

The Press & Dakotan

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We Say

Dead Penalty



A surprise **THUMBS UP** to the Nebraska Legislature for ridding the state of the death penalty. The United States is among the only industrialized nations that still allows its legal system to have a choice over whose lives are worthy of ending. The reality is that capital punishment is an archaic method that hasn't really seemed to have the desired effect — deterrence. After all, the day of the initial vote to repeal, there were 11 people on death row (one of whom has since passed away from natural causes) — what'd it do to stop them from earning their ticket? Ultimately, this is going to save the constituents of Nebraska money that could be better spent on law enforcement and improvements to the criminal justice system. Perhaps South Dakota can take heed of this decision in a future legislative session.

Raising Funds



THUMBS UP to the Corsica ambulance crew on the success of last week's fundraiser. The Corsica crew sought to raise \$20,000 as its share for replacing the current ambulance in dire condition. The unreliable ambulance has difficulty starting at times and even uses duct tape to stay together. Last week's fundraiser didn't meet the goal — it destroyed it. The barbecue and auction drew 800 people — in a town of about 600 residents — and raised \$65,000. With funds already in the bank and anticipated funds from the Douglas County Commissioners, the Corsica crew will have more than \$130,000 for a new ambulance and upgrades. The support came from far outside Corsica, with Yankton businesses among those donating items for the auction. The evening also featured the Avera Careflight helicopter and the South Dakota Highway Patrol with its rollover car simulator. Besides the fundraising success, seven new EMTs are joining the Corsica crew to bring the total to 11 EMTs along with ambulance drivers and associated personnel. It's another example of communities pulling together to support their neighbors.

Flu Time



THUMBS DOWN to the growing presence of bird flu in the Yankton region. A Knox County, Nebraska, flock of 3 million hens at an egg-laying operation has shown a preliminary positive test for avian flu. The Knox County site lies 50 miles from three cases in Dixon County, Nebraska, with all of them owned by the same operator. Nebraska has seen a total of 7 million birds impacted across the Missouri River, a total of 120,000 turkeys were impacted at sites in Yankton and Hutchinson counties in southeast South Dakota. The bird flu has already left a devastating impact. We hope a solution, including a possible vaccine, can soon be found.

Moving On



THUMBS UP to the Yankton City Commission for affirming the momentum of establishing a rail authority for Yankton County. This week, the commission approved two proposals that keep the project, which would be done in partnership with Yankton County, moving forward. It's become clear that the county's railways are a vital economic component, and with the Napa Junction, something rather attractive for development. It seems reasonable that the city/county group should oversee and facilitate some of that local development, which will have an impact on the entire region.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, May 29, the 149th day of 2015. There are 216 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On May 29, 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.
On this date: In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.
In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.
In 1912, the ballet "L'Après-midi d'un Faune" (The Afternoon of a Faun), with music by Claude Debussy, premiered in Paris with Vaslav Nijinsky dancing the title role.
In 1913, the ballet "Le Sacre du printemps" (The Rite of Spring), with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, had its chaotic world premiere in Paris. The D.H. Lawrence novel "Sons and Lovers" was first published by Duckworth & Co. of London, albeit in an expurgated version.
In 1917, the 35th president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.
In 1932, World War I veterans began arriving in Washington to demand cash bonuses they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.
In 1943, Norman Rockwell's portrait of "Rosie the Riveter" appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post. (The model for Rockwell's Rosie, Mary Doyle Keefe, died in April 2015 at age 92.)
In 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.
In 1961, a couple in Paynesville, West Virginia, became the first recipients of food stamps under a pilot program created by President John F. Kennedy.
In 1973, Tom Bradley was elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles, defeating incumbent Sam Yorty.
In 1985, 39 people were killed at the European Cup Final in Brussels, Belgium, when rioting broke out and a wall separating British and Italian soccer fans collapsed.
In 1995, Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the House and the Senate, died in Skowhegan, Maine, at age 97.
Ten years ago: French voters soundly rejected the European Union's proposed constitution, which was also defeated by the Dutch days later. In a deadly rampage at two farmhouses in Bellefontaine, Ohio, 18-year-old Scott Moody shot his grandparents, his mother and two friends before

turning the gun on himself. Dan Wheldon won the Indianapolis 500 as Danica Patrick's electrifying run fell short (she finished fourth).
Five years ago: Dennis Hopper, the high-flying Hollywood wildman whose memorable career included an early turn in "Rebel Without a Cause" and an improbable smash hit with "Easy Rider," died in Los Angeles at age 74. Philadelphia's Roy Halladay threw the 20th perfect game in major league history, beating the Florida Marlins 1-0.
One year ago: Saying he wanted kids to play sports but play safely, President Barack Obama called for more and better research into the effects and treatment of concussions in youth athletes during a summit at the White House. The Food and Drug Administration required tanning beds and sun lamps to carry new warnings that they should not be used by anyone under age 18. Shelly Sterling signed a binding contract to sell the Los Angeles Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for a record-breaking \$2 billion. Actor and human rights activist Karlheinz Boehm, 86, died near Salzburg, Austria.
Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 77. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser is 76. Actor Kevin Conway is 73. Actor Helmut Berger is 71. Rook singer Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) is 70. Actor Anthony Geary is 68. Actor Cotter Smith is 66. Singer Rebekah (ree-bee) Jackson is 65. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 62. Presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. is 60. Singer LaToya Jackson is 59. Actor Ted Levine is 58. Actress Annette Bening is 57. Actor Rupert Everett is 56. Actor Adrian Paul is 56. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 54. Actress Lisa Whelchel is 52. Actress Tracey Bregman is 52. Rook musician Noel Gallagher is 48. Singer Jay-ski McGowan (Quad City DJs) is 48. Actor Anthony Azizi is 46. Rook musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 46. Rook musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 42. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 41. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 40. Rapper Playa Poncho is 40. Latin singer Fonseca is 36. Actor Blake Foster is 30. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 26. Actress Kristen Alderson is 24. Actress Lorelei Linklater (Film: "Boyschool") is 22.
Thought for Today: "When we recall the past, we usually find that it is the simplest things — not the great occasions — that in retrospect give off the greatest glow of happiness." — British-born American comedian Bob Hope (born this date in 1903, died 2003).

FROM THE BIBLE

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By Any Other Name

Debbie Mellegaard, Mission Hill
I am so sick of hearing the bridge on Old Highway 50 being called Fleegs Bridge. Fleeg DID NOT design, build or pay for the bridge. It is an affront to the generations of families that have lived adjacent to the bridge. If you feel the need to call the bridge something besides "The Bridge on Old Highway 50" or "The Jim River Bridge on Old 50" then it should be called "The Government Crossing Bridge" or

"Greenway's Crossing Bridge" after J.B. Greenway who was a ferry operator there in 1862. Or perhaps the "J.B. Greenway Bridge". Perhaps it should be named after the men who ran the trading post which still stands jut yards from the bridge — Frost & Todd Trading Company. If the bridge must be named or called something besides "The Bridge on Old 50," then it should be named after someone who actually did something for the county — a ferry operator or trading post owners.

STAR TRIBUNE/CagleCartoons.com

sdak



Hope In The Forecast?

BY KELLY HERTZ

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An unexpected sense of hope was injected into the summertime conversation last week, and not a drop too soon.

During a drought webinar, meteorologists announced that, at long last, the weather phenomenon known as El Nino had materialized in the Pacific and was potentially rewriting the drought narrative that had consumed much of our year to date.

Up until then, there had been a nagging, familiar frustration as the rains kept sailing by us and the prospects for sinking deeper into a drought, as had been predicted throughout much of the spring, intensified. With the memories of the parched summer of 2012 still fresh in my head — I really came to hate the color brown that year — it was not a good feeling. And since we've encountered drought forecasts since at least late last year, there was a despairing sense of arid inevitability about the future.

But then, the half-empty glass suddenly became half-full of hope. The old forecast changed, and we now could see above-average rainfall during the next 90 days. That could also mean a less hot summer — more rain means more humidity, which takes far more energy to warm — and, possibly, a warmer winter.

Of course, these things are just forecasts and projections. In the very immediate Yankton vicinity, we're still waiting for this to translate into something tangible.

The gloomy, damp Memorial Day weekend that put a figurative damper on a lot of outdoor plans didn't really amount to much in terms of rain here. Only about .30 of an inch fell.

In the weeks before that, Yankton was getting little showers here and there, but no impressive rains. A couple of weekends ago, for instance, parts of the area got 1.50-2.50 inches of rain, while Yankton saw a meager .12 of an inch. If you live in or right around Yankton, it's hard to endure such missed chances without feeling the anxious sense that such opportunities are running out in what is normally the wettest time of the year.

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — One can understand why *The Weekly Standard's* William Kristol may try to nullify Hillary Clinton's presidential candidacy, but smearing all baby boomers in the process seems a stretch of veracity in the service of a blank page.

In the June 1 issue of the conservative magazine he co-founded, Kristol writes that we've had enough already with boomer presidents. They're all a bunch of losers, he says in so many words, causing exactly no one to lose sleep.

I don't usually single out other commentators, but I'm making an exception — not because I'm a woman, or a boomer, or a Hillary Clinton supporter (though Kristol makes me want to be one), but because despite being wrong about most everything, he remains an influential voice in politics.

Basically, Kristol posits that the past three presidents — all boomers — were "indulged" do-nothings and part of a generation who only "aspire to the appropriate attitude and affect, and seek the suitable sense and sensibility."

Poor guy. Who's he hanging with? And should we tell him he's a baby boomer, too? Kristol, 62, snuggles his self-loathing like a blanket.

"Accomplishments are old school," he writes. (I've got news for you, honey. Boomers are old school.) Accomplishments are what their parents, conventionally patriotic and earnestly bourgeois, labored and strove for. Baby boomers, by contrast, aspire rather than labor, and seek rather than strive.

Whose parents? Kristol's weren't exactly manning the dikes — or the 'burbs. His father, Irving Kristol, was a public intellectual and columnist, and his mother, Gertrude Himmelfarb, is a scholar and historian.

What wonderful good luck to be born of such parents, who could *indulge* their children with an intellectually stimulating home and a fine education, and to be spared the earnest pursuits of the bourgeoisie.

One naturally wonders, meanwhile, what Kristol considers an accomplishment. Did Steve Jobs accomplish anything by revolutionizing communications through creation of the Apple kingdom? What was the civil rights movement? Just a dream, I suppose. Women's rights? Never mind. The World Wide Web? Come on, Bill.

Kristol lavishly praises the greatest generation. Who doesn't? I liked them, too, but I just called them my parents.

He points out that earlier presidents — from Harry Truman to George H.W. Bush — "all had



Kelly
HERTZ

That's why last week's El Nino update could be seen as a psychological boost to a region that is so dependent upon the weather for its livelihood. Ours is a crazy way to live when you really consider how fickle Mother Nature can be (see the flooding of 2011 followed immediately by the drought of 2012 as a case in point), but it's the life we freely choose when we live in the heartland.

This might be a good time to remember that Yankton, which has missed out on a lot of moisture these last few months, is still ahead of where it was last year at this time in terms of precipitation. However, we made it all up in one day last June, with a long rainstorm that dumped nearly 4 inches of badly needed rain, recharging the subsoil moisture with a magnificent gulp. However, you really can't count on that again (although, as memory serves, we weren't actually counting in it last year, either ...)

On the other hand, we could also look at Houston right now — a normally dry area that seems to endure regular, epic droughts; currently, it finds itself underwater thanks to disastrous flooding. (I saw one report that the city received one inch of rain in just five minutes last weekend, which is unimaginable.) The cliché about when it rains it pours is sadly and fatally fitting there right now, so be careful what you wish for when rain clouds gather.

Then again, wishing is all anyone can ever really do when it comes to living with the weather. It's probably the most one-sided relationship in all of human existence. We can't avoid what comes (or fails to come) from the skies, and we can't plead with it rationally to do what we want. We can only endure it.

Right now, Yankton could use a respectable amount of rain, but there's now some encouraging possibility swimming in the air. Perhaps we can indeed avoid the return of burn bans and withered landscapes. At least it feels good to hope again, just as it feels good to finally have some rain soaking into some places in the countryside. Hope, like rain, is a cherished commodity when the land really needs a drink.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

On Being William Kristol

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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Kathleen
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accomplished things, often difficult things, in their personal and public lives before they ran for president. ... That all served in the military is only a small part — though a telling part — of the story. The boomer presidents, of course, didn't serve, or barely served."

OK, I'll give him that one.

But is Kristol suggesting that only those who have served in the military should become president? That would be one way of vastly reducing the pool of female candidates. By "barely served," he must be referring to George W. Bush, since Bill Clinton didn't serve and Barack Obama, b. 1961, was underage during Vietnam, which ended in 1975.

Kristol, on the other hand, was prime cannon fodder during the final years of that war, but he was busy at Harvard, from which he was graduated magna cum laude — no small accomplishment, I'm sure he'd agree.

Speaking of which, were the 58,000 troops who died in Vietnam merely seeking rather than striving? All right, fine, too harsh. Besides, it's not that Kristol is averse to war. He vigorously supported the war in Iraq and has defended it since.

Although then-Sen. Hillary Clinton also supported the war, Kristol maintains that she would merely be another in a boomer trend that needs to end. Perhaps. Or is there something else? Is it the Clinton in Hillary he doesn't like? Kristol led the charge to defeat her efforts to reform health care as first lady. Or is it the woman in Clinton he finds so offensive? Perhaps he prefers women in flirty skirts and high heels to sturdy women in pantsuits? It was he, after all, who pushed Sarah Palin as the worthiest running mate for John McCain.

Probably all of the above and something more. Implicitly — and rather coquettishly, I might add — Kristol just defined the terms of his assault on Jeb Bush. Rather than say that Bush is merely another of those indulged boomers, he laid it all at Hillary Clinton's feet, damning the past three presidents, insulting millions of his own cohorts, and revealing a measure of self-contempt in the process.

Perhaps Kristol was exorcising some of his own demons with this column — resolving long-simmering issues resulting from having been an indulged, Ivy League boomer who didn't serve in the military and whose accomplishments are in the vein of commenting on the actions of others.

Not that there's anything wrong with writing opinion for a living.

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