, were killed when their church bus collided with a pickup truck going the wrong direction on a highway near Carrollton, Kentucky. (Truck driver Larry Mahoney served 9 1/2 years in prison for manslaughter.)

In 1998, singer-actor Frank Sinatra died at a Los Angeles hospital at age 82. The hit sitcom "Seinfeld" aired its final episode after nine years on NBC.

Ten years ago: The U.S. military in Iraq wrapped up Operation Matador, a

major offensive in a remote desert region near the Syrian border.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama heatedly condemned what he called a "ridiculous spectacle" of oil executives shifting blame for the BP oil spill in congressional hearings and denounced a "cozy relationship" between their companies and the federal government. Space shuttle Atlantis thundered away on what turned out to be its next-to-last voyage into orbit. NBC canceled the long-running police/courtroom drama "Law & Order" after 20 seasons on the air.

One year ago: A wildfire erupted in the north San Diego suburb of Carlsbad, destroying eight houses, two businesses and an apartment complex. Canadian-born U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz officially renounced his birth country's citizenship amid speculation he could make a run at the White House in 2016.

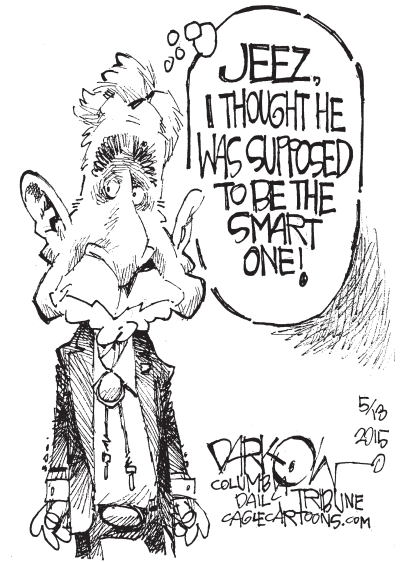
Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Patrice Munsel is 90. Photo-realist artist Richard Estes is 83. Actress Sian Phillips (TV: "I, Claudius") is 82. Former Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is 73. Movie producer George Lucas is 71. Actress Meg Foster is 67. Movie director Robert Zemeckis is 64. Rock singer David Byrne is 63. Actor Tim Roth is 54. Rock singer Ian Asbury (The Cult) is 53. Rock musician C.C. (aka Cecil) DeVille is 53. Actor Danny Huston is 53. Rock musician Mike Inez (Alice In Chains) is 49. Fabrice Morvan (ex-Milli Vanilli) is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raphael Saadiq is 49. Actress Cate Blanchett is 46. Singer Danny Wood (New Kids on the Block) is 46. Movie writer-director Sofia Coppola is 44. Actor Gabriel Mann is 43. Singer Natalie Appleton (All Saints) is 42. Singer Shanice is 42. Actress Carla Jimenez is 41. Rock musician Henry Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 37. Alt-country musician-singer Ketch Secor is 37. Rock singer-musician Dan Auerbach is 36. Rock musician Mike Roddeno (Plain White T's) is 34. Actress Amber Tamblyn is 32. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is 31. Actress Miranda Cosgrove is 22.

Thought for Today: "The family you come from isn't as important as the family you're going to have." — Ring Lardner, American humorist (1885-1933).

FROM THE BIBLE

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he ... said. "The Lord rebuke you." Jude 1:9. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

DUMB AND DUMBER



Kindle's Korner

The Big Day And A Busy Summer

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE
Yankton School District

Yankton High School held its 140th Annual Commencement on May 17. Congratulations to our graduating seniors, family, and friends. The graduation speakers who were selected to speak did a wonderful job sharing their personal insights and wisdom, as their classmates begin the next step in the journey of life. Congratulations, YHS Class of 2015!

I want to commend our orchestra under the direction of Mrs. Kim Evander for playing at our commencement. We are always pleased to have our orchestra students as part of the graduation ceremonies.

The Acappella Choir and senior choir members were terrific under the direction of Mrs. Angela Larson. This was a special time for the seniors and their families. Thank you to the members of the Acappella Choir and senior choir members for their performance.

The dedication of seniors who have been a part of orchestra and choir is greatly appreciated. We commend them for their time, talent, and love of music. You have made significant contributions to both programs and led by example for others to follow.

SUMMER WORK LIST

Summer for our students is a well-deserved break from school. However, it continues to be a very busy time for the school district. Almost to the minute students have exited, the work begins for summer projects.

Our community takes a great deal of pride in the up-keep and appearance of our schools. Additionally, the need for infrastructure projects, which provide our students with the facilities needed for a quality and competitive education.

I have included our list of projects to provide some insight into the work planned for this spring, summer, and into the fall.

BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE SUMMER 2015 High School

Student parking lot seal coat and repaint lines (diagonally replacing perpendicular)
Widen the band room doorway
Wood gym floor recoat
Track lines repainted
Replacement of stair treads on Commons and main stairways
Update twist-lock connectors in the theater

Middle School

Wood gym floor recoat
Carpet replacement in the principal's office and adjoining rooms
Roof replacement on the maintenance shop

Beadle

Bollards installed by building in parking lot
Adjustable basketball hoops installed
Wall installed to create an office/testing room outside the boiler room
Restroom renovation

Lincoln

Asphalt overlay on south parking lot
Replacement of the cabinets in the kitchen
Carpet repair in four classrooms
Fence installed on playground by drain inlet

Stewart

Add lighting to west parking lot
Seal coat on playground asphalt
Roof replacement on the original building
Roof drain reconfigure for SPED wing
Replacement of toilet partitions in the SPED wing
Replace a section of concrete outside the SPED entrance

Webster

Painting of building
Carpet replacement in two classrooms
Playground structure and safe surface installation
Add a basketball hoop on the east playground



Dr. Wayne KINDLE

Add a section of student lockers on the lower level
Replacement of the cabinets in the kitchen

TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMER 2015

Beadle
Replace 22 Student desktops
Add 30 iPads with Cart
Upgrade Office 2010 to 2013
Upgrade Security Software from Version 11.xcto 12.xx

Lincoln
Replace 30 Lab desktops
Add 60 iPads with Cart
Upgrade Office 2010 to 2013
Upgrade Security Software from Version 11.xcto 12.xx

Stewart
Replace 33 Staff desktops
Add 30 iPads with Cart
Upgrade Office 2010 to 2013
Upgrade Security Software from Version 11.xcto 12.xx

Webster
Replace 37 Lab and student desktops
Add 12 iPads with carrying cart
Upgrade Office 2010 to 2013
Upgrade Security Software from Version 11.xcto 12.xx

Middle School
Replace 50 Classroom mobile devices
Updated/Replace 5-8 CTE modules
Upgrade Office 2010 to 2013
Upgrade Security Software from Version 11.xcto 12.xx

High School
Replace 56 Lab desktops
Add 2 iPads
Add 30 Chrome Books
Replace Camera Security system
Upgrade Office 2010 to 2013
Upgrade Security Software from Version 11.xcto 12.xx

District/Admin Technology
Replace 2 blade servers
Install additional Wireless access point per building, quantities depending on E-Rate approval
Install 100 cat 5/6 network cables and hardware

Add additional Network storage drives
Add additional WAN link Bandwidth per building
Install email security/filter system
Update Technology inventory
Document and Diagram district technology infrastructures (Contingency Plan)

SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank the *Yankton Press and Dakotan* for allowing me to write the monthly Kindle's Korner. This has been a fantastic way to communicate with our patrons. I have received many positive comments about the articles.

The monthly Kindle's Korner will resume in August to kick-off the 2015-16 school year in the Yankton School District.

PRESENTATIONS

As superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

Since taking my new position as Superintendent, I have spoken to several groups through-out our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit. I can also be contacted using my email at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us

Let's have a terrific year!
Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

Dr. Wayne Kindle is superintendent of the Yankton School District.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conduct Unbecoming

Marge Neilson, Yankton
This is to the booth of three girls and one boy we were sat next to at Fryn' Pan last Thursday evening. Your mouths were disgusting, your behavior (conduct) was inappropriate. My food and service was great, but to

listen to you was disgusting. Yes, when I was leaving, I complained about your booth. If that's the way you conduct yourself in public, you should be ashamed! You owe them an apology. I was not the only person who complained about your booth.